

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

June 2007



Issue 24

"Some Commercial
and
Industrial Surrey Tokens"



From the Editor

It was many years ago that I wandered into a coin shop in Norwich and asked if they had any Guildford tokens. They showed me an excellent selection of tokens but alas no Guildford ones. You can imagine my surprise when a fortnight later the telephone rang and a voice said "you won't believe this but someone has just walked into the shop and offered us a Guildford token in excellent condition-would you like it?". I, of course, said "yes" and am now the proud owner of a halfpenny token similar to that illustrated on page 15. Guildford museum has a fine collection of tokens but due to lack of space these have not been displayed for some time. However it is good to know that it is hoped to display these on the web in the near future.

- John Theobald tells us all about Guildford tokens on page 13
- On page 3 our Museum Manager Jill Draper tells about her visit to Maidstone.
- Marjorie Williams whets our appetite to know more about John Mason - a colourful Guildford resident of the Victorian era – on page 5

By the time you receive this Newsletter I hope some of you will have enjoyed a special family showing of the Ben Stiller comedy 'Night at the Museum', at the Electric Theatre followed by a Treasure Hunt which led you through the town to the museum Did you solve the quiz and take away a treasure bag? It is not always possible to publicise every activity of the museum in this Newsletter so do keep an eye on the museum's web site. The easiest way to find it is to go to the Borough site www.guildford.gov.uk and click on leisure and then museum.

During June the archaeological collection at the museum will be moved into what used to be called the muniment room to make way for a relocated shop and provide a more suitable area for temporary displays. So come along towards the end of the month and view the changes.

The Mayor Making ceremony was held at the Guildhall on May 9th. Our new Mayor, Mike Nevins, follows a tradition dating back to 1362. There have been over 600 Mayors and one cannot but feel a sense of pride in living in such a historic Borough. During his Mayoral year he will be supporting a number of charities.

- One is mentioned on page 22
- Don't miss the events on page 12
- Or the outings on page 24

Sharing Skills - Multi Million Pound Lottery Projects

In February Jill Draper, Museum Manager, spent two days with the Museum Manager at Maidstone Museum and Bentriff Art Gallery, finding out more about their multi million pound bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and learning from their experience of how to prepare the application. This was made possible by a grant from Museums Libraries and Archives South East, Sharing Skills scheme which covered expenses for the placement.

Maidstone Museum has many similarities to Guildford: it's a local authority run service, based in a historic building close to the town centre and houses the collections of the Kent Archaeological Society. It also has ambitions to reorientate itself to attract more visitors, creating a new entrance to the side of the building (facing towards the main shopping street) and improving its facilities and storage. Like Guildford, Maidstone has some fascinating collections however, Maidstone's collections cover an exceptionally broad range including important holdings of archaeology, fine art, costume, natural history and a collection of Japanese material.

Maidstone's plans include building a new entrance block, with additional gallery space above, onto a wing of the original historic building; rationalising access routes through the building; reconstructing and refitting the main store and creating a new café and public toilets. They are seeking the maximum HLF grant for a regional project, two million pounds. This is the same level of grant that Guildford will be seeking in due course. The new extension will be unashamedly modern, a glass and metal tiled block set onto a red brick Jacobean exterior – certainly a talking point!

The placement was of great value in allowing Jill to study the various plans and reports necessary for an HLF application. She also spent much time talking about the project with the Museum Manager, sat in on a meeting with the project architects and accompanied the project team to a meeting with the HLF. This all demonstrated that persistence, thorough preparation, detailed planning and a willingness to adapt plans according to HLF advice is crucial. The bad news is that Simon Lace, the Museum Manager, and his team, have spent around five years getting the application ready for submission to the HLF for a 1st stage pass! The bid was submitted to the HLF at the end of March and Guildford Museum can only wish Simon and his team the best of luck for a positive decision at the end of

June. Should they get their stage 1 pass they have another year of hard work to work the plans up to sufficient detail to satisfy the HLF requirements for a stage 2 pass. After this, the project can actually start! We will be keeping our fingers crossed for them and watching their progress.

Jill Draper

Don't miss Heritage Day
Saturday 8th September
Over 20 buildings in Guildford open free

Free Guided Walks of Guildford.

May – September 2007

Mondays	11 am
Wednesdays	2.30 pm
Thursdays	7.30 pm
(until end of August)	
Sundays	2.30 pm



Walks most days during Festival in July – details from Tourist Office
Tel No 01483 444333

JOHN MASON'S 'GUILDFORD 1897'

by Marjorie Williams

"I just jot down for amusement some few things that come into my mind – unconsidered trifles – scraps if you like".

