

WALTON ON
THE HILL &
DISTRICT
LOCAL
HISTORY
SOCIETY

FOR HEADLEY,
KINGSWOOD,
TADWORTH &
WALTON



Charity Reg. No. 803796

Tadworth tollgate in 1870 – see the article Read All About It below .

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

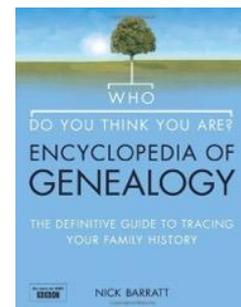
A special thank you to Kevin & Pia Chamberlain for a fascinating evening delving into the unsolved mystery of the murder of Martha Holliday, at Kingswood vicarage, in the summer of 1861. The re-enactment of the trial of a German vagrant, Johann Franz was especially brought to life by Kevin Chamberlain, who played the part of Mr Justice Blackburn. The venue of Kingswood Village Hall was full, from which a jury of 12 were elected. The verdict, which mirrored that of the actual trial was “Not Guilty”.



Kevin Chamberlain as Mr Justice Blackburn

**Our next meeting is on
Tuesday 3 Oct 2023
at St Peter's Church
Breech Lane, Walton-on-
the-Hill, KT20 7SD
Doors open at 7.30 pm
Behind the Scenes of
*Who Do You Think
You Are*
with Dr. Nick Barratt**

The BBC specialist archive researcher for TV series such as *House Detectives*. Nick was also the genealogical consultant leading the team of researchers for the first four series of *Who Do You Think You Are*



Please check your emails before our meeting in case of last minute changes.

KINGSWOOD, DOMESDAY AND THE ODIOUS ODO

By Pia Chamberlain



There is a passage in the Domesday Book entry for Ewell which reads as follows:

xxv. lib. Iestant hoes de hund qd de hoc as subtraxerunt. ii. hids 7 una v. que ibi fuer. T. R. E. sed pposita accomodauer. eis suis amicus. 7 una dena silue. 7 una crofta.

The original passage in Domesday

The men of the Hundred testify that from the manor were taken two hides and one virgate which were there T.R.E., but the reeves lent them to their friends; and one enclosure of woodland and one croft.

Authoritative historians seem to agree that this was likely to be a reference to Kingswood, which at the time was an outlying part of the manor. Ewell was situated in Copthorne Hundred, a hundred being itself the largest subdivision of a shire. A hide was originally the amount of land that would support one extended family. By the time of Domesday, it had become standardized to approximately 120 acres and was the standard unit of land measure to assess tax. Each hide was divided into four equal parts called virgates.

William the Conqueror had expressed the wish to find out more about his country and his people at his 1085 Christmas Court in Gloucester. The survey was carried out in 1086 and its analysis and compilation were almost certainly nearing completion by the time of William's death in September 1087. One might well wonder how it was possible for such a vast and detailed survey to be completed in such a short space of time. It is in fact by making use of earlier lists of lands and taxes, some dating from the Anglo-Saxon period, others from after 1066, that the operation could be completed so quickly.

For the survey, the whole of England south of the river Tees was subdivided into seven circuits. A panel of three or four commissioners, drawn from the lay and the ecclesiastical aristocracy, was assigned to each circuit. These commissioners visited each of the county courts in turn and cross-examined all those with an interest in the land, from the barons to the humble villagers. Every group of jurors had to swear an oath to the truth of the information supplied, very detailed questions were asked about all landholdings and each set of questions had to be answered three times: first to show the position in Edward the Confessor's time, then as it was when King William first gave the estate in question and finally as it was in 1086. How much coercion had to be exercised to arrive at the Domesday figures is not clear, but it is generally believed that the latter were pretty accurate.

