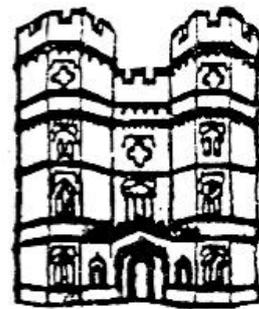


LOCAL HISTORY NEWS  
being the News-sheet of the  
ESHER District Local History Society



---

No. 60

Autumn 2018

Page 997

---

Our next talk will be held on  
**Saturday, 8th December 2018 at 2:30pm**  
in Holy Trinity Church Hall, Claygate, Surrey KT10 0JP

# Medieval Esher

By Dr David Stone

This will mark the launch of a new book written by Dr Stone, a member of EDLHS, following his recent work translating and transcribing:

## 'The Accounts for the Manor of Esher in the Winchester Pipe Rolls, 1235 - 1376'

Dr Stone's book is published by The Surrey Records Society.

Our President, Dr David Taylor says of the book:

*"It is a truly amazing piece of work which, with David's Introduction and Annotations, brings to life an important aspect of life in medieval Esher."*

---

**BEING OUR CHRISTMAS MEETING, WE WILL BE SERVING  
MINCE PIES & WINE. WE VERY MUCH HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !**

---

## OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

---

*All at 2.30pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Claygate KT10 0JP*

### **Saturday the 9th March 2019**

From Kingston Workhouse to Kingston Hospital.  
A talk by historian and author Richard Holmes. Richard has written several books on Pubs, Inns and Taverns in the Kingston and Epsom Areas.  
He is planning a book on the above subject in 2019.

### **Saturday the 13th April 2019**

The 51st Annual General Meeting of the Society.  
Followed by a talk by our President Dr David Taylor on  
Ada Lovelace of East Horsley  
(credited as being the inventor of computer programming).

### **Saturday the 18th May 2019**

Victoria at Claremont: Princess and Queen.  
Stephen Crabbe will be giving a talk which will include mention of Victoria's visits to meet the gypsies on the Portsmouth Road.

### **Saturday 22nd June 2019**

2019 sees the anniversary of the birth of the late Rowland Baker, local historian, author, founder member and former Chairman of the Society.  
Rowland's son Steve is preparing a presentation on his father's life and research.  
Terry Gale will give the presentation.

---

**The next Newsletter will be distributed at our March meeting.  
Any contributions by the 9th February 2019 please.**

---

## LOSEBERRY FARM

---

**By Janet Miller**

Following on from the interesting article about the Duckitt contribution to agriculture, I have written a similar tribute to my late husband, Jim Miller, who did his bit in Claygate, 1955 to 2005, dairy farming at Loseberry farm.

Jim and Janet came to Loseberry Farm, Claygate as newly-wed tenants of the Crown Estate on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1955.

They had 5 cows, a second-hand tractor, a bucket milking machine and enough money to live on for the first year. Each month, when the cheque for the sale of the milk arrived from the Milk Marketing Board, another cow was purchased. There was a cottage, semi-detached from the farm house, and Fred and Alice Nightingale, with their two children Tony and Brenda, were soon to be the occupants.

Jim, Fred and Janet shared the milking and the business steadily grew.



*1960 Loseberry Farm, Claygate. The picture was taken to show the new milking machinery.  
Left to right: Jim Theobald, Mrs Nightingale, Fred Nightingale, Brenda Nightingale, Ray Blankley,  
Jim Miller, and the little boy is Robert Miller.*

In 1959 Jim was awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship to study grassland management in Holland, Denmark and Sweden for three months. He noticed how the Dutch rotated their grazing frequently and that milk production benefitted from the system, so, with support of the National Agricultural Advisory Service, he developed a system of 'Paddock Grazing' whereby the entire herd of cows grazed a different grass paddock each day, the area adjusted to match the number of cows grazing. The grazed paddock was then shut up, fertilizer applied and the grass grew untrammelled for 21 days when the herd returned and had excellent grass for one day only before moving to the next paddock in the rotation.

George Balfour did the calculations for the paddock size, fertilizer required and amount of grass produced, validating the paddock grazing system as top class grassland management.

Many British farmers and visiting Nuffield Scholars from abroad came to see the system in practice and today it is taught in Agricultural Colleges as good standard grassland management.



*The Milking Shed at Loseberry in 2018, sadly no longer in use.*

80 - 100 cows were milked daily at Loseberry Farm for 50 years. With the Government decision to disband the Milk Marketing Board and the subsequent rise of supermarkets, who use milk as a loss-leader, milking ceased in 2005 and today there are no milking herds left in

Claygate.

