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EDEN VALLEY HERITAGE

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Issue Number 38

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The Eden Valley Museum – everywhere has a story to tell



Eden Valley Heritage - Issue Number 38, 2024

Newsletter of the Eden Valley Museum

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Editors: Jean French, Helen Jackman, Joan Varley

Newsletter design: John Balean

Front cover: Coat of Arms of William Taylour, Mayor of London 1468.
EDEV:1705

Back cover: medley of images from our museum shop.

EDEN VALLEY MUSEUM TRUST

The Eden Valley Museum Trust is a Registered Charitable Trust whose objectives are for the advancement of the education of the public in the history of Edenbridge, the Eden Valley and surrounding areas in particular, but not exclusively by the provision and maintenance of a museum. The Trust is led by an Executive Committee and the museum is run almost entirely by volunteers from the local community.

President: Alan Smith

Chair: Alan Smart OBE

Dep. Chair: His Hon. Richard Seymour K.C.

Hon. Secretary: Jean French

Hon. Treasurer: Joan Varley

FROM THE CHAIR

'May you live in interesting times!' Says the possibly apocryphal Chinese proverb and the Eden Valley Museum most certainly has for the last few years...

Along with the rest of the country we've weathered the Covid pandemic, a damaging mini-budget and its attendant cost of living crisis and a number of different prime ministers, cabinets and finally governments. Interesting times indeed, and when we add our own financial crisis, prolonged closure for pest control and the loss of stalwart supporters it adds up to a most challenging period for all of us who value our local museum and the communities it serves.

However, despite and perhaps occasionally because of this we continue to not only survive but thrive! This is not simply bravado on my part, but a real reflection of hard-won success on the ground. Most obviously you'll have seen a number of very well received exhibitions this year celebrating two tremendous local institutions, the much-loved Edenbridge War Memorial Hospital and the Edenbridge Players as well as smaller, evocative displays like that for D-Day. People have also noted approvingly the steady development of our shop, with locally sourced and locally relevant gifts for any number of occasions and uses. Our outreach continues to thrive as we visit local community centres and welcome groups of children to guided tours of the

museum and bespoke creative workshops in the school holidays. Likewise, our popular town walks continue to enlighten and entertain residents and visitors alike.

Behind the scenes essential work continues to catalogue, preserve and research our growing collection whilst new and robust systems to manage financial risk have been put into place to ensure lessons are not only learnt, but acted upon. All this is immensely positive, but we must also acknowledge the painful loss of two dedicated volunteers whose obituaries can only give the briefest account of their support and impact. They are and will continue to be sadly missed.

Finally, small, but active institutions like ours are often a microcosm of the wider world and its triumphs and tribulations and like everyone else we get up, dust ourselves down and in the words of a million coffee cups, keep calm and carry on. We can only do that, however, with the unstinting support and efforts of all our volunteers, a group of people with whom we are truly blessed in the local community, and the support of our loyal membership. We're always looking for new colleagues to join us and contribute - could this be you? We'd love to hear from you!

Next year will mark 25 years since the Museum opened, a milestone worthy of a celebration and, of course, an exhibition.

Alan Smart

COAT OF ARMS OF WILLIAM TAYLOUR, MAYOR OF LONDON 1468

By Richard Seymour



Larger image: Front Cover

William Taylour, who was born and baptised in Edenbridge in about 1406, built Taylour House, on the opposite side of the High Street from the Museum, near the corner with Church Street, and now numbered 69. The house was built with the front towards the church. The coat of arms above also appears on the spandrel of the carved oak doorway on the north side entrance, on the right. There is also a coat of arms on the left of the doorway of the Grocers' Company of London, of which William was Master in 1475 and again in 1483. Technically the coat of arms of William Taylour is described as *or*, a fesse, dancettée, *ermine*, between three eagles displayed, *sable*.

Mayor of London in 1468 - 1469, William Taylour was the son of William Taylour and the grandson of Stephanus

Taylour, or le Taillour, mentioned in the Subsidy Rolls of 1327 and 1347. He was Sheriff of London in 1455 and was appointed an Alderman in 1458.

Knighted in 1471, he was elected one of the two aldermanic representatives for the City of London in Parliament in 1483, the year of his death.

Taylour House has been much altered since first built. It contains an early seventeenth century staircase and a seventeenth century chimney stack. An upstairs room has two well-preserved painted walls, both of the early seventeenth century. One wall shows scrolls of foliage, the other a scene of Judith and Holophernes and the arms of James I. The house was at one time The Griffin Inn.

On his death William Taylour left £6 - 13 - 4d to Edenbridge parish church but requested that he be buried in the chancel of the church of Aldermary (i.e. St. Mary Aldermary at the junction of Bow Lane and Watling Street) in the City of London. In his will he recorded that he had started to have a road made through Edenbridge and desired that the road be extended from Botley Hill to Hartfield via Edenbridge, even though the construction of the road might cost £40 or £50.

Note

The Coat of Arms was donated to the museum by Lennox Cato DL and is on display in the Buttery & Pantry Gallery on the ground floor of the museum.

SMALL CHANGE

By Claire Donithorn



Constantius II bronze centenionalis (347-355 AD) EDEVT:1681

A display of coins can seem a very dull thing, yet, with a little knowledge, a coin can be the evidence for world changing events. The museum recently acquired such a coin, through a generous donation by Alan Barratt, a metal detectorist working on land in the parish of Chiddingstone.

The coin in question is a Constantius II bronze centenionalis (347-355 AD). Looking carefully, a small cross can be seen between two figures. This coin was the first Roman coin to have a Christian symbol on it and consequently is probably the first coin minted anywhere showing such an allegiance.