Thus starts this small book of memoirs, published for private circulation only, by a well-known citizen of Guildford, recalling his life there over seventy years. It consists of three sections: odd memories of Guildford, a collection of his own poems (one of which, "I'm not a Totaller", could easily rival the worst verse of Scotland's William McGonagall), and Mason's own personal history. Although of no great literary merit the work is quite fascinating.

John Mason, son of a carpenter, was born in Buryfields on December 22nd 1826. Unlike his contemporary Henry Peak, he was not a model child but a poor scholar who often played truant to fish or swim in the River Wey. He not only threw stones at St Nicholas Church clock but even broke a shop window in this way. However, by the time his book was published in 1901 he had twice been elected Mayor of Guildford (during which time the castle grounds were purchased for the town) and was a prosperous builder. Some of his work is to be seen at Churchill in Waterden Close, very highly valued by the present owners.

A vivid picture is created of Buryfields in the early 19C, lit with oil lamps fixed to wooden posts as were other low-lying areas of the town. Flames from the foundry and coke ovens near the river sometimes turned night into day. The Town Mill often worked for the whole twenty-four hours, grinding corn for the waiting barges. He makes no mention however of the smells which must have drifted over from the gas works in Farnham Road, for which his father made a wooden gasometer.

Traffic passed day and night: apart from the coaching traffic, numerous wagons rumbled along the High Street and Portsmouth Road "loaded with soldiers invalided or discharged; sailors perhaps paid off from their ships; or boys from London schools, to the sailing ships at Portsmouth".

Three barns then stood "within a hundred yards – the old barn off Buryfields which William Haydon converted for a Sunday School, a Tythe Barn, and another used as a wheelwright's shop".

Festivities in the Millmead area ranged from shuttlecock, played by the women and girls on Easter Monday, to badger baiting. "The last one I remember at the back of some cottages in the Millmead, where it was kept in a tub and on

payment of a fee persons were permitted to test the dog's power to drag the badger from his tub. It was anything but a quiet or musical proceeding, and gave an idea of the appropriateness of the word 'badgering'.

Mason recalls his sister's christening (in 1832) in the ancient St Nicholas Church when, since the pews were too high for him to observe anything of the ceremony, his only memories were of "the decayed and worm-eaten benches, the red-bricked flooring worn through the middle part down to the earth, which was plentifully visible through the rotting remains of the rush matting". A new graveyard was certainly needed, since "coffins had occasionally to be lowered into graves partially filled with water."



Guildford from the Wey 1823

John Mason's first education was at a dame school which stood at the junction of Bury Street and Portsmouth Road; on the opposite corner, now occupied by the Wycliffe Buildings, was the former home of Jack Barrett and his famous jackdaw. Along with other unsatisfactory pupils, John Mason was "condemned to stand on the front doorstep, our heads decorated with a tall paper fool's cap, on the front of which a great D for dunce was marked" so that passengers on the passing coaches could laugh at them. Later on he attended a series of mediocre establishments because the Free School trustees refused to have him saying to his father's disgust, "It was not intended for such men as him".

When he was apprenticed to his father he at last appreciated the value of education and attended evening classes given by a stone mason in drawing and architecture. He also joined the Mechanics' Institute in Angel Gate. With his father, one of his first jobs was to remove the lath and plaster frontage of Braboeuf Manor and replace it with stone. He recalls much about his early training as a builder and some of the methods used. For example, for Mr Newland timber was cut, sawn and left in ponds for a year before being used, and Newland "would also have the interstices between the ground floor joists filled up to the boards with dry coal ashes". Later on, for Dr Stedman the elder, John Mason designed and carried out the diversion of the Horncastle Road and built houses in Bishops Croft.

He recalls the festivities on 5th November with delight and indeed later on made useful profit from them as, "On succeeding to my father's business, it was expected of me as a matter of course, without further orders, to barricade the windows etc. of those customers where danger threatened on the night of the fifth of November, and remove the same on the following morning". He insists that no harm was intended and that it was merely a matter of keeping up old customs. He made rockets along with his friends: "The making of squibs became quite an art and was practised up to manhood. Parties of six or so clubbed together, the powder was purchased at Chilworth, and one can hardly contemplate the danger to the family who lived in the house over the cellar in Mount Street where we were occupied ourselves oft-times by candlelight in making these squibs. We enjoyed making them – all enjoyed seeing them".