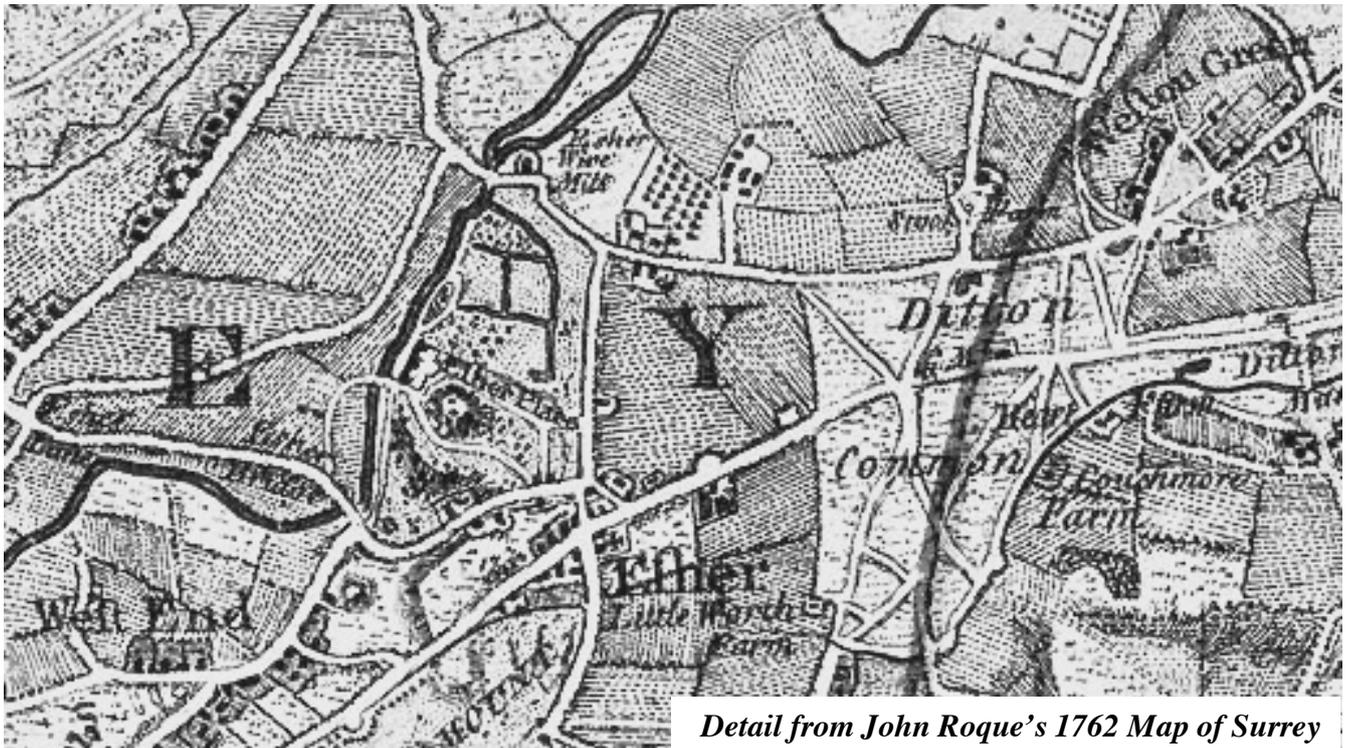
Nowadays the fields are used for hay in the Spring and Summer and grazed with sheep in the Autumn and Winter.

## JACOB MOMMA AND THE START OF INDUSTRY IN ESHER: THE BRASS AND COPPER MILL AT LOWER GREEN

---

**By Pat Worthy MA**

Following the Norman Conquest the monks of Croix St Leufroy were given the Manor of Esher by King William I and subsequently established a flour mill by the river Mole at Lower Green. When the manor was taken into the King's Chase of Hampton Court in 1539 it seems that the mill fell into disuse. The manor was granted to the Drake family in the 1580s, but in Treswell's plan of 1606 commissioned by the Drakes, no mill is shown only the warehouse and house occupied by the merchant Edmund More.



*Detail from John Roque's 1762 Map of Surrey*

After the English civil war when brass for cannon was needed, opportunity arose to facilitate the manufacture of brass in England and the mill was leased in 1649 by Jacob Momma, a German from a Protestant family of brass manufacturers, in conjunction with his German partners Daniel Demetrius and Peter Hoet. As there were no English suppliers, the copper needed was imported from Sweden where one branch of the Momma family had set up manufacture following religious persecution in Germany. The calamine with which the copper was combined came from the Mendips in Somerset.