Constantius was the son of Constantine the Great, (c.272-337 AD) the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity, ascribing his success in a civil war battle against Licinius to 'Divine Intervention' from the Christian God. He declared tolerance for Christianity throughout the empire. Constantius II

was brought up a devout Christian and passed laws against pagan practices which inflamed civil unrest and led to bouts of civil war. His reign encouraged the spread of Christianity throughout the Empire. This small coin, found in the far reaches of the Roman Empire, is evidence of the spread of these new ideas.

Note

The coin is on display in the Roman Road exhibition in the Buttery & Pantry Gallery on the ground floor of the museum.

ROGER GOODWIN BUILDER PHONE 2034

By Richard Seymour

Roger, who was born on 16 May 1920, was the last of a family of Edenbridge builders and lived at 4, Church Street, a property built by his great-grandfather, Daniel, in about 1870.



Church Street (centre), 1968. Image: P2007.1.253

Daniel founded the firm of Goodwins Carpenters and Builders and the house at 4, Church Street was in front of the workshop in Bull Yard. The workshop is a two-storey brick structure joined to the house at first floor level by a walkway. Half of the ground floor is raised on cast

iron pillars and to the rear of the workshop is a corrugated tin shed.



The Row, Marlpit Hill, 1900-1920.

Image: P2004.1.220

The company established by Daniel, Goodwins, built houses at The Row, Marlpit Hill, Eagle Lodge, Firs Lodge and four cottages on the north side of Lingfield Road. It seems that William Goodwin, Daniel's father, who was a bricklayer, had started to operate a brickworks in Hever Road, then called Scutts Lane, by 1839.



Eagle Lodge, Marlpit Hill, 2011.

Image: P2018.3518

Prior to the Edenbridge Tithe Award of 28 March 1844 the occupier of the brickworks was his son, Daniel. The site of the brickworks, Plot 773 on the Tithe Map, was owned by Anna Maria Leigh, the widow of Edward Leigh, who had built the brick kiln in 1819. William

Goodwin was born in 1775, so by 1840 he was 65 years old.

In 1841 and 1851 Daniel, described as a bricklayer and farmer, was living with his father, wife Ann and children in Edenbridge Street, presumably the High Street. According to the 1 April 1851 edition of Maidstone Journal Daniel was appointed overseer of Edenbridge for the purposes of the administration of the Poor Law at that time. William died in 1863 and was buried on 13 July 1863. From 1886 Daniel moved from Scutts Lane to a brickworks on Four Elms Road, south of the railway arch opposite the entrance to Skinners Lane in the Spitals Cross area.

By 1861 Daniel was living in Church Street with his family which included Sarah, b.1843, Arthur, b.1845, Ann, b.1847, Elizabeth, b.1849, Charlotte, b.1850, Mary, b.1852, Oscar, b.1855, William, b.1857, and Louis, b.1860. By 1881 Daniel's wife had died, but Sarah, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Mary, Oscar, William and Louis were still living with their father. Daniel was described as a builder, with Oscar a bricklayer and William and Louis both carpenters.

Daniel died aged 75 and was buried in Edenbridge on 3 April 1888. Oscar, William and Louis then took over the business. Oscar, William, Sarah, Elizabeth and Mary did not marry, and all lived together first in Church Street, then in The Square. In 1891 Oscar was described as a bricklayer and William as a carpenter. By 1901 Oscar had become a

builder, but William was still a carpenter. Oscar died in 1922.

Louis, also a builder, married Sarah Ann prior to 1885 and lived in Hever Terrace, Hever Lane, now Hever Road. The couple had two sons, Herbert Daniel, baptised on 17 May 1885, and Stanley, baptised on 26 June 1887. By 1901 Herbert was already working as a carpenter, aged 16. Sarah died in the early 1900s and Louis, who remarried in 1905, died on 11 November 1932.

Roger, the son of Stanley and his wife, Evelyn née Barden, took over the business from his father and uncle. He married Elsie Brooks in 1941 and died in 1990.

Goodwin Close, off Crouch House Road, is named after the Goodwins, who once owned the land on which it sits. Roger Goodwin's painted sign giving his occupation and telephone number can be found in the Museum opposite the top of the stairs. Other items relating to local builders are in the same cabinet.

References

Census records for Edenbridge for 1851, 1861, 1881, 1891 and 1901.

Cufley, David, "Brickfields in the Eden Valley" *Eden Valley Heritage* no. 29 (2015) pp. 20-26

Kent Historic Environment Record number TQ 44 NW 50 monument details

Parish Registers of SS Peter and Paul, Edenbridge, Kent History and Library Centre, reference P131

Sevenoaks District Council Supplementary Planning Document "Edenbridge Character Area Assessment" (2021) D1.2

THE CONTROVERSIAL CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK

By Helen Jackman



SKAR poster displayed by towns and villages along the line of the proposed route.
Image: EDEVT: 1713

The viability of building a tunnel under the English Channel had been under scrutiny since the early 19th century, but by the 1970's still no final decision had been taken by the French or British governments. However, warnings were sounded locally on the 21 April 1972, when the Courier cited an article in the magazine *Modern Railways* which disclosed British Rail's consultants were proposing a high-speed rail link between Dover and London. Amongst four alternatives one went due west closely following the existing track between Ashford and Tandridge and cutting through the town of Edenbridge. This 50-mile southern

stretch was said to be the longest straight tract in England, and as most of it would traverse through open country was perceived as the most persuasive choice from an engineering and financial point of view.

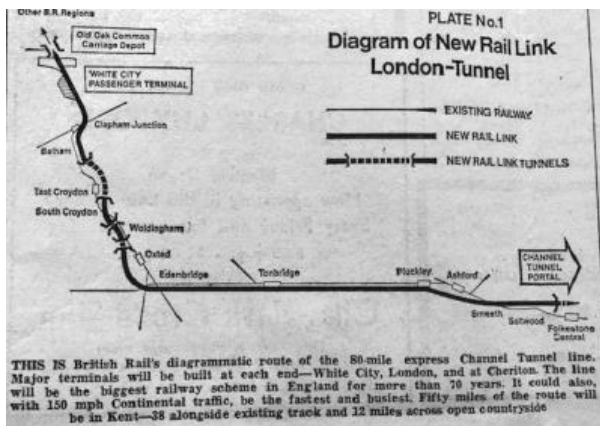


Image: *The Courier, Town Edition*, 8 Feb. 1974.