Coming back to the passage believed to relate to Kingswood, we find that the reeves had 'lent' that portion of land, which had been there T.R.E, that is at the time of the death of Edward the Confessor on 5th January 1066, to

their 'friends'. A reeve in this context was a man of lower rank appointed as the day-to-day manager of a manor and overseer of the serfs and peasants on the estate. An 18th century local historian, Nathaniel Salmon, conjectured that this piece of land which had gone missing from the manor of Ewell might well have been annexed to the manor of Banstead by Odo, Bishop of Bayeux. This theory seems very plausible, as Odo had quite a history of similar land grabs. At Battersea, for instance, he usurped some land which rightfully belonged to Westminster Abbey. There were also several other places in Surrey where he had acquired land and property in the most dubious circumstances. At Guildford, Domesday states that there was a house which the reeve of the Bishop of Bayeux holds from the manor of Bramley. Of this, the men of the County state that he has no other right there, but that the reeve of the village took (in marriage) a widow, whose it was, and that therefore the Bishop put the house into his manor. In the case of Kingswood, Odo had likely been unable to resist the temptation of claiming for himself the stretch of land that separated his two existing manors of Banstead and Gatton.

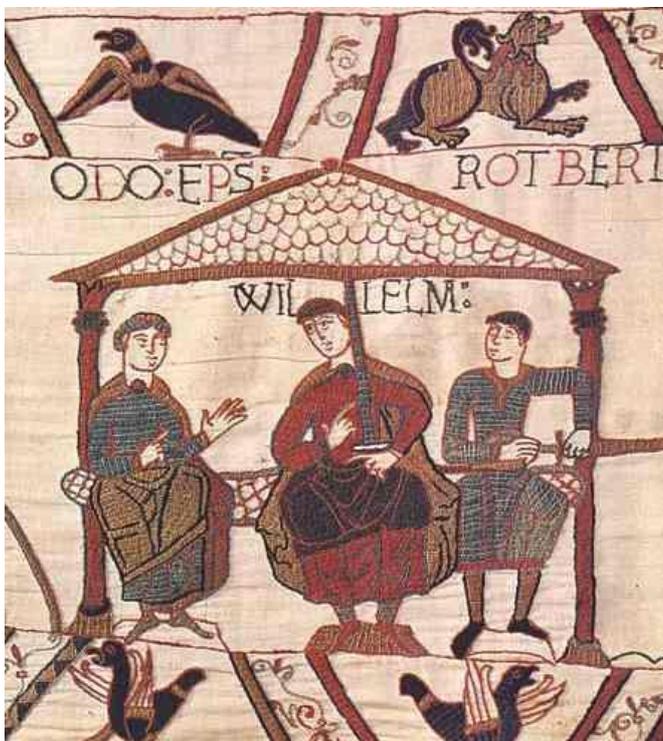
de Conteville. Herleva was reputedly the daughter of a tanner from the town of Falaise, in Normandy, although it is more likely that her father was of a higher standing and belonged to the burgher class. She caught the eye of the young Robert, Duke of Normandy, and became his mistress. She bore him a son, the future William the Conqueror, in 1027 or 1028, and probably also a daughter. She later married Herluin de Conteville, with whom she had a further two sons, Odo, the future Bishop of Bayeux, and Robert, who became Count of Mortain. Both men were to play prominent roles during William's reign.



William had made Odo Bishop of Bayeux at the age of only 10 in 1049. Odo became William's closest companion and fought beside him at the Battle of Hastings.

The picture left, again taken from the Bayeux Tapestry, shows him fighting with a club instead of a sword because

because canon law prohibited him from shedding blood! He was an immensely powerful figure in the realm and acted as Regent whenever the King left the country. Having been made Earl of Kent, he proceeded to plunder that county from his power base in Dover in the most ruthless manner. This inevitably led to clashes with the other large landowner in the area, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Not content with all the power and riches he had already accumulated, Odo was greatly irritated by the appointment in 1070 of Lanfranc to the See of Canterbury. The rivalry between the two men



Odo, William and Robert
(The Bayeux Tapestry)

Odo de Conteville, Bishop of Bayeux, to give him his full name, was the son of Herleva, William the Conqueror's mother, and Herluin

resulted in some epic disputes over landownership, thankfully only fought out in courts of law, thanks to the wiliness of the archbishop. But who was this Lanfranc? He was born in Pavia, in Italy, where he later studied the liberal arts. He then moved to France and finally Normandy, where he became a teacher before joining the Benedictine order. William first made him abbot of St Stephen's, at Caen, and after the Conquest nominated him to the See of Canterbury. The above picture on is a nearly contemporary depiction of Lanfranc from a manuscript kept in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.



