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WALTON ON THE HILL & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

FOR HEADLEY, KINGSWOOD, TADWORTH & WALTON

Dec 1948 British Transport Police College, Tadworth

Charity Reg. No. 803796

Hon. Secretary Sandie Hunt huntsandie47@gmail.com

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

A Memorable Evening with Dr. Nick Barratt

Our December meeting was a real treat, as we welcomed Dr. Nick Barratt to share the fascinating story of When Harry Met Dotty—his quest to uncover the parentage of his illegitimate maternal grandmother.

Nick guided us through the highs, lows, and unexpected twists of his genealogical journey, bringing the past to life with his trademark wit and historical insight. It was a truly engaging and thought-provoking evening, and we look forward to inviting him back again soon!

In the meantime, you can catch Nick on Who Do You Think You Are? USA, where he helps *Friends* star Courtney Cox trace her 18th- and 19th-great-grandparents in England during the reign of Edward II.

Lorraine Spindler

Our next meeting
Wednesday 2 April 2025 at
Headley Village Hall
Church Lane,
Headley, KT18 6LD
Doors open *at 7.45 pm*

Dining With History: English Meals & Eating Customs Through the Ages

Our speaker, Jessica Thurtell, will take us on a fascinating journey through the evolution of food and table manners from Saxon times to today. From peasant pottages to grand feasts, daggers to oyster forks, discover how dining customs shaped daily life. With Jessica's engaging storytelling, expect an evening of history, humor, and surprising insights!

£4 to non-members
Free for members
Refreshments available– donations welcome.

THE DEMISE OF A PRIORY
By Pia Chamberlain

The Augustinian Priory of Merton, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, is generally thought to have been founded in 1117 by Gilbert Norman, Sheriff of Surrey, after a grant of land by Henry I. It received many subsequent gifts and by 1242 it held more than 200 estates in 16 different counties. Great men were entertained at Merton, amongst them Thomas à Becket, who is said to have received part of his education there. Walter de Merton, a future Lord Chancellor, Bishop of Rochester and founder of Merton College, Oxford, was also educated there. In 1236, the Priory's large buildings were used for holding the Parliament which passed the famous Statutes of Merton.

In 1158, Henry II granted the manor of Ewell, together with its sub-manors of Batailles, Ruxley and Kingswood, to the canons of Merton Priory. Relations between Merton and the monarchy were particularly cordial during the reign of Henry III. The king was a genuinely devout man and a great patron of monasteries. He had a close relationship with Merton Priory, where he stayed on numerous occasions during his royal progresses. On 22nd May 1252 he granted the Prior and Convent of Merton the right of free warren in all domains and lands of Merton, Ewell, Kyngswode, Shelwode, Grapelyngham, Berewell, Hartyngdon, Heverchesh, Taplowe, Fecham, Wexam and Micham, except the lands which lay within the bounds of the royal forests. Under the Charter of the Forest of 1217, only the king could hunt the various sorts of larger game such as the deer, the boar and the wolf, but it became increasingly common, during the 12th century, for the king to grant his tenants, especially the ecclesiastical tenants, the right of 'free warren', that is to say an exclusive licence to take the smaller game on their estates.

The seal of Merton Priory

Having lost their royal protector at Henry III's death in 1272, Merton Priory found its rights seriously challenged when Edward I claimed that the manors of Worth, Kyngswode, Selwode and Ewell respectively had been part of the ancient domain of the Crown and had recently been usurped by the Convent. The Prior was called to appear before the Justices itinerant at Guildford, but after he had produced all the relevant Charters, the jury found that there had been no usurpation on the part of the Prior and Convent and the case was dismissed. When the Priory again came under attack by the king some 260 years later, the outcome was to be very different.

In 1534, following Henry VIII's break with Rome, an Act was passed by Parliament whereby all taxes previously paid to the Pope by monastic houses were to be transferred to the Crown. A new tax, amounting to one tenth of all income from church lands and offices, was also introduced. These new taxes may well have given a welcome boost to the permanently hard-pressed Treasury, but they were in no way enough to satisfy Henry's greed. He was already eying the much richer pickings the monastic houses, who between them owned about a third of the land in the country, had to offer.