Concern mounted, particularly amongst those likely to find their homes or gardens destroyed, such as the residents on the Spitals Cross Estate, the Ridgeway, Little Browns Lane and Sunnyside, as well as others further down the track at Medhurst Row, Bough Beech and Chiddingstone Causeway. Others were concerned about the visual intrusion; loss of footpaths, the felling of 200-year-old oaks and house prices slumping.

Alarm escalated as rumours abounded about the environmental impact; trains operating at 2½ minute intervals during the peak hours; noise levels equivalent to a third London airport and a giant marshalling yard to be sited at Edenbridge.



Spitals Cross estate, Edenbridge 1974.

Image: EDEVT: P2016.3054

A Channel Tunnel Treaty was finally signed between the United Kingdom and France by Sir Alex Douglas Hume on 17 November 1973 and was due for ratification before January 1975.

The dangers to the Eden Valley were outlined in a leaflet published by campaign founders, Hugh and Jill Relton of the Ridgeway, acting under the umbrella of the Edenbridge & District Residents Association (EDRA). It listed what was known at the time: unacceptable noise and vibration, erosion of the environment with two tier trains, overhead power lines and cable gantries all on an existing elevated track. When the proposed route was published by British Rail in February 1974 the fears were confirmed. If chosen, the existing local line would be followed wherever possible; electrified using the overhead system and the tracks slewed to accept continental rolling stock. The reality of the warnings resounded locally when the *Courier* reported on a meeting of over 900 in Ashford - the first ever between a government minister and the people of

Kent. The Chairman of the Weald of Kent Preservation Society, who had arranged the meeting said, 'We in the Weald of Kent are seriously concerned about the environmental effect of the high-speed rail link. Tonbridge, Edenbridge and five villages in the Weald lie hard on this line.'

Edenbridge Rail Link Action Group (ERLAG) was set up in conjunction with other Kent amenity groups such as the Leigh Action Group and a uniting organisation, the Surrey & Kent Action on Rail (SKAR) which described the proposed route as 'environmental rape of the countryside' and 'an arrow through the heart of Kent'. The focus of the campaign was complete rejection of the proposed southern option for environmental reasons. However, Michael Hoare and Jeremy Stirling, neighbours on the Ridgeway at the time, remember those days and how they came up with a different suggestion. They had argued there was no good just being a NIMBY and cited the protesters who had successfully fought against the third London airport at Cublington. They were joined by Derek Warden, a civil engineer from Meadow Lane who had some understanding of the railway curves necessary for high speeds; John Barratt, a lawyer from Capers Farm and Mike Minett from the Spitals Cross Resident's Association. They formed an alternative routes sub-committee and mapped out, for British Rail's consideration, a viable route which would affect fewer people in Edenbridge. Their by-pass branched

north from the existing line just west of Bough Beech and passed north of Swan Lane Farm before running westwards into Surrey to link with the original BR route in Tandridge. (As I lived in Swan Lane you can imagine my husband's delight when I came home from an ERLAG committee meeting to show him the by-pass plan had rerouted the line behind our house!)

The ERLAG committee agreed that both campaigning objectives should be followed simultaneously and set about gaining publicity with presentations to the British Rail planners, senior government officials and KCC (Kent County Council).

By May British Rail had conceded that at least 100 'bullet' trains, travelling between 125 and 150 mph, and more than eighty night-sleeper freight trains would use the track. A noise consultant advising the Leigh Action Group recommended that any rerouting of the track should be at least 500 meters from residential areas and in Edenbridge 939 homes fell within this limit. Conjecture and lack of facts from British Rail or the Department for the Environment frustrated the campaigners as different alignments, points of deviation, alternative tunnelling options and revised routes were disputed by the various amenity groups.

The parish councils of Four Elms, Hever and Edenbridge challenged the steam-rolling activities of British Rail and the inactivity of KCC in failing to protect the

interests of Kent. In contrast Surrey County Council had been proactive in employing the engineering consultants, Atkins, who proposed a tunnel into Kent (TIK) as an option. This put the line underground from Croydon until it emerged just south of Crockham Hill, from where it crossed open country to Bough Beech. This suggestion was popular with Surrey but not so with the residents living in Crockham Hill. They favoured the ERLAG option but pressed for a route nearer to Edenbridge. British Rail were accused of bulldozing their plans through for parliamentary approval leaving little time for public consultation and there were repeated calls, including a petition, for a public enquiry - but these were regularly rejected.

A British Rail exhibition of the plans and maps was displayed in the Women's Institute Hall at the end of May followed by an angry public consultation meeting at Spitals Cross School described by the *Courier* as a 'Hot Night for BR'. More than 700 tried to attend. Most crammed into the school hall but about 100 were left outside to catch what was being said through the open windows. The emotive subject was described as a typical English bodge, with much barracking, derisive laughter and applause. Members of ERLAG demonstrated outside the meeting with their 'People Before Profit' and 'Save Edenbridge' posters, and presented their scheme for an alternative route which would by-pass the town.

The unity of the area wide action was demonstrated shortly after when they all joined in solidarity by lighting bonfire beacons, replicating the warning of the invasion of the Spanish Armada, in protest at the social and environmental damage which would be inflicted by the proposed high-speed rail-link.



Some of the 350 people who marched through Edenbridge on Tuesday night to protest against the Channel Rail Link.