I have said little of the first section of the book, which is packed with fascinating snippets of life in Guildford in past times. It covers so many aspects: elections, the Assizes, the theatre, fairs at St Catherine's and so on. Mason recalls how, "Standing under the town clock, it was no uncommon thing to witness oxen ploughing the high land of the Park Farm near Henley Grove. They may also be seen in the High Street in front of the harness makers, fitting on their harness".

He tells stories passed on by his father, himself a native of Guildford, of press-gangs, smugglers, and men who fought at the Battle of Waterloo. He describes many well-known characters of whom my favourite is George Elderfield, a most strange man. "His handling of snakes and frogs, and his boasted familiarity with birds and animals, some of which he constantly carried about on his person, marked him out from his fellows His delight was to imitate the cries of these creatures. A favourite pastime was to climb into one of the tall poplar trees then growing near the town bridge and imitate the cry of the cuckoo. By this name he was sometimes called. He dug himself a cave at the back of St Catherine's Hill, in which he lived for a time until the authorities felt it their duty to have him removed. Eventually his condition became so bad that he set fire to and burnt down a number of barns and farm buildings necessitating his confinement in a lunatic asylum".

Mason's best story tells of the perils of coaching through Guildford – believe it if you will! "It is said the steep Mount overturned the coach and threw a black passenger into the shoemaker's bedroom window. Waking in his fright he thought it was his satanic majesty, and cried, 'Oh pray Mr D....don't have me – I'm a righteous man and a psalm singer'".

I do hope I have whetted your appetite, since far more remains in John Mason's book for your delight. The Surrey History Centre possesses several copies of these memoirs.

Change on the Heath

Did you see this exhibition at the Museum by the Surrey Heathland Project? As one entered the room you were greeted by the twitter of sound from a Woodlark , Tree Pipit, Dartford Warbler and other birds just to remind us that the heathland is so essential to their survival. As these sounds faded away they were replaced by the recorded voice of a villager from Peaslake who was a copyholder and so could make his living off the common. He told us about their life just after the first World War and in particular talked about the extensive views across the heathlands that have now been obscured by trees.

The informative boards told how the villagers used the commons to be self sufficient. Their animals grazed on them producing milk, wool and hides – dung and urine for fertiliser – gorse for fuel and besom brooms- heather for thatching. From the late 1700's heathland was seen as wasted land and gradually enclosed by wealthy landlords. The arrival of the railways coupled with the low agricultural value of the land led to rapid urbanisation. War with France in 1793 to 1815 resulted in extensive Army facilities being built at Sandhurst and Aldershot and the M3 now cuts a swathe across Chobham Common. There is now only one fifth of the heathland that existed in Surrey in 1800 and 60% of this is owned by the military.

The Surrey Wildlife Trust is working to manage the remaining open heathland and restore areas by the removal of trees which have led to the heaths drying out.

For me the highlight of the exhibition was the book of photographs and postcards. Particularly the pictures of the army on the commons in both World Wars and the family groups of local villagers.



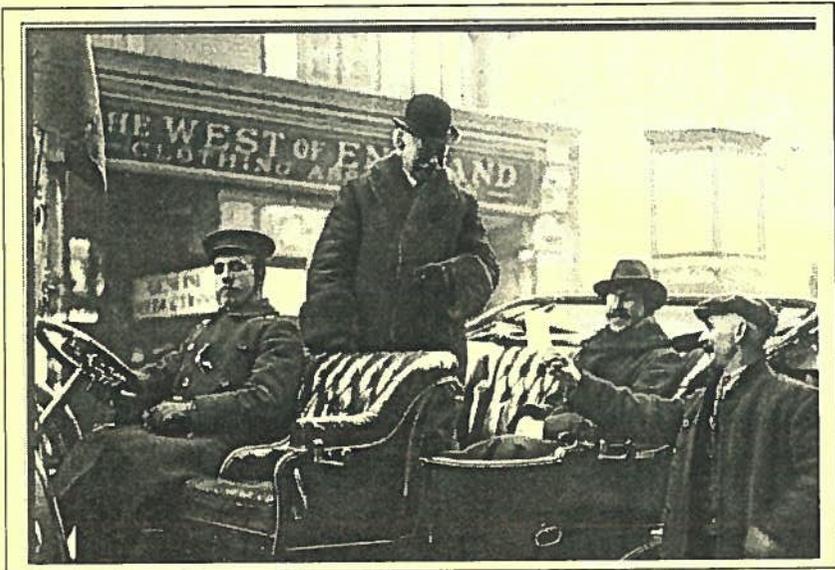
Frensham Pond WW1 Frensham & Dockenfield Local History Group
For more information on the Surrey Heathland Project try the web site
christina.smith@surreycc.gov.uk

