

# WOKING HISTORY JOURNAL

INCORPORATING  
'CONSERVATION NEWS' & 'LOCAL HISTORY DIARY'

£1.00

Volume 4  
*Autumn 1990*

SPECIAL PHOTO-FEATURE  
**CHANGING WOKING**



**CENTRE PAGE PULL-OUT**  
A Walk Around  
Lower Knaphill

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# WOKING HISTORY JOURNAL

Volume 4 Autumn 1990

The Woking History Journal  
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Welcome to the fourth edition of the Woking History Journal, Woking's only quarterly magazine dedicated to promoting Woking and its past.

The Journal has been a great success. Praise for the quality of its articles and production has come from many of its readers as well as the local press and media. It is all very gratifying for those responsible for its publication, but (as many have asked) who are the names to the left and how did the Journal begin?

The Woking History Journal was the brainchild of local historian and author, Iain Wakeford. He has written most of the articles, designs the page layouts, badgers advertisers, and hounds shopkeepers to take stock. But although he is the promotor of the Journal he does not publish it. That, he has credited to his two daughters: Amey (aged almost three) and Hannah (just over one). A third 'publisher' is due in December!

The two editors, Crishna Simmons and Lee Wilson (nee Simmons), are two of the publishers aunts, i.e. the sisters of Iain's wife – Glenda. The production manager, Neil Wakeford, is Iain's brother, and as manager at Letterbox (the typesetters of the Journal) he advises on all technical matters. Neil's father-in-law, Peter Warren, works for Optichrome (the printers of the Journal), and was the designer of the 'War of the Worlds' cover.

Only the 'Historical advisors' are not related, but as friends of the family they are very much part of the team. A team – it must be stressed – who do all the work in their spare time.

In this volume we look at Woking in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s as it changed from a sleepy commuter town into a major retail and office centre. Now, they say, more people commute into Woking than out of it!

Whether you live, work, or just shop in Woking you are all part of the town's community, and as such you are invited to take part in its 'Community Play'. An article on the play is included, in the hope that it encourages you to attend the inaugural meeting on Tuesday 6th November and volunteer for the plays research team.

Other items of interest in this edition include the continuation of our series looking at the place names of Woking – this time Pyrford; the story of the 'Great Fire of Woking' in 1870; and an article on the Horsell Birch Windmill. Finally, our centre page pull-out walk this quarter features 'Lower Knaphill', showing some of the old farmhouses, cottages and inns of the area.



## CHANGING WOKING

Over the next few years Woking town centre will be transformed. How many will remember the Pool in the middle of a roundabout? Who will recall the 'old' new library and who will be around who can tell of the Centre Halls, the Ritz Cinema or the Victoria Hospital? It is hard to remember the past, our memories fade so quick, and even places that have only recently been demolished soon disappear from our minds.

For years there was a garage on the corner of Station Approach and Guildford Road, now with the departure of F.G. Barnes that tradition looks like coming to an end. But how many of you can remember the original, Conway West Motors garage that stood on the site before 'Doves' built their new showrooms in the early 1970s? Can you also



remember Boorman's Garage opposite, where Merion House now stands? And who can recall that the 'Sovereigns' was once called the 'Cardinal', let alone the 'Railway Hotel'!

Further along Guildford Road, at the corner with Victoria Road, was one of Woking's most fashionable stores, Philpots. Now it is F.W. Evans cycle shop, and the 'experimental one-way system' has been adopted, for better or for worse. The buildings themselves have not changed (yet), unlike some of those on the following pages.





Sparrow Park, at one time a quiet retreat on the edge of the town, was the perfect home for Woking's War Memorial. But with the building of Cawsey Way and the removal of the memorial to Town Square (to be replaced by a lump of leaking rock) the 'park' has lost its character and its charm.

The 'Bridge of Sighs' had neither character nor charm and its loss has not been mourned by anyone. For those new to the town we should point out that the bridge once crossed Victoria Way from the market site to Goldsworth Road. The 'Liverpool Victoria' building is on the right (where Video World is now) and 'Newlands' the coal merchants office by Victoria Arch is now Interior Motives. The cars parked in the background are where A.M.D. (UK) are today (the former market site) and the 'hanger' was the home of the Aldershot & District Bus Depot, now replaced by Phillips Court.