There are records showing Momma's difficulties in obtaining manufacturing rights and in trying to alleviate the high duties on imported copper. He even set up a copper mine in Ecton in Staffordshire in an attempt to obtain a domestic source. Momma is also credited with use of gunpowder in mining and he had links with the nearby gunpowder mill at Molesey.

In 1660 he was naturalised and bought the Esher works outright, despite on-going competition from Dutch imports. The hearth tax records of 1664 show that he was taxed on: one house of 20 hearths, another of 5 hearths and one of 20 hearths for his workmen who came from Germany. He also held offices in the local community.

Momma died in 1679 and he is buried in Esher churchyard. The business was continued by his sons for a while but in 1691 it was revived as a new company by one William Dockwra.

## AS A POSTSCRIPT TO THIS ARTICLE

---

### **Terry Gale writes:**

According to Wikipedia:

William Dockwra (c1635–1716) was an English merchant who, along with his partner [Robert Murray](#), created the first [Penny Post](#) in London in 1680. He was also the founder of British independent Slave Trade.

Also:

Jacob Momma's wife was named Sarah and there is a burial for Mrs Sarah Momma on the 19th October 1725 at Esher. Her will, written in 1717, has a crossed out bequest that left the sum of five pounds to Mr Charles Poole, Rector of Esher. Further down is an entry that says he accused her of a crime that she is innocent of!

## FOLLOWING ON FROM THE TALK ON RICHARD JEFFERIES

---

**By Janet Heskins**

I heard Andrew Rossabi, President of the Richard Jefferies Society, give his lecture twice, once at EDLHS and the second time at Surbiton Library. The second talk was somewhat closer to the building where the author had written, 'Nature Near London', a house in a block of six on Ewell Road, Talworth [sic]. Places mentioned in the talk resonated with me, as I knew many of them from wandering in the area as a child.

The area, once with several dairy farms and associated grazing land, has changed considerably, with most changes taking place within the last ninety years. The change that contributed most to the loss of farming landscape was the building of the Kingston By-Pass, opened in 1928. Ten years later the station was opened at Tolworth to provide a means of transport for the people in the newly built houses to travel to London. There are still fields beyond the railway line to the south, and the banks of the River Hogsmill remain largely unspoilt.

As local children we played in and around the Hogsmill. We saw it in all of its 'moods', from a slow flowing chalk stream, although muddy at the point where we played, to a raging torrent when there had been heavy rain. We enjoyed the area as an open air playground but, looking back, I can now see it partly through Richard Jefferies' eyes, recognising the trees and other plants that he identified. He wrote of the presence of numerous birds ... I once had a glimpse of a kingfisher in a walk beside the Hogsmill. I am told that they still inhabit the river banks.

Mention was made in the lecture of members of the pre-Raphaelite brotherhood, who painted in the area of the Hogsmill. He did not mention Holman Hunt's 'The Light of the World', that includes the door of a gunpowder magazine as a most important feature. The gunpowder mills were originally run by the Evelyn family, George Evelyn being the originator. At this time Talworth was a detached part of Long Ditton. Later there were watercress beds on that part of the river but all are long gone.

Richard Jefferies only lived in Talworth for a very few years but Woodside, where he lived, has a blue plaque, hardly visible from ground level, but can be seen if on the upper deck of a passing bus. There is a bas relief wood carving

in Surbiton Library depicting Richard Jefferies. He is now little known by most local residents of the area but deserves to be read for his account of this part of Surrey, including his rambles across the fields in the direction of Woodstock Lane, which he describes.

At the close of the Surbiton Library talk a number of those who had attended joined in a walk to the Richard Jefferies Bird Sanctuary, which is no distance from the southern entrance to Surbiton Station. The object was to plant a tree in honour of Richard Jefferies. The tree was not the common elm but a wych elm. The soil was too parched for the tree to survive so the planting was not completed at that time. The tree is probably still in its pot and being watered at home.

The Sanctuary area is in the Oak Hill area, an appropriate sobriquet as there are huge oak trees in the wood. I had walked past numerous times on the way to Surbiton Station but had never gone in ... my loss. Part of the Sanctuary, now fenced off, was a clay pit for brick making and so considered too dangerous for visitors ... apart from the birds.