Image: *The Courier, Town Edition*, 19 Feb. 1974.
EDEVIT: P2015.2330

In Edenbridge the publicity committee, headed by Peter Foster and Mike Butler, organised the demonstration. Their leaflets describe how the night would start with an 'invasion warning', a peal of bells by the church, followed by an orderly procession led by the Town Band from the Leather Market to the beacon site. The night turned out to be damp and drizzly, but the *Courier* reported nearly 350 men, women, children and dogs marched with banners and singing a battle hymn, written for the occasion and set to the tune of *Onward Christian Soldiers*. John Gale, the ERLAG Chairman, lit the bonfire topped by an outsize British Railway sign and at 10pm three flares were fired into the night sky to be

followed by those from Bough Beech, Leigh, Tonbridge and beyond.

The following day ERLAG mounted an exhibition in the old Gas Showrooms explaining their aims, a map of the proposed by-pass and advice on compensation gathered by Peter Catchpole, a solicitor on the committee. To support the fighting fund, acquired from private donations and the parish council's contributions, a dance and tombola were organised. This was followed by a mass lobby urging every householder to write to KCC expressing their bitter opposition to the rail-link - but if all else failed then the town should be by-passed.

Kent County Council was the only body with the power to negotiate directly with British Rail and their comprehensive report on 2 September 1974 was encouraging. It acknowledged the severe noise problems and disturbance to property presented by BR's proposals for the line west of Tonbridge and accepted for consideration the proposed Edenbridge by-pass as a possible solution.

By early autumn Britain was facing financial difficulties; inflation, balance of payments and the collapse of the stock market, such that the escalating costs and hostility from Kent residents towards the rail-link made it a strong candidate for cancellation. On 19 November Richard Hope, Editor of *Railway Gazette*, announced in the *Guardian*, 'Edenbridge

can relax. British Rail has abandoned plans for a new 150mph railway between London and the Channel Tunnel.' The government had opted to cope, at least for another decade, by upgrading the existing lines through Tonbridge and Maidstone.

When John Gale distributed ERLAG's final newsletter he referred to correspondence received from the Department of the Environment in which Anthony Crosland, in answer to a question in the House of Commons, had made it clear the proposals for the rail-link had been formally abandoned. 'This means that planning blight along the line of that route should be lifted.'

When the Channel Tunnel project was revived in the 1980's the rail-link followed a northern route via Ebbsfleet to St Pancras International. The ERLAG campaign had achieved its objective by engaging the leverage and fighting spirit of the local community.

Sources

Information taken from publicity leaflets, newspaper reports, minutes and correspondence held in the History Information files at the museum.

Note

The recently reformed NEDRA has taken over from EDRA who initiated this challenge to British Rail nearly fifty years ago.

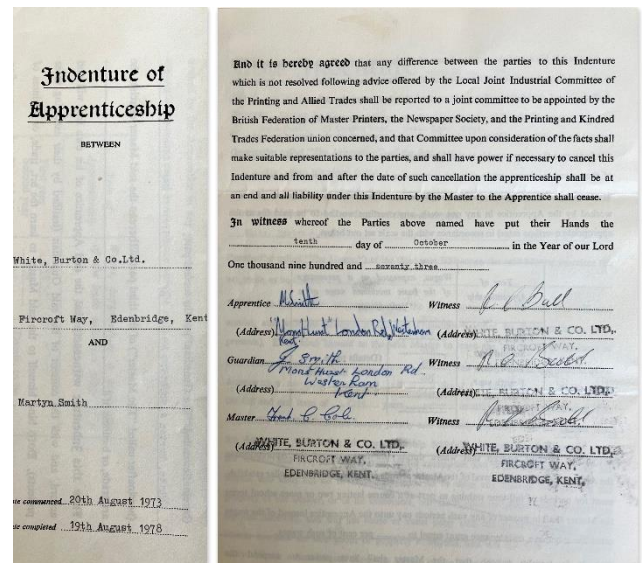
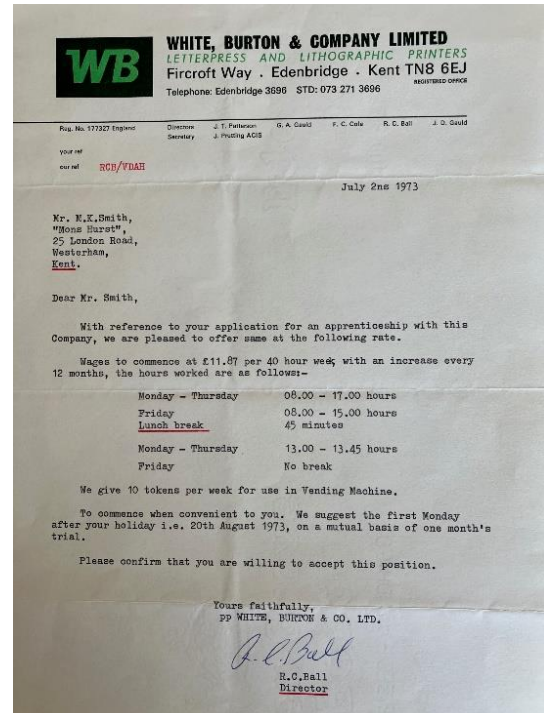
WHITE, BURTON & CO, LTD

by Martyn Smith and Ian Woodhams



I arrived at White Burton on my brand-new Honda SS50, which cost me £139 on the road, on Monday 20 August 1973 at 7.45 am. As I parked, there to greet me was a 17-year-old lad called Ian Woodhams, who would become a lifelong friend. Ian was serving an apprenticeship to become a fully qualified lithographic machine operator and I was about to start my 4½ year apprenticeship as a compositor (typesetter).

Ian took me through to the offices where I met various members of staff and then into the composing room to meet my overseer, Derek Hudson, who came from Canada. Derek had a passion for smoking Henri Winterman cigars, and I soon discovered nearly everyone in the company smoked. I was shown around the premises which provided employment for approximately 40 people, by Robert Ball, the General Manager. He explained I would be trained in all departments as part of my printing apprenticeship.