To the right is the Centre Pool, a short-lived 'folly', a memorial to the madness of the town planners, who built a swimming pool in the middle of a roundabout, in a prime town centre site. It lasted just fourteen years before the developers pulled it down to make way for the 'Peacocks' shopping centre.

One wonders how long the Peacocks will last before the bulldozers move in and another new building emerges from the ashes.





Ryde House (above), one of the first of the modern office blocks of the 1960s has now been replaced by Victoria Gate (Rank Xerox). With Ryde House went the old Terry's

card shop.

Wearing's (below), was a casualty of the late 1970s when the massive, brown-glass, Crown House was built at the junction of Chobham Road and

Commercial Road. Carson & Co., would now occupy the site of the chemists. Gateway's would be to the right, where the shops of Commercial Road once were.





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One of the few remaining shops, Lewis's, now Barrenger's, can be seen to the left at the junction of Duke Street and Chertsey Road. The building work going on behind and to the side of the shop is for the new Woolworth's, built in the late 1950s.

Right, shows the back of the old Odeon Cinema in Duke Street with



the temporary car park now replaced by Elizabeth House. The ornate building in the background stood on the corner of Duke Street and Chertsey Road (where Dukes Court is now).

To the left is the High Street in the mid 1960s. Here the buildings have not altered a great amount, just the shop fronts. Colman's & Edward's shops are now Courts. Over the page is another view of the High Street, taken in the 1950s, showing Sainsbury's store, and the railway embankment opposite.

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## A WALK AROUND LOWER KNAPHILL

*Our third walk around Woking takes us to Lower Knaphill, to look at the history and historic buildings of the area.*

# A WALK AROUND LOWER KNAPHILL

*by  
Iain Wakeford*

Much of the walk is (historically speaking) within Horsell, i.e. the ancient parish of St. Mary's although most now think of it as being part of Knaphill. Knaphill village grew up as a squatter settlement on the edge of Woking Heath, and quickly developed to serve the neighbouring com-

munities of Bisley and Goldsworth. In later years it grew with the establishment of the Prison and Lunatic Asylum, but although many Victorian and Edwardian properties were built in the area, much still survives from older centuries to be of interest.



## A WALK AROUND LOWER KNAPHILL

### THE BARLEY MOW, (left)

#### Barley Mow Lane.

The Barley Mow dates from the 17th century, with restoration and additions dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is a two storey timber framed building, although the lower half is encased in brick, whilst the first floor is tile hung. The Barley Mow is a grade II listed building.

### LONGCROFT COTTAGE,

#### Barrs Lane.

Longcroft Cottage is an early 18th century timber framed house which has been clad in brick. It has a plain tiled roof with end stacks. There are two storeys, with a brick band above the ground floor. There is a catslide extension to the right and a 20th century extension to the rear. Longcroft Cottage is a grade II listed building.

### WHITFIELD COURT, (above)

#### Littlewick Road.

Whitfield court dates from the 16th century, but was remodelled in the 18th century and extended in the late 19th century. It has a timber framed core, with a brick exterior and three bays with a lobby entrance to the original house. The rear 'service' range and staircase addition form an 'L' shape plan. Inside there is a panelled room with an 18th century enriched chimney piece. This is on the ground floor to the east. The timber construction is visible, and queen post trusses are exposed in the



west end. A dog-leg staircase with an open string, twisted balusters and swept hand rail leads to the first floor. Whitfield Court is a grade II listed building.

### WHITFIELD COURT BARN,

#### Littlewick Road

The 18th century barn is timber framed and stands on a brick plinth. It is weatherboarded on the east and south sides. Later 19th century brick reflooring with ventilation patterns can be found on the north and west sides. It has a half hipped plain tiled roof. The barn consists of three bays, with central opposing entrance bays, both with double doors. Those on the east side are in a weatherboarded projection. There is a 19th century single storey addition to the south, and a hipped roof extension over the open entrance bay to the north. Inside, the framing and queen post construction is visible. The Barn is a Grade II listed building.