On 15th January 1535, Henry proclaimed himself Supreme Head of the Church. On the order of his chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, commissions of lay people were set up in

every county to carry out a Valor Ecclesiasticus, or general survey of all church property, a task previously performed by the bishops. The officials were issued with precise instructions on how to proceed and what to look for. Some commissioners were more notorious than others for the way in which they carried out their enquiries. Amongst the most arrogant and detested were two men who were to become particularly involved with Merton Priory. One was Richard Layton, the other Thomas Legh.

Thomas Cromwell by Hans Holbein the Younger

Richard Layton was born in Cumberland in around 1500, one of a very large family. He was educated at Cambridge, where he qualified as a lawyer, acquired a doctorate in law and subsequently took holy orders. He is believed to have been in the service of Thomas Wolsey at the same time as Cromwell. He became an agent of ecclesiastical reform under Cromwell and played a part in the questioning of Thomas More and John Fisher. He was also the author of the articles of enquiry, the main tool used by the commissioners.

Thomas Legh (or Leigh) was the younger son of John Leigh, lord of the manor of Frizington, in Cumberland. He was educated at Eton before entering King's College, Cambridge, where he, too, qualified as a lawyer and obtained a doctorate in law. Between December 1532 and June 1534, he carried out a number of diplomatic missions in Europe, deploying negotiating skills which, at the time, impressed Eustace Chapuys the Imperial ambassador to England.

On 4th June 1535, Richard Layton wrote to Cromwell, recommending Legh and himself to be visitors of the northern religious houses. The two of them embarked on a series of visits to monasteries, beginning on 1st August 1535 with Evesham. Legh made a large profit out of these visitations. He was always accompanied by fourteen men in livery, and by his brother, all of whom had to be rewarded. His conduct towards the monks was deemed to be unnecessarily severe and arrogant, so much so that even Cromwell disapproved of his conduct.

Meanwhile, the canons of Merton, perhaps sensing that something was afoot, had been allocating unusually long leases to a number of their tenants. Was this a last-ditch attempt to salvage some of their estates or a way of boosting their annual income? Whatever the reasoning behind it, the fact is that on 1st February 1535 the canons took one last important decision with regards to Kingswood, whereby -

the Convent granted to John Kempsall the Lease of the Manor of Kyngeswod, commons, and customs, with certain lands called 'Bowes' and 'Stubbes wood' called 'Le Poke', with frank pledge and other things of the Court. Also lands called 'Worthloose', 'Northwood' with woods, groves, trees, pastures, and profit of pannage, reliefs, maritage, waviats, foods and chattels of fugitive felons, utlage, and all liberties generally. To hold from Michaelmas next for forty years, at a rental o £13 6s.8d. (Source: A. Heales, The Records of Merton Priory, p.330)

We know from its records that Merton Priory had a grange in Kingswood. The word grange (grangia in Latin) originally meant just a barn, but by the 12th century, the term referred to an outlying farm unit run by a community of lay brethren and attached to a particular religious house. This arrangement continued in many places until the early 14th century, when most granges were let to tenants instead of being run directly by the community. This was obviously the case in Kingswood, where the tenant, John Kempsall, was in charge of looking after the whole of the manorial estate.

On 1st August 1535, Sir William Fitzwilliam wrote to Cromwell that he and other Justices of the Peace had been making assessments all over Surrey and that he was sure much larger amounts would be raised than if the task had been left to the bishops. He had, however, done nothing as yet about abbeys and priories as he had been told that Cromwell had appointed his own auditors to deal with them. He was therefore awaiting further instructions with regard to this matter.