Chroniclers of his time described Odo, who was also known for his womanising and lax morals, as 'destitute of virtue', 'a ravening wolf', 'ambitious', 'rapacious; 'greedy', 'ruthless', 'arrogant and tyrannical'. He was, in other words, what we would call a pretty nasty piece of work!

If the theory about Odo is correct, then the restitution of Kingswood to the Crown might well have happened in the following circumstances. Odo's thirst for power was limitless, as we saw, but he finally overreached himself when, in 1082, he mounted an expedition of English barons to Italy. The motifs for this remain unclear, as there are no contemporary sources available to shed any light on the matter. A generation later, Orderic Vitalis, an English chronicler and Benedictine monk, claimed that it was in fact a bid by Odo to secure the papacy for himself. Whatever the reasons, Odo had flouted William's authority by raising troops without royal permission and consequently he was imprisoned in Rouen for the next five years. He was stripped of his English estates and his

Earldom of Kent, although he remained Bishop of Bayeux.

Odo was released from prison when William died in 1087 and was reinstated as Earl of Kent. He promptly went to organise a rebellion against the new king, William Rufus, in favour of Robert of Normandy. The latter, also known as Robert Curthose, was William the Conqueror's eldest son and had been overlooked in the succession to the English throne. Odo and his followers proceeded to lay the county of Kent to waste, including Archbishop Lanfranc's lands. William Rufus, however, soon put down the uprising, which ended with the siege of Rochester Castle, the rebels' last stronghold. This time, Odo was banned from England for good. He remained in the service of Robert of Normandy and joined him on the First Crusade. He never reached the Holy Land, though, and died in Palermo, in Sicily, where he was buried in the city's cathedral in February 1097.

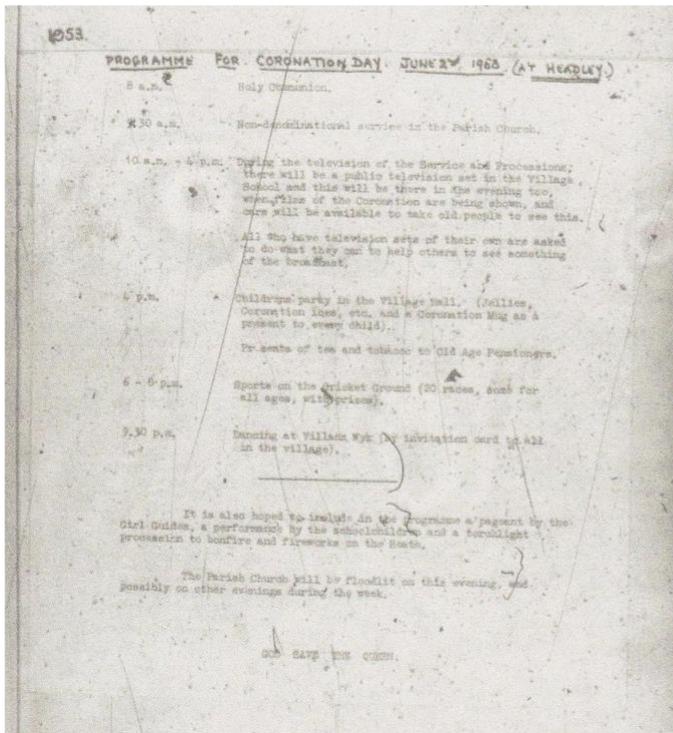
However loathsome a figure Odo might have been, he is nevertheless credited with having left the world an incomparable legacy. Experts indeed seem to agree that he was the most likely person to have commissioned the Bayeux Tapestry to celebrate his half-brother's conquest of England. The tapestry reputedly hung around the apse of the new church which Odo had built in Bayeux and which was consecrated with great pomp on 14th July 1077 in the presence of William himself, the archbishops of Canterbury and York and various other prelates.



CORONATION DAY AT HEADLEY

By Peter Denyer

The old Headley village scrap books devoted two pages to the 1953 Coronation.



The transcription reads:

1953 PROGRAMME FOR CORONATION DAY – JUNE 2ND 1953 (AT HEADLEY)

8 a.m.
Holy Communion

9.30 a.m.
Non-denominational service in the Parish Church.

10 a.m.– 4 p.m.
During the television of the Service and Procession there will be a public television set in the Village School and this will be there in the evening too, when, films of the Coronation are being shown, and cars will be available to take old people to see this.