### INWOODS, (below)

#### Littlewick Road

Inwoods dates from the 16th century, with 18th century restoration of the left hand gable to the front. It is timber framed with brick infill and consists of three bays with cross wings at either end with lobby entrance. It has two storeys with an attic in the left gable. Inwoods is a grade II listed building.

### BLUEGATES,

#### Littlewick Road.

Bluegates is 16th century with late 19th century additions. It is timber framed with whitewashed rendered infill. The two storey right wing has the gable to the right, whilst the portion to the left is single storey with an attic under a hipped dormer window to the centre. The cross wing displays imitation half timber. The timber framing is visible inside, where substantial ceiling joists and a renovated deep brick fireplace with wooden lintel can also be found. Bluegates is a grade II listed building.



### ROYAL OAK PUBLIC HOUSE

Although not listed, the Royal Oak is believed to be at least 300 years old. It was one of two public houses at the foot of Anchor Hill, the other – The Royal Standard – being behind the old forge on the green opposite.

### NUTHURST

This old house, again not listed (although perhaps it should be locally listed) was the scene of a murder back in 1926. The exact age of the building is unknown, but it is thought to be early 19th century at least.

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## HORSELL'S WINDMILL

by  
*Iain Wakeford*

Few people now know of the windmill that once stood on Horsell Birch. It was demolished about the time of the First World War and replaced by a house called 'Mill End'. Whether it was ever a corn mill is uncertain – a 2ft grindstone and 4ft millstone were found by the builder of Mill End in 1927, but all the records relating to the mill suggest that it was solely used as a sawmill.

Two pictures, taken of the mill in 1904, show its primitive construction. It was believed to have been the work of the Steer family who were carpenters and builders in Horsell during the last century.

The tithe map records Luke Steer as the occupier of a building on the land, and in 1845 James & John Steer were recorded as carpenters there. The 1851 Census Returns give Isaac Steer as a master carpenter of Horsell aged 42, along with his son Reuben aged 17. Thirty years later, William Steer is recorded as a carpenter at Horsell Birch along with his son, also called William. Two other Steers are recorded as carpenters in 1881,

Stephen, of Anthony's aged 37, and Isaac aged 40 of Horsell Street.

Details of the workings of the mill are sketchy. It is recorded that the sails were 'fixed', i.e. constantly facing north-west across the common. This made it very inefficient, and at times unworkable when the wind was in the wrong direction.

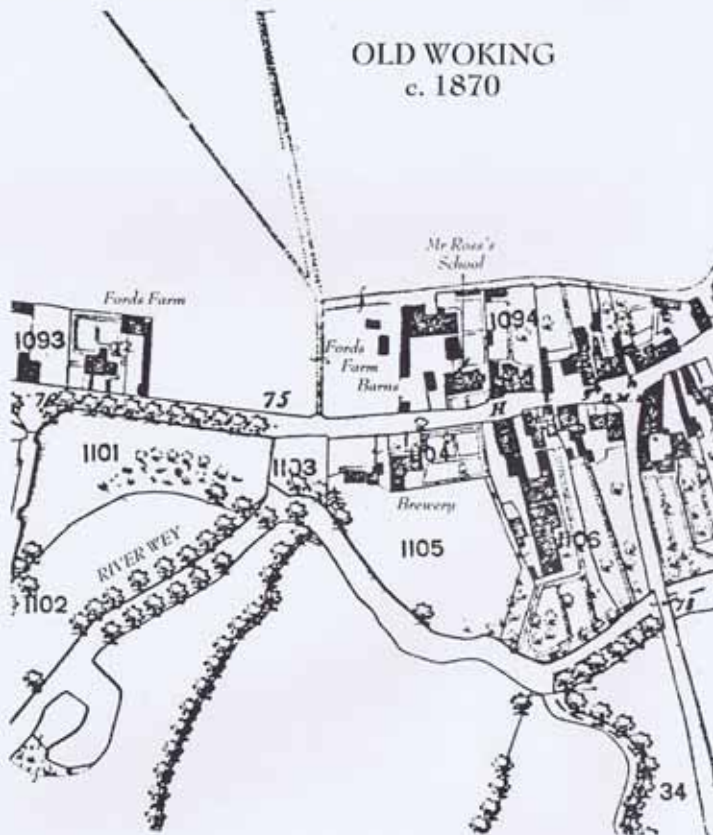
The sails were mounted on a horizontal windshaft and were fitted with two adjacent boards running the full length of the arm. The boards were hinged so that they could be folded over to reduce the sail area in the event of strong winds. Two lean-to extensions gave room for the mill workings, a circular saw and a workbench. It was probably the addition of these two extensions that forced the mill to become static, as in the central section it was recorded that there was 'a very fine large central timber on which the mill worked'. Perhaps the mill did originally grind corn, before the Steer family took over and converted it into a saw mill, we may never know!



