



ASH MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 35

MARCH 2013

Ash Museum is open 3rd Sunday each month 2pm – 4.30pm Entry is Free



The sign from the Dover Arms public house, which has kindly been given to Ash Museum to be preserved.

ASH MUSEUM AGM 2012

This year Richard Tolley reported as Acting Chairman as well as treasurer.

The previous year we had major concerns over the damaged stonework of the Museum. Richard was pleased to report that we were successful in raising the required funds and that the repairs to the stone work have been carried out and the damaged guttering replaced. He thanked all the members for their generous donations. We are also very grateful for the grants and funding kindly provided by the Ash Parish Council, the James Payne Memorial Trust, the Surrey Historic Building Trust and Surrey County Council.

The Quiz Nights we held last year and again this year, were both very popular and successful, and special

votes of thanks went Nigel Manning and Marsha Moseley for all the work they put into both Quiz evenings and to the Ash Parish Council for letting us have the use of the hall.

Richard was pleased to report that the Museum is now in a much healthier financial situation than this time last year, although to protect our collections we need to continue to build up our reserves. The museum is seeking more stewards to help us open the museum, as well as more trustees to ensure the future of the museum. Please let us know if you are interested.

Finally Richard thanked everyone for their continued support of the Museum. The AGM was followed by an excellent illustrated talk, "Tongham, Home of Heroes" by our Tongham expert Gillian Picken.

Ash Museum, Cemetery Chapel, Ash Cemetery, Ash Church Road, Ash, Surrey GU12 6LX

Email: ash.museum@ntlworld.com Tel 01252 542341 Web: bit.ly/ashmuseum



TONGHAM TREASURES



St Paul's Vicarage, Tongham, Surrey, 1882. In front is the family of the Vicar, Reverend Charles Garbett. On the left are Cyril (Archbishop of York 1942-1955), Basil and Clement. On the right in perambulator are Leonard and Elsie (with their nurse). (910/1)

Reproduced by kind permission of Revd Claire Holt Priest in Charge of St Paul's Church Tongham

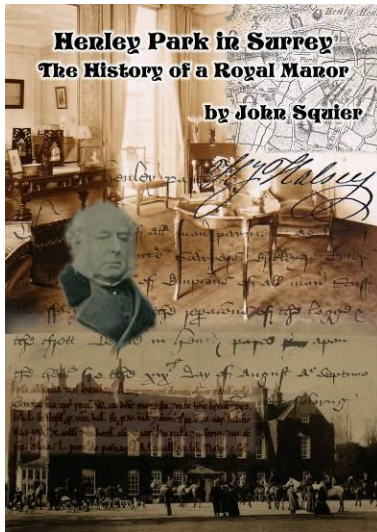


Poyle Road, Tongham, before the Cardinals Estate was built. The tractor driver is thought to be Edward Salmon. The old farmhouse, at 71 Poyle Road, Tongham, is grade II listed and dates from the 15th century. (910/7)

“HENLEY PARK IN SURREY”

THE HISTORY OF A ROYAL MANOR

BY JOHN SQUIRE



Henley Park's long history spans over a thousand years from Saxon settlement through royal ownership and more than one stately mansion to a wartime factory and its last-minute rescue from ruin and collapse. New research has revealed the much-debated location of the medieval royal complex as well as a long-forgotten Jacobean-style mansion that predates the Georgian-style mansion that we know today. This history is described in a readable and informative style in a new publication: *Henley Park in Surrey, the History of a Royal Manor*, by John Squire.

John is an amateur historian who has lived in Normandy for 38 years and was a founder member of Normandy Historians. He has spent many years researching Henley Park since he discovered that his house was briefly part of its extensive estates.

An updated history of Henley Park has long been overdue and with nearly 200 pages of text and 123 illustrations, many in colour, we believe that this is a book worthy of the long and fascinating history of Normandy's most prestigious estate.