All who have television sets of their own are asked to do what they can to help others see something of the broadcast.

4 p.m.
Childrens party in the Village Hall. (Jellies, Coronation ices, etc. and a Coronation Mug as a present to every child).

Presents of tea and tobacco to Old Age Pensioners.

6 – 8 p.m.
Sports on the Cricket Ground (20 races, some for all ages, with prizes)

9.30 p.m.
Dancing at Villans Wyk (by invitation card to all in the village).

It is also hoped to include in the programme a pageant by the Girl Guides, a performance by the schoolchildren and a torchlight procession to bonfire and fireworks on the Heath.

The Parish Church will be floodlit on this evening and possibly on other evenings during the week.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN



I don't have many recollections of it myself as I was only 10 but I do remember going to the village school where someone had provided a TV for the village to watch on. Then tea in the village hall followed by watching my father running in the races on the Cricket Ground in the pouring rain.

For the 2023 Coronation of King Charles III in Headley Village there was a church service at 9am and then a Hamper Hop on the Cricket ground in a marquee from 6-11pm which was a good event.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

1823 & 1923 Newspaper Articles

By Lorraine Spindler

Article One – Jolliffe's Hounds

HUNTING INTELLIGENCE.

MEETINGS OF HOUNDS IN THE PRESENT WEEK.

The Earl of DERBY's Stag-hounds, this day, at the Oaks; on Wednesday, at Addington; and on Saturday, at Godstone.

H. JOLLIFFE, Esq.'s Fox-hounds, this day, at Walton Heath; on Wednesday, at Chipshead Church; and on Saturday, at Leigh Village.

The Surrey Fox-hounds, this day, at the Halfmoon, Godstone Road; on Thursday, at Hays Village; and on Saturday, at Wickham.

The Harriers, this day, Wednesday, and Saturday, at Kennel.

Morning Post- Monday 24 March 1823

Banned by law today, Fox hunting can be traced back to ancient Egypt and many Greek and Roman influenced countries. It is widely held the custom for a fox to be tracked, chased and often killed by trained hunting hounds and followed by the Master of the Foxhounds and his team on foot and horseback, originated from a Norfolk farmer's attempt to catch a fox using farm dogs in 1534.

Foxes, in rural communities such as this area once was, were widely regarded as vermin and the farmers and landowners had hunted the animals for many years as a form of pest control. Not until the eighteenth century did fox hunting developed into it's most modern incarnation and was considered a sport in its own right because of the decline in the UK's deer population.

The decline in the deer population and subsequently the sport of deer hunting, or stalking as it is also known, occurred because of the Inclosure Acts passed between 1750 – 1860, particularly the Inclosure (Consolidation) Act of 1801, which was passed to clarify previous acts of inclosure. These acts meant that open fields and common land where many deer chose to breed were fenced off into separate, smaller fields to cope with the increase in the demand for farm land. The birth of the Industrial Revolution saw the introduction of new roads, railways and canals which further reduced the amount of rural land in the United Kingdom,

although conversely this improvement in transport links also made foxhunting more popular and easily access living in towns and cities who aspired to the life of the country gentleman.

Hylton Jolliffe (28 February 1773 – 13 January 1843) was an English politician. He was the eldest son of William Jolliffe (1745–1802) of Merstham and his wife Eleanor, daughter and heir of Sir Richard Hylton, 5th Baronet, of Hayton Castle in Cumberland. He was educated at Westminster School and at Lincoln's Inn. In 1804 he married Elizabeth Rose, the illegitimate daughter of Robert Shirley, 7th Earl Ferrers. The couple had no children, but Joliffe fathered two illegitimate sons.



Jolliffe was a Member of Parliament (MP) for the borough of Petersfield for most of the period between 1796 and 1834.

Article Two – The Turnpike Toll Lease

...Dunawell, near Burtord.

THE TURNPIKE TOLLS TO BE LET.
THE Tolls arising at the Toll Gates on THE REIGATE TURNPIKE ROAD (forming part of the direct Road leading from London, through Reigate, to BRIGHTON) and on a certain Branch thereof, being all the Toll Gates upon that Road, and from two Weighing Engines thereon, will be Let by Auction, at the White Hart Inn, in Reigate, on Friday, the 24th day of October, 1823, between the Hours of Twelve, at Noon, and Three in the Afternoon.