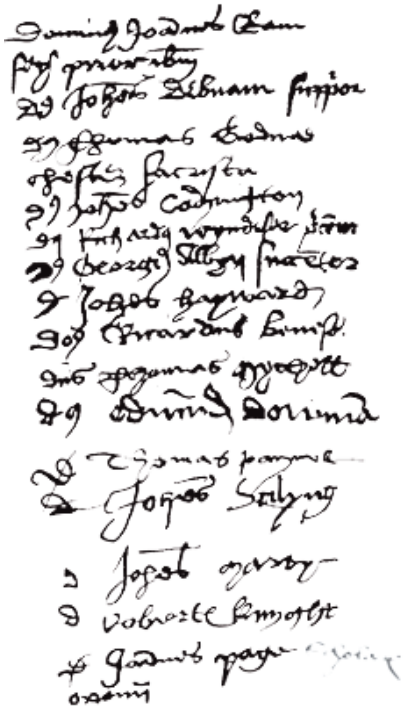
By September 1535, Thomas Legh had paid a visit to Merton and on the 29th of that month, he wrote to Cromwell, informing him that he had dismissed two canons at Merton Abbey (sic) and that he could have dismissed another ten, but he felt that he needed further orders as this would only leave eight canons in all.

Thomas Legh and his henchmen had been looking for signs of scandalous and corrupt behaviour in order to blacken the characters of the monks and nuns whose establishments they were inspecting. The records show that the canons of Merton Priory had not always led a saintly life in the past. There had been complaints from their tenants that they had been treated very harshly and unfairly by them and when William of Wykeham, the Bishop of Winchester, carried out his visitation in September 1387 he found the canons wanting in many ways. They were accused of wandering beyond the bounds of the Priory without honest society, and without having obtained licence and others sent on business to the manors and other places, ride as it pleases them, and remain at their will, and without any Canon assigned as a companion. They were also accused of associating with huntsmen, of hunting themselves and keeping sporting dogs,

The bishop also rebuked them for tending to pomp and ostentation when it came to their attire, reminding them that fine ornaments were interdicted by law to religious persons. The bishop further remarked that it had been shown that some of the Canons sleep without drawers or shirts, contrary to the rules of observance. Had they mended their ways a century and a half later? We shall never know, as Cromwell's men did not comment on that aspect of their visit. We find out, however, that the Valor Ecclesiasticus assessed the total annual income of Merton Priory at £960 16s.6d.

The dissolution of the monasteries started early in 1536 when Parliament passed an Act whereby all monastic houses with an income of less than £200 per annum were to be closed down. It is estimated that some 376 houses were disbanded under the provisions of the Act and their buildings razed to the ground, In the north of England, the King's policies towards the monasteries led to an uprising, the so-called Pilgrimage of Grace, which was ruthlessly crushed and resulted in the execution of some 200 rebels.

Meanwhile, not having received any mandate from Parliament to extend their proceedings, Cromwell's agents were busy up and down the country trying to cajole or coerce the members of larger houses into giving up their monasteries. The end for Merton Priory came on 16th April 1538, when the Prior, John Ramsey, and the Sub-prior, John Debnam, together with the twelve remaining Canons, signed the official surrender and handed it to Richard Layton and Edward Carne, the King's Commissioners. Carne, another lawyer and diplomat, was a Welshman and he was later to profit from the Dissolution of the Monasteries in Glamorgan, where he purchased Ewenny Priory and built a house there.



The signatures of all the canons on the document of surrender

On the day of the surrender, Layton wrote to Cromwell that there were at Merton Abbey 18 fat oxen, whereof Sir Nicholas Carew {of Beddington} desired part, 40 fat sheep, 200 quarters of malt and £30 in ling and haberdyne {salt dried cod}. Cromwell was to let him know whether he was interested in any of the items for his own household.

Ten days after the surrender, demolition teams moved in. Tons of stone and lead and any other materials that could be salvaged were loaded onto carts and taken to Cuddington, where Henry was just beginning to build Nonsuch Palace to celebrate the 30th anniversary of his reign and the birth of his son, Edward, the future Edward VI. The new palace was intended to surpass any other building in Europe, hence its ambitious name.

Nonsuch Palace

On 9th May, pensions were assigned to the canons of the former Merton Priory, as a reward for having surrendered voluntarily. The Prior, John Ramsey, was granted a pension of £130 per annum as well as a house and garden in Trinity Lane, London, a special favour promised to him by Cromwell. The rest of the canons were to receive pensions of between £7 and £10 per annum, depending on their age.