This exhibition was followed by one entitled

Wheels Within Wheels

Here Marion May, a great niece of the Jackson brothers gave us a fascinating insight into the families motor and bicycle businesses. From the late 1800's five of the seven brothers owned a total of 11 businesses in Surrey and Sussex including enterprises at Guildford, Godalming, Compton and Bramley. Many of you will have bought cars or cycles at their premises. They were handed down to the next generation but by the 1970's all had been sold.

If you missed the exhibition Marion produced an excellent book to accompany the display which is available from the museum shop.



Shere Delight in Godalming

Last summer the residents of Godalming and Shere woke up to a mountain of snow. Church Street Godalming glistened with Christmas lights and Shere was a veritable winter wonderland. Not produced by global cooling but by the efforts of a film production team. Some of you may have witnessed this. The film "The Holiday", released earlier this year and starring Kate Winslet, Cameron Diaz and Jude Law, revolves around two women who swap their respective homes in England and the USA. The locations manager came upon Shere almost by accident. He said it seemed just perfect and scenes were shot around the church and White Horse.



Shere in Summer

ABBOTT'S KITCHEN

TEA & LUNCHEONS

RAM CORNER - GUILDFORD

Open Weekdays 11 AM - Sundays 12.30 AM

TELEPHONE 1498

Purnell & Co. Ltd.

High Class
Mineral Water Manufacturers
Makers of British Wines,
Cordials and Syrups.

FOR SUMMER DRINKS:

Banana Squash and Orange Squash, etc.
Orange, Lemon and Lemon Cordials
Valencia Wine, Lemon Water

FOR WINTER DRINKS:

Dry Ginger Ale, Ginger Squash and "Pears"
Ginger Mint, etc.

DISCUT FACTORS

Tea:

Bury Street :: Guildford

80th Anniversary of Diocese of Guildford



The Diocese of Guildford may be 80 years old this year but it has been part of a diocese since 604 – a mere seven years since Augustine's mission arrived in Kent, in 597.

The Anglo-Saxons arrived in Britain in the 400s and although there were probably Romano-British Christians here. Christianity disappeared in the south and east of England to be re-introduced in 597 as a result of Pope Gregory's concern for the little island outpost of the Holy Roman Empire.

At this time Æthelbert, king of Kent, also controlled the East Saxons (in Essex)) and presumably Surrey also. It was Æthelbert who built St Paul's in London and decided what London Diocese would include.

Enthronement of Dr Grieg as First Bishop of Guildford at Holy Trinity Church

Dioceses were effectively small kingdoms in those days, so church history can often give us clues about Britain's earliest political history. 604 saw the region made part of the diocese of London, but almost exactly a century later, in 705 after the Kingdom of Wessex had expanded across Surrey, a synod held at Brentford transferred Surrey to the diocese of Winchester, in whose pastoral care it remained for the next 1222 years, until 1927. Then Winchester was too large to administer and a part of it was split off to form Guildford Diocese.

Although there were further political upheavals with Mercia and Wessex fighting over Surrey and North East Hants, it remained within the Diocese of Winchester.

There was an Archdeacon for Surrey in the Middle Ages, who was possibly based at the bishop's residences in the county when he was at Guildford, Farnham, Esher and Southward. Some important ecclesiastical law cases were heard in Holy Trinity, Guildford, presumably because Guildford was the county town of Surrey and perhaps because Holy Trinity was more central than the older St Mary's Church.

Although early Saxon times seem very remote from us, they have left a legacy which still affects us today, not only in place names and church organisation but in language and culture too.

Dr Mary Alexander.

At the Museum

28 July - 8 September

Living Memory: The changing face of Guildford from the Second World War to 1960'

Forty people were interviewed by an oral history organiser and you can hear the results at the exhibition

22 September - 6 January

'Ancient Gods: Prehistoric and Roman Religion in Surrey'

Exhibition on Ancient religion

On the 2nd Saturday of every month, the Finds Liaison Officer David Williams, will be at Guildford Museum from 11.00am to 1.00pm to identify objects brought in by the public.

Visitors are encouraged to bring along items found locally, often while out walking, or while digging in the garden. Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, David Williams, will be able to provide advice on the importance of the find, its conservation and storage and how it relates to the treasure act.