Martyn Smith, Indenture of Apprenticeship with White, Burton & Co. Ltd.

After clocking in at 8am each morning, my first job would be to sweep the floor and clear up any pieces of type, this was followed by a trip to the vending machine where coffee would be dispensed. The company provided 10 tokens a week for coffee or tea, so all staff could have a free drink, morning

and afternoon. Any extra cups cost the princely sum of 1p a cup. Every day at 10am Ian and myself would take turns to go to the local VG store to purchase everyone's mid-morning supplies - rolls, crisps, cigarettes and newspapers. Somehow, we always seemed to make a small profit!

As apprentices, we attended Print College one day a week to study for our C&G qualification. For three years, I attended the Croydon College of Art & Design, before completing 18 months at the Elephant and Castle, London College of Print, where I gained my Advanced Printing Certificate in 1978.



Tools of the Trade - Martyn Smith's composing type stick, ruler and tweezers that he used during his time at White Burton & Co. Ltd.

White Burton had moved to Edenbridge in the 1960's from London as they needed to expand. Most of the staff had also moved down and lived in new houses on the Spitals Cross Estate. The company was a very friendly place to work and as two young apprentices we were very well looked after, enjoying three wage rises a year, one as apprentices, one from the NGA union and one from the company.

Although White Burton were classed as jobbing printers, we also took on quite large jobs. We used to reprint the Dods Parliamentary Companion every year, which took around three months to complete, so there was plenty of overtime available to finish it on time before Parliament opened again after the summer recess. It was all handset using 6-point Times Roman type - very fiddly job. Sometimes the pages would get damaged and had to be reset, but it was a very good contract to have over the summer.

During the three-day week of 1973/74, the 'Winter of Discontent', we were only allowed to open the factory on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Ian and I would go in on Thursdays to clean and tidy everywhere as we were apprentices and attend college as usual on Fridays. We were not allowed to use any lights or operate machinery and so would finish when it got dark.

As we moved into 1974/75, we were printing fewer and fewer business cards, compliment slips and letterheads as Pronto Print shops started to appear on the high streets, printing these products quicker and cheaper. The industry was moving away from the letterpress type format and starting to print more and more using the lithographic method. Consequently, we very soon purchased our first Heidelberg 2-colour printing machine.

I moved away from setting type by hand and became more involved in repro work and paste up in the art studio. This produced artwork which was then transferred onto lithographic printing plates which were placed on a large cylinder inside the lithographic machine. If it was a 4-colour process, then 4 plates and runs would be required. In years to come all printers would be 4-colour machines, allowing everything to be printed in one run. This was much quicker and enabled large volumes to be produced.

When the very hot summer of 1976 arrived, we were faced with many problems as the machinery didn't like to operate at high temperatures. We used to open the factory at 6am with all doors and windows wide open to keep it as cool as possible, finishing at 1pm when the temperatures rose to over 30 degrees. The slightly lower August temperatures were a welcome relief. A pity my Ford MK1 Cortina did not have air conditioning, in fact few cars did back then. Nowadays all printing companies are fully air-conditioned.

In my hometown of Westerham, I completed a six-week training course for linotype and monotype keyboards at the Westerham Press, which in later years moved to Edenbridge just behind where White Burton used to be. As we moved into 1977, the letterpress hand setting type process had almost disappeared with most printing being carried out on lithograph 2- and 4- colour printers.

After a 4½ year apprenticeship, I completed my training and received my indentures as a fully qualified Journeyman on Friday 17 February 1978.



I (Martyn) received the traditional 'banging out' ceremony (above) which involved placing me in purpose built wooden stocks in the car park. The whole company then covered me in printing ink, oil, flour and the dregs of the tea machine, together with any other liquids or powders which came to hand. After which I was wheeled down to the main road, and abandoned until I could break free and walk back to the factory for a clean-up.

Ian and I returned to the factory on 22 August 2023, fifty years after we first met. White Burton was long gone, but the building now houses a company making lighting displays - Future Designs - who kindly showed us around.

LONDON MAYORS WITH A LINK TO THE EDEN VALLEY ... *and then there were 10?*

By Joan Varley

I wonder how many other small regions around the country can boast a connection with possibly 10 'Lord' Mayors of the City of London.

In an article by J. Willsmer (*Aspects of Edenbridge*, no.3, 1982) he writes about five local landowners who were London Mayors. In *Museum News*, no.22 (Varley, J., 2009) I drew readers' attention to 'six gentlemen of note' with a connection to Edenbridge or the wider Eden Valley who had risen to become Mayor or Lord Mayorⁱ of the City of London, including the former five plus John De Pulteney who was number six. In a follow up article (Varley, A. & J., 2013) we added a seventh Lord Mayor to the list, Sir Thomas Ramsey, however, during my original research I had failed to come across a 'Matter Arising' in *Aspects of Edenbridge* no.4. The author, most probably Willsmer, drew readers' attention to two, and possibly three more Lord Mayors with a local connection. Subsequently, during research for an exhibition on the Civil War by Claire Donithorn, another Lord Mayor with a connection to the Eden Valley came to the fore, namely Robert Tichbourne.

The original five...

The five 'Lord' Mayors originally written about by Willsmer were:

Richard Whittington, Mayor 1397, 1406, 1419, 1420. His connection is with Broxham Manor, being one of the '*six worthy citizens of London*' in whose care Sir Bernard Brocas left the estate following his execution in 1400.

Geoffrey Bullen, Lord Mayor 1457. Possibly more well-known these days as the father of the ill-fated Anne Boleyn. He purchased Hever Castle in 1462.

William Taylour, Lord Mayor 1468. Born in Edenbridge in 1406, William was christened in Edenbridge Parish Church, and had Taylour House in Edenbridge High Street built, probably during his service as Mayor of London.