A number of canons were eminent scholars and had published successful books in the vernacular. Most remarkable among them was Thomas Paynell, a prolific translator from the Greek and Latin and a humanist writer on a wide variety of subjects ranging from the study of the Scriptures to specialist medical matters, such as the transmission of the plague and syphilis.

On 16th October 1538, Paynell was licensed to export five hundred woollen cloths and in December he was dispatched on a mission to the protestant princes of Germany. He was present at the diet of Frankfurt on 12th February 1539. Before 1541, he had become chaplain to Henry VIII and remained in favour with Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth. He died in 1564. As for John Ramsey, the former Prior, he went on to become rector of Woodchurch, in Kent, and died in 1551.

Another Act of Parliament passed in the spring of 1539 confirmed the voluntary surrenders that had taken place and authorized the dissolution of the remaining monasteries in England. Some abbots resisted and the whole process came to a bloody conclusion in the autumn of that year with the execution for treason of the abbots of Colchester, Glastonbury and Reading.

Over the years, Cromwell had proven himself to be a shrewd political survivor. Born in Putney in about 1485, he rose from modest origins to become Henry VIII's chief minister. As late as April 1540, he was created Earl of Essex and Lord Great Chamberlain, but his luck was beginning to run out. He was behind Henry VIII's disastrous marriage to Anne of Cleves in October 1539, for which fiasco he incurred the king's anger. Henry was also feeling increasingly uneasy about the country's gradual slide towards Protestantism, largely engineered by Cromwell.

In June 1540, he had him arrested and taken to the Tower. Cromwell was accused of treason, corruption, heresy and of plotting to marry the Princess Mary. He was condemned to death without trial and beheaded on Tower Hill on 23rd July 1540. After his execution, his head was set on a spike on London Bridge. Later, Henry came to regret his hasty decision to get rid of Cromwell and accused his ministers of misleading him by 'pretexts' and 'false accusations'.

Back at Merton Priory, the ink was hardly dry on the document of surrender when the demolition of the buildings started. At first, the stone was thrown indiscriminately into carts which travelled as fast as the rough roads to Cuddington permitted. These deliveries in early May were mainly of worked stone which went into the foundations of the new palace, being unsuitable for any other use. It consisted mainly of sculptured heads, fruit and animals.

The head of a statue found at Cuddington, now displayed at the British Museum

Later in the month, the roof tiles were removed from the church and re-layed on the King's barn at Cuddington. By July, 2719 tons of stone had been transported from Merton. Thereafter, the loads decreased considerably and by September the bulk of the demolition work had been completed.

This is how local historian, Lionel Green, imagined the scene in an article he wrote for the Merton Historical Society in December 2003:

Day after day, the smoke and dust must have pervaded the district, visible from the surrounding hills. Tears must have been shed as the villagers of Wimbledon, Morden, Mitcham and Tooting witnessed the collapse of the tower and as that which had been their view for centuries was no more.

At Cuddington, the structural work for the new palace was probably largely completed by late 1541, but work on its interior dragged on and still was not finished by the time Henry VIII died in 1547, having visited Nonsuch on only three occasions. Nonsuch turned out to be prodigiously expensive and reputedly cost at least £24,000 (the equivalent of £22 million in today's money). Edward VI showed little interest in it and Mary sold it to Henry Fitzalan, the 19th Earl of Arundel. In 1583, it played host to the Treaty of Nonsuch, signed by Elizabeth I and the Dutch rebels fighting against Spanish rule. Philip II of Spain considered the treaty to be a declaration of war against his country and three years later he launched his Armada against England. During the Commonwealth, Nonsuch was confiscated and given to General Thomas Pride. It returned to the Crown at the Restoration and Charles II gave it to his mistress, Barbara Castlemaine. The upkeep of the building was a drag on her finances and from about 1680, she started to dismantle it systematically to pay off her gambling debts.