Available online from the Normandy Historians website www.normandyhistorians.co.uk for only £10 (plus p&p £6.50 UK) or at Normandy Historians meetings.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Ash Museum will celebrate Surrey Museums Month April 2013 with a display on the theme of “Food and Allotments” in the chapel
- Ash Museum will have a stand at the Ash Fun Day on 13 July 2013 – please visit us
- There is another great Quiz Night to look forward to on Saturday 12 October 2013 at the Ash Centre
- Ash Museum AGM will be on Friday 22 November 2013 at the Ash Centre



bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings



A 10 year project to catalogue all the oil paintings in public ownership in the UK has been completed, and they can all now be viewed online. Two of the paintings are by Ash Schoolmaster John James Miles. The originals are both on display in the Chapel. (210 & 302)



THE VICTORIA HALL CLOCK

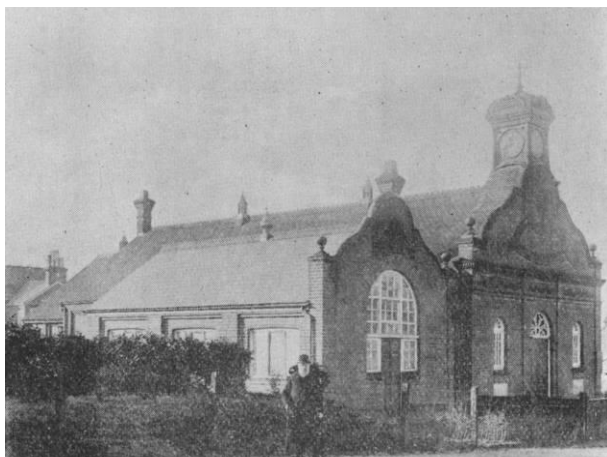
Transcribed from the Aldershot News by Brian Perry



Victoria Hall Clock (176/1)

When originally built, the Victoria Hall did not have a clock turret. This was added on July 25th 1900 when Dr Chester donated it to the village.

The Victoria Hall has letters between Dr Chester and the builder which show that its installation was not at all straight forward. The builder had to have an internal well dug to get enough drop for the clock weights, which in the 1960s saw a diver go down to retrieve some which had fallen off their cable.



Victoria Hall (373/1)

In his research on the hall's history, Brian tracked down a report in the Aldershot News of the ceremony which was attended by over three hundred of the inhabitants.

The donor of the clock arrived just before eight pm and was received with hearty cheers, and a few minutes later the programme opened. At the conclusion of the first part, it wanted but ten minutes to nine, leaving room for a short speech from Dr Chester, before that gentleman finally handed over the gift and set the clock in motion.

"I am glad to see so many of you here this evening," began the speaker, "to do honour to this event in the history of the parish, to receive the turret clock and chimes it is my great pleasure to present to the people of Ash.

Wishing to perpetuate the memory of Mrs Chester, who as you know, took much interest in this village hall, I chose this form of gift as one which would be of use to all whilst binding it to you by a sentiment which will appeal to everyone. From the earliest records when the Egyptians depicted the sun god as the mother of the moon god Isis and Osiris, to the present time the term "mother" has always betokened protection, care and sympathy, and an enduring affection. I think it regrettable the self-sacrificing devotion of the mother is so seldom recognized by the offspring until late in life or bitter experience makes us realise what our mothers did for us.

And the lady I wish to call to mind tonight, was, I think, a very typical instance of a true English mother, always very busy with household affairs, devoted to the family, never unoccupied, active to the last, training her children to fit them for the battle of life, and instilling good wholesome precepts which should render them useful members of society. She required of her son that manly independence which has enabled him so often to stand alone against long odds, in the cause of what is right and just, and withal she was of a truly kind and most hospitable disposition, never so happy as when helping others or entertaining her guests (applause).

I think you will agree with me that there is something in the striking of a clock which attaches a place to one's memory, and so you come to feel that it is not home unless you hear the familiar sound. In former days before clocks were invented, the sundial was used for denoting the passing hour, and our forefathers were wont to inscribe on them Latin mottoes appropriate to the subject of which the following may be mentioned "Tempora mutantur nos et mutamur in illis" - "Times change and we alter with them," "Tempus fugit" - "Time flies," and "Time passes and it is scored down against us whatever use we make of it."