## THE GREAT FIRE OF WOKING

*the story of  
Woking's early  
firefighters.*

The early history of Woking's firefighters is an interesting story which has been partially related many times before. The Whiteman's *'Victorian Woking'* includes a short passage on the Council Brigade of the 1890s and records that before its formation "emergencies were met by the brigade from Guildford whose horse team could . . . reach the village in about half an hour." In Alan Crosby's *'History of Woking'* he devotes two sections to the brigade story, detailing the service from 1870-1914 and from 1914-1939. Two fascinating reports have also been published giving the personal story behind the Volunteer Brigade's formation in the 1890s.<sup>1</sup> Recently another part of the story has emerged with the publication last November of the *'Vigiles'* magazine, the journal of the 'Fire Brigades of Surrey Preservation Trust'. The magazine reports on research into the 'Great Fire at Woking' of June 1870 including an account of Woking's first firefighter, Mr Ernest Hilder of Hoe Place.



### THE GREAT FIRE OF 1870

The report in *'Vigiles'* quotes an article from the Surrey Advertiser of 15th June 1870 which states: "One of the most destructive fires for some time occurred at Bayley's Farm,<sup>2</sup> (Old) Woking, on Wednesday. A messenger brought news from Woking of the fire, which was first discovered at about 9.40pm."

"The messenger, when questioned

by the reporter, said that a stack at Mr. Bayley's was on fire, and that by the time he got back there, he expected that the whole farm buildings would be destroyed. At five minutes to ten, four horses from the White Lion<sup>3</sup> had been attached to the engine, and every member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade was mounted on it, properly equipped.

It was moonlight, and the roads were hard with frost, which enabled



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the Brigade to reach Woking in 25 minutes. The fire on arrival had assumed serious proportions.

Mr Hilder, a rural member of the Guildford Volunteer Brigade, had previously procured one of the old Guildford fire engines, which had been housed in the premises of the Rev. Mr Cooper, and Hilder had used this machine to good effect to keep the fire in check. The farm is situated in the middle of Woking Street, and had the wind been blowing from the South East, nothing could have saved a large portion of the town from being destroyed.

Fortunately, water was available from part of the river which runs through the High Street, and was brought to the spot through 200 yards of hose. There was a number of hearty and willing pumpers, for the fire had been seen from a great distance. Many people from Knaphill and elsewhere, thronged to the spot, and many gentlemen gave excellent service. On arrival of the brigade, an unoccupied cottage next to Mr. Ross's school<sup>5</sup> was ablaze, but the fire was prevented from spreading

further. Up to 800 persons were at one time present at the scene, but gradually dispersed when it was seen that the brigade had the fire under control. The brigade stayed until 10am the next morning.

Three ricks, a barn full of corn, farm implements and buildings, were all destroyed to the value of nearly £2,000. Fortunately, Mr Bayley was fully insured with the Phoenix. The fire is believed to be the work of an incendiary."

#### WOKING'S FIRST FIREFIGHTER

The report in 'Vigiles' goes on to record that Mr Hilder was also the victim of an arsonist attack when two months later, in August 1870, a wheat stack, hayrick, straw stack, thresher and other farm implements at his 'Round Tree Farm'<sup>5</sup> were set ablaze. The Guildford Brigade was again called and managed to control the fire. One of Mr. Hilder's labourers was later charged with the offence. Mr Hilder's own engine was obviously unable to cope with a large fire on its own!