As for Kingswood, which had lost it lords of the manor, it became absorbed in the Honour of Hampton Court, Henry VIII vast hunting domain. In 1564, Elizabeth I granted the manor of Kingswood to William Howard of Effingham, the Lord Chamberlain of her Household. The Letters Patent, given by the Queen at her Castle of Hereford on 22nd January of that year, specify that it is the same Manor now or late in the Tenure or Occupation of John Kempsall and Margaret his Wife or Assignees for the Term of certain years not yet expired and now being parcel of our Honour of Hampton and late belonging or appertaining to the dissolved Monastery of Merton in Our County of Surrey.

John Kempsall, to whom the canons of Merton Priory had granted a lease of 40 years back in 1535, may or may not have still been around, but what is certain is that Kingswood was entering a new era under its noble lord of the manor, the father of the future Lord Admiral of England who went on to defeat the Spanish Armada.

William Howard of Effingham

WINE IN WALTON
By Tim Taylor

History of Wine in England
It is well known that there were two Roman villas in Walton on the Hill. The Romans were seriously keen on their wine and there is plenty of evidence that they were active consumers throughout the Empire 2,000 years ago. However, there is no evidence they were cultivating grapes in Walton on the Hill. They did try to plant vines in England but did not have much success and it was comparatively easy to import wine from France or Italy.

Vine cultivation was renewed in England following the Norman conquest with the coming of French noblemen but much of this was focused on monasteries where wine and other alcoholic drinks were made and regularly consumed. The Doomsday book refers to over 42 vineyards in Southern England at the end of the 11th Century. The so called “mini ice age” which extended from the 16th to 18th Centuries and reduced temperatures seems to have killed off wine production but, by the end of the 18th and towards the beginning of the 19th Century, there were signs of increased activity and experimentation.

In 1746, Henry Talbot had acquired a house called The Vineyard in Dorking. He enlarged the house, purchased adjoining lands, including Chart, and renamed the house, Chart Park at Deepdene. It seems there were attempts to grow grapes in this area at least 150years before Denbies was established.

The Walton on the Hill Maps
My interest in this topic stems from my purchase from the Society of a colour print of an old village map at the Walton on the Hill summer pageant over 25 years ago. I put it in a frame and paid no real attention to it. It turns out, according to research by the late Robin Marsh, that the original was a hand-coloured map of the parish dating back to1827 which had been rescued from a skip in about 1995 by Mark Everett of Michael Everett, the local estate agents.

It is a very detailed map on a scale of 20” to 1 mile and shows the buildings which existed at that time as well as identifying each individual field, its owner and occupant as well as St Peter’s Church, the village pond and the Chequers and Blue Ball pubs. Each field is identified by reference number and size. An extract from the central portion of the 1827 map surveyed by J. Fawcett is attached.

1827 Map Extract

1839 Tithe Map Extract
(By permission of Surrey History Centre)

The Walton Vineyard
It will be seen that the description of the field of just over 5 acres (numbered 343) to the West of what is now Dean’s Lane (formerly

Duffield's Lane) opposite the entrance to Chuck's Lane is a "Vineyard". The North Easterly corner of the vineyard is approximately where the Riddell Hall stands today.

This was the more Southerly of two adjacent parcels of land occupied by Edward Marter; the more Northerly field (numbered 323) (immediately to the North of what is now Meadow Walk) is described as "Goodman's Field" and is also just over 5 acres. To the North of Goodman's Field is the Blue Ball public house and Mere Pond. It can also be seen that Edward Marter was also the occupier of land to the East of Dean's Lane, including Walton Farm and a strip of land (numbered 330) (known as "Barn Field") running south along what is now Chuck 's Lane (then described as "Street") as well as another 5-acre field (number 358) roughly where Walton Heath Golf Club is today and known as "Lattice Field".

So, who was this Edward Marter and what was he doing in 1827 which caused the mapmaker to describe his property as a vineyard?

