

The Stone Pipe Company Scandal in the early 19th Century - Incompetence or Fraud? Dr David Ellis, February 2016

Dr David Ellis is a geologist who has worked extensively in the oil industry but is perhaps better known locally for his monthly contribution to the Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Magazine on bird life.

Until the end of the 18th century nearly all water was carried by wooden pipes bored from solid timber (usually elm); they leaked and quickly rotted. At the beginning of the 19th century cast iron pipes were available but expensive, often flawed due to the casting method and coloured the water yellow due to oxidation. Rapid urban population growth in the 19th century meant that improvement in the water supply for cities was badly needed, particularly in London and Manchester. The invention of steam power meant water could be pumped at higher pressures and to greater levels in multi-story houses and this required more robust plumbing.

In 1805 Sir George Wright established a patent to make stone pipes, and The Stone Pipe Company (SPC) was established in 1806. Also involved in the business were brothers Samuel and Richard Hill, both merchants of London; William Mainwaring (barrister and banker) and his son George Boulton Mainwaring (barrister and MP).

Others of some considerable standing who were key players in the story were:

- John Rennie: Chief Engineer to the Stone pipe Company, known for his canals, waterways, bridges, docks, harbours and the Bell Rock Lighthouse.
- James Watt: inventor and mechanical engineer, renowned for his improvements in steam engine technology, who gave advice on the suitability of stone pipes.
- William Murdoch: Watt's chief mechanic and engineer. inventor of the oscillating steam engine, gas lighting, a prototype steam locomotive, chemistry discoveries and early work on paddle steamers.

Originally the intention was to use Portland stone, but this was quarried on Crown property and George III objected to use of this valuable architectural resource for water pipes. As a consequence the company moved to Fox Hill near Guiting in the Cotswolds. A good stone pipe has to come from thick bedded rock which is easy to saw and of uniform texture; Guiting stone could provide blocks of 6 -7 feet square. In 1809 Rennie told Parliament, "My opinion (of stone pipes) is the most favourable that can be". In 1811 he said that the London Grand Junction Waterworks Bill proposed to "use stone pipes instead of iron ones believing they are more wholesome, less expensive and that in every respect they will answer the purpose completely". A contract for over 40 miles of stone pipes was agreed. When the system was connected to the London main water supply in June 1812 the result was catastrophic. There were widespread failures due to burst and leaking pipes and joint failures because the system was not able withstand the increased pressure generated by the steam powered supply system. The company was forced to repay £23,000 from a payment of £34,000.

A contract to supply Manchester with over 60 miles of pipes had also been agreed. After the London problems Rennie expressed his concerns about stone pipes and recommended cast iron pipes to connect to the main water supply. However the SPC directors ordered that large sections of piping should be left disconnected until the last minute so they would get their full payment (some £36,984). In August 1812 the mains water was connected and with the same results as in London. The company was forced to repay the money it had received from the Manchester Water Company and SPC went into receivership with debts of £81,500 (equivalent to £23.9 million). The Mainwaring Bank in London, who had joint Directors with the SPC and lent much to the Stone Pipe Company also went into receivership. Finally there was a fraud trial of the Stone Pipe Directors.

The demise of the Stone Pipe Company taught Parliament lessons about the problems of a private enterprise and a monopoly supplying a public utility. It also caused the use of iron pipes to be made compulsory in London from 1817; this was then extended nationwide. This extraordinary saga was all due to the lack of proper testing of the stone pipes. It arose because at the onset of the industrial revolution the needs for the pipes was so urgent that no time was taken for adequate testing. Had

the pipes been made in Portland stone as originally proposed, the story of stone pipes might have been very different.

Finally, there appears to be a local connection with the Wright family. Sir George Wright married Rebecca Maclane of Berkshire in 1796 and had property in the area. There is a Wrights Farm with a Georgian farmhouse just north of Coombe, in the valley below Coombe Gibbet.