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN more about the history of Gordon's School, admire the Victorian buildings, discover the Chapel's royal links, explore the Gordon Museum containing fascinating personal items of the hero of Khartoum and, perhaps, to catch a glimpse of our traditional parades, please contact the Museum Curator, to arrange a visit.

Finally, in March 1871, Mr Hilder again needed the services of the Guildford Brigade when a turf house caught fire.

As a result of these fires, Mr Hilder attempted to set up a small volunteer brigade using his secondhand Guildford engine, but apparently there was little support and Woking was left to rely on Guildford for its fire cover.

- 1) *The supplements to the Woking News & Mail's 1000th edition in 1914, and their 60th anniversary edition of 1954 give details of the Council Brigade's early days in the 1890s and 1900s.*
- 2) *Mr Bayley's Farm was Ford's Farm, now occupied by the 'Capital Business Park'.*
- 3) *The White Lion was where Marks & Spencer's are now in Guildford High Street.*
- 4) *Mr. Ross's School was situated in the building now known as The Old Manor House.*
- 5) *'Round Tree Farm' should, I believe, have read as Round Bridge Farm.*

A major event in the history of Woking,  
**THE WOKING COMMUNITY PLAY**  
is about to be publicly launched.

You may have already seen in the newspapers, heard on the radio, or read in the last edition of this Journal, about the Woking Community Play. On Tuesday 6th November at 8.00pm you will have the opportunity to learn more about this exciting new project when the Colway Theatre Trust – the pioneers of the Community Play movement – will address all interested parties about the project in Woking. The meeting is being held at the QEII Theatre in Old Woking Road, Maybury.

Although the play is supported by Woking Borough Council, and the Colway Theatre Trust give help and advice, the project is produced by the Community – for the Community. Everyone is invited to attend and join in. You could help with research, fund-raising, publicity, finding props, or anything to do with the 'background' working of the play. You could take part by acting, dancing or singing in the play itself – or simply by making the tea for the performers or some of the others involved. The list of tasks is endless. The list of people who get involved runs into thousands

and the community spirit it encourages lives on for years after. It can only be a good thing for the town.

So if you think Woking is dead, if you think it has no heart, or if you think nothing can be done to save it in the future, think again. Don't just moan about what could have been – do something about it. Join the Community Play and help bring the heart back into Woking.

For more details of the Community Play in Woking contact:

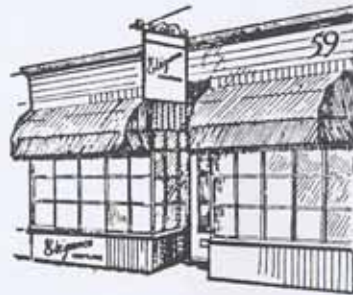
Iain Wakeford,  
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or, for more information on what is involved in a Community Play contact:

The Colway Theatre Trust,  
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## THE PLACE NAMES OF PYRFORD

*The name "Pyrford" was first recorded in the year 956 A.D. as "Pyrianforda" and means 'the ford by a pear tree'. "Pyrige" is 'pear' in old english.*

The name has altered its spelling over the years and has been recorded as "Piriford" in 1067;

PELIFORD	1086
PERFORD	1175
PYRYFORD	1263
PURYFORD	1275
PUREFORD	1317
PYRFORD	1573

The charter from which the earliest name is taken gives the bounds of an estate that covers Pyrford, as well as parts of Woking and Horsell. Most of the place names recorded are now lost, but a few have survived (much altered) to give us a clue to where the boundary went. The charter reads (when it is translated) . . .