Robin Marsh was of the view that the 1827 map may have been produced for the purposes of a Poor Law Assessment. That is possible because the Napoleonic Wars from 1803 to 1815 had prevented the importation of cheap grain for bread and, following the end of the Wars, the Corn Laws (not repealed until 1846) imposed tariffs on grain to keep domestic prices artificially high. Many agricultural workers were plunged into poverty and the 1820s saw changes to workhouses funded at local level as well as top-up relief to agricultural wages.

Robert Ruddell has noted that Heath Farm in Deans Lane (which still stands today) was the site of the village workhouse rented from Mr Marter at £10 per annum. Unusually, it only existed for 16 years from 1797 until 1813 when it was closed, as it didn't pay for itself. Everyone was sent down to Redhill because records show the costs of maintaining the new workhouse were much lower.

There was significant reform brought in by the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834 but that post-dates the map.

On the face of it, the village of Walton on the Hill was not a promising place for a vineyard. It is at altitude (nearly 600 feet above sea level) compared with the valley of Dorking and the soil would likely be clay with flints, not the chalky conditions favoured by wine growers today. However, poor local conditions have not stopped wealthy landowners from having a go; a prime example being the well-known Lamberhurst vineyard in Kent planted by Sir Kenneth McAlpine on a north-facing slope of Weald Clay.

Edward Marter was a farmer with a fair amount of land in Walton and Banstead and he may just have fancied his chances at growing a valuable crop. England had been at war with Napoleon's France until 1815 and there were import duties on foreign wine imports of over 80% until these were abolished by the Liberal Palmerston Government in 1860. But what is the evidence for any of this?

Land Ownership and Tithes

Any consideration of land use in the 19th century needs to take note of the basis of landownership and tithes. Major landowners generally held land as freeholders either as Lords of the Manor or as transferees of freehold property from the latter.

Smaller landholdings within manors were held by copyhold tenure. Title deeds for these pieces of land do not exist in quite the same form as for freehold land. This is because copyhold land was technically owned by the Lord or Lady of the Manor or their transferees. The people who lived on and farmed manorial lands were only tenants of the manor. They held their land by custom, which varied between manors.

Nevertheless, most copyhold land could be bought and sold, inherited by descendants, left in a will, mortgaged, and settled, just like freehold estates. Many landholdings were held by members of the same family for generations.

The official record of the transfer of copyhold land would be written up in the manorial court rolls. In addition, the steward of the manor wrote out an official copy of the court roll entry,

which was kept by the tenant as their proof of title; hence, the term 'copyhold'.

In the case of Walton on the Hill, the Banstead History Centre has published maps showing the Major Landowners based on the Tithe Map of 1839 as well as a separate map showing the occupiers (almost certainly copyholders) of smaller parcels. These include the interests of Robert Marter (one of the sons of Edward Marter identified on the 1827 map as the owner of the Vineyard). It seems he owned copyhold land in respect of which Felix Ladbroke of Leatherhead and Headley was the freeholder and major landowner of a significant part of Walton on the Hill.

Edward Marter (or Martyr) died at Walton on the Hill on 7 February 1830 and was buried at All Saints' Banstead. He and his wife, Mary, had no fewer than 14 children. Deeds reflecting the copyhold interests of the Marter family in Walton on the Hill and Banstead are held by Surrey History Centre at Woking as part of the Ladbroke Family Estate Papers. (*Surrey History Centre, Woking Collection Reference 6154. LADBROOKE Family of Randalls, Leatherhead*) However, careful review of these contain no references to the vineyard. Similarly, the Land Tax records are silent as to any vineyard.

Tithes are also an important source of information relating to land use. Originally tithes were taxes due to the church that were 'payments in kind'. Generally, a proportion of the produce from land (typically 10%) was physically handed over and stored in tithe barns of which there appears to be one near St Peter's Church on the 1827 map. After the reformation, some tithes became payable to 'lay impropriators', people who had acquired estates formerly owned by the church.

The Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 replaced tithes payable in kind by monetary payments known as 'rent-charges'. The records that were created in response to the1836.

Act are important because they record land uses, its occupants and agricultural productivity at a particular point in history. Eventually, tithes were abolished in 1936.