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The Knights Hospitaller Activities in Our Area: Revd Canon Martin Coppen, March 2016

The talk was given by Revd Canon Martin Coppen who recently retired as vicar of St Mary Bourne. Martin Coppen described the 1080 origin of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in Jerusalem, founded to provide care for sick, poor or injured pilgrims coming to the Holy Land. The Knights Hospitaller made no distinction between religions; they sent out teams to bring in the sick as well as setting up mobile tented hospitals.

Following the fall of Jerusalem in 1099 during the First Crusade, over the next century the Order of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem (in addition to its religious and charitable work) developed into a military order under its own Papal charter, charged with the protection of pilgrims and defence of the Holy Land. After the conquest of the Holy Land by Islamic forces and following the siege of Acre in 1291 the Knights moved, first to Cyprus, then to Rhodes and finally to Malta in 1530.

The Order suffered as a result of Napoleon's capture of Malta in 1798 and became dispersed throughout Europe. The Roman Catholic order was weakened in the Protestant Reformation. The Order regained strength during the early 19th century as it redirected itself towards religious and humanitarian causes. In 1834 it acquired headquarters in Rome.

The Knights Hospitaller had a well-structured hierarchy, led by a Grand Master. National groups or "Langues" were set up. A Grand Priory of England, the Hospital of St John in England, was established in Clerkenwell in 1300; St John's Gate, built in 1504 by Prior Thomas Docwra, is all that remains of the Priory of the Knights of St John Clerkenwell. The Order was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1540. In 1874 St John's Gate was bought back by the revived Order and extensively restored; it now serves as their headquarters and museum.

The Knights Templar, founded forty years after the Hospitallers, were dissolved in 1312 and much of their property was handed over to the Hospitallers. The Hampshire estates of the Hospitallers were usually small parcels of land, but an exception was Woodcote. In 1330 the whole of Woodcote Manor was given to the Order and administered directly from Clerkenwell; as an ecclesiastical peculiar (exempt from the rule of a bishop) there was exemption from tithes - and consequently no money to pay clergy. The Hospitallers also held Godsfield estate near Alresford in 12-16th centuries, living a communal life according to the rules of St Augustine. The Black Death in 1348 resulted in the transfer of the Order's Hampshire headquarters from Godsfield to North Baddesley, near Romsey.

In Hurstbourne Tarrant, the 1841 tithe assessment record reveals three fields which were tithe free. It is possible these might have been given to the Knights Hospitaller (or Knights Templar). Martin Coppen challenged the Historical Society to identify the location of these fields.

Between 1831 and 1858 there was a revival of the "Venerable Langue of England" (but with no military role); 1877 saw the foundation of the St John Ambulance Association, and 1892 the St John Ambulance Brigade. In 1888 a royal charter was granted.

In 1882 the Order set up the St John of Jerusalem Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem to get back in touch with their original purpose; there are clinics in West Bank and Gaza.

During the 1914-18 war a Joint Committee of Red Cross & St John was set up; it raised £15m in four years. Auxiliary hospitals were setup: in Hampshire many were near Southampton. NW Hampshire had several including those at Hurstbourne Park, Wyke Wood near St Mary Bourne and in Whitchurch. The Countess of Brecknock (1900-1989), who lived at Wherwell Priory, was Superintendent-in-Charge of the St John's Ambulance Brigade and was appointed a Companion of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem (C ST J).

Life in Roman Britain: Dr Andrew Hopley, April 2016

The talk was given by Dr Andrew Hopley, a well-respected academic who has extensively researched the period when the Romans occupied Britain. He has published work on the early Roman occupation north of Hadrian's Wall and is an expert on Roman coinage and its use in interpreting historical sites.

