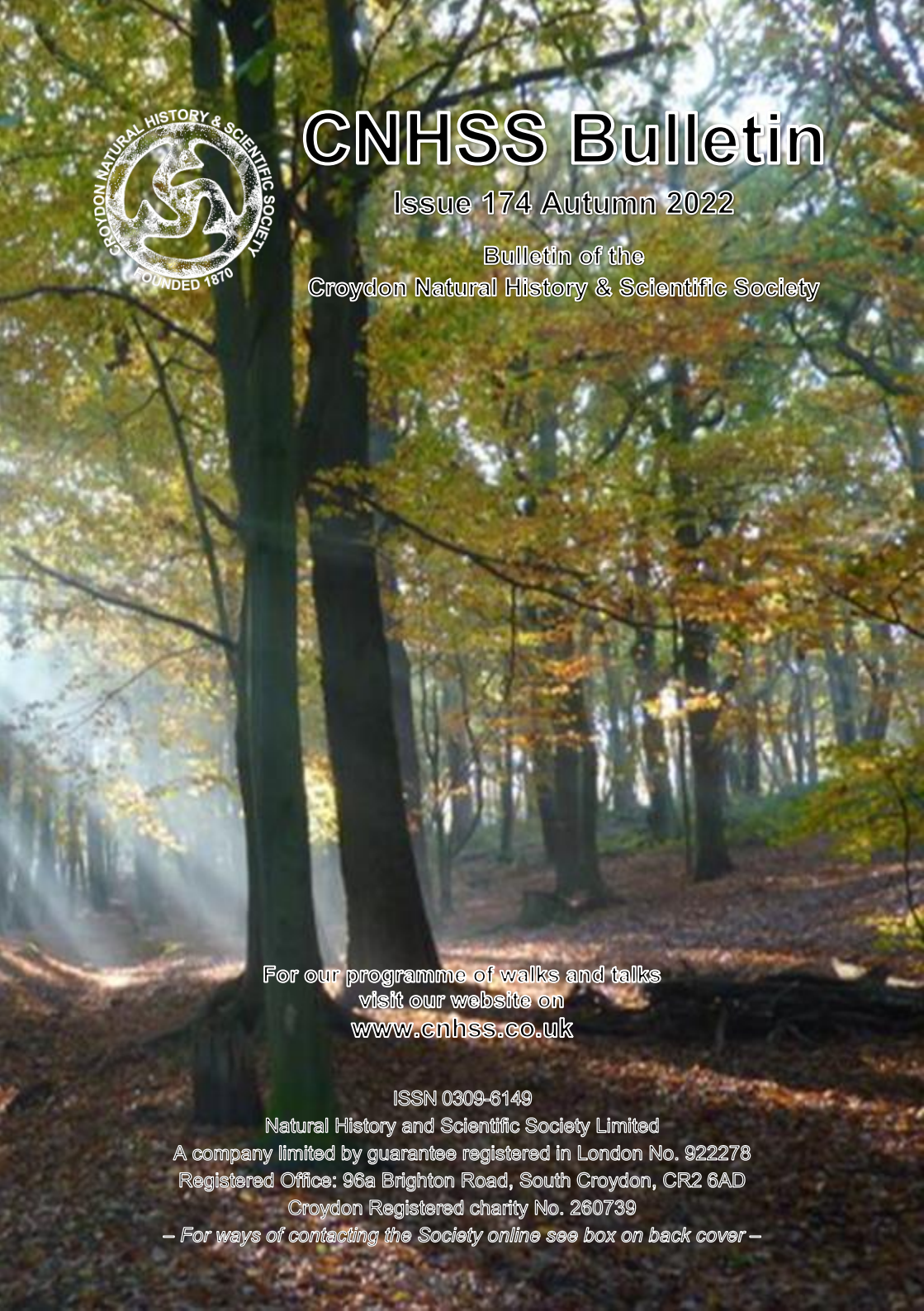


CNHSS Bulletin

Issue 174 Autumn 2022

Bulletin of the
Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society

For our programme of walks and talks
visit our website on
www.cnhss.co.uk

ISSN 0309-6149
Natural History and Scientific Society Limited
A company limited by guarantee registered in London No. 922278
Registered Office: 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD
Croydon Registered charity No. 260739
– For ways of contacting the Society online see box on back cover –

Your Society Needs You
Interested? – please contact information@cnhss.co.uk

Council
Would you like to serve as a member of our Council? You may have special interests or abilities which would enhance our effectiveness.
Meets seven times per year.

Committees
You may wish to apply your expertise on one of our Committees without necessarily joining Council. Finance, Library, Museum, Premises and Publicity Committees generally meet four times per year.

Accounts Examiner
Do you know someone willing to be our Accounts Examiner (not necessarily a CNHSS member)? Required for 2022/23 – accounting year ends 31st December. A small remuneration is available for this role.

Investment Advisor
Is there a qualified Investment Advisor willing to give advice to Council?

Membership Secretary
Do you have good communication, organisational and computer skills to support our President and Hon, General Secretary? Do enquire about the duties involved.

Publicity Officer
To steer our external presence including Social Media.

Leaders for outings/walks/visits
Open to any member who fancies putting together an event or events – could end at a hostelry. Perhaps something for our 'Celia Bailey Annual Expedition'?

If you are interested in any of the above
Please contact information@cnhss.co.uk

Overdue books
If you have borrowed books from the CNHSS library which are overdue: Please return them at any Society meeting. The lending period is one month.

Subscriptions for 2023
Please see details for different categories and how to pay on Page 60.

COVER IMAGE by Celia Bailey – © Celia E. Bailey and CNHSS

Copy date for submission of articles for our Spring Bulletin is 7th February 2023: bulletin@cnhss.co.uk

Members' contributions, letters etc. are welcome.

In this issue ***page***

Your Society Needs You 2
Editorial
Ian Payne 4
150th Anniversary opening event, Great Hall, Old Palace – Address by
Carole A Roberts (President) 5
150th Anniversary Celebrations 9
Celia Elaine Bailey 1952–2022 Eulogy
Bob Davidson 10
Memories of Celia from her friends at CNHSS 11
Prehistoric flint technology – Part 2
Christopher JW Taylor 12
Coulsdon Woods Roman Cemetery
Bourne Society 1970 by Mary Saaler 16
Clay with flints geology and yew trees in Banstead Woods
Christopher JW Taylor 20
Croydon through the lens of Charles Harrison Price – at Stanley Arts
John I Hickman 27
A Bishope's boyhood in Victorian Waddon
Brian Lancaster 30
100 Open Spaces in Croydon Part 2
Nicola Hunt 37
Our Urban Fox
Ian Payne 44
Paul Sowan's Hedge
Jane McLauchlin 45
The loss of a tall tree in Banstead Woods
Christopher JW Taylor 49
Retirement of Borough Archivist, Lindsay Ould
John I Hickman 54
Book Reviews – 'S.E.19' and 'London's Railway Stations'
Trevor James 43
Friends of Farthing Downs & Happy Valley Publications
Ian Payne 58
Subscription Reminder 60
Postcard of Woodside Green 1906
Jane McLauchlin 61
Green Spaces Open Event at Croydon Clocktower 63

Editorial
by Ian Payne

In May, we were devastated to hear that our ever-ebullient colleague and friend, Celia Bailey, had passed away. Celia was always at the centre of activities and we will miss her dearly. On page 10, we reproduce Celia's eulogy by her nephew Bob delivered at her funeral at Croydon Crematorium. But true to form, we were all asked to wear colourful clothes and a flamingo motif in memory of Celia's favourite bird. The humanist funeral was very well attended and we all retired to The Oval Tavern to talk over old times. There was a large party from CNHSS which mostly split into a ladies table with gentlemen at the bar. We were pleased to be able to give our condolences to partner Nigel and the family and to meet some of Celia's closest friends.

On page 11 is a piece on memories of Celia from her friends at CNHSS. Celia was our sixth lady President. Also, for many years, she was our Programme Secretary and she produced a regular newsletter which rounded-up not just what was happening at CNHSS but across several like-minded bodies. Celia also enjoyed leading some of our walks and visits, often further afield than Croydon. In her memory, we have decided to dedicate an outing each year to be known as the Celia Bailey Annual Expedition.

Our society, as ever, is dependent on volunteer members coming forward to help run our activities. On page 2 there are pleas for members to come forward to fulfil several important roles. Don't be shy – if you feel you can help please get in touch.

Tony Skrzypczyk has taken on the additional role of Librarian supported by a committee. For many years, our librarian was the late Paul Sowan. In memory of his years of service, we have decided to name our library the Paul W. Sowan Library. A plaque is currently being produced. Our parallel Proceedings publication this autumn is dedicated to memories of Paul and extracts from Paul's many articles for our Bulletin and other learned societies.

During the pandemic, we experimented with Zoom meetings which were very successful. Although we are returning to traditional walks and talks, we will continue to include Zoom talks from time to time. Most of our live talks are at Croydon URC, Addiscombe Grove – but please check the time and the venue in our Programme.

Finally, do enjoy the varied articles we have for you in this edition, and a big thank you to all those who contributed. If any member has an interest they'd like to write about, please get in touch at bulletin@cnhss.co.uk

150th Anniversary opening event at the Great Hall, Old Palace, Croydon 9th April 2022

Address by CNHSS President Carole Roberts

Great Hall, Old Palace

Ladies and gentlemen, firstly I wish to add my own sincere thanks to those of Ian [Payne] to today's speakers – the Mayor of Croydon, Janice Burton [Secretary of The Friends of The Old Palace], Sarah Jones MP and Father Andrew Bishop [Priest-in-Charge at Croydon Minster]. I also wish to thank The Friends of The Old Palace for the refreshments, our Master of Ceremonies and Vice-President Ian Payne, other members of CNHSS who have contributed in many ways, to you all for attending this event and, in her absence as she couldn't be here today, the Head of the Old Palace of John Whitgift School, Mrs Jane Burton, for allowing this event to take place in this wonderful building.

And ladies and gentlemen how lucky are we to be seated here today: to have heard such keynote speakers, and to be in this iconic building of Croydon – this historic place where Kings, Queens and Archbishops stayed and held court in the former heart of Croydon, with the Parish Church, the Old Palace and the Old Town clustered around them. It was the centre of administration for Croydon and sometimes for national business when transacted here by archbishops and monarchs.

Even by the time our Society began in 1870, now 152 years ago, this area was very different from when it formed the heart of Croydon. Crucially it had become dry thanks to Croydon being in 1849 one of the first towns to create a Local Board of Health which quickly installed a sanitation system for Croydon. Had we been here before that happened, we would have been surrounded by the abundant water to which Janice Barter alluded, that was such an advantage in ancient times and undoubtedly encouraged settlement in Croydon, and which included the nearby Scarbrook and Laud's or My Lord's Ponds, but which here in this low-lying district had even by the eighteenth century become very troublesome.

Had we been here 40 years earlier in the 1830s the Surrey Iron Railway would have been passing the walls of the Palace making for a less than quiet environment for the workers of the bleaching factory in this room. Our late

past President Paul Sowan, who we lost last year, could have told us more.

Another change that was soon to come when our society started was the development around the Palace on its former land, a large area having been sold off in 1880, which gave us the current Howden and Cranmer Roads amongst others. Such developments were seen as necessary due to the astounding increase in Croydon's population which in the 20 years between 1861 and 1881 rose from 30,000 to 78,000.

We are here to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society in this and other events that should have taken place two years ago. We are thankful that we can hold them now and this event, and the others to come of our 150th anniversary celebrations, have been a long time in the making.

Our society began in 1870 when a group of Croydon gentlemen decided to get together for evening meetings. When they met at the Public Halls, then at the corner of George Street and Wellesley Road, from their first meeting on 6 April 1870 it was for the pursuit of a then fashionable pastime, that of microscopy which had become popular due to advances in affordable equipment. In 1859, soon before we were founded, the scientific study of nature had been greatly encouraged by the publication of Darwin's 'On the Origin of Species' and by the work of Alfred Russel Wallace which prompted publication of Darwin's book. Our society was formed as the Croydon Microscopical Club. Yet microscopy at the time could be more than a hobby – these were quite early days of biology as a university subject and profession and amateurs could make a real contribution, much useful work in biology being done by amateurs able to use a microscope.

Croydon was in 1870 a very rapidly growing residential centre, with new gentlemen's residences and villas, and societies such as ours afforded opportunities for collaboration in and mutual encouragement of the search for new specimens. We were led in this by our first President, Henry Lee, who was a naturalist and a Fellow of the Linnean Society, the Geological Society and the Zoological Society, and would later become a director of the Brighton Aquarium.

From the start there was a tendency to include in our meetings subjects not strictly connected with the microscope and in 1878 our name was altered to the Croydon Microscopical and Natural History Club.

From 1879 to 1883 Alfred Russel Wallace was a member, he at that time living in Croydon, and his own contribution to the society was a paper in biology called 'On the peculiar species of the British fauna and flora'.

By the 1880s we had diversified into ornithology, zoology, meteorology and geology. In 1885 photography was added, that being another popular hobby of the time. Anthropology officially became a subject of interest in 1895, and archaeology by 1901. From early days our forebears in the society studied the local weather – my how they studied the weather – we are the proud possessors of extensive rain charts, with local survey observation stations including Park Hill House, Waddon House and Whitgift School when in North End.

From our very early days we advocated a museum for Croydon. This was a campaign that would last for more than a century, until the Museum of Croydon opened in 1993.

Great Hall: Canopy of Archbishop's Throne with Stafford's Arms

Past Presidents include leading lights of their day – Dr Alfred Carpenter, and the engineer Baldwin Latham.

Early on our society was very much a gentlemen's club although we can be proud that it was stated that the club "must be totally free from exclusiveness as regards the social position of those desiring to become members". And ladies could attend the annual soirées, and increasingly were allowed to attend certain meetings of the year, and were from 1897 allowed to become members, something that Alfred Russel Wallace had tried to achieve in the early 1880s.

In 1902 we changed from a club to a society, to the name we still have today, the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society.

In the early part of the 20th century we were involved in organisations such as the Photographic Survey and Record of Surrey, the Croydon Antiquities Protection Society and the Committees for the Protection of Croham Hurst and the Preservation of Selsdon Wood.

In 1912 our member and future President Christopher Charles Fagg initiated a monumental work, the Regional Survey Atlas of Croydon and District, describing it as 'the organised study of a region (and its inhabitants: plant, animal and human) from every conceivable aspect, so as to give a complete picture of the region both in its past history and present features, and from these to indicate its probable development'. It covered the geology, rainfall,

vegetation and archaeology of an area of some 200 square miles of north-east Surrey and Kent, and from 1936 the Atlas of Croydon, based on the Regional Survey, also began to be published.

In 1955 we had our first lady President, Edith Linsley Hudson, and in 1967 we were incorporated as a limited liability company.

By 1970 local history became a feature of our society due in large part to our Past President the late John Gent. John produced the illustrated book 'Croydon the story of a hundred years' to coincide with our 100th anniversary in 1970 and several other books for the society over the next 40 years, that together with John's own books have formed a backbone of Croydon's local history publications. Local history remains a part of our society, being one of the areas where we can continue to contribute original research using the primary sources available at the Croydon Archives.

We have produced publications throughout our history. Our first Proceedings was published in 1871 and we have managed to continue this despite world wars and global pandemics. In its early days this was a record of our meetings, and has since evolved into academic papers on such diverse subjects as the history of the Old Palace, and glow worm field experiments and surveys. To these were added in the 1960s our Bulletin, in its early days very much under the care of our late former President, Paul Sowan, and now a full colour publication for members. Our Programme is also published and is available to members and non-members alike.