If you have come across an archaeological find whilst out walking or using a metal detector, bring your find along for assessment and find out more about it. Pottery, flints and metalwork are all welcome, however, we do not provide information on fossils. Could that piece of metal provide a clue to Guildford's past? Bring it along and find out.

Further information about the finds identification days, contact Guildford Museum on 01483 444750.

Industrial Guildford Tokens

By John Theobald

In January I attended a most interesting lecture on "Some Commercial Industrial Surrey Tokens" given to the Surrey Industrial Society by John Theobald and Brian Wood. On speaking to John he kindly offered to write about Guildford tokens for us. Brian Wood has produced an excellent photographic record of all the tokens in the Museums collection and the four pictures on the front cover and in this article are kindly produced with his permission. (Ed.)

Introduction.

Unofficial money, Tokens and Checks have featured in Surrey's developing Industrial history for at least four centuries. A few of these tiny pieces of our local history have a connection, albeit often tenuously, with local Guildford Industry and its heritage. Tokens, as a genuine substitute for legal currency, were issued on three different occasions in desperation within the county over a period of 165 years, between 1650 and 1815, spanning the Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. Local trades people issued most of these emergency Tokens, simply in order to allow them and their trading colleagues to continue to operate their day-to-day businesses.

Let us start with the wool trade.

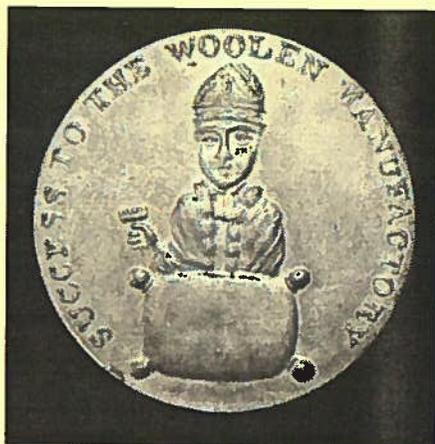
The Wool Trade



Guildford and the surrounding towns and villages were famous in Medieval times, producing, supplying and exporting Wool and the notable "Guildford Blue Cloth" to many parts of Europe, including the Canary Islands. Guildford Museum houses the Butterworth Collection of medieval Lead Tokens and Cloth Bale Seals. Although it is not a Token in the strict sense of the word, one of the Bale Seals still has a fragment of cloth attached and this Seal appears on the picture montage in the upper right hand corner.

Moving on to the 17th Century, **Guildford Borough** issued Brass Farthing Tokens in 1668, featuring on the obverse or front of the Token the Borough Arms, "A Castle between Two Woolsacks" in its design. (Bibl. 1, Surrey, Guildford 98/99.) This harks back to Guildford's commercial heyday, when Guildford Blue Cloth was a prestigious and internationally respected commodity. The back or reverse side of the Token bears the Arms of St. Edward the Confessor and has four initials, F. M. F. S. Possibly these denote the Overseers to the Poor and if so, the Token could have been used, amongst other functions, to assist the poor of the Parish. The declining Wool Trade and the recent Civil War were just two contributory factors that had created the rising numbers of poor people in the area at that time. Some readers may remember the old saying "***So poor, he hadn't even got two brass farthings to rub together.***" Well, this brief period in our turbulent history is virtually the only time that Brass Farthings have ever been struck and issued – and it is worth remembering that they were unofficial and so, strictly-speaking, illegal. In addition to the town piece, sixteen **Guildford** tradesmen issued their own Farthing Tokens, plus one Halfpenny Token. Importantly, fourteen of them featured a castle and a woolsack on their Tokens. It seems probable that these designs were in response to an instruction from the Borough to promote the town's unity and its remarkable industrial heritage through wool and cloth.

Towards the end of the Eighteenth Century, Guildford issued two varieties of Halfpenny Token, each one bearing on the reverse a three-quarter figure of Bishop Blaize holding a wool comb, behind a woolpack, with the words: **SUCCESS TO THE WOOLEN MANUFACTORY.** As Dr. Mary Alexander has pointed out, unfortunately "***the token designers obviously were not aware that the wool trade had died out in this area by 1700***".