These Tolls arise at Sutton Gates, Tadworth Gate, and London Lane Gate, situate between Sutton and Reigate; and at Woodhatch Gates, situate between Reigate and Crawley; and at Salford's Gates situate between Woodhatch and Horley Common; and at the Side Gate called Sand Causeway Gate, situate near Woodhatch; being all the Gates situate upon and on the Sides of the said Roads, and at the Weighing Engines upon and on the Sides of Salford's Gates; and these Tolls will be Let for One Year, commencing from 12 o'Clock at Noon of the 8th day of December, 1823; which Tolls will be put up at £3170, being the Sum they were Let for in October last, and at which they are held under the subsisting Lease thereof.

The Terms and conditions of the Lease under which the above Tolls will be Let may be known by applying personally at the Office of Mr. Glover, the Clerk to the Trustees at Reigate.

Notwithstanding a new Line of Road hath been made from Gatton Lodge to Vovey Cross, Eastward of the Town of Reigate, yet such new Road falls into a Branch of the Reigate Turnpike Road a little to the North of Salford's Gates, where the same Tolls will be payable as if the Traveller had passed through the Town of Reigate and Woodhatch Gates in the direct Road to Crawley and Cuckfield.

ALB...

*Saint James's Chronicle
Tuesday 07 October 1823*

During the first three decades of the 18th century, sections of the main radial roads into London, including what is now the A217, were put under the control of individual turnpike trusts.

The trusts applied some funds to erecting tollhouses that accommodated the pikeman or toll-collector beside the turnpike gate. Although trusts initially organised the collection of tolls directly, it became common for them to auction a lease to collect tolls. Specialist toll-farmers would make a fixed payment to the trust for the lease and then organise the day-to-day collection of the money, leaving themselves with a profit on their operations over a year.

The article from the Saint James's Chronicle shows a stretch of road, including the Tadworth Toll Gate, on offer on the 8th December 1823 at £3,170. This price was set according to the price achieved the previous year.

To put this sum into historical context, in 1823, you could buy one of the following with £3,170 - 301 Horses or 634 Cows, alternatively 557 quarters of wheat or pay the wages of skilled a skilled tradesman for 21,133 days.

Article Three– The Lightning Strike

On Tuesday 10th July 1923, a lightning strike hit and destroyed a house called Lane End, situated at the end of Chucks Lane in Walton on the Hill. The house belonged to Mr Justice Russell, and was formerly the residence of Lord Russell of Killowen, Mr Justice Russell's father.

Mr Justice Russell and his wife were away at their home in London but their invalid daughter and her governess Miss Casper were at home when the fire started at 12.50 pm. It was Miss Casper who raised the alarm and both females escaped to safety.

The lightning had struck the chimney stack and set an attic on fire. The Epsom fire brigade did not reach the house until 1.30 pm at which time they could not find any hydrants or other means of locating water.

KINGSWOOD FIRE HYDRANTS.
The Sanitary Committee, following upon the consideration of a letter from Kingswood Parish Council as to the unsatisfactory condition of fire hydrants in the parish, recommended that the Sutton District Water Company be requested to report in the matter.
Mr. Clark said the matter was now in hand. Most of the hydrants were not in order, and they were difficult to find, but the Water Company and the Fire Brigade had the subject in hand.
Mr. Henderson, speaking with regard to the burning down of Judge Russell's house, said he had been informed that the hydrants did not fit the Epsom Fire Brigade hose pipes. If his information was correct, it was very deplorable.
The Chairman said that was a matter for the Parish Council to look into.
The Acting Clerk said the question of fire appliances was one for the Rural Council, but the question of expense was a special charge on the parish.
Mr. Blundell said he thought there ought to be several new hydrants along the road from Povey Cross to Sidlow, where a lot of wooden houses had been built. Part of this area was in the parish of Charlwood and part in Horley.
The Chairman said the matter had been publicly ventilated, and it was up to the Parish Councils who had not got satisfactory fire arrangements to have them put in order.
Mr. Henderson said with reference to his remarks as to the Walton fire, his information was only what he had been informed.
The discussion then closed.