*These are the boundaries to Pyrford.*

*First from the ford by a pear tree (Pyrianforda) along the water to the fish brook (fisce burnan), then along the brook to the boundary hedge, up along this hedge to the dividing lines (gedela), west to 'Snawsmere' (snawes mere), westward to the spur of land (ho) and then right across the 'hill from above' to the fenced road, along this road to the boundary hawthorn hedge, up along the hedge to 'Worthy' (weorthe) and then on to the big apple tree, then on to the pear clearing (per leage) then south to a spot near the old watercourse and back to the boundary hedge, then up along the hedge to 'Church clearing' (eceles hamme) and then along the hedge to 'Mintfield' (mintn felda), right to Mimbridge (mint byrge) and along the brook to 'Flaxlands' (flex waran) near the hedge, out on to the fields to the mile stone then on to the meeting of the ways (twicene), and on to Wexfen (weahles fen) then on to the high road to Pyrford and through a wood until you come once more to the ford by a pear tree.*

The ford from which the village takes its name is obviously the one (now replaced by a bridge) just below Church Hill. The spur of land (ho) must be near Hoe Bridge and 'Worthy' may be Goldsworth. The pear clearing is now known as Parley, and it is thought that the 'ecele hamme' may be near the site of Bisley Church. The mint field was near Mimbridge. 'Twicene' was somewhere on the site of Bonsey's or Scotcher's Farms, and 'Wexfen' (as we shall see later) was nowhere near the present road of that name.

Church Field is recorded as "Churchshote" in 1360, the second element being the Old English "Sceat" meaning 'strip of land' or 'corner of land'.

Peatmoor Wood is called "Peat Moors" in 1844.

Townslow Meadow was recorded in 1204 as "Tundesle" and probably comes from the personal name "Tunwealdes" and "Leah" meaning 'an open place in a wood' or more likely 'a low-lying meadow'. The name has altered over the years and was spelt "Tundeslegh" in 1270, "Tundesle" in 1332 and "Townesley Mede" in 1548.

Walsham Meadow was first recorded in 1288 and possibly comes from the personal name "Hwaetel" and "Hamm", meaning 'meadow on a stream'. The earliest spelling given is "Wathelesham", but it was recorded as Whattlesham in 1362, Watyllesham in 1504, and Wallsome in 1605. The name of the lock on the Wey Navigation comes from the nearby meadow.

Wexfen comes from the personal name "Weahh", or possibly "Wealheard" and "Fenn" meaning 'marsh land'. In 1263 it was recorded as "Wexfenne". "Wexfen" in 1282, "Wexefen" in 1360 and "Waxfen" in 1474. The new road on the site of the 'Rolls Tools works', is a modern re-use of the old name.

Church Farm was the home of "Gilbert Ate Cherche" in 1332 and possibly "Peter Churchar" in 1605.

Green Farm was "Pyrford Grene" in 1548.

Lees Farm was the home of "Roger De La Leghe" in 1279 and "Richard at Lee" in 1544. The name probably goes back a very long way and comes from the old english "Leah" meaning 'clearing in a wood' or possible 'low-lying meadow'.

Thorley Farm was "Thornle" in 1336 and "Tthorle" in 1363. In 1548 it was "Thorleymede" and probably means 'thorn wood, or clearing', again using the old english element "Leah".

Warren Farm is "Le Warreyn" in 1548.

Wheeler's Farm is "Whelers" in 1474.

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## CONSERVATION NEWS

### THE SURREY HEATHLAND PROJECT

*Rob McGibbon*

It may seem strange, that whilst every other conservationist is busy planting trees, the members of the Surrey Heathland Project are pulling them up! Why do we need to 'manage' our heathlands? Surely they can look after themselves can't they?

The simple answer is NO. Heathlands are not natural. They were made by man over thousands of years by the grazing of cattle, cutting of peat for fires and the felling of timber for buildings. Before man came along this area would have been thickly wooded, and without him it would eventually return to that state. "So What!", I hear you say, "We moan when they cut down a rain-forest, why shouldn't we encourage the growth of more tree here?" The answer is, of course, that we should encourage the planting of more trees, but in the right places.

The tropical rain-forests are a threatened habitat. They contain a great variety of plants, animal and insects that you would not find anywhere else. They should be saved, at all costs. The same applies to our heathland. It is unique. Lowland Heathland is only found in Western Europe. About a fifth of the world's heathland is in this country and Surrey is near the top of the list of counties with large tracts of heath. Woking, with Horsell & Pyrford Commons, Smarts Heath, Prey Heath and Brookwood Heath contains a major portion of Surrey's remaining heathland. It must be managed – as it always was in the past – or else this rare and beautiful habitat will be lost, and the animals, insects and plants it supports will go too. Too much has been lost in the past, it must be stopped, and stopped soon before it is too late.