Today the Society remains concerned with original investigation, conservation, recording, curation, education and incidental recreation. We are a voluntary body and registered as a charity. We maintain a library and a museum, and we remain a rallying point for those who wish to study natural and other history particularly as it relates to the neighbourhood of Croydon.

We are lucky to have such a range of interests, and now count amongst our subjects – local history, geology, archaeology, industrial history, ecology, entomology and ornithology, and our ecology walks also include mycology. When planning events, it could be challenging to separate one of these subjects from another as so many are intertwined, so we are fortunate that it is not necessary, that our society can embrace them all.

When our society was formed in 1870 it was one of many such institutions, in Croydon and elsewhere, and might not have survived beyond the craze of its founding subject – many similar societies of the time did not. So how have we survived? I believe it is our adaptability, our early broadening of interests to embrace natural history in general followed by further diversification as time went by. And in an example of a more recent adaptation, the pandemic

of the last two years has brought many challenges but also a blessing, the adoption of remote talks, by which we can now further reach many members who have moved away from Croydon but remain interested in its study.

We hope we can continue to be equally adaptable and be there for those in the Croydon of the future looking for the pursuit of knowledge probably unrelated to their business lives.

Our 150th anniversary celebration events this year include walks, talks and visits on all of our subjects that we hope will be enjoyed by our members and others.

Our society has been a constant in Croydon for the last 152 years. May it long continue.

Thank you.

150th Anniversary Celebrations

The 150th anniversary celebrations began at last in April with our opening event in the Great Hall of the Old Palace Croydon on April 9th (see page 5 and cake at left). Amongst the following events were the AGM of 21st April with talks on 1870 the year of our founding, where costume was invited – see image below.

Eleanor Redshaw, Carole Roberts, Pauline Payne and Elaine Cooper

Events have continued according to plan with the exception of the talk of 18th July on Henry Keatley Moore, which was postponed due to the extreme heat on that day, and is now rescheduled for 7th November – see Autumn-Winter Programme.

The final event of the celebrations will be the Focus event of Saturday 29th October at the Old Palace Croydon. **BOOKING IS REQUIRED FOR THIS (FREE) EVENT** and places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis**.** Members will be sent a link for booking, or can email information@cnhss.co.uk, or telephone 020 8406 4676, or write to us at 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD to arrive by Wednesday 26th October. Visitors are asked to email cnhss.info@gmail.com with the subject ZOOM PALACE VISITOR – places will be confirmed by Friday 28th October.

Celia Elaine Bailey 1952–2022
Eulogy by Bob Davidson

Throughout literary history, there has been a trope of characters of extremely loveable, somewhat straight-talking, and wonderfully eccentric Aunts. Charles Dickens had Betsey Trotwood, Graham Greene had Aunt Augusta and P.G.Wodehouse had Aunt Dahlia to name but a few.

Now, for most of us, real-life doesn't bear too much relation to fiction, but in my case… it most definitely, definitely does: for I had Aunty Celia.

From an early age I was fairly enthralled by Aunty's sense of style. Her showing me the "sensible black shoes" she had bought for work was rather confusing for a six-year-old lad from Devon, for they were neither black nor even vaguely sensible... more of a bright purple suede affair, with platforms and six inch chunky heel. Her sense of individualism had no small impact on me or those around her.

It would be fair to say that Celia was not one to mince her words; Aunty left you in very little doubt about things she didn't like, including various hairstyles and other life-choices I made along the way (which in hindsight was fair enough). But by the same token, there was never any doubt about the things or people she loved, and for Jonathan and me it couldn't be more obvious that she loved us very much indeed. As did we, her.

Her zeal for constant learning and knowledge was both admirable and contagious. Every day spent with Aunty was an opportunity to come away with some new facts, whether you wanted to or not. Invariably she would say "Ooh, I've got something quite interesting to show you", which could end up being anything. Maybe a new article she had written on the history of the Cattermole brothers. Or maybe a new addition to her collection of photographs of Croydon manhole covers – in case anyone is in any doubt, that is not a joke. Getting out a ziplock folder, Aunty would beam as she would point at a new manhole cover she had just discovered, and she would be absolutely delighted. The weirdest thing about it? So was I!

Aunty was decidedly more open-minded than the average Aunt, and was every bit at home in an art gallery or a grimy West Croydon biker bar dancing to a funk band. As much as Jon, or then later I (trying to emulate him, but

don't tell him I said that)… as much as we tried to rebel, it was only ever met with a "that's nice, dear" or, more likely, a fairly cutting remark about how you could do it better. If there was one thing she knew, it was how to be cool. I even got her to play Cards Against Humanity with me once, which she claimed not to like even though she was crying with laughter. I'll let Nigel fill in more of the details on that particular story. He certainly did on the evening.

There was never any doubt that she would be there to support our band Homebrood, or anything else Jon or I did in our endeavours, and she was always keen to get involved in anything we did as friends, particularly if it required something like dressing up in a Mediaeval outfit. With a stuffed pet raven. Perhaps this is what I want to remember about Aunty the most? Yes, she taught me to appreciate culture in a way that so many would never even think of. Yes, she had a wonderful sense of style, individualism and, above all, an impeccable taste for the arts and aesthetics in general whether that be a local cask beer, fine wine, jazz, symphonic classical music, records of Doris Day on 78 Gramophone or weird black and white photos of the floors of Athens. Or Croydon manhole covers.

But it was more than that.

She was Jon's crazy, loving, eccentric Mum, and my crazy, loving, eccentric Aunt, but she was also our friend. That would be enough for me to be proud of her for eternity, but what I love even more, is that she was all of these things to so many people here. And to myriad others she touched in her sadly shortened, but beautiful life.

Memories of Celia from her friends at CNHSS

We were so extremely sorry to lose our Director Celia Bailey in May. Celia was our sixth lady President, from 2011-13. She was also for many years our Programme Secretary, herself leading many interesting walks, and the producer of a well-regarded newsletter which included some of her beautiful photographs. Our members remember her for her knowledge of all things historical and archaeological, and her generosity in sharing that. She is remembered for being friendly and welcoming at our meetings, and a pleasure to talk to, with a wonderful sense of humour and a gift for bringing people together.

Prehistoric flint technology – Part 2
by Christopher JW Taylor

Part 2 – Core types

[Part 1, Bulletin 173 was indexed as 'Flint find on Farthing Downs' – Ed]

Last time, in Bulletin 173, we looked at cores created in prehistoric Britain, what they are and how flakes and blades were created from them. This part looks at different types of core, i.e., the typology of cores and what they were used to produce. All the cores here were knapped from flint, the main rock of choice in the UK.

Cores are found throughout prehistory. Excavations frequently find many hundreds. At the Neolithic site at Hurst Fen, Suffolk, for example, over 500 were classified (Clark, 1960, 216); the Bronze Age site at the barrow in Micheldever Wood Hampshire recorded a similar number (Fasham & Ross, 1978, 54), whilst over 1,000 cores were found at the Mesolithic site at Oakhanger, Hampshire (Rankine, 1960, 248). These numbers are small, of course, compared to the flakes and blades found that had been struck from them – at Micheldever Wood, over 6,000 flakes were excavated and recorded by type.

Cores are important to archaeology because each period of prehistory had a predominant way of knapping a core or block of flint to produce flakes and blades so that it is often (but not always) possible to put a fairly good date, i.e., period, to an isolated/surface core find. Core knapping strategies were used in each period to produce a blank suitable for working into a tool type relevant to the circumstances of that period.

Thus, in the Mesolithic, one of the principal objectives was to produce very thin, long (relative to width), blades to be subsequently finely retouched (with something like the point of an antler tine) into microliths for use as arrow tips and barbs. Figure 1 shows two conical blade cores from which such small fine blades have been struck. From the scale bar it will be appreciated how small the blades removed would have been. These are typically Mesolithic showing very neat work and a single platform at right angles to the direction of the blade-producing blow (see Figure 2, page 15, Bulletin 173 for illustration of this).

Cores from Early Mesolithic sites are often quite small, conical in shape, and are knapped all around a single prepared platform to remove several small blades. Some of the blades so produced were only a few centimetres long. It is difficult to do this consistently to produce a neat core (note: although the

core left was the “waste”, albeit perhaps can be considered “neat” in our eyes) and the cores left behind show a mastery of working this material. Blades removed from the core on the left of Figure 1 ended with so-called termination fractures, that is, did not follow through to the bottom of the core but broke away halfway down. The knapper evidently carried on removing blades despite this. The pebble used is Bullhead flint from the base of the Thanet Sand, found locally in Waddon.

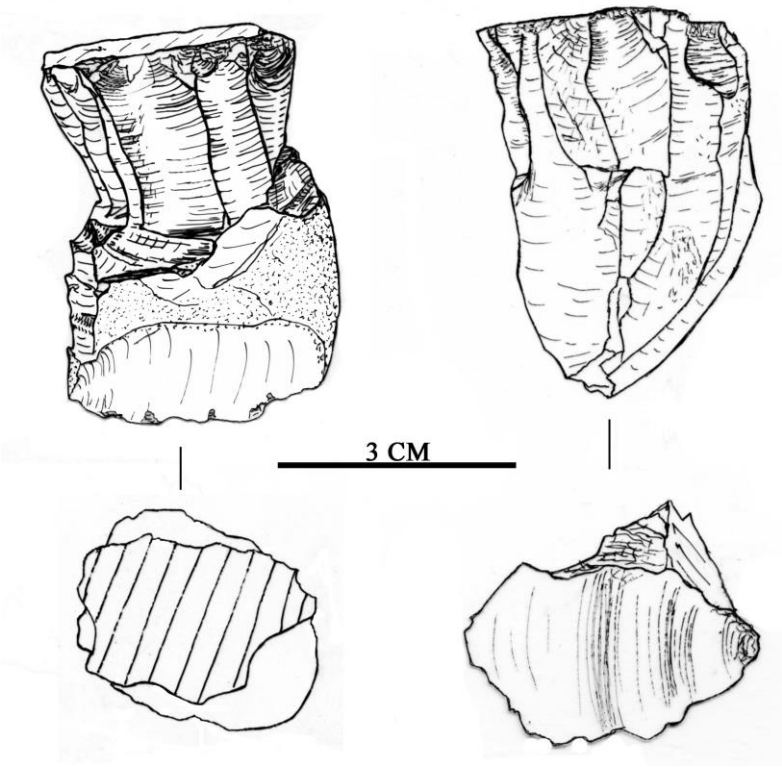


Figure 1. Two conical blade cores. The striking platform is at the top in each illustration. The two bottom illustrations are the view of the top of the core showing the extent and shape of the striking platform (lined).
From the Society’s collection.

Author’s illustration. Found at 41, Alton Road, Waddon
(See Bulletin 169 for full report).

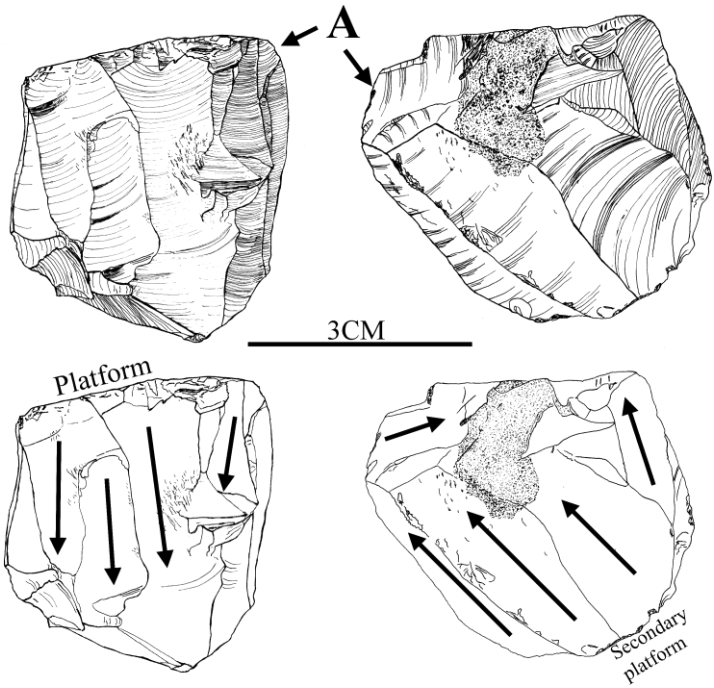


Figure 2. Core from near Glebe Pond, Godstone.
Author's illustration and collection. 8/2001

The core in Figure 2 has been knapped differently to those from Waddon. The small block of flint has been knapped from more than one direction so that there are at least three striking platforms. "A" marked is the same platform edge from different viewing angles. The lower part of Figure 2 shows the direction of each blade removed (arrowed). This core is likely, on the basis of dated site finds (this was a surface find), to be later than the Waddon examples, possibly early Neolithic, when blades were still commonly produced.

Figure 3 (opposite) is an example of a very different core type. This is a discoidal "bi-polar" core. Flakes have been struck from two opposing points on the block. This is a tabular piece and flakes have been struck from tiny platforms at its edges, not from a broad, pre-prepared striking platform as exemplified in Figures 1 and 4. This produced flakes like that illustrated at Figure 8a, page 24, of Bulletin 172. It is likely to be quite late, probably late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. The broad flakes produced may have been knapped into small scrapers or leaf or barbed and tanged arrowheads.

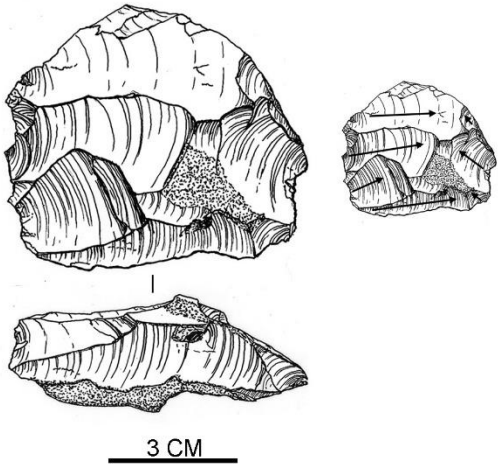


Figure 3. Discoidal flake core from near Long Plantation, Chipstead, TQ 2700,5625, showing plan view (top) and edge view below. The smaller side insert shows the direction of removal of flakes.
Author's illustration and collection, 6/9/1981.

In the Mesolithic, conical cores, like those shown at figure 1, were often "rejuvenated". We know this because rejuvenation flakes are found in their thousands across the country.

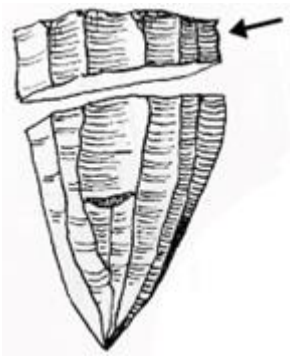


Figure 4. The rejuvenation of a Mesolithic conical core by a blow from the side ← to remove the old platform. From W.F.Rankine, F.S.A., ca 1950 (undated), figure 2, p14

After a number of blades/flakes had been removed from the original striking platform the angle between it and the main long axis of the piece may become very near to 90 degrees making it difficult to strike off further blades. A core was sometimes then "rejuvenated". Figure 4 shows how this was done. To alter the angle the "top" was removed by a blow from the side. This produced a piece of flint (the "top") that is very distinctive, known as a "core tablet", which has a small section of the fluted blade beds running all around the old platform and at approximately 90 degrees to it. These pieces are not easy to pick out from a large pile of debitage but once understood they can be identified.

References

Rankine, W.F., F.S.A., ca. 1950 (but undated), A Mesolithic survey of the west Surrey Greensand. Research Paper No. 2 of the Surrey Archaeological Society.