Bishop Blaize was the Patron Saint of wool combers. The obverse of one of the Tokens bears the Arms of Guildford and the words **GUILDFORD HALFPENNY.** The obverse of the other Guildford Token features a design of an anchor, cable and the cap of liberty, with the words: **LIBERTY PEACE COMMERCE.**

Water Transport

The Wey Navigation was opened in 1653. Of special interest to Guildfordians is the brass farthing token of **JOHN SMALLPEECE**. He was an eminent townsman from a well-known and respected Guildford family, a grocer by trade and he served a seven-year apprenticeship under both his Mother and his Father. The obverse of his token does indeed conform to the possible Guildford Borough request and depicts a castle and a woolsack. However, the reverse has a **ROWBARGE with FOUR MEN ROWING**. This Token features in the top left hand corner of the montage and was issued when the Wey Navigation was in its infancy.



In Medieval times, such barges, called “**Royal Shallops**” or less formally “**Tilts**”, were employed to transport important people up and down the Thames. Could **John Smallpeece** have used this barge to row to London – a two-day journey each way – to collect spices and other grocery commodities, especially when the roads often were impassable for the transportation of goods during much of the winter? ? If so, possibly this is one of the earliest, if not the first true **Canal Token** to have been recorded.

Shirley Corke (in her book “Guildford , A pictorial History” picture 28)) illustrates the token and writes: “**JOHN SMALLPEECE shows a rowbarge on his token, a reminder that the Wey Navigation once carried passengers and that between 1654 and 1658 both a great and a little row barge were plying on the river, earning £3 and £1.10.0d a week respectively.**”

Architecture – Buildings

In Middlesex, quantities of different penny sized tokens were issued with superb designs. Many of these were intended for collectors, rather than being used for necessary small change. They are not industrial in the sense that we might consider the word, but they shed a romantic light onto one aspect of Surrey’s important architectural heritage. One type, the **Globe Series**, produced by Skidmore, includes 4 delightful examples of Surrey’s historic architecture

One of them portrays an ancient fortress in ruins and the inscription **GUILDFORD TOWER SURRY**. This Token appears in the bottom left of the montage. Another Token in the same series illustrates **CLANDON PLACE SURRY**. Each token has the same common reverse of a globe, between a rose and thistle with the words **BRITISH PENNY 1797**. The edge of each token has the wording **I PROMISE TO PAY ON DEMAND THE BEARER ONE PENNY**.

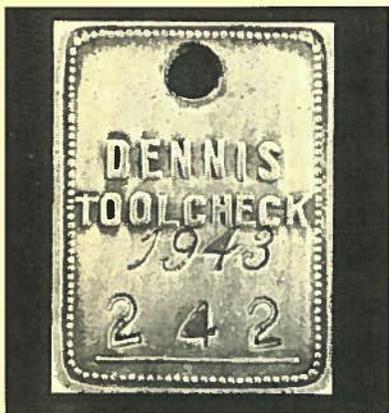


Factories

Some 20th C Surrey Factory CLOTHING, CANTEEN, TIME, PAY, TOILET and TOOL CHECKS.

From the mid Nineteenth Century onwards, Tokens have been used in Agriculture and in many Factories. A number of **Engineering Companies** throughout the United Kingdom produced quantities of "**Time, Pay, Tool (and even "Toilet"!!) Checks**" for internal use by their employees. Local South West Surrey firms used some of them as internal currency in Works Canteens. Others were used as personally identifiable deposit Tool Checks for obtaining on loan specialist or non-standard tools and equipment from the factory's Central Tool Stores. The Guildford and South West Surrey area had at least seventeen companies who issued these types of tokens and checks, of which 11 were issued by identifiable Industrial Companies. Undoubtedly more firms could be identified, if company records can be researched, or if former employees can be contacted and interviewed.

As "**Tool Checks**" these brass and even cardboard discs were personalised, usually simply by the Company name and/or initials, plus the employee's Works Number. The tradesmen used them, whenever they needed to borrow specialist tools or equipment from the Tool Store that would not be expected normally to be in a toolmaker's bag. The Check was returned to its owner on handing back the tool. This was a simple, safe and effective system. One such Guildford Factory Token was issued by **Dennis Brothers Limited**. By listening to and recording the reminiscences of former employees, we now know that some of these Tool Checks had other uses as well.



The “Toilet Checks” of **Dennis Brothers Limited** is a brief diversion, but was hilariously publicised in the “**Surrey Advertiser**” by David Rose (Bibl. 14) in his “**From the Archives**” page on 8th December 2006. Interestingly, as a result of the article, we have learned that at least one more Guildford company, **Drummond Brothers**, used a system similar to **Dennis Brothers** for precisely the same purpose!

On 16th March 2007, another Tool Check was featured in the same “**From the Archives**” feature, this time portraying a **NELCO** Tool Check for the Shalford Factory. Once again, this article generated information about two more Tool Checks.