John Gresham, Lord Mayor 1547. Gresham's connection is through the Manor of Stangrove. In 1540 he was granted the '*manors of Westerham and Edenbridge*' for the princely sum of £1,441 19s 7d.

William Humphreys, Lord Mayor 1714-1715. In 1715 William purchased Hever Castle from James, 2nd Baron Waldegrave.

Whilst researching my first article (Varley, J., 2009) I discovered **John De Pulteney** who was Mayor 1330-1331, 1333, and 1336. In 1338 he purchased Penshurst Place a country estate within a day's ride of the city where he could hunt and entertain on a grand scale. It was Pulteney who three years later received a

licence to crenellate or embattle the walls of what was originally a manor house.

In 2013 we drew readers' attention to **Sir Thomas Ramsey** (Varley, A & J., 2013). Willsmer (Matters Arising, 1982) had also discovered him. Sir Thomas was Lord Mayor of the City of London in 1577. He was born either in 1510 or 1511 in Eaton Bridge (Edenbridge), the second son of John Ramsey.

Willsmer (Matters Arising, 1982) had also discovered **Sir William Cromer**, a member of the Draper's Company, Mayor of the City of London in 1413 and 1423. Cromer was described as the son of John Cromer of Aldenham, Hertfordshire, but was probably originally from Cromer, Norfolk. By 1390 he had settled in London, where he became a prosperous merchant.

He was Warden of the Drapers Company by 1394, and again in 1428-29. He was appointed Auditor for London for 1399-1400 and 1409-11 and elected an alderman of Billingsgate Ward by 1403 until after July 1420 and of Candlewick Ward from 1420 until his death in 1434. He was elected a Sheriff of London in 1405-06 and Lord Mayor of London for 1413-14 and 1423-24.

He was also elected to Parliament as member for the City of London in 1407, and again in 1417 and May 1421. During his public life he benefitted from a number of profitable commissions.

During his first mayoralty, Cromer helped to put down Sir John Oldcastle's rebellion and was largely responsible for the emergency measures which led to the arrest of several supporters of the Lollards.ⁱⁱ

Between 1415 and 1429 the draper purchased messuages and farmland in the villages around Sittingbourne and Rainham; he was also Lord of the Manor of 'Broxham' near Edenbridge in Kent.

His links to the area were further re-enforced through his second marriage to Margaret, the daughter of Sir Thomas Squirry (or Squerie) of Squerreys Court, near Westerham.

He died in 1434 and was buried in the church of St Martin Orgar, Candlewick Street (now Cannon Street), London. Their son, also William, inherited his Kentish estates and became an oppressive Sheriff of Kent, falling victim, along with his father-in-law James Fiennes, 1st Baron Saye and Sele, to Jack Cade's rebel army in 1450.^v

Willsmer (Matters Arising, 1982) goes on to tell us that:

*"Before the week was out, I learned from Mr John Hayward of Windmill House, Edenbridge, that a certain **Brocas** had been Lord Mayor in 1730. My search at the Guildhall failed to confirm his residing in Edenbridge but shewed that his Arms are almost identical with those of the local Brocas family."*

Sir Richard Brocas, a member of the Grocer's company, is listed as being Lord Mayor in 1729. Further research is needed to prove a link with Edenbridge and/or the wider Eden Valley.

Our final Lord Mayor came to light in an exhibition at the museum about the English Civil War (Donithorn, 2017).

Robert Tichbourne was Lord Mayor 1656. A member of the Cowden family of Tichbourne, he had spent most of his life in London as a linen-draper. An extreme republican and supporter of Oliver Cromwell, at the start of the Civil War, he took up arms for Parliament becoming a captain in the Yellow Regiment of the London trained bands. He opposed any treaty with the King.

By 1647 he had become a colonel and was appointed lieutenant of the Tower of London. On 15 January 1649 he presented a petition to the House of Commons in favour of the King's execution. He was appointed one of his judges and was one of the 59 men who signed Charles I's death warrant.

In 1655, during the period of the Barebone's Parliamentⁱⁱⁱ he was knighted and sat in the re-instated House of Lords. In 1656 he became Lord Mayor of the City of London.

When Charles II was restored to the throne Tichbourne was tried, found guilty and sentenced to death but as he had surrendered to the King his sentence

was commuted to life imprisonment. Initially held on Holy Island in Northumberland, following a petition from his wife he was transferred to Dover Castle where he lived out the remainder of his days. He died in July 1682.

In summary ...

To date there have been discovered 9, possibly 10 former Mayors or Lord Mayors of the City of London with a connection to Edenbridge or the wider Eden Valley.^{iv} They are:

Sir John De Pulteney

Mayor 1330-1331, 1333, 1336

Sir Richard (Dick) Whittington

Mayor 1397, 1397, 1406, 1419

Sir William Cromer (Crowmere)

Mayor 1413, 1423

Sir Geoffrey Bullen

Lord Mayor 1457

Sir William Taylour (Tailleur)

Lord Mayor 1468

Sir John Gresham

Lord Mayor 1547

Sir Thomas Ramsey (Ramsay)

Lord Mayor 1577

Sir Robert Tichbourne (Tichborne)

Lord Mayor 1656

Sir William Humphreys (Humphreys)

Lord Mayor 1714

Sir Richard Brocas?

Lord Mayor 1729

Unless you know of anymore?

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Varley, J. 2009, Six 'Lord' Mayors and one cat! *Museum News*, no.22, April, pp.14-17.

William Cromer

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Cromer
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Willsmer, J. 1982. Mayors of Edenbridge, *Aspects of Edenbridge*, no.3, pp.39-45.

[Willsmer, J.] 1982. Matters Arising, *Aspects of Edenbridge*, no.4, pp.3. Ed. W. Griffiths.

Notes

ⁱ **Mayor or Lord Mayor?** The City of London had its first mayor in 1189, but it was not until Tudor times that the honorary title of 'Lord' was bestowed upon them by Henry VIII.