Butler, C, 2005, Prehistoric flintwork. Tempus

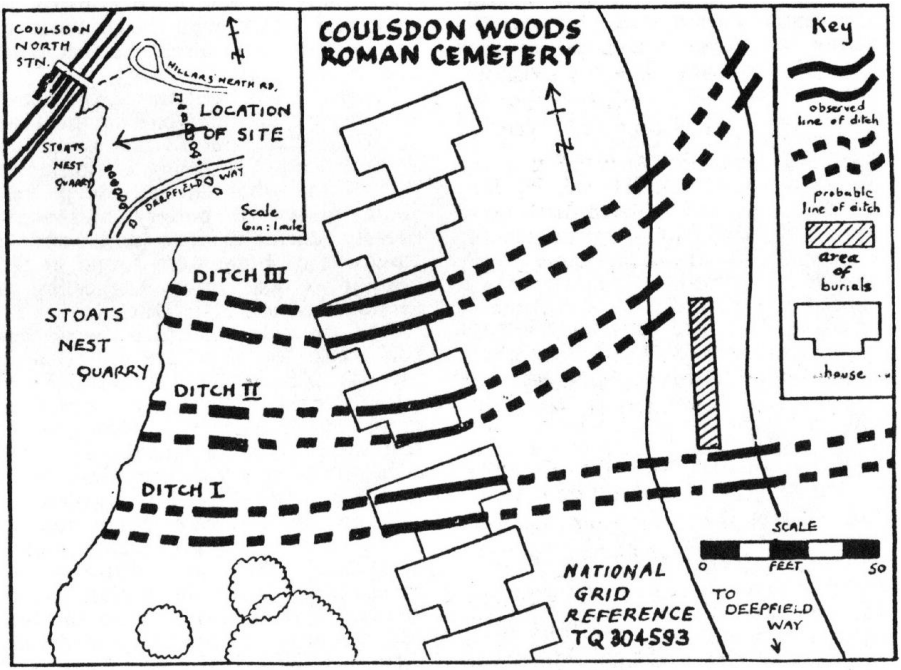
Clark, J.G.D., 1960, Excavations at the Neolithic Site at Hurst Fen, Mildenhall, Suffolk. Proceedings and the Prehistoric Society. New series vol. 26.

Fasham, P.J., & Ross, J.M., A Bronze Age Flint Industry from a Barrow Site in Micheldever Wood, Hampshire.

Rankine, W.F.& W.M., 1960, Further Excavations at a Mesolithic Site at Oakhanger, Selborne, Hants. Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society. New series, vol. 26.

Reproduced by kind permission of the Bourne Society Local History Records Volume ix 1970 by Mary Saaler

COULSDON WOODS ROMAN CEMETERY



ON the evening of Monday, June 9th 1969, Mr. John Lindsay was measuring a drainage trench on the Wates housing development above Coulsdon North Station when, on the spoil left by a mechanical excavator, he found the top of a human cranium. Later, he returned with a policeman and together they discovered in a trench a complete skull with a mandible retaining most of its teeth. Thus, after patient vigilance over many months, he came upon the Roman cemetery of Coulsdon Woods.

The site (TQ 302595) is on a north-facing chalk slope (1 in 10) on a ridge immediately to the northeast of Farthing Down. It is bounded by Hillars Heath Road, Deepfield Way and Stoats Nest Quarry. Here, Manning & Bray in the *History of Surrey* (Vol. II p. 448) recorded that traces of ditches were seen in the face of the then new Stoats Nest Quarry (1805). Whilst Wates were carrying out building work in 1968, Mr. Lindsay, a Bourne Society Member, recorded sections of the ditches after they had appeared in a drainage trench immediately above the face of Stoats Nest Quarry.

When a second drainage trench was dug 125 feet to the east in June 1969, further traces of the ditches were seen and human bones discovered. The find was reported to the police and a coroner's report was promptly obtained declaring that the bones were ancient. Following this report, Wates gave permission for an emergency excavation and offered every possible help and co-operation. A party of young diggers organised by Mr. Roger Thorne carried out this 'dig' between June 12th and 15th, 1969.

The 1968 drainage trench revealed sections of three V-shaped ditches, apparently running roughly parallel across the slope of the hill between the 330 foot and 340 foot contour lines. At this point the distance between the top ditch (Ditch I) and the middle ditch (Ditch II) was 17 feet and between Ditch II and the bottom ditch (Ditch III) was 21 feet. On the uphill side of each ditch there were indications of a revetment for a rampart. In the short time available it was possible to make only a limited examination of the contents of the ditches. They appeared to contain a mixture of clay and chalk with a layer of large flints below.

Ditch I has now been traced for 160 feet from the point where it was first seen. A section 250 feet further east also appears to belong to Ditch I. This ditch is about 12 feet wide and 4½ feet deep. The topsoil and some of the filling had already been removed during building operations; the first layer consisted of a mixture of clay and chalk, the result of natural accumulation. The next layer consisted of clay and large flints with pottery around the flints. The pottery was in the downhill half of the ditch, about 3 feet from the bottom and appears to have fallen or been thrown in from higher up the slope when the ditch was already partially filled. The next layer consisted of a hard packed mixture of clay and small pieces of chalk, apparently the result of natural accumulation. Below this there was a layer of large flints.

The pottery dates from the second half of the 1st century A.D. It consists of sherds of dark grey, soapy, hand-made nature ware which is typical of the late Iron Age (see above) and a few sherds of grey-buff sandy ware and imitation Samian ware. These finds are similar to those made at Woodplace Farm Netherne which were dated to the same period. (SAC Vol. L).

It has not been possible to trace Ditch II as far as Ditch I and it may peter out further along the slope. The filling of this ditch consists of clay and chalk with large flints at the bottom. It is about 12 feet wide and 5 feet deep.

Ditch III has been traced for about 160 feet to the northeast of the 1968 section. It is about 13 feet wide and 5½ feet deep. The filling is similar to that of the other ditches, except that some pieces of pottery and some heavily corroded iron nails and a fragment of bone were found at the bottom of the

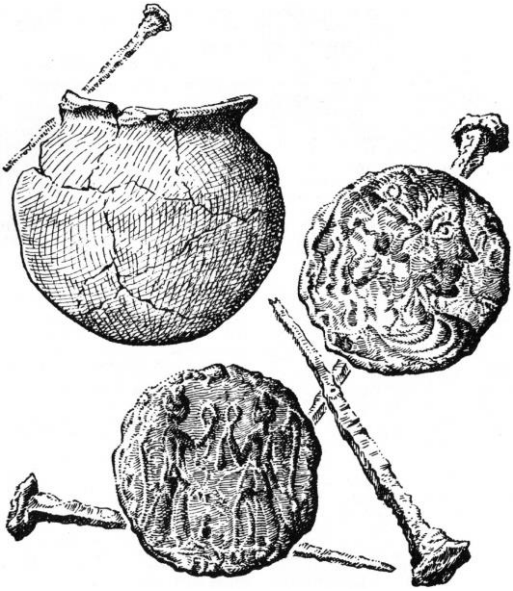
ditch, suggesting it continued in use after Ditch I.

The directions in which the ditches run across the slope are indicated in the site plan. Ditches I and III are initially only 50 feet apart but they gradually diverge until they are 91 feet apart. It is hoped that later excavations may give some indication of the reason for this divergence.

Seven burials were discovered in the sides of a drainage trench and a number of others were disturbed by building work. All the burials so far discovered have lain between the two ditches I & III. They were placed with their feet towards the northeast and were between 3 and 4 feet deep. The remains were in a poor state of preservation because of the permeable effect of the chalk which causes bones to deteriorate.

Grave I contained the bones of a young adult; the wisdom teeth had not erupted and the sutures of the skull were still open. The skull faced towards the left and just in front of the jawbone a coin of Constantius II was found standing up on edge. Three large iron nails were found, one on each side of the skull and one beneath the right shoulder. The lower leg and foot bones had been removed by the mechanical excavator.

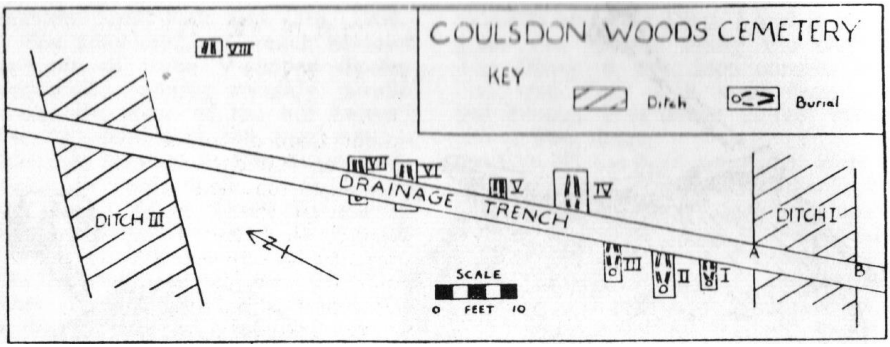
Grave II Contained the bones of an adult person. Only the arm and leg bones and the skull remained and these were fragmentary. Small fragments of wood were found around the bones.



Finds made at the Coulsdon Woods Roman Cemetery in June 1969: a dark grey hand-made pot of the 1st century A.D.; a bronze AE4 coin of the 4th century; and coffin nails 4½" long of similar date. (Not to scale)

Grave III contained the bones of an adult person, these were also fragmentary, nails were found to the left and right of the skull, close to the upper arm bones and close to the ankles. The position of the nails gives a coffin width of about 2 feet.

Grave VI. The bones were fragmentary but the lower jawbone was sent for a dental report. Mr. N. Cripps, LDS, RCS (Eng) writes "This is the lower jaw of a person aged between 23 and 25 years. The wisdom teeth are congenitally missing and there is some decay, although not very much. The tops of the teeth are ground down through eating a rough diet. The jaw is small and indicates that the person was not more than 5 feet 6 inches tall. It is not possible to tell the sex of the person from this jaw. The grinding of the teeth was probably caused by eating bread which had been made from flour milled on a soft stone quern. The dentist has seen this effect in the teeth of natives of West Africa who grind their corn in this way".



The nails were all similar in size and type, the heads were roughly circular, about 1 inch in diameter with a roughly tapering rectangular shank about 4½ inches long (see above). They were submitted to Mr. R. Merrifield, assistant director of the Guildhall Museum who thought they were likely to be late Roman of the second half of the 4th century.

The coin was examined by Mr. D. Miller and he reported that it was a bronze AE4, the smallest official denomination in use at the middle and end of the 4th century. Obverse: CONSTANTIUS P.(ius) F.(elix) AUG(ustus). Head of emperor laureate wearing cloak and military cuirass. Reverse: VICTORIAE D.D. AUGG.Q. N.N.(Dominorum Augustorum Quinque Nostrorum) Two victories stand facing each other holding wreathes. The mint mark is illegible. The coin dates from before the reform of the coinage in 345 A.D. It is therefore likely that the burial with the coin dates from about 360 A.D.

In assessing the significance of the Coulsdon Woods finds, mention must be

made of the excavations carried out by B. Hope-Taylor on Farthing Down, about 1,500 yards to the south, in 1947. These revealed a Celtic field system which can probably be related to the present discoveries. The field system was believed to have been in use from the 1st century B.C. until at least the 2nd century A.D. (*Surrey Archaeological Soc. Coll.* Vol. L).

The excavations have shown that the occupation of the ridge at Coulsdon Woods was contemporary with the Celtic field system on Farthing Down; it may have been a domestic site of the people who used the field system. The ditches were cut during the Iron Age for defensive purposes and as Roman influence were used and there was no need for a system of defences the ditches were allowed to fill with debris.

There had been no previous evidence of occupation of the Farthing Down area during the late Roman period but the Bourne Society's excavations have now shown that the area was inhabited until the end of the Roman period. Recent air photographs, (F.S.L. G.L.C. 17/8/66 9639-40) taken in stereoscopy suggest that three other early settlements lie in this area awaiting further investigation. *Mary Saaler*

The Clay with flints geology and the distribution of yew trees in Banstead Woods – a postscript to Bulletin 172 article by Christopher J.W. Taylor

In Bulletin 172, Autumn 2021, I wrote about the geology and archaeology of Banstead Woods. What follows are two short postscripts to that article – one to look at the Clay-with-flints pebble beds again and a second, to record a study of the distribution of yew trees which I had briefly noted seem to cluster along the south-east boundary of the woods.

The Clay-with-flints in Banstead Woods

In Bulletin 172 I looked at the Clay-with-flints, including pebble beds, that cover a large part of the Banstead Woods site. I added, in passing, that very similar geology can be seen near Ashcombe Woods, above the Denbies vineyard, at the far eastern end of Ranmore Common. That area is also covered with Clay-with-flints. Some of the footpaths (for example at TQ 1570, 5130) there are strewn with rounded pebbles and cobbles, exactly similar to those described at Banstead Woods.

Although extending the ambit of this Bulletin, the Denbies site is a good parallel for that at Banstead nearer to “home”. Since writing the Bulletin 172 article, whilst walking around the Denbies Wine Estate, I have come across

a cutting into the hillside near the western end of the estate, at TQ 15182,50547. This had been dug during the construction of a tiny side road built so that Denbies estate traffic on the metalled road next to the cutting can pass and park up. The cutting, approximately 30 yards long, has been made into the Clay-with-flints exposing a nice section, about five feet deep, which provides an excellent view of the different components of the deposit.

Figures 1 and 2 below are photos of the cross sections revealed. Both photos are taken just a few yards from each other and show nearby sections. I have labelled the geology “A”, “B”, & “C”. The top of each photo is ground level, with leaf litter and overhanging plants visible. Just beneath is top and sub-soil.

In both Figures 1 and 2, “A”, the lowest layer, is a brown to light cream colour, clayey deposit with a few angular flints, part of the Clay-with-flints. This deposit rests unconformably on the Chalk rubble and Chalk bedrock below (not visible at the location or in the figures). Above “A”, is “B”, a band of distinctly rounded, smooth, pebbles and cobbles with “chatter marks”, exactly similar to those described at Banstead. Here, the feature is more of a lens of material than a layer because it seems to get thinner towards either end of the cutting and has certainly been much disturbed. Pebbles have seeped into the layers above and below. Above “B”, at “C”, is a band of friable, earthy material with angular flints, another section of more degraded Clay-with-flints.

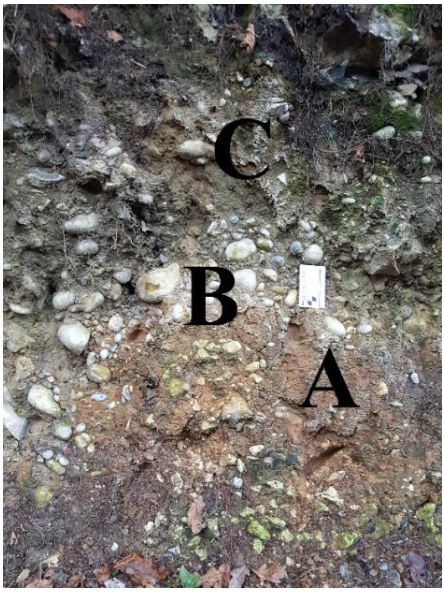


Figure 1. The scale card is 8cm long

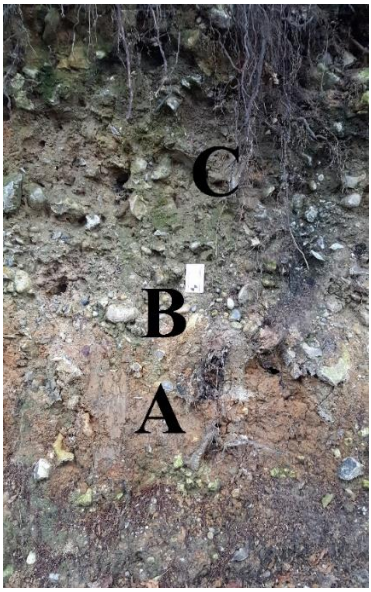


Figure 2. Scale card is 8cm long

The section shows that the pebble bed may be in the form of separate lenses, intermittently occurring within the Clay-with-flints. I mentioned in Bulletin 172 the sometimes-random appearances of the pebble beds at Banstead Woods where they crop up alongside areas of angular flints. This may be explained by the way the pebbles seem to occur at Denbies.