If any of you know of other tool checks the Museum would be delighted to hear from you.(01483 444750) .

John would like to thank all those many people that have made this article possible.

Project Matrix

We are indeed fortunate in Surrey that the **Surrey History Centre** has set up **Project Matrix**. This is an exciting current initiative, aimed at cataloguing and recording on digital photographs many of the coins, non-military medals and tokens that are housed in 35 of Surrey’s Museums. **Brian Wood** is the expert photographer and the pictures you will see reveal some of these tiny metallic industrial artefacts in all their glory. The copyright of all of the photographs in the **Project Matrix** collection belongs to **Brian Wood**. Thousands of different pieces have been photographed on the front (obverse) and back (reverse). An individual photographic reference is linked to each Museum’s piece, together with its unique Museum Accession Number. **Surrey History Centre** intends to make these photographs available on the World Wide Web in due course, thereby allowing for the first time, students, museum visitors, children and researchers from around the world to look at and study in breathtaking detail both sides of a coin, or in this case, a Token – something which is virtually impossible to achieve in a normal Museum display.



Earlier in the year Channel Four's archaeology programme *Time Team* visited the Godstone area. Guildford Museum were pleased to be able to help with the production of the programme through the loan of artefacts and giving any advice the team needed.

Dr Mary Alexander is pictured here with two bronze handles from priests sceptres from the 1st century AD Roman Temple at Wanborough.

The handles and other pieces were buried under a new temple in the mid 2nd century after an earlier temple fell down. The site was excavated by the Surrey Archaeological Society and the finds are on display in the Museum. A booklet on the excavations is available from the Museum.

British Association of Museums

Museums everywhere have been very busy and some of their activities are reported in the very interesting spring edition of the BAFM Newsletter. Friends of the nearby Rural Life Centre had a "donkey day out" which was very popular as the donkeys pulled carts all round the site. Brading Roman Villa had a Royal visitor when the Duke of Edinburgh opened the villa in July 2005. Now Prince Edward, Earl of Essex, has agreed to be their Royal Patron. The Friends have raised funds to set up the museum with its unique Roman mosaics.

Strawberry Hill have had visitors from Pennsylvania who were doing a course consisting of both intensive academic study and then conservation work. They were particularly interested in the fabric of the house.

London Transport Museum have just completed a "labour of love". In 2002 the call went out for volunteers to rewrap the museums collection of glass plate negatives. There were 59,000 plates from the 1930's to the 1950's – images of buses, trams, trolley buses, trains, stations, and street scenes. They are to be congratulated in completing such a mammoth task.

The Friends of the Curtis museum and Allen Gallery in Alton were delighted to win two gold certificates in the "Alton in Bloom" competition. The Friends paid for half the flowers in the troughs and tubs and the museum staff carefully tended them.

This years BAFM conference will be held at Mersyside Maritime Museum October 5th to October 7th 2007. For the full conference the cost is £130 but is cheaper if you only attend part of the conference. The AGM and conference are on Saturday followed by the conference dinner but first on Friday is a coach tour of the city with a visit to the Walker Art Gallery followed by a reception and buffet at the World Museum. On Sunday there is a visit to the Lady Lever Art Gallery and Port Sunlight.

Extracted from the BAFM Newsletter by Sandra Morgan

The Editor welcomes items for the Newsletter or comments Please send them to
Eric Morgan 21 St Michael's Avenue, Guildford, GU3 3LY.
Telephone Number (01483) 233344. Copy date for next Newsletter is
November 1st 2007



We are delighted to welcome the following new members
Mrs Elizabeth Mansley and Miss Jill Draper(Honorary Member))

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM

If you are not a member we would love you to join us
Please send a cheque with the appropriate subscription to

Mr R. Sinker, Friends of Guildford Museum
2 The Ridgeway, Guildford, GU1 2DG

Subscription rates for 2005/2006

Individual	£6	Family	£12	Youth	£3
Corporate	£25	Individual Life	£100		

Please make cheques payable to

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM

Pond in Castle Grounds



On May 9th children from Sandfield and St Nicolas schools delighted onlookers with their costumes and garlands as they processed up and down the High Street. They were joined by borough councillors also in Victorian costume and finally processed to the Castle Grounds for the formal opening of the new pond. It was in 1885 that the borough purchased the Castle Grounds from Lord Grantley for £4,490. They were laid out by the borough surveyor, Henry Peak and the new pond shown above is an attempt to redevelop Peaks pond shown below.