Then there is the old Quaker maxim, which, as was usual with them, is terse and smacks of thrift namely, "Time is money, Time is short, eternity is long." Shakespeare has many references to it, as for instance "The clock upbraids me with the waste of time." Valuable though time is and must seem more so as we get on in life, it is extraordinary how impatient most of us are if it drags at all; we say that it is slow, imagining, or deluding ourselves that it goes quicker when we are



Charlotte Ellen Chester (97/1)

pleasantly employed than at other periods, whereas, of course, it always passes at the same pace, with the same measured beat, "dropping out the sands of time," the sands of time referring, as you know, to the old hour glass, which was like a big egg-boiler, the sands of which took exactly 60 minutes to run through.

In conclusion, I have to say that it affords me very great pleasure to present this turret clock and chimes to the people of Ash, in memory of my dear mother, hoping that the sound of its bells will often strike a chord of true kindness in the hearts of many.

The clock was restored in 2012, during major renovation of the hall, and we are fortunate in that Dr Chester left a legacy for the upkeep of gifts that he had given to the parish and we are able to make yearly applications for funding so the upkeep of the clock is assured.

THE GRAND FIESTA DE TOROS TERRIBLOS

In 1964, Alf Marvin, the landlord of the King's Head in Ash, used to amuse his children (and the customers) by "ram-fighting" with their pet ram called Bimbo in the beer garden, coaxing it with chocolate. One day, he bravely said that if people contributed to a cancer fund he would fight a real bull!

An event was organised and widely advertised, and television cameras filmed Mr Marvin practicing with Bimbo. Mr Alan Gosling, the ring-master, announced that a Jersey steer weighing 8 cwts had been borrowed from a farm in Kingsclere in Hampshire; and despite warnings by the RSPCA and the League Against Cruel Sports, the event went ahead.

Cars streamed into Ash on Sunday evening 16th August 1964, and several hundred people squeezed into the beer garden at the King's Head. They had come to see "a breathtaking act of bravery by El Alfredo de Marvinio".

Press and television cameramen were hanging out of the back windows of the pub, children were sprawling on every shed roof, and young boys were perched on the branches of the conifer tree.

First a traditional "bearded lady" was ushered into the arena, and a large bucket was filled with coins thrown by the spectators. Then there was a display of Spanish style foot tapping by "El Forlevver and his Hispaniola Hooper". This was followed by the grand parade of the matadors.

El Ectric, the Presidente, presented the sword and cape to Alfredo de Marvinio, who wore a hired suit of lights worth £200. The

suit had been made in Spain by a tailor who worked for many matadors; and was made for Tommy Steele to wear whilst making the film "Little White Bull". The jacket was encrusted with thread and sequins.

Bimbo was released, and there was a comical display of ram fighting in which Alfredo de Marvinio was butted on his padded trousers several times to cheers from the crowd. A glass of brandy was then given to an apparently shaking matador, who propped a ladder against the wall as an emergency escape route.

A cattle truck was then driven up to the edge of the arena. Loud stampings were heard coming from inside. The doors of the truck were then opened and the bull paraded out.

"It's a hoax" people shouted, and everyone laughed. Mrs Beryl Marvin and Mr Bob Smith stepped out of an imitation steer's skin.

The hoax had been a well kept secret, only the police and five others knew. As the crowds drifted away, a group from the International Council against Bull Fights arrived from London with a banner.

Everyone had enjoyed a good evening's entertainment, and Mr Marvin was pleased to hand over £71 to the Betatron Appeal Fund.

Summarised from an account in the Aldershot News, 21st August 1964. (921/1) With thanks to Gill Picken for searching the microfilm at Aldershot Library to find it.

The British Pathé film clip of Alf Marvin fighting Bimbo the ram can be viewed on the Internet at:

www.britishpathe.com/video/pub-matador