Figure 3. A longer section further to the left of Figure 2 where the pebble bed seems to peter out. Black vertical scale bar is 10cm.

Distribution of yew trees along the boundary at Banstead Woods

In Bulletin 172, I wrote about the archaeology of Banstead Woods. I noted that a track along the south-east boundary (Figures 4 and 5 below, repeated from Bulletin 172) may be very ancient, Saxon or before.

There are several features I mentioned that support that theory. One is the apparent preponderance of yew trees (*Taxus baccata L. Taxaceae European Yew*) along it, given the incidence of yews elsewhere on boundaries. This was a marginal point that I added in for completeness and I wrote that I hadn't done any sort of survey of yews in the vicinity and so couldn't be certain yews are particularly prevalent along the boundary path compared to elsewhere in the woods. What follows is a short postscript to the Bulletin 172 article with the results of a small survey of yews in Banstead woods with my comments on the results.

Figure 5 (opposite) plots the yew trees I found. There is a lot of other evergreen visible in the plateau area of the woods, but this is almost exclusively holly and a few species of pine.

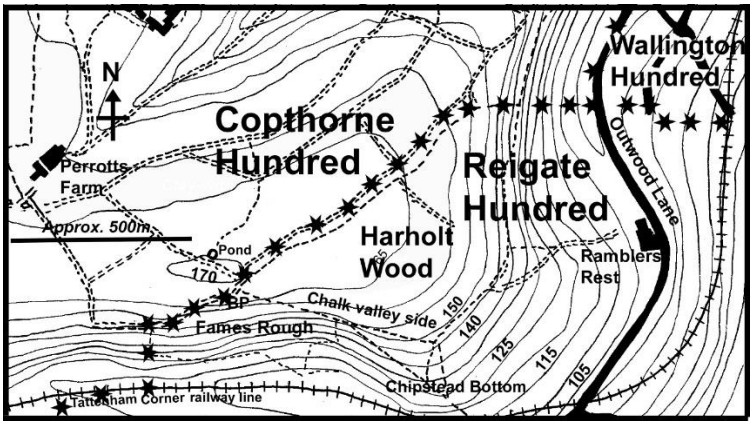


Figure 4. Repeated from Bulletin 172 Figure 1, showing the hundred boundary marked by stars. Compare to incidence of yews in Figure 5.

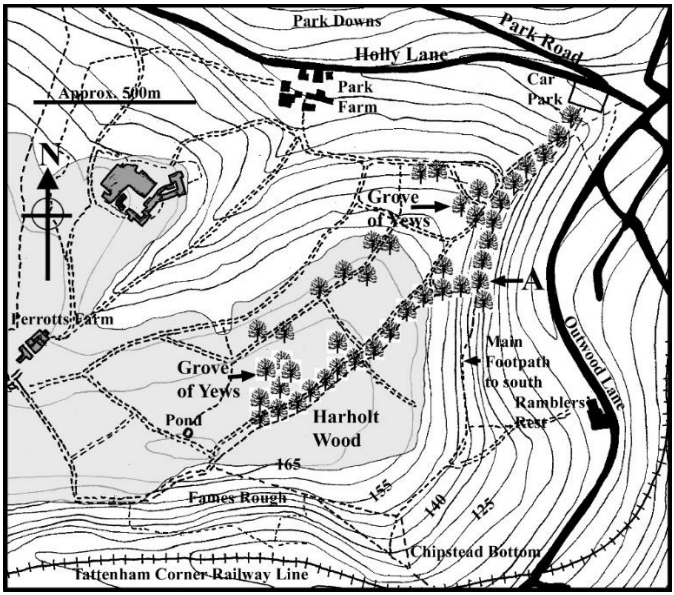


Figure 5, The spread of yew trees in Banstead Woods. Repeated from Bulletin 172 with the distribution of yews plotted. At “A” the line of yews turns west up a steep hill to follow (*it seems*) the line of the hundred boundary, rather than carrying on along the lower Chalk path. In doing so it crosses the boundary between the Clay-with-flints (shaded grey) and Chalk as it moves upwards on to the plateau area.

What is evident is that yews do seem to cluster specifically along the main path, coincident with a long section of the ancient shire hundred and other boundaries that run along it, the exceptions being a few clusters or groves within the main wood, as shown by Figure 5. Admittedly, there are yews strung along the main path to the north of the point on the boundary marked "A". The yews within the woods are few and vary in size from saplings to fairly mature trees. Why there is a congregation of yews along the boundary is open to speculation and in all likelihood due to a combination of reasons discussed below.

An historical interest is the Victoria County Histories (References) mention that in 1439 John Merston and Rose, then holding Banstead, received licence to inclose the park, stated to be in great need of repair, with paling and hedge, and to cause trees and oaks required for the purpose to be felled both within and without the park, under the survey of the Prior of Merton.

Discussion

Yews may have been planted as markers of the path/track itself. Interesting is the line of yews north of A in Figure 5, along the path that nowadays leads to the car park. This was very probably originally the lower part of the ancient routeway and the trunk of one yew there has an especially large girth, perhaps the greatest in Banstead Woods.

The trees may have been intended as a marker of the boundary which coincides with the track/path. There is some sense in this because many yews here are actually on top of the linear earthwork which is parallel to the path for a considerable distance. Yews are often found on boundaries but this may simply be because they are long lived and perhaps have been noted as useful markers rather than actually being originally planted as such. Deliberate planting would make sense in that the tree is known to be long lived. At the same time however, yews are slow growing so would be a long-term investment of effort. Furthermore, trees are very frequently found growing along the tops of linear earthen banks, probably because of their moisture retention qualities, relatively fertile soils and protection afforded by being just above general ground level. Therefore, finding yews strung along the tops of such linear features is not necessarily indicative of deliberate planting.

The spread or lack of yews within the wood must have been influenced by its history as a deer park (marked on figure 6). In centuries past *T. baccata* was exterminated from many woodlands as a poisonous hazard to grazing cattle and horses and other animals. However, extensive web-research seems to confirm that wild deer are an exception and can and commonly do browse yew seedlings, especially in winter, without being poisoned. As

browsers, deer will eat any seedlings, thus suppressing yew “layering” (see below) and the spread of the trees within the woods. It may be that during the period when the woods were a deer park or farm, yew was suppressed by both man and browsing deer in the wooded centre. If the centre of the wood was ringfenced to keep deer in, the fence or other buffer zone would have acted as a double-edged sword by reducing yew within the wood but helped preserve it just outside, especially on the boundary. Yews may have also been discouraged by man even along the boundary in case other animals, especially sheep or horses, browsed them. However, the path is steep with a steep drop on the valley side, useful for itself, and, in contrast to the valley area, probably never managed as farmland, so the presence of animals may not have been an issue along it.

A totally natural explanation is of course possible. There may have been a grove of yews at some point on the track, for reasons unknown, possibly natural, and this spread along the path/boundary. Yews are a native species to the British Isles. During the Neolithic and Bronze Age, woods were cleared to create farmland. Yews may have been retained in times when it was revered for perceived sacred qualities. This tree often spreads by its branches rooting into the soil (known as “branch layering”) and then eventually growing into a full tree. Yew seeds are surrounded by a bright red, fleshy aril (a modified form of scale). The aril is the only part which is edible, so great care has to be exercised by the few birds and animals which browse it. Blackbirds (Turdus merula), mistle-thrushes (Turdus viscivorus), greenfinches (Carduelis chloris) and linnets (Carduelis cannabina) are amongst those birds which eat yew berries and seem to be able to discard the seeds and the skin of the aril without swallowing them. There is evidence that squirrels can also consume the aril, by stripping it away from the seed. In this way yews spread around a parent tree. Through this seed dissemination by birds, in combination with branch layering, groves of yew will be created and “move forward” (known sometimes as “walking trees”), possibly in a linear trajectory.

Yew was and still is the wood of choice for long bows. Yew was imported in the Middle Ages for this purpose and native tree numbers were depleted to supply bow makers. The distribution along the line of the boundary may reflect the desire to grow or at least encourage the tree for economic purposes.

The geology of Banstead Woods (and elsewhere of course) will be one of the determining factors in the location of populations of particular tree species. This may limit the spread of some trees but yew will grow in acid, neutral or alkaline soils, although probably best on neutral soil, but prefer it moist, well-drained soil with a high humus content. Thus, yew can “walk”

around in the wood fairly undeterred by changes in geology. As described in Bulletin 172, the woods here are capped on the highest points by a deposit of Clay-with-flints with the Chalk bedrock beneath exposed where the capping of Clay-with-flints feathers to nothing as the ground slopes away. The Chalk is exposed along the main boundary path which runs along the side of the Woods. However, the yews and boundary path are on slope along a line that *cuts across the division between the Chalk and Clay-with-flints*. Yews are on the Chalk as far as point A I have marked on Figure 5, but then carry on the path that turns west and upwards into Clay-with-flints. This examples the way yew can tolerate different soils. Indeed, they are found on Chalk and Clay-with-flints all over the Downs.

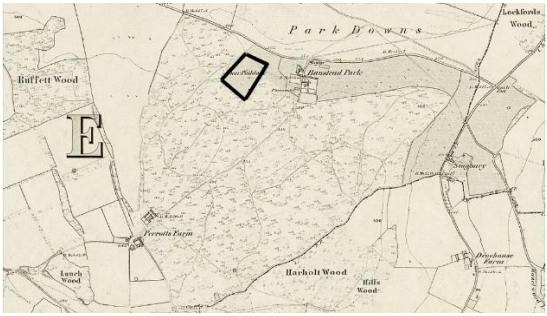


Figure 6. 1866 Ordnance Survey map, XIX, 6", of Banstead Woods showing the deer paddock (highlighted).

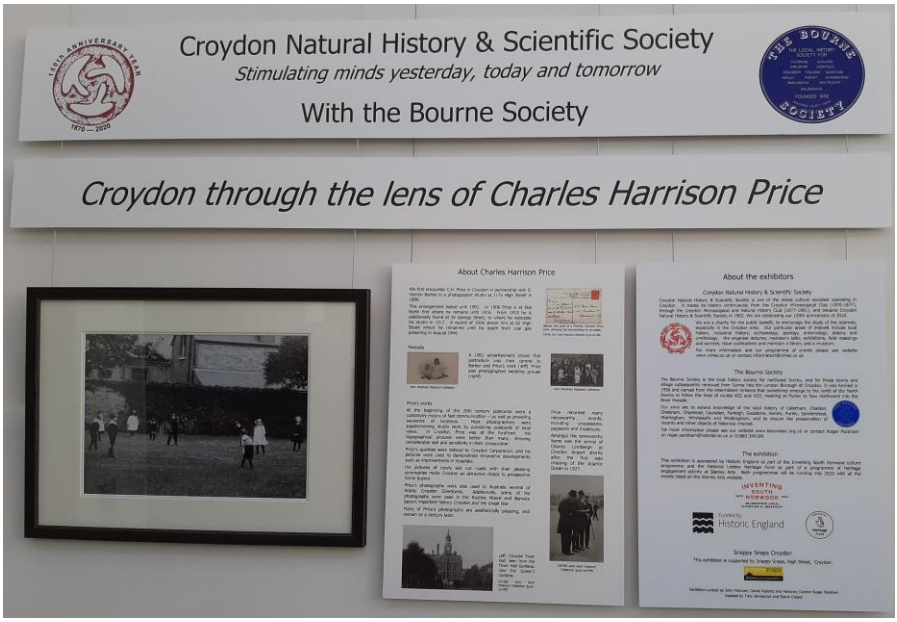
Conclusion and summary

I'm not sure if I can confidently alight on one main cause of the perceived spread of yews. The distribution in figure 5 *is* real and I think must, by now, be a combination of factors probably somehow connected to the wood's ancient history as a deer park and the boundary line.

References

https://poisonousplants.ansci.cornell.edu/yew.html
http://www.mammal.org.uk/sites/default/files/Note%201%20-%20P%20Gasson.pdf
http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/horses/facts/07-055.htm
https://askinglot.com/is-yew-poisonous-to-deer
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5744921/
https://www.bbg.org/gardening/article/deer-resistant
https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yew
https://www.ancient-yew.org/mi.php/the-yew-wood/103
https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2013/1/3/1175582/-Yew-pretty-powerful-poisonous
https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/trees-plants/brief-history-of-britains-ancient-yews/
https://www.redzet.eu/en/photo/common-yews-seeds-in-red-arils-A-572-19-AM
'Parishes: Banstead', in *A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 3*, ed. H E Malden (London, 1911), pp. 252-262. *British History Online* http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/surrey/vol3/pp252-262 [accessed 22 July 2022]

Croydon through the lens of Charles Harrison Price at Stanley Arts. 2nd June – 10th July 2022 by John Hickman, Curator, John Gent Postcards Collection



The disappointing early closure due to Covid 19 restrictions of our hugely popular 'Croydon through the lens of Charles Harrison Price' exhibition in Croydon Clocktower – it had attracted over 330 complimentary remarks in the visitors' book during 42 days of showing in early 2020 – was at the time keenly felt. However, the joyous mood of June 2nd this year was heightened locally by the re-opening of our show in the refurbished gallery at Stanley Arts, the revived arts centre in the former Stanley Halls, South Norwood.

During the 2020 showing it had been pleasing to notice that, despite the banners saying it was a CNHSS and Bourne Society project, there were some who believed it to be a Museum of Croydon production such was the quality of the image manufacture and the curation of the hang. Many visitors had returned a second time, often bringing family and friends; and the phrase 'More of the same please,' appeared liberally in the visitors' book.

A glimmer of light that the exhibition might re-open in the Clocktower during the autumn of 2021 was sadly extinguished when the Clocktower foyer was used as a Covid testing station. Undaunted, the curators began the task of organising another hang, in no small way being spurred on by the necessity

of having to remove the exhibits from temporary storage in the Museum of Croydon and find an alternative space for them.

Negotiations with Dr. Dan Winder, the director of Stanley Arts began in early 2022, and it was agreed that if additional C. H. Price images, particularly of the South Norwood Heritage Action Zone area – South Norwood High Street; The Pavement, Selhurst Road; Station Road and South Norwood Hill to Stanley Halls – could be added, together with images showing the halls themselves being used, then an exhibition could be mounted in the refurbished former art gallery adjacent to the original (1903) large hall. During his time in post, Dan Winder has initiated major refurbishment of the former Stanley Halls – not least the art gallery, to bring it in line with exigencies of 21st century use.

Funding for the additional pictures and their mounting in the gallery was provided by National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England through Stanley Arts. Again, very generous sponsorship was provided by Snappy Snaps who not only superbly reproduced the South Norwood pictures but also manufactured extra wall texts and information board. We would like to acknowledge and thank Mike Ratcliffe of Snappy Snaps, High Street, Croydon for the work he put into the project, especially of some wall texts; undertaken at the eleventh hour and without which there would have been conspicuous absence from the exhibition.

High Street Sth.Norwood June 1928

As was the case with the show in Croydon Clocktower the mounting of pictures, wall text and information boards was undertaken by Adi Solutions to whom we are grateful.