The tithe map for Walton on the Hill is based on a survey in 1839 by Robert Vernon and the subsequent apportionments (January 1840) are to be found at Surrey History Centre. The tithe map of 1839 (a section of which is attached) is on a scale of 13.33" to the mile (half that of the 1827 map) and many of the field numbers are the same. Fields 323 and 343 can be seen but there is no longer a "Vineyard" description on the face of the map. A little more residential development since 1827 can also be seen in the form of cottages near the Blue Ball.

The apportionment records Robert Marter as occupier of fields 323 and 343 which are described together as "Goodman's Field and Vineyard" with a total acreage of just over10 acres. The state of cultivation is described "Meadow". The rent charge assessed for these and other parcels totaling just over 20 acres was £5 2s 0d. Even if the vineyard had been in commercial production in 1827, I think it can be inferred, in the absence of any other evidence, that cultivation of vines had probably ceased by 1839 and at least Field 343 had reverted to meadow otherwise a greater rent charge would have been apportioned to this piece of land to reflect the value of the crop. As the value of the produce from hops and fruit, particularly in Kent, was greater than that from most other agricultural produce, lands cultivated as market gardens, orchards etc., were subject to a separate payment in addition to the normal tithe rent charge. It seems unlikely a copyholder such as Mr Marter would have accepted part of his land being described as a vineyard and thus exposing himself to increased tithes and possibly Land Tax liability without good reason.

Robert Marter, who was born in 1811 and died in 1855, appears in the 1841 and 1851censuses described as a farmer but there is no indication that he was cultivating vines commercially other than in the records identified. He owned sufficient land to be described as a yeoman entitled to vote and wealthy enough to engage solicitors to make his will. Any attempt to develop a profitable sideline was probably finally killed off by the Liberal Government of 1860 which cut the previously high import duty on imported foreign wine by 83% and made it much

cheaper to import wine from France and Portugal.

Local records show that there was a Vineyard Cottage in Dean's Lane from at least 1868 when it was sold by William Letts to William Penfold (a bricklayer) Mr Penfold occupied it for nearly 50 years until his death in April 1918. It was then sold for £400 by his sons, William (who played cricket for Surrey) and Edward, to Frederic Bellamy. Bellamy was a wealthy wharfinger from Rotherhithe who had bought the house, Longholm, on Chequers Lane which he occupied with his family and five servants before moving to the larger Walton Oaks, in1922.

Vineyard Cottage was a simple two-storey house with two bedrooms and a downstairs parlour kitchen, scullery and outside earth closet. I have been unable to find a clear plan, but it looks like this cottage was located between the Blue Ball and Mere Pond; close to, but not adjoining, Mr Marter's vineyard. It may have been demolished to create the Blue Ball car park. By this time, Goodman's Field and adjoining land had been acquired by Lord Riddell, who built several large houses to the West of Dean's Lane and several more modest homes.

Even though my research so far cannot establish that Mr Marter's vineyard was productive on a commercial scale, there must have been something in the air of Walton on the Hill to attract residents with a close affinity with the alcoholic beverage industry. Lord James Stevenson lived at Redholm on Deans Lane, which was on, or adjacent to, the site of the vineyard from 1911-1924. As well as being a minister in Lloyd George's government, he was managing director of distillers, John Walker. Robert Ruddell has also reminded me that Lovelands in Chequers Lane was owned in 1887 by William Henry Tanqueray, a member of the eponymous gin distillers.

Upcoming Events Announcement

📆 **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**
🗓️ **Date:** Wednesday, 8th October 2025
📍 **Venue:** Headley Village Hall

Join us for our AGM, followed by a fascinating talk on research conducted with the National Trust about recently rediscovered stories about Surrey Hills during World War II.

🎄 **Christmas Meeting**
🗓️ **Date:** Wednesday, 10th December 2025
📍 **Venue:** Walton Primary School

This year's festive theme will explore the history of the pubs and houses in our local community—perfect for a fun and engaging seasonal gathering!

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.

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

All Enquiries please forward to the W&DLHS Secretary Sandie Hunt huntsandie47@gmail.com