Why April 5th for the Budget?

In medieval times, the Exchequer that collected the king's income divided the year into two periods, one ending in Easter and one at Michaelmas, or September 29th.

This allowed sheriffs of far flung counties to travel to wherever the king was holding court with the coins collected as the monarch's dues from his subjects without having to carry too much at one time or to make their hazardous duties during the shorter daylight hours of the winter.

Later, as the sums grew greater and roads safer, it was decided to have four financial periods and in order that they should be the same day each year they were fixed to the main feast days closest to the Quarter Days, the vernal and autumnal equinoxes, and the summer and winter solstices.

Thus the accounting period ended on Lady Day, the Annunciation, or March 25th; on Midsummer's Day, or June 24th; on Michaelmas, or September 29th and on Christmas Day, December 25th. Traditionally it remained the custom to balance the books at Michaelmas, the Easter date having disappeared.

In 1772, England finally accepted the calendar system that corrected the discrepancies caused by the Romans having slightly miscalculated the length of the year as 365 days with a leap year every fourth.

By the mid-18th century that discrepancy had reached 11 days, so Parliament ordered that the day after September 2, 1752 would be September 14th thus wiping out 11 days. The balancing of the books was transferred from Michaelmas to Christmas.

Rather than demand quarterly instalments of taxes 11 days early, it was decided to add the 11 days, making the Christmas collection due on Jan 5th and the Lady Day collection due on April 5th.

It was not until 80 years later that the new Lady Day became the end of the financial year and it was for political reasons

Parliament had become restive over the fact that the Budget, presented in the early spring, "proposed" payments including those already made in January, February and March. So in 1832 the accounting year was moved up to join the Budget and the closest Quarter Day was April 5th. Not long after, Robert Peel reintroduced income tax, abandoned in 1817 after it had served its purpose of raising money to defeat Napoleon, and it became inextricably linked with the preparation of the Budget.



Our new Mayor – Mike Nevins with his wife Rhoda after the Mayor Making ceremony at the Guildhall. On the left is the mace given in 1663 by Henry Howard, the High Steward of Guildford and later the 6th Duke of Norfolk. On the right is the silver-gilt mace hallmarked 1581 but this may be when a repair was carried out. It is one of the earliest known maces in the country.

The Mayor is leading 'The Mayor's Lantern Walk' on the evening of 18th October 2007 in support of The Fountain Centre. This sponsored 'historic' walk around Guildford town centre is the first of its kind and will include entertaining re-enactments of historic events by members of local acting group 'The Guildford Shakespeare Company' and students from the GSA Conservatoire. The Mayor expects to be joined on the walk by Julie Walters, Anthea Turner, Sade, Sue Cook and Anna Marie Ash, who are all committed to supporting this fund raising event.

The Fountain Centre was established in 1998 and is located within The Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, Surrey. The centre sees over 2,500 new patients each year serving an area population stretching from the outskirts of London to the southern coast covering parts of West Sussex, North and Mid-Hampshire. It provides a caring environment for patients newly diagnosed with cancer, in order to balance the traditional approaches to cancer treatment with a range of complementary therapies and individual support. Within this Centre, patients and their families and carers can make choices about their future and become actively involved in their own self-management.

Do put the date in your diary and come along.

www.thefountaincentre.org

Make a Note in your Diary

Wednesday 20th June

Cambridge

Guided Tour of King's College Chapel, St Johns College and Queen's College
including a walk round the exterior of Trinity College

Depart 7.30am Cost £32.50

Wednesday 4th July

Portsmouth

Spinnaker Tower Gunwharf Quays Museum of Artillery – Fort Nelson

Depart 9.00am Cost £23 (£25.00 to include panoramic lift)

Thursday 19th July

Surrey Villages – Ewhurst

Meet at the Bull's Head Inn at 10.30am (junction of Ockley Road and the Street

All day tour Cost £9.00

Thursday 2nd August

Jaguar Car Museum Coventry & Guided tour of the Castle Bromwich factory

Depart at 7.00am Cost –see separate events programme

Wednesday 8th August

Surrey Villages - Elstead

Meet at the Woolpack at 10.30am

All day tour Cost £9.00

Thursday 9th August

Friend's Open Evening at the Museum

Meet 7pm Free

Saturday 15th September

Tetbury- Berkeley Castle

With option to visit the Edward Jenner Museum

Depart at 8.am Cost £26.00

Tickets from Derek Somner

18 Abbot Road, Guildford, GU1 3TA (01483 539447)