A fact-sheet of South Norwood Heritage Action Zone 'then and now' pictures was reproduced on card in both English and Polish, and it was interesting to note that some visitors asked if they could have two copies to put side-by-side for mounting and framing at home. As happened when the exhibition was in Croydon Clocktower visitors frequently requested framed copies of the pictures on show.

The exhibition was the first major show in the refurbished gallery; indeed, there has not been an exhibition of this magnitude in the location for very many years, and it was pleasing to see over 60 people at the opening event.

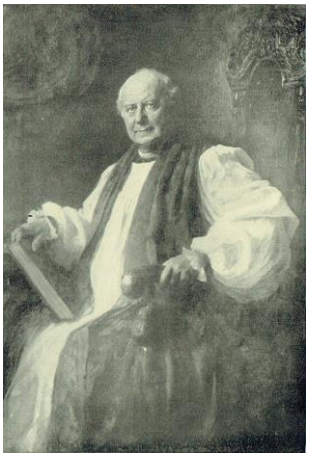
In the following five weeks during which the exhibition was open eighty-five names appeared in the visitors' book. All but one of those commenting contributing very complimentary remarks; the single minor complaint being the location of the maps and keys to the pictures. As was the case in Croydon Clocktower there were visitors returning with family and friends, and many requests for further such exhibitions were made.

Looking forward, the society aspires to have the exhibition move to locations in the south of the borough with additional pictures of those places as a CNHSS contribution to the London Borough of Culture 2023 events next year, but this remains to be finalised by council.

In the meantime, I should like to additionally thank the following: my colleague Carole Roberts for her considerable preparatory work and designing the fact sheet; Roger Packham for arranging and handling the shifting of the pictures and accessories from Croydon to South Norwood; Ian Payne for advice and support; Dr. Dan Winder (Director Stanley Arts) for the opportunity of having the exhibition at Stanley Arts and facilitating funding; Moa Taylor Hodin of Stanley Arts for support and assistance; and those additional Stanley Arts staff who largely supervised the show during opening times.

It is a both a privilege and a pleasure to feel that again we have amply fulfilled a key objective of the society, namely, to encourage the study of local history and provide incidental recreation through an outstanding exhibition.

A Bishop's Boyhood in Victorian Waddon
by Brian Lancaster



The Rt Rev. Edmund Arbuthnott Knox (1847-1937), the bishop of Manchester from 1903 to 1921, is best known for his gifted children: 'Few families have a more brilliant record of scholarships and first classes' he wrote in his autobiography, *Reminiscences of an Octogenarian*.[1] Besides his own firsts, four sons and one daughter achieved such academic distinctions. The sons at least have been immortalised in two classic biographies, Evelyn Waugh's biography of Monsignor Ronald Knox[2] and Penelope Fitzgerald, the bishop's niece and prize-winning novelist, in her biography of the sons, *The Knox Brothers*[3]. Along with Edmund's contemporary John Charles Ryle, Bishop of Liverpool, Edmund was a leading evangelical in the Church of England.[4]

What follows omits Edmund's school life at St Paul's and his subsequent attendance at university, the emphasis being in his upbringing in Waddon and his attendance at churches in Croydon and Beddington.

Edmund was not born in Waddon but in Bangalore, now Bengaluru, in 1847 in southern India where his father, George Edward Knox (1814-1891), was employed as chaplain to the Hon. East India Company's English community in Madras. George Knox, his wife and their children, four sons and three daughters, came to England in 1855. He became a curate at All Soul's, Langham Place, then as now evangelical, as his pension of £363 was insufficient to support a large family. In 1858, after being appointed an Association Secretary to the Church Missionary Society, they moved to Waddon. A fourth daughter was born there. Surprisingly, Edmund's autobiography does not include reminiscences of his time in India.

The maiden name of George's wife was Frances Mary Anne Reynolds (1823-1902).[5] She and her sister, Eliza (1824-1913), both born in Beddington, had travelled to Madras where each found a partner among the English community. Frances married George in December 1844, Eliza, The Hon. David Arbuthnott, a political agent in the Madras Civil Service, in September 1847.[6]

The sisters' father was Thomas Forbes Reynolds (1804-1864) who, before qualifying as a doctor in 1841[7], had been a linen merchant at Plough Court,

Lombard Street[8], but whose 'home was on that reach of Isaac Walton's beloved Wandle'[9]. Indeed, it flowed through the bleaching grounds at Carshalton, which, at about two hundred acres, was the largest bleaching ground in the kingdom.[10] Jacob Foster Reynolds, whose partnership with Thomas was dissolved in 1821, had been the owner of the Culvers bleaching grounds at Carshalton[11] but also leased land at Wallington. More specifically, the calico printing works themselves were located below Wallington Bridge at Beddington. We shall find that Edmund had close ties with Beddington. For some years after the partnership had been dissolved, Thomas continued his business in Plough Court as Thomas Forbes Reynolds and Company.

Edmund refers to his grandparents as having been wealthy. More specifically, he refers to his maternal grandfather as 'still living on the wreck of what had been a good fortune'[12]. Edmund gives no reason as to how he lost his fortune but the failure of his business would seem to be the most likely. Edmund makes no mention of his having been a doctor.

Edmund shows more admiration for his great-grandfather, Foster Reynolds (1736-1797), a linen bleacher in Carshalton, who 'besides being a successful man of business, had a delight in literary and scientific pursuits. He was one of the founders of both the Zoological and Royal Horticultural Societies. Great was the state in which he drove into Town, in his carriage and four, and to the Quaker Chapel in Croydon on Sunday'[13]. He was born and lived much of his life in Carshalton. His son was Jacob Foster Reynolds. He was buried in the Quaker burial ground in Croydon. Foster Reynolds was indeed wealthy. Among other bequests he gave Jacob £4,000.[14]

In contrast to Edmund's interest in his maternal grandfather and great-grandfather, he makes no mention of his Knox forebears in Ireland. That may be because his father was himself uninterested in them or because his children found him taciturn and uncommunicative. Frances was the opposite, conveying her own pride in her ancestry and imbuing Edmund with a sense of place, in Carshalton and Beddington, where the Reynolds had owned extensive bleaching grounds.

Waddon was 'a group of a few houses on a by-road between Croydon Beddington'[15]. The first home in Waddon was a cottage which 'had the charm of having been a resort of smugglers'[16]. This, rather than the semi-detached house they soon moved to, might be the one referred to by Penelope Fitzgerald. 'The three elder boys slept together, the youngest, Lindsey, downstairs in the pantry, Edmund, the second son, who showed early scholastic promise, had to "get up" his lessons in the corner of his mother's room.'[17]

Few young people then, and certainly not now, would tolerate the discipline and narrow-mindedness of Edmund's father. At home George's word was law, his judgement unchallenged. 'There was no going to the seaside, no lounging in arm chairs or sofas or reading of novels.'[18] 'Sentiment and sentimental literature, religious, or secular, were abhorrent.'[19] Even Ruskin was unacceptable. It is doubtful if Edmund ever heard his father preach. His dislike of spiritual excitement or 'enthusiasm', more characteristic of the previous century's evangelicalism[20], would suggest that Edmund might have found his sermons uninspiring.

The clothes they had to wear gave the children an inferiority complex. What the daughters were obliged to wear embarrassed them, so plain, so unfashionable, were they. Edmund's autobiography is virtually silent about his relationship with his siblings. The Reynolds were a Quaker family and Frances was no exception. Even so, the plain, unfashionable clothes were in accordance with the practice of Quakers. As a Quaker she would have found no significant obstacle in marrying an Anglican evangelical as Quakers also regarded themselves as evangelicals. Edmund admired her saintliness. She was an invalid. How she became an invalid he does not mention. It did little if anything to deter her from managing their home. She presided over the meals and invigilated their lessons.[21]

It was she who, at 7.30am on Sundays, assembled the whole household to read them devotional literature such as Bunyan's *Pilgrims Progress*. After the mid-day lunch, the custom was to spend an hour and a half reading or playing with toys. The toy Edmund mentions is Noah's Ark! They attended church both in the morning and afternoon but not in the evening: Frances regarded the evening service as an innovation introduced by the dissenters – a curious notion it must be admitted. 'Evenings prayers, taken by my father, consisted of a portion of Scripture, followed by extempore prayer.'[22]

Edmund's autobiography devotes some space to his neighbours. One reason is to underscore how little his parents encouraged neighbourliness. 'The neighbours were not unsociable, but it was my parents' intention and settled purpose to keep us at arm's length from any influences which might have led us to find fault with our home life.'[23] He implies another reason for the lack of neighbourliness: the risk of catching childhood diseases such as measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever. Edmund escaped them all.

Those considered more respectable had few if any children. Such was the case in the semi-detached house in which they lived. The neighbour in the house, a man who worked for *The Times,* had no children. They saw little if him anyway. The couple who lived next door took Edmund and his siblings to concerts at Crystal Palace and gave them presents and drives in their 'Victoria' carriage. A gentleman-farmer and his wife, both elderly, regaled them with cakes and home-made wine. Either Edmund's father was unaware of such treats or allowed them as the couple were, like himself, evangelicals. Though the Waddon home was close to the Croydon parish church's vicarage, Edmund saw little of its inhabitants, including its children. There was more contact with some families in Beddington who were old friends of the Reynolds. They were 'good in asking us to parties'[24] but Edmund 'hated' parties.

Edmund was a life-long evangelical. For him the Church of England was a Protestant church born out of the Reformation, so he regarded the Tractarians and ritualists as disloyal to the Church. He disapproved of the decorations in the newly opened St Matthew's church in George Street because they borrowed symbolism more familiar in the Catholic Church: the holy coat, the ladder, the nails and hammer of the cross, which he described as 'haberdashery and ironmongery'[25]. The Knox family must have been obliged to worship in this church during the rebuilding of the Croydon parish church of St John the Baptist after the fire of 1867 as St Matthew's put on extra services for those who would otherwise have attended Croydon parish church. Unlike the other Anglican churches in Croydon, St Matthew's was independent of the vicar of Croydon, the Rev. John George Hodgson. The others were what is called daughter churches, having then no parishes of

their own.

Croydon parish church was 'immune from Tractarian influences.[26] It had no surpliced choir and neither cross nor flowers on the Lord's Table.[27] Its churchmanship was moderate and sound. The preaching was correct but uninspiring. This judgement embraced not only the vicar but also the curates who included William Wilks. On Sunday mornings the floor and the galleries were filled. All thirteen members of the family, presumably including servants, attended but, because the attendance was so great, the family itself were only allocated six seats in a gallery pew with room for nine. The servants were more likely to have been obliged to sit in the rear pews in the nave.

When Edmund, then a scholar of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, was at home during the Christmas vacation, he saw, on a very cold Saturday night on January 5, 1867, flames shooting up the tower of the parish church. He ran to have a closer look. 'By the time I reached it the flames had complete mastery of the tower, and I still remember the horror which came over me.'[28] He returned home sad at heart, all the more so as he shared the pride people felt in the church.

Yet, Edmund had preferred to attend the parish church of St Mary at Beddington where the renowned Rev. Dr William Marsh was rector, as he represented the best tradition of evangelicalism.[29] He was called out of retirement in 1860, when he was already in his late eighties having been born in 1775.[30] As Marsh died in 1864 Edmund must have attended St Mary's for some years beforehand. Marsh refused to believe that any man was outside the range of God's grace.[31] He had a warmer, friendlier and more conciliatory personality than Edmund's 'tyrannous'[32] father who urged upon his family the dangers of hell-fire.[33] Edmund's loyalty towards his father ruled out referring to his father in such judgemental epithets or to the beatings his father administered to his sons.[34] Edmund's character was closer to his mother's and his devotion to her more evident. Moreover, he had a cheerfulness his father lacked.

Marsh had been a friend and correspondent of an even more famous minister, the late Charles Simeon, who belonged to an earlier generation of evangelicals. He had described Marsh as a 'the loveliest of men'[35]. One of Edmund's relatives, Thomas Valpy French, a missionary and later Bishop of Lahore, described Marsh as being 'in the sunset of his holy and beautiful life'[36]. Edmund could have met his relative in Beddington in 1863 when French was briefly there as a curate.

Marsh preached at Beddington only during the summer: the rest of the year he stayed with his daughter, Matilda, the wife of Frederick Chalmers, the

rector of Beckenham, with whom he had lived during his retirement. Marsh was highly respected. Such was his reputation that, on his 89th birthday, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Archibald Campbell Tait, and the best known of all Victorian evangelical laymen, Lord Shaftesbury, came and stood by his bath chair. Edmund remained a Sunday school teacher at St Mary's until he went up to Cambridge.

Richard Holmes in his introduction to *The Knox Brothers* writes that Penelope Fitzgerald's composite biography could be called a tribute to a vanished civilisation.[37] Much the same could be said of Edmund's account of his time in Waddon. It was a time when churches were full, when there were more clergy than churches and when all denominations were vainly trying to build more and more churches to keep pace with the rise in population in towns and cities. Edmund's upbringing belonged to this vanished age. Yet his environment was rural rather than urban. Waddon and Beddington were undeniably rural, Croydon indisputably urban, but Edmund seems not to have ventured into Croydon except to attend the parish church on the periphery of the town or, out of necessity, St Matthew's in George Street. Insofar as his world was predominantly rural, it now seems dated.

Edmund's early life was sheltered, unsullied by social change of which he seems quite unaware. What changes he was aware of were ecclesiastical, particularly the threat of Tractarianism and ritualism to the established, reformed, Church of England.

In later life, looking back on the changes since he was young, there was one he singled out: then it was the family that counted rather than the individual. 'Church life was in many respects stronger than it is today, because it rested on the unit of the family, and not on individual preferences.'[38] Whatever conflicts took place were within the family. Edmund's elder brother threatened to run away because of the beatings his father meted out. Edmund seems to have accepted them. What he was aware of was the contrast between his domineering father and his saintly mother. He was his mother's child. She was his exemplar. Outside the family the Rev. Dr William Marsh was the exemplar.

---

[1] Edmund Arbuthnott Knox, *Reminiscences of an Octogenarian* (Hutchinson,1934), hereafter Knox

[2] Evelyn Waugh, *The Life of the Right Reverend Ronald Knox* (Chapman & Hall, 1959)

[3] Penelope Fitzgerald, *The Knox Brothers* (Macmillan, 1977) I have used that published by Flamingo, an imprint of HarperCollins published in paperback in 2002.