Surrey Mirror
Friday 13 July 1923

Eventually they located a fire hydrant 400 yards away but by that time it was too late and only possible to save the chapel on one side of the house and a portion of the kitchen at the opposite end. The house burned for a total of four and a half hours and totally gutted the centre of the house.



*Epsom
Fire
Brigade
in the
1920s*

News of the lack of water reached the attention of the local Sanitary Committee whose investigations discovered the local hydrants were not only difficult to find but did not fit the Epsom Fire Brigade's hose pipes.

During the 1920's and 1930's things continued to slowly improve. An increasing number of fire hydrants were laid throughout the district as water mains were laid.. Brigade members were given first aid instruction by the St John's Ambulance. Due to the rapidly expanding population it was felt that in the interest of efficiency the Brigade strength should be increased from 14 to 19 as 2 firemen were permanently employed as ambulance drivers. It was usual at this time for Fire Brigades to provide ambulance cover.

Not until 1934 was a full time compliment of firemen was introduced. The number of fires and call outs had also been steadily rising over the years. Most were small or chimney fires, many were for motor cars catching fire but an increasing number were malicious false alarms.



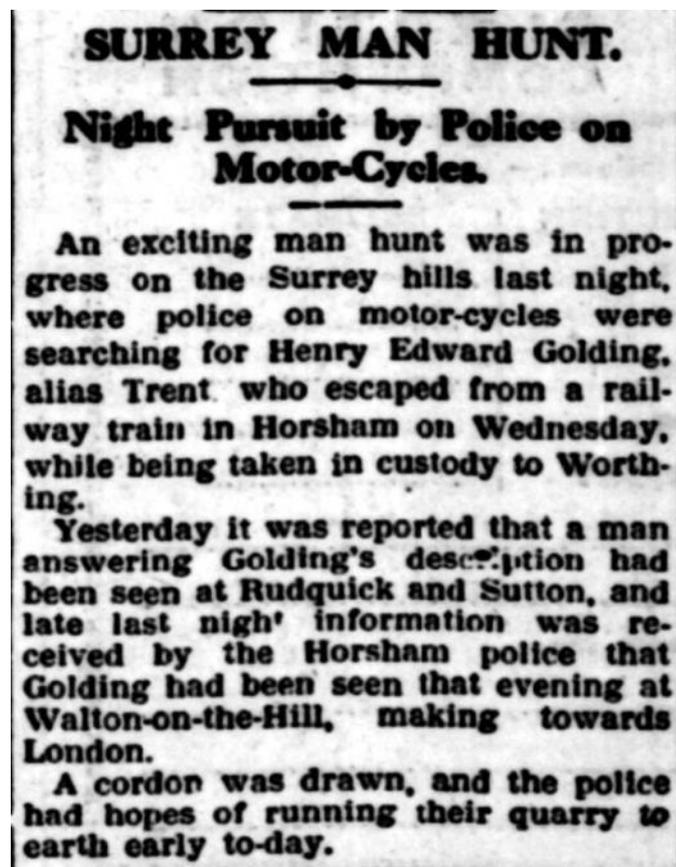
The new Epsom Station during WW2

Eventually, a new Fire Station opened in Church Street, Epsom on the 2nd October 1937 on the site of the old station. The new premises were built by Taylor's, a local firm of builders at a cost of £24,000 and provided one of the most modern fire stations in Southern England.

Article Four - Chased by the Police



Manchester police motor cyclists in the 1920s



*Daily News (London)
Saturday 24 November 1923*

So who was Henry Edward Golding, alias Trent, what crime had he committed and was he recaptured?

An article published in *The Taunton Courier* on 17 December 1924 may have the answer. It mentions one Edward Henry Golding, a labourer aged 29, who had assaulted a woman, a Teddington clerk, while on holiday in Worthing.

The Justice, when sentencing Golding to three years in prison stated '*Girls must be protected from butes like you*'. If this is the same man this may well account for why it was so important to recapture Golding when he went on the run.

We are currently seeking to help save the planet! Please let us know your email address if you are still receiving your newsletter by post.

DO YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE FOR OUR NEWSLETTER OR WISH TO CONTACT US? Please email lorrainespindler@hotmail.co.uk