ⁱⁱ **The Oldcastle Revolt** was a Lollard (a pre-Protestant Christian religious movement) uprising directed against the Catholic Church and the English king Henry V. Led by Sir John Oldcastle it took place on the night of 9/10 January 1414. The rebellion was crushed following a decisive battle on the fields adjoining St. Giles's Hospital. Sir John was executed on the spot, being hung in chains over a slow fire.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oldcastle_Revolt

Accessed: 4 March 2024

www.british-history.ac.uk/old-new-london/vol3/pp197-218

Accessed: 4 March 2024

ⁱⁱⁱ **Barebone's Parliament**, also known as the Little Parliament, the Nominated Assembly, and the Parliament of Saints, came into being on 4 July 1653, and was the last attempt of the English Commonwealth to find a stable political form before the installation of Oliver Cromwell as Lord Protector. It was an assembly entirely nominated by Oliver Cromwell and the Army's Council of Officers. It acquired its name from the nominee for the City of London, Praise-God Barebone.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barebone%27s_Parliament Accessed: 4 March 2024

^{iv} **Dates served as Lord Mayor** is based on the following list. Dates can be confusing as the term of service sometimes carried over into the next year. Changes in the spelling of names adds to confusion. Accessed: 4 March 2024

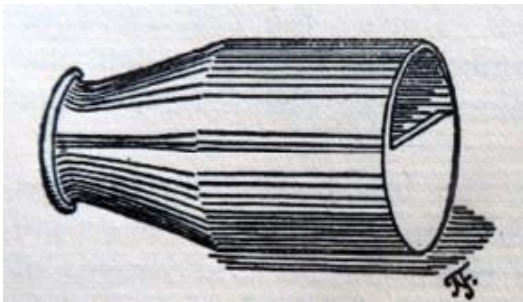
^v **Jack Cade's Rebellion.** A popular revolt in 1450 against the government of England took place in the south-east between April and July. It stemmed from local grievances regarding the corruption, maladministration, and abuse of power of the king's closest advisors and local officials, as well as recent military losses in France during the Hundred Years' War. Leading an army of men from the south-east the rebellion's leader Jack Cade marched on London to force the government to reform the administration and remove from power the "traitors" deemed responsible for the bad governance. Apart from the Cornish rebellion of 1497, it was the largest popular uprising to take place in England during the 15th century. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Cade%27s_Rebellion Accessed: 4 March 2024

AN ARCHITECTURAL CURIOSITY FROM A BYGONE ERA

By Alan Ford

During research for *The Little Owl* article in EVH 37 I came across mention of House Sparrow nesting bottles and my curiosity was piqued.

Hand drawn example, Ticehurst, 1909.



Before the Corn Laws were repealed (1846), farmers believed that House Sparrows had a detrimental impact upon more useful insectivorous birds such as the Martins and rewards were given in each Parish for the destruction of their young and eggs. To this purpose, earthenware nesting bottles were produced, most probably at local brickyards, aimed at encouraging the sparrows to nest around farmhouses. The bottles were placed in rows under the eaves against the wall with one end left open to admit the hand in to remove eggs and chicks. The hand drawn image leaves an un-answered question, how were they fixed to the wall?

Whilst a House Sparrow bottle has yet to be discovered in the Eden Valley, I was pleased to find an example at the British Museum, and this suggested an answer.

Image b shows a slot which could go over a nail or other sort of projection from the wall, holding the bottle in place.



Image A.



Image B.

Images courtesy of the British Museum under the Creative Commons Licence.

Following contact with the Curator, the information from Kent / Ticehurst has now been added to the catalogue record at the British Museum. If you spot or come across a Sparrow Bottle, please let the museum know.

References

Ticehurst, Norman F. 1909. *A history of the birds of Kent*. pp.148-149.

www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_1887-0307-B-104.

ROUND UP OF MUSEUM ACTIVITIES 2024

There are plenty of activities for our younger visitors to enjoy at the museum, as well as joining in one of our special free children's activity sessions during the school holidays.



Richard Johnson checking out the attic for artefacts to be removed and Alan Smart relocating Mrs Doggett!

Our year started with Church House requiring woodworm treatment and Rickards Hall becoming the temporary home of museum objects. A team of volunteers moved the objects, mannequins and displays into Rickards; and carefully wrapped other items in plastic sheeting so they could remain in situ. And then of course, everything had to be moved back! A huge thanks to all involved.



Jean French relocating archives to Rickards Hall and Alan Ford restoring our tannery worker to his original display.

This year we've welcomed a lot of young visitors, starting with a visit from 60 Year 1 children from Edenbridge Primary. They enjoyed handling household and tannery objects, looking at toys and objects on display, finding out about scientific instruments, and how cricket balls are made.

We opened in March with new displays and a guest exhibition celebrating Edenbridge Players 75 years. A new touchscreen with information on local villages and industries and thanks go to Peter Brand for bringing the stories to life. The Coat of Arms of William Taylour (p.4) donated by Lennox Cato DL is now on display.

In the Courtyard Bedroom an exhibition on 'Healthcare in the Town' charts the history of Edenbridge Hospital through to the new Edenbridge Memorial Health Centre, accompanied by objects loaned by the 'League of Friends'. New dressing-up clothes for children were added to the collection in the High Street Bedroom, including a nurse's uniform.

In the lower hall a cushion has been added in the inglenook fireplace for children to sit on; the revamped shop now stocks local products as well as smaller items appealing to children; and the corner cabinet boasts a refreshed cricket ball display.

In April we held the 2024 Great History Quiz with a fish and chip supper which raised £586 for the museum. In May and June, we welcomed 2 groups of Edenbridge Beavers who enjoyed a guided tour of the museum and metal detecting activity. Our volunteers were complimented on their knowledge and friendliness. Outreach activities included a talk to Edenara in March; a talk and activity session at the new Well Being Centre in April and June respectively; and guided walks monthly from May through to September. Children's activities continued in the holidays.