[4] See Marcus L. Loane*, Makers of Our Heritage, a Study of Four Evangelical Leaders* (Hodder and Stoughton, 1967)

[5] She was baptised as Frances Marianne Reynolds on March 11, 1823.
[6] Thanks to Carole Roberts, I have been able to emend and amplify the genealogy in *The Knox Brothers.* Eliza was baptised as Mary Elizabeth in 1841. She and Frances had the same father but different mothers. Frances's mother was Frances Sophia Reynolds, Eliza's Mary Elizabeth Reynolds, their maiden surnames being Daniell and Colley respectively. Fitzgerald's genealogy mistakenly gives a Mary Ann Reynolds as the wife of David Arbuthnott instead of Eliza. Frances Sophia died in 1832. Thomas Forbes Reynolds married Mary Elizabeth Colley in 1839. He had two daughters from each marriage, neither of whom was named Mary Ann, born in 1830, as the genealogy maintains. See http://www.thepeerage.com for the person page 1804 for Thomas Forbes Reynolds, his wives and children
[7] See the website of the Royal College of Physicians: http://rcplondon.ac.uk. Thomas Forbes Reynolds has an entry in the *Lives of the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians*.
[8] *Pigot and Co's London and Provincial New Commercial Directory for 1826-7,* p61
[9] Knox, p22
[10] William Bray, *The History and Antiquities of the county of Surrey begun by the late Rev. Owen Manning, STS, enlarged and continued to the year 1814, v*olume 3, Appendix 123 (London, 1814) p506
[11] 'The Culvers Bleaching Grounds and Corn Mill', http://wandle.org.uk
[12] Knox, p30
[13] Knox. P22
[14] See England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858, PROB 11, Will Register Piece 1302
[15] Knox, p26
[16] *Ibid*
[17] *The Knox Brothers*, p6
[18] Knox, p32
[19] Knox, p28
[20] David Hempton, *Methodism and English Politics, 1750-1850* (Hutchinson, 1987) p20
[21] Knox, p29
[22] Knox, p61
[23] Knox, p32
[24] Knox, p33
[25] Knox, p54
[26] So called because of the tracts written chiefly by clergy in Oxford, of which Tract xc by John Henry Newman in 1841 attempted to circumvent the very anti-Catholic tenor of the sixteenth-century Thirty Nine articles containing the doctrine of the Church of England. The hostile reaction to his tract led to his despairing of the Church of England and to his joining the Roman Catholic Church.
[27] Knox, p51
[28] Knox, p53
[29] Knox, p56
[30] [Catherine Marsh] *The Life of the Rev. William Marsh, D.D. by his daughter* (James Nisbet & Co., 1872)
[31] Knox, p56
[32] The epithet is Penelope Fitzgerald's.
[33] *The Knox Brothers*, p6
[34] Ibid., p7
[35] Hugh Evan Hopkins, *Charles Simeon of Cambridge* (Hodder and Stoughton, 1977) p141
[36] Herbert Alfred Birks, *The Life and Correspondence of Thomas Valpy French* (John Murrey, 1895) volume 1 p156
[37] The Knox Brothers. pxii
[38] Knox, p52-53

100 Open Spaces in Croydon in 100 Days Part 2 by Nicola Hunt

Bourne Park

Back between 6th August and 14th November 2021 I took on a challenge of visiting 100 open spaces in Croydon in 100 days. I wrote about some of the sites I visited in the Spring CNHSS Bulletin but there are plenty more to write about. My next choices are again mostly spaces I had not visited before or was unaware of until I did research for the challenge. Many more surprises awaited me.

1. Falconwood Meadow
Forestdale
25th August. Sunny and warm.

This lovely hidden meadow is tucked back just off Featherbed Lane and is easily overlooked. Most flowers were just going to seed but there were still patches of wild carrot covered in green bottle flies. The meadow was surrounded by brambles, trees and buddleia. Two sunken butterfly scrapes had been seeded with flowering plants such as kidney vetch and these were alive with common blues, small copper, meadow brown and red tailed bumble bees. Around the edge were gatekeepers and small whites and a

brimstone on a buddleia while a speckled wood fluttered in the shade of the taller trees. For such a small area the varied flora structure created many different habitats to support a variety of butterflies. What a great place to bring the children to look for mini-beasts or just come for a quiet walk.

Birds: Long-tailed tits, blue tits, starling.

2. Bourne Park
Kenley – see image previous page
2nd September. Partly sunny.

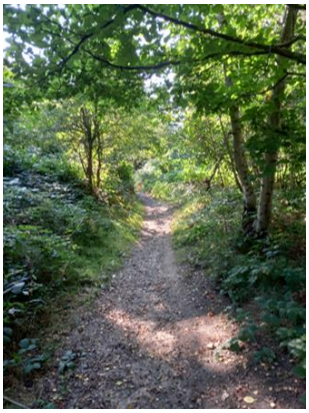
Lying at the bottom of the valley between the A22 and the Caterham railway line this linear park includes a playground and lawned ball game area with a row of lovely mature, tall and majestic lime trees dividing up the space. Trees surround the edges from formal planting including firs and yews and a glorious plum tree with deep pink leaves to more naturalised small trees and shrubs with a swathe of hawthorns which were in full bloom when I visited again in Spring.

A hedge line delineates the meadow section from the playground and a deep dry ditch passes under the path where the Bourne occasionally flows. The flora indicates a more damp area with a magnificent weeping willow and large goat willows. Willowherbs, umbellifers, mugwort and tall grasses attracted butterflies. Paths wind through naturalised patches where chiffchaff and blackcap were calling. A flood measuring stick stands by the main path bearing testament to the flooding history of this end of the park. I believe it was once allotments which flooded and could no longer be used for growing edible produce. When I went back in Spring 2022 it was lovely with clouds of cow parsley, blossom and bird song – wrens, robins, dunnocks and great tits all proclaiming territory.

Birds: In addition blue tits, crows, magpies.
Butterflies: Small whites, meadow browns.

3. Birchwood, Castle Hill Ruff, Lower Ruff Field and Rowdown Wood.
New Addington
18th September. Warm and sunny.

These areas create a continuous narrow stretch of woodland and open meadow along the Croydon / Bromley boundary. Birchwood starts on Kent Gateway and quickly opens into a wide main path that runs the length of these woods up to and beyond the upper end of New Addington. Small paths lead off at right angles to this main path. These woods were once used for shooting and the birds were driven from the woods by beaters into the waiting guns on the main path.



Birchwood, as its name suggests has many silver birches with plenty of dappled sunlight where speckled wood butterflies were battling. There was plenty of ivy in flower and many bees and hover flies feeding on it in the sunny glades. We heard two vocal nuthatches, a stone banging blackcap alarm and the subtle call of a stock dove then watched a goldcrest picking up spiders in a yew tree. Two buzzards called and we saw them greet each other and a kestrel fly over Rowdown Field. Passing into Castle Hill Ruff we had to step over a spring flowing across the blackheath pebbles. This area seems to have been named after a 1270 fortified manor that stood in the area but long gone. The woodland here changes with the addition of hazel coppice and some large sweet chestnut with their twisted deep ridged bark. Rowan trees with vibrant orange berries contrasted against the deep green of bracken. We glimpsed a red kite above the canopy. In Rowdown Wood the mix of trees changed to ash, wild cherry, oak and hawthorn. We heard more nuthatches and coal tits and saw two treecreepers agilely climbing up and investigating the cracks in the bark of an oak tree for invertebrates. The sneezing call of a marsh tit added to the unexpected sightings of that day, in all a super early Autumn walk and nothing like I had imagined.

Birds: In addition robin, wren, crow, blue tit, great tit, blackbird, magpie, woodpigeon, chiffchaff, jackdaw, goldfinch.
Butterflies: Red admiral, small whites.

4. Long Lane Woods
Monks Orchard
23rd September. Warm and sunny.

This fifteen-acre wood sits alongside the busy Long Lane road. Part of it is a bird sanctuary which is fenced off and not open to the public but you can walk through the public area along a pleasant wide open ride. Apparently this wood is over 200 years old and remains almost unaltered although, of course it is now surrounded by housing and roads rather than fields. There are many mature oaks but also plenty of ground cover, holly, hazel and brambles no doubt the latter a good nectar source when in flower.

Although small it was busy with birds even mid-morning. Several great tits and blue tits were feeding in the canopy calling to each other. I heard the sharp call of a great spotted woodpecker hidden somewhere in the upper branches of a tall oak, a jay flew through the trees its harsh call giving it away and snatches of wren song accompanied me along the path. The main path was warm and sunny even at the end of September and suddenly flying over the brambles a southern hawker dragonfly appeared, curious, it came to inspect me then, satisfied, it continued to patrol its territory zigzagging over the brambles.

Birds: In addition crow, woodpigeon, robin, magpie.

5. Shirley Heath and Kennel Wood
Shirley
6th October. Warm and sunny.

I had only been here once before, earlier in 2021 on a conservation task pulling up bracken smothering the heather on the heath. A mix of woodland with wide paths and small open fields make up Kennel Wood leading into the large main open grasslands and the area of heather which has smaller pockets of trees.

A group of aspen trees grow here and there are very few in Croydon. Aspens (Populus tremula) have quivering leaves with long slender flattened stalks which allow the leaves to flutter even in the slightest breeze. The group on Shirley Heath are clones which is the usual method of reproduction for these trees. Purple heather stands in a patch quite close to the aspen. The woodland had a good mixture of birds and in a tucked away part of the heath a well camouflaged green woodpecker only gave itself away when it lifted its startling red-capped head.

Birds: In addition robin, blue tit, great tit, nuthatch, jay, magpie, crow, wren.

6. St. John's Churchyard
Church Road, Shirley.
6th October. Warm and sunny.

Churchyards and cemeteries are usually good places for wildlife. Large mature firs and a hedge surround this churchyard. The Reverend Wilks, the creator of the Shirley Poppy, is buried here and his grave is planted with his namesake poppy. The trees and hedges provide good habitat for many birds.

We heard a green woodpecker and found it feeding in the lush green grass between graves. A Chiffchaff sang its name from a birch tree and a nuthatch spluttered its call nearby. The tall fir trees are a good lookout post for mistle thrushes and a rattling call alerted us to one sitting on the top of the tallest fir. A great bird to see as they have declined greatly in the last decade or so.

Birds: In addition jay, magpie, goldcrest, goldfinch, magpie, blackbird, robin, collared dove.

7. The Ruffet Chapel View
South Croydon
7th October. Overcast.

This small 2.5 acre woodland is surrounded by Chapel View estate. It demonstrates the importance of retaining areas of open space for wildlife habitat and corridors. Originally, like many of our woods and green spaces, it was surrounded by open field but somehow survived development. It lies close to Littleheath Wood and Bramley Bank so is an important staging point between these sites and surrounding gardens.

A narrow path winds through from one end to the other. Some dead wood is left to decay naturally creating valuable habitat for fungi and invertebrates. The morning I visited the trees were alive with birds – a noisy and chatty mixed tit flock of great, blue and long-tailed tits worked its way through keeping me company along the path. Great spotted woodpecker, chiffchaff, wren and nuthatch were calling and blackbirds and robins were rummaging in the leaf litter. It was a lovely start to the day.

Birds: In addition ring-necked parakeet, crow, woodpigeon.

8. Pollards Hill
Norbury
11th October. Warm and sunny.

Pollards Hill is the highest point in Norbury so there are excellent views from here including local landmarks such as Croydon Town Hall, the incinerator at Beddington, St Helier Hospital and as far as Windsor Castle, visible through my binoculars. Having enjoyed the view we walked down the field running alongside the viewpoint. There was bird-friendly scrub, hawthorn and colourful deep crimson leaved climbers providing a natural link to a more formal park in Merton.

This used to be allotments but was taken out of use and planted up with thickets of native shrubs in the 1980s. By now it had really developed and matured into an open space that feels quite “wild” in the heart of an urban area. There were chiffchaff, house sparrows, blue and great tits and a jay all active in this sloping meadow. Views and wildlife, what more could you want from urban Croydon.

9. Westow Park
Upper Norwood
16th October. Drizzle.

A park created from the gardens of large Victorian villas and linked to a small recreation ground making it a park of two halves. The lower section being a playground and grassy open space although rather muddy, presumably due to the springs which arise from the steep slopes of the park in the winter. The entrance from Church Road is through an elegant pillared gateway where cedar trees and horse chestnut grace the upper section giving shade and a more formal feel. In the drizzle a mixed tit flock of seven blue tits, nine long-tailed tits and four great tits were systematically working their way through the damp trees.

A choice of paths either direct you along tarmac to the playground passing

under the large specimen trees or you can take one through a more naturalised area which was full of cow parsley in Spring when I visited again. Just off a very busy main road and close to the bustle of Crystal Palace, Westow Park is an oasis of calm, somewhere to sit and contemplate, watch the birds and enjoy.

Birds: In addition wren, robin, feral pigeon, woodpigeon, magpie.

10. Thornton Heath Recreation Ground
Thornton Heath
10th November. Overcast.

The first part of Thornton Heath Recreation Ground was opened in 1884. Another section was added on 1894 as the demand for the need for green space increased. A tarmac path crosses the middle of the space which delineates the two parts bought at different times. Once again this is a space that surprised me. Larger than I expected and more varied with a large community garden which was developed on the site of WW2 air raid shelters, an area of tall mature trees including London Planes, Norway Maple, Horse chestnut and Poplars, expansive open amenity grass and bordered on the western side by Norbury Brook and largely surrounded by more tall trees. The brook is deeply canalised with concrete banks though gardens back onto it and tree and shrubs overhang creating space for small birds to feed and shelter, I saw several wrens and robins along here.

There was the scent of a fox, perhaps not a pleasant smell but the wafting sweet scent from a row of poplars filled the air to compensate. Surrounded by residential roads this must be a welcome green space and worth checking out for birds such as jay and great spotted woodpecker which I saw during my visit.

Birds: In addition goldfinch, blue tit, great tit, house sparrow, grey wagtail (flying over), feral pigeon, woodpigeon, jackdaw, crow, magpie.

There are still many more open spaces I could write about, providing a variety of habitat and wildlife corridors for Croydon and a welcome green space for residents, benefiting their health and wellbeing. There is a lot to see and also to find – so go out and visit both your favourite places and those lesser known places and enjoy being outside.

Our Urban Fox
by Ian Payne

We got into the habit in early 2020 of putting out scraps for birds, badgers or foxes on a first come first served basis. A fox cub became interested, so much so that he/she would wait in the garden until dusk when we go down to close the chickens in, and be waiting by the empty bowl with a look as if to say – 'excuse me – my dinner – where is it'. So began the nightly ritual of putting down snacks – leftovers from our meals. He ate anything – sausage and mash, cooked meat or cooked vegetables – or dog food (which we bought especially for him) if we had nothing else. Our fox began to wait at the bottom of the steps then precede us to the tree under which we put the bowl. We soon noticed that our fox had a limp.

A while later we noticed large light grey patches on our fox's coat – a Google search identified mange as the culprit. We contacted The Fox Project and they directed us to a pet shop in Orpington who could sell us a cure. That trip to Orpington must have been in the early days of the first pandemic lockdown and possibly the first time we'd been out, because I remember being scared of walking into the shop even though I had a mask. We were given some homeopathic medicine which we were to sprinkle on the fox's food perhaps hidden in a jam sandwich. And slowly but surely the mange disappeared and was replaced by a light brown coloured fur.

Our son's dog Cosmo WhatsApp'd 'That's my bowl'

In October 2021 we went to visit our younger son's family in Dubai and on our return the fox had gone – had he survived?. But in May, he turned up and we began to feed him again. The mange had not returned, but the slight limp was still there. And so it is to this day. The fox waits for us each evening and as ever expects his reward. [P.S. Our chickens are protected by an electric fence.]

Paul Sowan's Hedge
by Jane McLauchlin

An Ancient Hedgerow in Suburban South Croydon – and the determination of the age of a hedge

The Pilgrim's Way hedge, on the left, looking south towards Croham Road. June 2022

In 1976 Paul Sowan, our late Librarian and Archivist, wrote a paper "An Ancient Hedgerow in Suburban South Croydon" in our CNHSS Proceedings (1). The hedgerow he describes is still there, along the east side of Pilgrim's Way, an unmade road between Croham Road and Melville Avenue, near to Paul's childhood, and later, last home. The hedge is the remnant of the field boundary between Pilgrim's Way and Bench Field, the old field name shown on the 1800 Enclosure Map (2) and reinstated for the 1970s estate of houses. The hedge is on a substantial bank, about 120m long, thick and with large trees emerging from the top. The ground is well covered, mostly with ivy. The hedge is sufficiently trimmed to allow vehicle access for the residents of Pilgrim's Way. It seems surprising that such a hedge has survived, but Paul explains in his historical account that he was responsible, by making representations to the Borough Planning Department and the

developers when the Bench Field houses were planned.

In about 1968 Paul recorded the trees and shrubs in the hedge, and he also noted selected herbaceous plants. I recorded all the plants on 6 June 2022 to compare the current composition of the hedge with Paul's records.