The heathland is threatened by lack of use. By reintroducing grazing animals to the commons (and Horsell Common is one likely site), by cutting the bracken and brushwood, and by felling the invading trees, the Heathland Project hopes to save Woking's most threatened 'natural' environment, so that future generations can see and enjoy its beauty.

The project is sponsored by Woking, Waverley and Guildford Borough Councils, along with Surrey County Council, the Nature Conservancy Council and the Countryside Commission. But money is not enough, they need volunteers as well, and that is where you come in. You are obviously interested in our heritage (or else you wouldn't be reading this Journal), so why not help to preserve it by joining the Heathland Project with their work. More details can be obtained from . . .

ROB MCGIBBON, SURREY HEATHLAND PROJECT,  
c/o ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE DEPT., WAVERLEY  
BOROUGH COUNCIL, THE BURYS, GODALMING,  
SURREY GU7 1HR. Telephone: 0483-869392.

### WOCCA

#### – A NEW GROUP FOR WOKING

*Vic Duckett*

A new group in Woking, known as WOCCA (Woking Conservation and Civic Association), has been launched. Its aim is to act as a 'Green Umbrella' and a 'Civic Association', advising on conservation and environmental issues and providing a forum for other like-minded groups in the borough. At the moment the group is concentrating its efforts on the borough's recycling (CARE) scheme at the Woking Works depot in Monument Way East. To date over £400 has been raised for WOCCA, with more money going towards the Mayor's charity. The CARE days are held on the fourth Saturday of every month when glass, aluminium cans, paper and cardboard are collected for recycling.

The group are keen to encourage the recycling of the cans – which bring in 1p each – and high-quality papers such as office and computer paper. Newsprint at the moment is 'not worth the paper it is printed on', as supply for that particular grade of recycled paper has outstripped demand. But whatever type of paper you bring along, it must be stressed that bundles of sorted paper are worth much more than plastic sackfuls of mixed newspapers, card and magazines. Another point to remember is that any glass, not just wine or beer bottles, can be recycled through the bottle banks. Other bottles, jars and glass containers can also be thrown in, providing their lids have been taken off first.

The CARE dates for the rest of the year are Saturday 27 October, Saturday 24th November and Saturday 22nd December.

### KINGFIELD POND

In the last issue of our Journal – on our walk around Kingfield – we said that 'the pond is supposedly fed by an underground spring and even in dry weather never dries out.' It was unfortunate, therefore, that two days after the Journal was on sale in the shops the last remaining puddles of water disappeared. We would like to apologise to the Kingfield Conservation Group, we obviously put a jinx on their pond! In our defence we can only suggest that the exceptionally long dry summer may have had something to do with it. But there are some who would not agree. They point out that during equally dry summers in the past the pond still had some water, and that it is only since the 'conservationists' started work on the pond that things started to go wrong. Whatever the cause we hope that it will not be too long before Kingfield Pond is cleared of silt and returned to its former glory – a haven for wildlife in an otherwise urban landscape.



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# WOKING HISTORY JOURNAL

LOCAL HISTORY DIARY

*Our Summer programme of walks was a tremendous success, so we are now sponsoring a series of walks, talks and exhibitions for the autumn and winter.*

*Again, those marked in **Bold** lettering are from our own programme, those in normal type are other events that we thought might be of interest to our readers, such as conservation projects or talks to local history groups on subjects relating to our area.*

*If you are the secretary of such a group, and would like us to include your meetings in our programme, then please advise us as soon as possible.*

*In our next edition we will be advertising events that take place during January, February and March 1991.*

SATURDAY 20th OCTOBER, 10am-4pm  
ST JOHNS MEMORIAL HALL,  
ST JOHNS LYE

West Surrey Family History Society are holding an open day. The Surrey Marriage Index, Surrey Parish Registers, Monumental Inscriptions and I.G.I. will all be out on display. A great chance to start tracing you family tree. Meet the 'experts'. Admission is free.