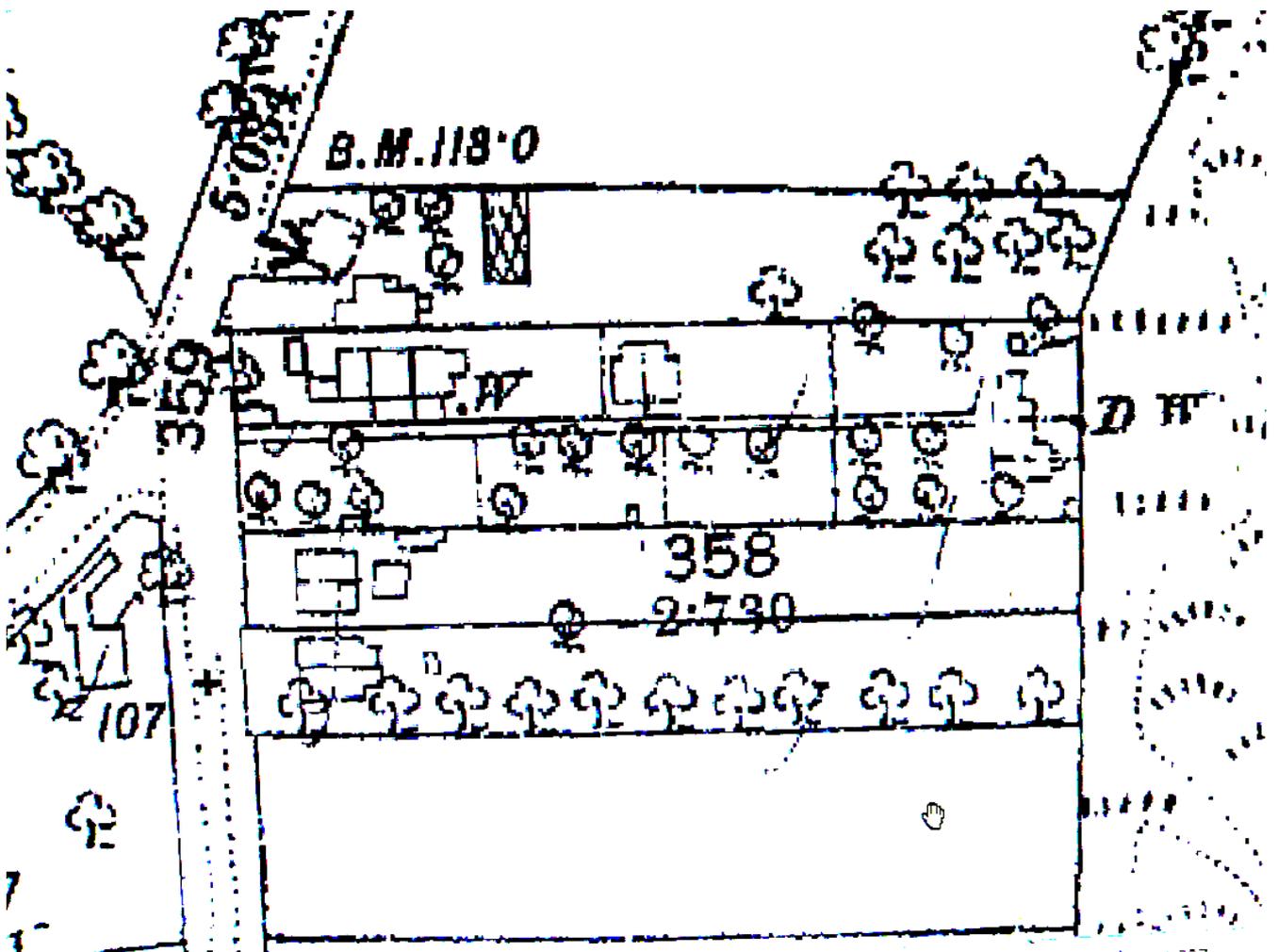
Richard Jefferies' writings went out of fashion but now that the area he wrote about is so changed they are worth bringing back into prominence, something that Andrew Rossabi intends to achieve.



## CLAYGATE INDENTURES FROM DEREK BROWN'S COLLECTION

By Jo Richards

The sales recorded in these deeds are of two small pieces of land (on which cottages were built), previously part of Claygate Common. Hundreds of plots, or allotments, were created under the Kingston Manor enclosure act, instigated around 1808 and finally enacted in 1832. In Claygate most of Claygate Common, Claygate Green, Claygate Hurst (where the Church now stands) and a piece of Hare Lane Green were enclosed and divided up. From these documents we can see the allotments were changing hands from at least 1812 but according to the 1843 Tithe Map there appears to have been no building on any of the newly enclosed land until the 1840s.