Paul recorded Hawthorn, Field Maple, Hazel, Elderberry, Ash, Spindle, Laburnum, Crab apple, Dissected elder and Shining privet. He noted "…among the commoner plants, hops, black bryony, white bryony, wild arum and evergreen alkanet".

I recorded 15 species of native or long-established trees and shrubs, ten exotic planted or escaped trees/shrubs, and 25 climbers and herbaceous plants. Of Paul's trees and shrubs, all are still there except the Crab Apple (more likely bird-sown or from a discarded core than a true Crab Apple) and the Dissected Elder (a form with lacy leaves). Some of the trees are now substantial specimens. There are some fine Field Maples – frequent in hedges but not often allowed to grow into trees – of about 60cm girth, also Ash, Sycamore, Norway Maple, Beech, Oak, Cherry and Horse Chestnut. Paul didn't record the last six of these, but they could have grown from seed in the 54 years since 1968. The largest trees are two Sycamores of about 140cm girth. Trees grow about 2.5cm in girth each year, but maybe faster in earlier life (3), so these too could be younger than 54 years.

This boundary is clearly ancient, dating back at least to 1800. But how ancient might it be? Paul used "Hooper's Rule", which would suggest that the hedge might be six centuries old, established in Mediaeval times. Hooper's widely used and often mis-used "Rule" estimates the age of a hedge by counting the number of woody species in a 30 yard length of hedge (preferably in several 30 yard samples). The number of species gives the approximate age in hundreds of years (4). This figure is often quoted as if it was both accurate and precise, although in reality it is not straightforward. Hooper himself points out that it should only be used as a rough and ready guide. There are large variations between hedges in his original study, of 227 hedges in Devon and the East Midlands, and the results cannot necessarily be extrapolated to other areas or to small samples. There is further discussion about the composition and ages of hedges in references (5), (6) and (7), and an account of the life of Max Hooper in (8).

In a local context, species counts from Warlingham Court Farm found 4.5 to 10.0 species per 30 yard length (mean of four samples of each) in hedges around fields clearly seen on Rocque's map so likely to be at least 260 years old (9).

Between 1968 and 2022 the Pilgrim's Way hedge has added nine native and long-established woody plants and eight plantings or garden escapes, with a loss of two, which would give a gross over-estimate of age. In urban areas, hedges are likely to add species rapidly by deliberate planting, garden throw-outs and bird-sown berries and seeds. It is not possible to determine the age of this hedge, but certainly "ancient" is an appropriate description.

References

1. P W Sowan (1976) Proc. CNHSS XVI (2) 92 – 94.
2. 1800 Enclosure Map. The entire map can be seen at https://london-road-croydon.org
3. A Mitchell (1974) A Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe. Collins, London.
4. E Pollard, M D Hooper and N W Moore (1974) Hedges. New Naturalist 58, chapter 7. Collins, London.
5. O Rackham (1986) The History of the Countryside, chapter 9. J M Dent, London.
6. R A D Cameron (1984) The biology and history of hedges: exploring the connections. Biologist 31: 203-208.
7. J Wright (2016) A Natural History of the Hedgerow. Profile Books, London.
8. Max Hooper (1934-2017) obituary. www.theguardian.com
9. J Gadsby (1993) Ibbett's Piece – a clue to the past. Local History Records 32: 30 – 35.

Plant species in the Pilgrim's Way hedge

P = recorded by Paul Sowan in 1968
G = obviously planted or garden escape

Trees and shrubs		
Acer campestre	Field Maple	P
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	
Aesculus hippocastanus	Horse Chestnut	
Berberis vulgaris	Barberry	G
Betula pendula	Silver Birch recently planted, with tree stake	G
Corylus avellana	Hazel	P
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	P
Euonymus europaeus	Spindle	P
Euonymus japonicus	Evergreen Spindle	G
Fagus sylvatica	Beech	

Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	P
Ilex aquifolium	Holly	
Laburnum anagyroides	Laburnum	P G
Ligustrum ovalifolium	Garden Privet	P G
Mahonia aquifolium	Oregon-grape	G
Prunus avium	Wild Cherry	
Prunus laurocerasus	Cherry Laurel	G
Prunus lusitanica	Portugal Laurel	G
Prunus domestica	Wild Plum	
Quercus robur	English Oak	
Rosa sp (not flowering)	Rose	
Sambucus nigra	Elder	P
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry	G
Viburnum tinus	Laurustinus	G

Other plants		
Aegopodium podagraria	Ground-elder	
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard	
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley	
Ballota nigra	Black Horehound	
Brachypodium sylvaticum	False Brome	
Bromus ramosa	Hairy-brome	
Calystegia sp (not flowering)	Bindweed	
Centranthus ruber	Red Valerian	
Clematis vitalba	Traveller's-joy	
Erigeron karvinskianus	Mexican Fleabane	
Fallopia baldschuanica	Russian-vine	
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens	
Hedera helix	Ivy	
Humulus lupulus	Hop	
Hypericum calycinum	Rose-of-Sharon	
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort	
Linaria purpurea	Purple Toadflax	
Mercurialis perennis	Dog's Mercury	
Pentaglottis sempervirens	Green Alkanet	
Rubus fruticosus	Bramble	
Silene vulgaris	Bladder Campion	
Sonchus arvensis	Perennial Sowthistle	
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort	
Urtica dioica	Nettle	
Vinca major	Greater Periwinkle	

The loss of a tall tree in Banstead Woods by Christopher J.W. Taylor

In February this year the UK suffered three severe storms in quick succession – Dudley (16th), Eunice (18th) and Franklin (21st). Unfortunately, a giant European beech (Fagus sylvatica L.) in Banstead Woods succumbed to this battering and I thought it worth recording details, with some observations.

Location and measurement of the fallen tree.

The fallen tree lies at around TQ 26778, 57667, aligned exactly west (root) – east (crown) across a main footpath (see Figure 1). In early March, before the tree was cut up, and its brush wood cleared, I recorded basic measurements:

Height, including the crown: 82 feet

Circumference of the trunk, (at about 4½ feet along it from the root ball): 11 feet, ca 335cm, diameter 3 feet 6 inches, 107cm.

The root ball was 4.5 metres in diameter (Figure 3). It probably extended a lot further, having left its peripheral roots in the ground.

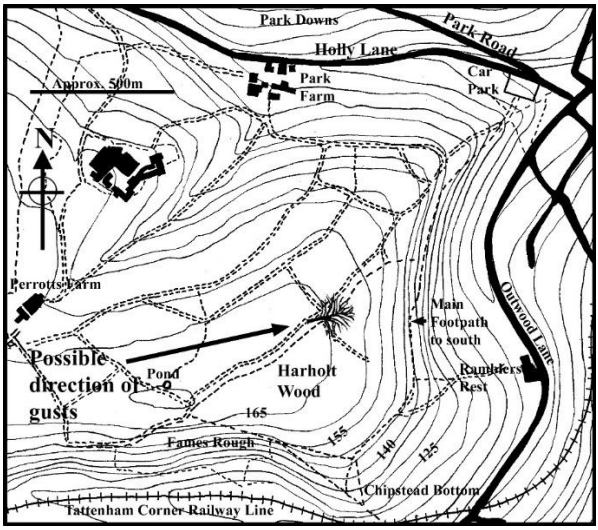


Figure 1. Banstead Woods, near Banstead. Indicated is the location of the fallen tree with possible gust direction along the plateau.

Figure 2. The view from the north of the tree fallen across the main path

Figure 3. View of the root ball looking east

Figure 4. The main trunk, crown in the distance

Figure 5. Tree cut through revealing rot at centre

Figure 6. Beech at TQ 26581,57736 with “ 1945” carved into its trunk

Figure 7. Carving on the trunk with date “ 1945” (centre)

Figure 8. The fallen tree at TQ 26778, 57667, cut through and debris cleared. View looking north

The age of the tree

In the week ending 8th April 2022 the tree was cut through at a point approximately 5 feet from its roots as part of the clearance operation and I took the opportunity to count the rings and date it. This was more complicated than I anticipated. The centre of the tree was revealed to be rotten, so a simple count across from the inner edge of the bark to the centre was impossible.

I therefore counted the rings over as a long a stretch as possible. As is well known, tree growth each year is not a constant and is substantially affected by growing conditions – drought and so on. The rings of this tree varied considerably in width/number per centimetre and any estimate of age based on a sample is liable to inaccuracy. However, an estimate gave an average number of rings per centimetre across a length of 24cm of ca. 93 rings, giving ca. 3.875 rings/years per centimetre, or an age for a tree life of 53cm radius x 3.875 = 205 years. I also made estimates of tree ring numbers over shorter lengths and worked out that an average count was between 4 and 5 rings per centimetre, an average of say 4.0, slightly larger than the calculation above.

There are at least half a dozen different methods to calculate a *living* tree's age, each with its own strengths and weaknesses and because of this, none of them are universally accepted.

With age, the height and spread of a tree increases, reaches a maximum, and then the increase falls off. Neither height nor crown spread can therefore be used as a reliable way of estimating the age of a tree. However, the trunk increases in circumference throughout its life and this measurement can be used to estimate age. There are big provisos even with this basis however.

The "Tree Age calculator" at: http://www.tree-guide.com/tree-age-calculator gives a calculated age specifically for a beech with a trunk diameter of 1.07 metres (as here) of 184 years, not far from my ring-based estimate.

The assumed rate of growth/age can be significantly wrong where, for example, we are dealing with a tree in close woodland, as at Banstead Woods. Trees growing in a woodland environment typically have a restricted crown and may increase in circumference at only approximately 50% of the rate of fully crowned tree. The actual restriction here is, of course, unknown.

For interest, I noted that there is a beech nearby (ca 200 metres away at TQ 26581,57736) with "1945" carved into its trunk (Figures 6 & 7). So far as I could tell the carving seems original. If the date is right the carving is 77 years old. Its trunk has a measured circumference of 4.3 metres and diameter of

ca. 1.4 metres at 5 feet and is ca. 85 feet tall. Using the website calculator, these trunk dimensions give an age of 252 years. We can *work back* to this age if we assume the trunk was about 0.9 metres in diameter in 1945, a reasonable carving surface to choose.

Circumstances leading to the tree's fall.

I looked for features in the just-fallen tree that might explain its demise. There was an apparent lack of broken root ends and a shallow tree throw hollow – only ca. 1 metre deep and what looked like some rot in roots. The extent of the rot was abundantly clear when the trunk was cut through as shown by figure 5. Cut sections of the tree (to the right, or east, of the path in Figure 8) showed this rot extended several feet further up the trunk.

Two factors are particularly important to the stability of a tree: the size and spread of its root system and the possibility, after reaching an old age, of root fungus/rot weakening the strength of roots.

Trees have complicated root systems that can vary a lot according to the local geology and soil conditions. Generally, trees tend to have quite shallow but horizontally very extensive root systems. The root system of the European beech is shallow, even superficial, with large roots spreading out in all directions. In areas of high-level ground-water trees often never develop thick tap roots, whilst those in low level ground water areas tend to develop more robust tap roots (Kodrick, 2002, 557-560). The geology map shows the tree grew on the boundary of the Chalk and mapped Clay-with-flints. However, the boundary of the Clay-with-flints is feathered and everywhere sketchy and usually marked on BGS maps by a dotted line, denoting uncertainty. From an examination of deposits on the root ball I would say it was standing on the Clay-with-flints deposit. This is likely to hold water and perhaps can be considered a high-level water table area, except in the summer.

The second factor important to the stability of a tree is the incidence of fungi, or rot. Beech attracts more fungi than any other hardwood and this attacks the root system. Kodrick (2002, 560) found that the vast majority of wind fallen trees over 50 years old had suffered from a wood-destroying fungus. This is what I observed in the root ball and trunk.

A special factor in this case is the altitude of the tree. The ground level is at OD 165 metres, 541 feet (Figure 1). This is about 65 metres (213 feet) above the local Chipstead Bottom valley floor and on a ridge or plateau, at the highest part of the wood, except for a very tiny area at 170m. The tree itself would, of course, have been exposed at an even higher altitude, over 600

feet OD, if its full height is added. Ian Currie, local weather expert, has advised me that during the storms in question gusts of up to 78 mph were experienced at Gatwick, only 11 miles from this site. Important is that Gatwick is low lying at only 200 feet OD – about 400 feet lower than Banstead.

Figure 1 shows the location of the tree in relation to the local topography and compass angle of fall. Storm Eunice, the fiercest of the three storms, approached almost exactly from the west, running to the east, bringing with it gusts of up to 80mph. A gust may have swept uninterrupted along the top of the west-east ridge, explaining the tree's direction of fall.

Trees still had a lot of their leaves when the October 1987 storm struck. With deciduous trees still leafless in February 2022, happily the damage was much reduced.

References

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fagus_sylvatica
https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/root-butt-rot-caused-by-kretzschmaria-deusta
https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/local-news/live-storm-eunice-yorkshire-weather-23137113
https://www.hellis.biz/advice-centre/living-with-trees/how-old-is-my-tree/
Kodrick, J&M, 2002, Root biomass of beech as a factor influencing the wind tree stability. Journal of Forest Science. Vol. 48, 549-564

Retirement of Borough Archivist, Lindsay Ould by John I Hickman

Lindsay Ould joined Croydon Council as Borough Archivist in 2015. Among her diverse roles was managing what was formerly the Local Studies Library as it became incorporated into the Museum of Croydon with its workforce of volunteers. This was by no means an easy task because she had to do her job while managing the constraints of a contracting budget. Lindsay assiduously set about rationalising the huge archive collection stored at various levels in Croydon Clocktower to enable effective online cataloguing.

Besides her archive responsibilities for the council, most of us will know Lindsay through her tremendous contribution to the work Museum of Croydon archives collection. Many of us have cause to be very grateful to Lindsay for that last-minute reference, image or 'permission for use' when we have had to meet publication copy deadlines. On more than one

occasion we have been admonished with ‘this will be the last time’, and yet when we, admittedly rather sheepishly, return sometime later with a similar request we have never been turned away. Lindsay always stepped up to help, and for that we are grateful.

Anyone coming to the Research Room couldn’t fail to notice the display in the foyer of the Clocktower or in the exhibition area beside the reception desk ranging from Remembering WWI, the Windrush generation, the Petherick Quartet, the story of Croydon council housing, paintings by Evacustes Phipson with complimentary Photographic Survey of Surrey photographs, there were very many superb shows, indeed too many to adequately give them the credit they certainly deserve.

In addition to exhibitions Lindsay brought the community into her projects. I recall her managing a WW II recollections project where older citizens were brought into the library and their stories of Croydon life during the last war were recorded to narrate contemporary film footage held in the archives. It is an outstanding piece of work and remains a poignant contribution to the Museum of Croydon website.

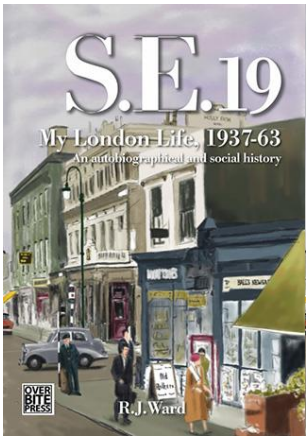
Lindsay was gregarious and the many local groups and societies in Croydon were familiar with her because she was frequently invited to share her broad knowledge and expertise especially in local history through a variety of informative, illustrated talks.

We are fortunate that in retirement Lindsay has said she will be frequently returning to the Research Room to pursue her own interests – that is if we let her. The Museum of Croydon is undoubtedly losing a valuable colleague, and we are perhaps going to see less of a generous friend. We thank her and wish her all the very best for the future.