SUNDAY 28th OCTOBER, 9.30am  
BROOKWOOD HEATH  
Meet at the 'pull-in', 800m down Chapel Lane, Pirbright (off Cemetery Pales).

Brookwood Heath, once part of Brookwood Cemetery, but now owned by Woking Borough Council, is being taken over by birch scrub. Join the 'Heathland Project' on a 'birch bash', and help to preserve the heathland habitat of this site of special scientific interest.

SUNDAY 11th NOVEMBER, 2.15pm  
THE WAR MEMORIAL,  
HIGH STREET, HORSELL

A walk around 'Historic Horsell' looking at the Horsell conservation area, the Horsell Birch area, and other features of interest.

OR

SUNDAY 11th NOVEMBER, 9.30am  
PYRFORD COMMON CAR PARK

Join in on another bash at the birch, this time on Pyrford Common. Not far from the swings and slides of Pyrford Recreation Ground is a fast disappearing wild habitat of heathers, sundews, and other rare species. Help them survive by removing the scrub that threatens to engulf them.

SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER,  
9.00am-5.00pm  
MIDDLE WALK,  
WOLSEY PLACE SHOPPING CENTRE,  
WOKING TOWN CENTRE

Another chance to see part of the Woking History Festival Exhibition, with the 'War of the Worlds' display out on show in the town centre.

SUNDAY 18th NOVEMBER, 9.30am  
PIRBRIGHT COMMON, CHAPEL LANE  
(Same place as the

Brookwood Heath meeting).  
The 'Heathland Project' are at it again, this time 'pulling pine' as well as 'bashing birch'! Pirbright Common is attached to Brookwood Heath, the two forming an important part of our vanishing heathland.

OR

SHEETS HEATH  
& THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL  
10.30AM BROOKWOOD STATION

Join members of the Woking & District Ramblers Association for a 4-5 mile walk over Sheets Heath and along the Basingstoke Canal. The walk will also look for traces of the old Bisley Camp Railway.

SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER, 1.30pm  
WHITMOOR COMMON CAR PARK  
A winter walk on Whitmoor, with the Surrey County Council Ranger Mark Havler. The walk lasts about two hours and covers roughly two and a half miles.

SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER, 2.15pm  
ST PAUL'S CHURCH,  
ORIENTAL ROAD, MAYBURY  
A walk around the Maybury Hill area, looking at some of the historic features of the area, with an emphasis on the places mentioned in H.G. Wells' 'War of the Worlds'.

OR

SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER, 9.30am  
BULLSWATER COMMON  
Meeting in the lane just to the east of the Research Institute on the north side of Ash Road, Pirbright, this common clearance by the Heathland Project is ideal for anyone wanting a 'green' Christmas. "Go home with a Christmas Tree!", they claim. "Help us cut some pine from the common and get a good long-lasting alternative to the commercial spruce."

SUNDAY 16th DECEMBER, 9.30am  
HORSELL COMMON,  
ANTHONY'S CAR PARK  
Mulled wine and mince pies, with the Heathland Project. Get into the Christmas spirit and do some yuletide scrub-bashing on Horsell Common.

## OTHER DIARY DATES

The Woking Miniature Railway Society have advised us of their running dates for the rest of the year. They are:  
SUNDAY 28th OCTOBER, 2-5pm  
SUNDAY 4th NOVEMBER, 5pm  
(with firework display starting at 6.30pm)  
SUNDAY 25th NOVEMBER, 2-5pm  
SUNDAY 16th DECEMBER, 12-3pm  
(Santa Special)  
SUNDAY 23rd DECEMBER, 12-3pm  
(Santa Special)  
SUNDAY 30th DECEMBER, 2-5pm  
The railway is at Mizens Farm, on the A321 at Anthonys.

## AND DON'T FORGET...

THE WOKING COMMUNITY PLAY  
INAUGURAL MEETING  
TUESDAY 6th NOVEMBER,  
QEII Theatre,  
Old Woking Road, Woking 8.00pm

*More walks for the winter and spring will be arranged and advertised in later editions of The Woking History Journal.*

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