*Detail from OS 25" Map of 1860's*

George Feachen, carpenter, had bought one of these plots in 1818 but did not build on it until shortly before 1847. He built 8 cottages or tenements on the 2 roods and 26 perches (about 2/3rds of an acre) which can be identified as number 1007 on the Tithe Map. This is on the east side of Coverts Road opposite Vale Road where the present houses are numbered 27, 29 and 31.

The indenture dated 20th February 1847 relates to a sale by public auction at the Bear Inn in Esher in the previous month of one of these cottages to Jasper Still for £76. It had a yard, garden, outbuildings, appurtenances, and a well of water which was shared with other owners and occupiers and maintained at their joint expense. It was occupied by Widow Smith. In a further indenture of 1854 Jasper Still, describing himself as a Whitesmith, sells the same for £80 to John Tilly of Esher, leather seller.

The second plot in the indentures is across the road, still on former Claygate Common, amounting to 1 rood and 24 perches (a little over a quarter acre) and number 1011 on the Tithe Map. George Feachen had built four cottages or tenements here at about the same time and they are still standing: numbers 44, 46, 48 and 50 Coverts Road. The 13th March 1847 sale to Sarah Batchelor of Esher was of all four cottages with their yards, gardens and buildings, all occupied with names given. The sale included two cottages across the road in the first plot and the sum changing hands was £420.

George Feachen was no humble carpenter, in fact he seems to be providing a good deal of the 'social' housing of the time. The Esher Tithe Map of 1846 records him as landlord of no fewer than 14 tenements, four cottages and three houses at Hare Lane. Hare Lane then was the now Arbrook Lane and Littleworth Road, whilst today's Hare Lane was known as Claygate Lane.\* Occupation here was very dense; the census shows the population of Hare Lane, Esher (west side of Arbrook Lane) rising from 103 in 1841 to 182 in 1851. The censuses, in Esher Library, give a fascinating account of family make-up, occupations and origins of these inhabitants.

\* *Statement of Boundaries of Kingston Borough - Claygate - dated 1835 at Surrey History Centre item ref: 2568/3/2*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS OF MEMBERS

---

Steve Webbe: Researching and writing a book – ‘Victoria at Claremont as Princess and Queen’.

Jo Richards: Origins of Claygate and Arbrook (from late Saxon estates through medieval manors to the early modern period).

Jon Moore: Esher Rifle Range at West End (especially photos).

Janet Heskins: Surbiton Common (one of the local areas of common land which were used for building following the 1808-1838 enclosure act, also the site of one of the last skirmishes of the Civil War).

AS A POSTSCRIPT TO HER PREVIOUS ARTICLE, JO ADDED:

---



*The Wellbelove family and cottage*

This is a well-known photo. For some reason I had always previously assumed that this cottage was at the back of Fee Farm. Recently however I have been able to place it behind The Winning Horse, making me realise it must have been one of the many cottages built in Claygate by George Feachen in the late 1840s.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS (CONTINUED)

---

Keith Evetts: The story of the Speers and the Sandys (especially Hannibal Speer, born Sandys).

Veronica King: Esher Old Church

Pat Worthy and Terry Gale: Investigating the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Records of Esher C of E School which are still held at the school premises

*Please let Terry know if you have feedback or additional information on any item in the magazine or if you are currently involved with any local research.*

## CONTACTS FOR THE SOCIETY

---

CHAIRMAN:

Terry Gale

[terryigale@aol.com](mailto:terryigale@aol.com)

7 Clapham Common, Clapham, Worthing BN133UR  
01903 871542

VICE CHAIRMAN, TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Janet Heskins

117A King Charles Road, Surbiton KT5 8PQ

[janetheski@aol.com](mailto:janetheski@aol.com)

MINUTES SECRETARY:

Pat Worthy

[patriciaworthy@onetel.com](mailto:patriciaworthy@onetel.com),

WEBSITE MANAGER:

Terri Last

[terrilast10@outlook.com](mailto:terrilast10@outlook.com)

RESEARCH OFFICER:

Jon Moore

[jon.moore60@ntlworld.com](mailto:jon.moore60@ntlworld.com)

COMMITTEE MEMBER:

Dr Veronica King

[kingrv@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kingrv@tiscali.co.uk)

WEBSITE:

[edlhs.co.uk](http://edlhs.co.uk)

---

EDLHS is affiliated  
to the Surrey Local  
History Trust



Surrey History Trust is an independent charity that supports the work of Surrey Heritage in caring for the collections in [Surrey History Centre](#) and preserving and promoting the county's history