Book Reviews
by Trevor James

[Trevor is donating his copies of these books to our CNHSS Library – Ed]

S.E.19: My London Life, 1937-63, Roger Ward, Over Bite Press, 2022, 222p, £10-00. ISBN 978-1-915292-39-1.



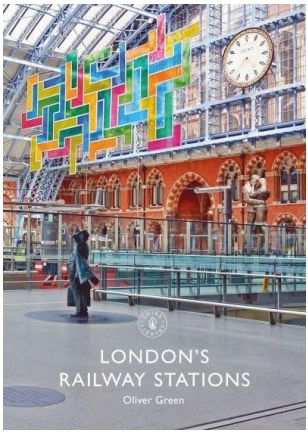
This is a deeply personal book, written by Professor Roger Ward to describe and explain his early life in Upper Norwood for his children. It is reminiscent of Roy Hattersley's *A Yorkshire Boyhood* [1983] and Donald Read's *Manchester Boyhood I the Thirties and Forties* [2003] but slightly later in time; and it also shares elements with John Grindrod's *Outskirts: Living Life on the Edge of the Green Belt* [2017] because of its focus on life in the southern suburbs of London.

In exploring his wider family's life in what he defines as S.E.19, he takes us back to a time when children of working-class families were beginning to take their places at grammar schools – in his case Archbishop Tennison's near The Oval – and how such experiences began to change people's horizons, assisted in later stages by access to grants to allow them to enter higher education. In Roger's case this led him into an academic link at Queen Mary College with Professor S. T. Bindoff, whose mentoring helped Roger develop his later academic career. Many of us will empathise with his experience as we have similarly progressed through parallel circumstances and received similar academic mentoring. This process has shaped our modern world.

For anyone familiar with the suburban landscape of Upper Norwood, this book will equally be something of a primary source because Roger gives some substance to the lives of people who lived in that neighbourhood. Those of us who lived further south on the lower reaches of Norwood shared their interest in the fate of Crystal Palace Football Club at Selhurst Park, which has been a lifelong commitment for Roger.

There is a poignance to this book because it covers his life before he embarked on his distinguished career as an historian in, and of, Birmingham; and his long marriage to his beloved wife Robin, who died in 2014. There is a strong case for a second memoire to reveal how his life progressed in Birmingham.

London's Railway Stations, Oliver Green, Shire Publications, 2022, 64p, £9.99. ISBN 978 1 78442 505 0



Genuinely authentic Londoners will be familiar with all thirteen of its railway terminuses and this book, by a recognised expert on London's railway provision, provides an excellent introduction to the topic which will now enable everyone else to share that appreciation and perspective.

Having travelled from ten of these stations and visited two more, only Fenchurch Street is wholly outside my experience. My visit to Marylebone was to appreciate its magnificent architecture and my visit to Blackfriars was to examine its famous international destination panel which revealed that its links went as far as St Petersburg. Of course, London Bridge Station, the earliest terminus, has been the focus of travel for my family from as far back as my maternal great-great-grandfather who became a commuter to London Bridge from East Croydon as early as 1850 and my paternal great-grandfather who operated as a self-employed coachman from London Bridge Station, and other central terminuses, from the 1880s. My own principal experience has been of the complexities of using Victoria Station and of using St Pancras and Euston as my means of returning to the Midlands.

Oliver Green, in a very crisp manner, enables the reader to understand the essential details of each of these stations, with explanations about their origins, their design, their changing roles over nearly two hundred years and their present-day functions. Throughout he introduces us to the cultural and artistic elements that interact with railway life, such as advertising and changing public priorities, such as, for example, the temporary adaptation of Waterloo Station to embrace the Eurostar and the subsequent re-vitalisation of St Pancras as the final destination of the Channel Link.

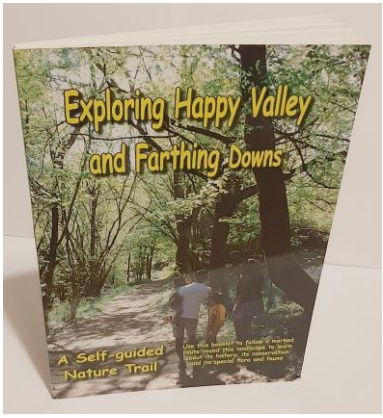
This is a delightful book, well-illustrated, and likely to encourage the reader to progress to Oliver Green's other more detailed railway books.

Friends of Farthing Downs & Happy Valley Publications by Ian Payne

The Friends of Farthing Downs was launched in 2005 at an archaeological survey taking place on the Downs that summer. Its objectives included working with the City of London to enhance the heritage and leisure value of Farthing Downs recognising its unique status as Green Belt, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. FoFD also worked with Croydon Council's ranger for the adjoining Happy Valley (also SSSI) and in 2017 formerly changed its name to Friends of Farthing Downs and Happy Valley (FoFG&HV – the Friends). In July 2019, a partnership between Natural England, The City and Croydon launched the South London Downs National Nature Reserve (SLDNNR) covering an arc of open spaces stretching from Farthing Downs to Riddlesdown and the Friends are now looking to contribute to this larger area.

Part of the remit of the Friends is to promote awareness and interest in the Downs and to organise walks and talks associated with heritage and natural history. Towards this end, the Friends assumed responsibility for the Happy Valley & Farthing Downs Nature Trail and working with the ranger, produced in 2020, a new full colour version of the Trail.

Exploring Happy Valley and Farthing Downs



This 64-page full-colour A5 booklet covers each of the 29 posts of the Trail and is a superb walking companion with descriptions, coloured images and ancillary information on all of the fauna and flora of Happy Valley and the Downs. It also tells you where to look and how to get to the next post and, of course, how to get there and a map of the trail. The booklet is available, price £2 from Advanced Print, 170 Brighton Road, Coulsdon and from Pistachios, Grange Park, Old Coulsdon – or email co-secretary@cnhss.co.uk

Shortly after producing the Trail booklet, work started on an Audio Trail, initially in English. The bulk of the work was carried out by the Happy Valley Ranger, Dominic North, sponsored and supported by the Friends. The audio trail works by pointing a smartphone at the QR code on each post. Audio talks for each post are given by a range of celebrities including Dame Joanna Lumney and Sir Tony Robinson. The data for the system is held on the

Friends website. Later, an option was included to listen to the audio in French, Hindi or Polish. The full Nature Trail (Booklet and Audio) was officially launched on Farthing Downs in September 2021 with dignitaries from the City, Croydon, Downlands Trust and many of the volunteer translators and speakers.

Using the Booklet in combination with the Audio gives the best of both worlds – listening to the talks and seeing images of what to look out for.

Shaping up to Climate Change

With Climate Change on the agenda, the Friends turned their November 2021 AGM into a Symposium entitled "Who's for More Trees". The speakers were Richard Edwards (Tree and Woodland Officer, LB Croydon), Tom Oliver (Ranger and Nature Management, City of London) and David Hatcher (Woodland Trust). The outcome of the Symposium was turned into a 28 page fully illustrated A4 booklet "Shaping up to Climate Change" including the speeches and expanding the subject to include Climate Change, Current Planning Rules and Open Spaces issues.

"Shaping up to Climate Change" gives a brief account of 150 years of conservation across Croydon. It looks at the Great North Wood, the 1883 purchase by the City of London of 222 hectares of the North Downs (now known as the City Commons), the spread of suburbia but the creation by Croydon of 127 parks and open spaces, recent London Mayor green initiatives, progress on keeping London Green (Green Belt) and Government strategy on intensification of housing against concerns of biodiversity, carbon footprint and climate change.

A summary of the three speeches is included. Richard Edwards looked at recent tree planting in Croydon and grants

and sponsorship schemes. Tom Oliver considered management by the City of their Open Spaces including introduction of grazing animals, maintenance and restoration works, how coppicing helps woodland flowers hence encouraging wildlife and the importance of historic chalk grassland (e.g. Farthing Downs) and pest infestation leading to ash dieback and loss of foliage of oak trees. David Hatcher talked about the history of Langley Vale Wood, how the Woodland Trust manages the site, the abundant bird life and other fauna and flora, the value of peat bogs and the importance of planting new trees.

The Report ends with looking at the sustained pressure on London and new initiatives but recognises the race against time and some possible initiatives to counter climate disaster. Information about the Friends website and Nature Trail are given and references to Croydon and City of London publications.

"Shaping up to Climate Change" had a limited publication, however, the entire document is now available on the Friends website at www.friendsoffarthingdowns.co.uk – Reports – 2021 Symposium.

Subscription Reminder

Subscriptions for 2023 are due on 1 January 2023 as follows:

- Ordinary Members £18
- Associate Members £10 (only for those at the same address as an Ordinary or Life Member)
- Group Members £18
- Life Membership £250

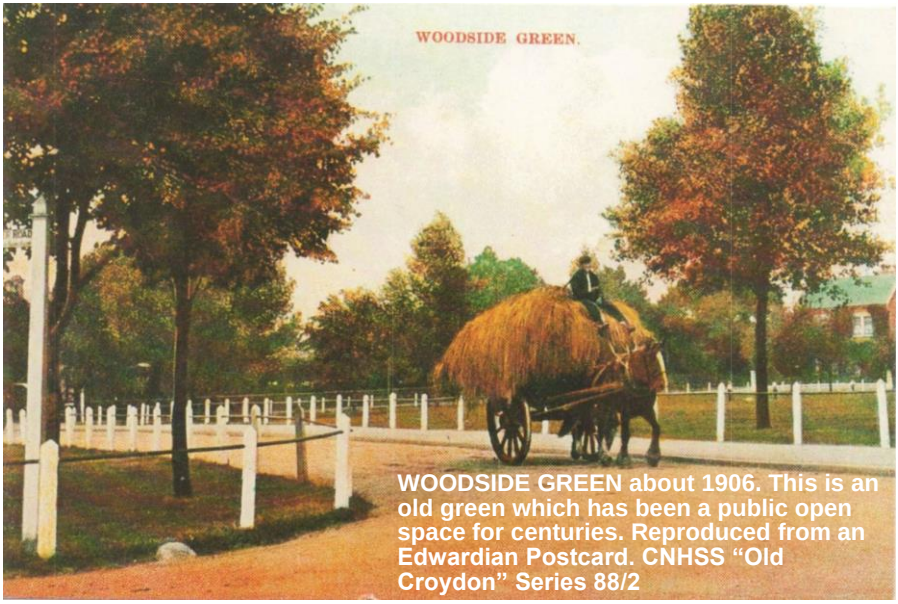
Membership can be paid as follows:

- At the Focus event at the Old Palace Croydon on 29th October, by cash or cheque
- By cheque by post to Membership, CNHSS, 96A Brighton Road, South Croydon CR2 6AD. Cheques are payable to "CNHSS".
- By Standing Order. Please request a form from membership@cnhss.co.uk or by post from Membership, CNHSS, 96A Brighton Road, South Croydon CR2 6AD. If you already pay by Standing Order, please don't send a cheque as well.

Please pay before the Spring mailing so that we don't need to send a reminder.

Contact for Membership Secretary is: membership@cnhss.co.uk

A Postcard of Woodside Green 1906
by Jane McLauchlin



WOODSIDE GREEN about 1906. This is an old green which has been a public open space for centuries. Reproduced from an Edwardian Postcard. CNHSS "Old Croydon" Series 88/2

Woodside Green is at the southern end of the Great North Wood, which formerly stretched from Croydon to Deptford (map in (1)). Even by the 18th century, the wood was becoming fragmented (2), and now about 100Ha survives in five London boroughs, as public parks, railway cuttings, cemeteries and street trees (3). Part of the northern end of the wood appears in another CNHSS postcard (4). Parts of the wood in Croydon include Long Lane Wood, Grangewood Park, Beaulieu Heights, Stambourne Woodland Walk, The Lawns (Spa Wood), Biggin Wood and Convent Wood (private, the grounds of Virgo Fidelis School).

Woodside Green is a long triangular shape, 1.9Ha in area (5). Village greens are typically triangular, formed where three roads meet and maybe older than their more recent settlement (6). The current view is little changed since the postcard view, which shows the junction of Howard Road and the road also called Woodside Green. The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association trough was moved from the southern end of the Green in the 1920s when the War Memorial was built (7). The railings look similar, but must have been replaced at least twice, as a 1995 photo in (7) has concrete posts with chains. They are now natural wood with metal caps and tubular metal railings. The signpost on the left, [Birchang]ER ROAD is no longer there. Trees on the Green include London Plane, Sycamore, Ash, Horse Chestnut, Cherry, Silver Maple and Rowan. There are some large

trees, especially along the north and north-west sides which may date from before 1906, but those seen in the postcard have not survived. The main difference between then and now, of course, is the appearance of cars, and a haycart would be a very rare sight now! Lilian Thornhill remembered meadows and hayfields, with skylarks, from her pre-WW1 childhood in Woodside (8), and quotes from the 1880 Highways minutes of Croydon Council that “cows are no longer to be kept on Woodside Green”.

The oldest building on the Green is no. 169, Woodside Cottage, at the junction with Woodside Avenue, now hidden behind a high fence. It originated as a medieval timber-framed building, with additions from the 17th century and later (8). There are many three-storey Victorian houses with ornamental mouldings and decorative ironwork, 1920s/1930s semis and modern blocks of flats. Surrounding suburban South Norwood and Addiscombe were developed from the 19th century onwards. Also on the northern side is one of the Stones of Croydon, placed here in 2015 on the 50th anniversary of the London Borough of Croydon, formed on 1 April 1965. In 1965 Woodside was one of the twenty original wards in the Borough (information plate on the Stone). Woodside Green became a public open space in 1871, when it was transferred by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to the Croydon Board of Health “to be held and used for the purpose of public walks, recreation or pleasure grounds only” (5).

The same view today, 13 July 2022

1. L S C Neville (1987) The Great North Wood, a brief history of ancient woodlands from Croydon to Deptford. London Wildlife Trust.
2. J Rocque (1746) The Great North Wood; Norwood, and its surrounding neighbourhood, as surveyed by Rocque in 1745, reprint dated 1878 by Stanford, can see at https://boroughphotos.org, search for Lambeth then Great North Wood.
3. C J Schüler (2021) The Wood that built London, a human history of the Great North Wood. Sandstone Press, Muir of Ord.
4. J McLauchlin (2020) A postcard of South London 1838. CNHSS Bulletin 169, Autumn 2020, 78-79.
5. M A Winterman (1988) Croydon's Parks, an illustrated history. London Borough of Croydon Parks and Recreation Department.
6. O Rackham (1986) The History of the Countryside. J M Dent & Sons, London.
7. CNHSS (1995) Croydon Old and New, Fourth (Revised and enlarged) edition, 48 - 49.
8. L Thornhill (1986) Woodside. North Downs Press, Westerham.

[Unfortunately, the Society no longer have any stock of this postcard – Ed]

Green Spaces Open Event at Croydon Clocktower on 2nd July

The society was represented at the Green Spaces Open Event at Croydon Clocktower on 2nd July.

The Mayor of Croydon, Jason Perry, visited our stand.

Photo: Tony Skrzypczyk

Carole Roberts talking to the Mayor of Croydon, Jason Perry, about CNHSS's publications

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

Indoor evening meetings start at 19:45. Please see our Programme for details and venues.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

The Society's own museum and library may be visited by arrangement – please contact 'Information' (see below). 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

Information	email: information@cnhss.co.uk
Twitter	https://twitter.com/cnhssprogramme
Facebook	http://www.facebook.com/pages/Croydon-Natural-History-Scientific-Society/106522816087133
Programme	email: programme@cnhss.co.uk
Bulletin	email: bulletin@cnhss.co.uk
Membership	email: membership@cnhss.co.uk
Company Sec.	email: co-secretary@cnhss.co.uk
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.

© Copyright 2022 Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society Ltd

Print code: 2022-174/270