In June a small display was mounted in the Buttery to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-day landings featuring family stories shared by two of our members.

The autumn saw a display of Edenbridge Crested China in the entrance corridor and a new exhibition about Bough Beech reservoir.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM MEMBERS

From Marilyn & Ian Wallace

Ref. *The Saga of the Relief*

Road by Annette Hards, EVH 37, pp.7-13

...I would particularly like to thank Helen Jackman for sending up two copies of the latest 'Heritage' magazine, and also Annette Hards for her well researched and written article about the Ring Road and developments in Edenbridge. I think my father Doug Griffin would approve of how Annette has put all the information together.

Marilyn

From Jane More

We always enjoy reading Eden Valley Heritage and as I was part way through the article, '*The Saga of the Relief Road*', by Annette Hards I was surprised and pleased to recognise the names Keeble and Travena on pages 10 and 11. Back in the 1960's I worked very happily as secretary for Lewis Keeble and Betty Travena who were town planners in an office in Verulam Buildings in Grays Inn. My one vivid memory of the Edenbridge Town Plan is the evening I was driving down Polhill with Mr & Mrs Keeble in their Ford Consul on the way to Hastings for the Town Planning Institutes Annual Conference. Mr Keeble was President of the TPI that year. On one day of the conference Mrs Keeble was to give evidence at a planning enquiry and we needed to take with us a large model of the proposals. Disaster struck at the bottom of Polhill when the large-scale

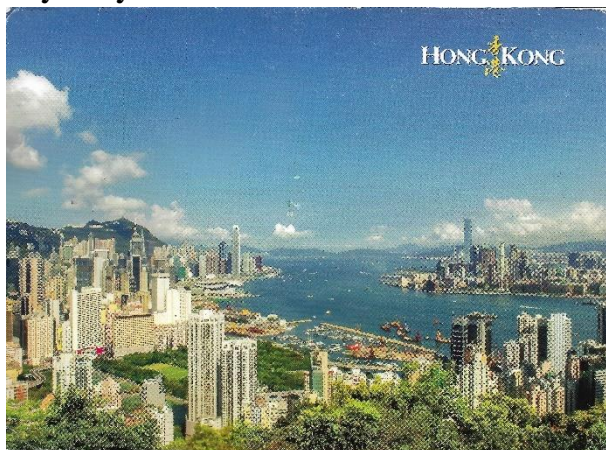
model, which had been tied to the roof, blew off!

By the end of the 1960's Professor and Mrs Keeble had gone to Australia, and I was married and came to live near Edenbridge where the EDHS was very special, and we made lasting friends.

.....

Thank you to all our readers who sent us such nice comments on the last issue of Eden Valley Heritage. We are always pleased to receive feedback and would welcome any contributions to our next edition from members. Eds.

Mystery Time



For the last couple of years, we have been receiving postcards and a Christmas card from a J (possibly John) Pattenden from Hong Kong with no return address. All are addressed to Edenbridge Museum and wishing all our volunteers well. The mystery is - who is John Pattenden? In his first card (March 23) he mentions it is 7 years since he left Edenbridge and how much he misses it. If you can shed any light upon this little mystery, if you know who J Pattenden might be, we'd love to hear from you, as we'd love to be able to respond to him.

OBITUARIES

PETER BRAND 1943 - 2024

When Peter and his wife Hilary moved to Edenbridge a few years ago they both became enthusiastic and very active supporters of the museum via a shared interest in history. Peter had previously spent a successful career as a sound recordist for BBC radio and subsequently TV. The museum benefitted greatly from his technological talents, not least in setting up our new touch screen, and cataloguing photographs for our image library but, ever practical Peter was just as happy building shelves in the museum using his excellent carpentry skills and he spent many hours helping to re-establish large permanent displays following our vacating the building for the pest work in January. His quiet kind manner and his thoughtful and generous contribution to the museum will be much missed.

WENDY TAYLOR 1944 - 2024

Wendy, alongside her husband Ray, had volunteered at the museum for well over a decade. In this key role as the public face of the museum she enthusiastically greeted and engaged with our visitors, local, national and international on a monthly basis, a wonderful example of our dependable, and much appreciated, quiet supporters of all museum activities.

THANK YOU

The Eden Valley Museum Trust is a membership organisation and as such our grateful thanks goes to all of our members - individuals, couples, and families, as well as to our corporate members, donors, regular sponsors, and friends of the museum. Your support allows us to continue to preserve the heritage of the Eden Valley through the collection and storage of objects, images, and a wide variety of documents; and use the aforementioned to mount regular displays and exhibitions and organise events and activities that serve to educate and inspire future generations. Thank you.

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EDEN VALLEY MUSEUM

OPENING TIMES

February to December

Wednesday and Friday 2 to 4.30pm

Thursday and Saturday 10am to 4.30pm

Last Entry 4pm

GUIDED WALKS

Free guided walks take place during the summer months – visit www.evmt.org.uk to find out more.

BECOME A MEMBER

Annual individual membership £14

Annual household membership £24

Annual corporate membership £120

DONATIONS

You can support the museum by making a donation via our website: www.evmt.org.uk or by sending a cheque to:

The Treasurer, Eden Valley Museum, Church House, 72 High Street, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5AR. Cheques to be made payable to:

Eden Valley Museum Trust

You can also donate online via the Charities Aid Foundation: go to: www.cafonline.org and search using our charity number: 1065466.

You can also support the museum by selecting Eden Valley Museum Trust as the charity you wish to support when using www.easyfundraising.org.uk.

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Leaving a legacy in your Will to the Eden Valley Museum is a gift to future generations.

If you would like to discuss leaving a legacy, please contact: The Treasurer, Eden Valley Museum, Church House, 72 High Street, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5AR