Dr Hopley introduced his talk with a slide of a Roman coin dating from 119AD, showing a surprisingly familiar image of "Britannia", a PR device the Romans used to create a personification of each Roman province. He outlined the development of the province, including the arrival of the Romans in 55BC under Julius Caesar; the building of the almost completely straight 182-mile Fosse Way from Lincoln to Exeter (for many years the western frontier of Roman rule); and the rising under Boudicca in 60/61AD. In 87AD the Romans expanded the province into Scotland but later fell back to the area in which Hadrian's Wall was constructed - although they continued to maintain Roman forts to the north of the wall. Hadrian's Wall took twenty years to build and, unique in the Roman Empire, was built of stone.

The Romans committed 4 legions to conquer Britain - one tenth of the entire Roman army. Permanent forts were built and remains have also been found of the "marching camps" set up as troops moved across the country. Perhaps the most evident mark left by the Romans are the roads, because many remain as the routes of our present A-roads; they were metalled, with a camber and drainage ditches.

The local leaders became Roman citizens, but anyone who joined the Roman army and served for 25 years was also entitled to become a Roman citizen. The army policy was to recruit local volunteers in a province but then send them to a different part of the Roman Empire (thus avoiding any risk of them turning against their Roman masters). In the late 3rd century forts were built on the Saxon shore from Norfolk to Pevensey, but by the 4th century Britain was secure and large villas were being built. Roman villas had verandas, mosaics and wall decorations reminiscent of Pompeii.

Dr Hopley illustrated a number of Roman settlements including Silchester, London, Colchester, Chester and Verulamium (where there were shops along the side of Watling Street). He explained the different layouts - describing the walls of later settlements as being built for vanity rather than for defence. Britain was not really "lost" by the Roman Empire: it just drifted away following the sacking of Rome by the Barbarians in 410AD, after which no governor or army was sent to Britain.

Answering the question "What did the Romans do for Us?" Dr Hopley highlighted some of the things the Romans introduced - among which were roads; baths; heating systems; windows; drainage and latrines; a form of fish paste; and trade with other countries. They also introduced improved technology in agriculture - ploughs which turned over the earth; improved spades (existing wooden spades made more durable by fitting a metal end on the blade); scythes & rakes; and millstones driven by undershot mill wheels.

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The Swing Riots: Jane Harris, May 2016

The talk was given by Jane Harris, senior archivist at Hampshire Records Office. In 1830 agricultural workers in the south and east of England rose up, demanding higher wages and an end to the threshing machines which were threatening their livelihood. To protect the identity of the senders, the threatening letters sent to farmers and landowners stating these demands were signed by an imaginary "Captain Swing", and the unrest became known as the Swing Riots.

After the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 there was a prolonged recession. A quarter of a million men had been demobilised and needed employment; pay declined because of a surplus of labour. The population was increasing but non-agricultural employment failed to increase. Mechanical threshing machines were being introduced, reducing the demand for farmhands, who were no longer employed but became casual labourers. These problems were brought to a head by three years of poor harvests from 1828.

The "Speenhamland System" of 1795 was intended as a safety net to top up low wages paid to labourers; but farmers took advantage of this, deliberately paying low wages in the knowledge they would be made up by the poor rate. Labourers working six full days a week still needed parish relief; 185 years ago in Hurstbourne Tarrant people were literally starving. In the mid-1820s William Cobbett (a frequent visitor to the village) toured southern England on horseback, reporting on its cultivation and the standard of living of labourers.

He complained that new money and urban lifestyles were upsetting the stable rural economy, writing that "in no part of England have I seen people so badly off". Rural crime increased in the 1820s - mainly poaching and food thefts. The first recorded Swing Riot was in Kent in the autumn of 1830; the riots spread to twenty counties but most were in Hampshire and Wiltshire. Rioters visited farms demanding money with threats, and were usually paid to depart peacefully. However, on occasion their demands were reinforced by rick-burning, destruction of threshing machines and cattle maiming among other things. (In the very different world of 1830, machine breaking stopped on a Saturday evening). Landowners took the compliance of labourers for granted; those who did not comply were dealt with harshly. In 1832 a police force was set up in Winchester as a direct result of the Swing Riots.

Jane Harris described numerous Swing Riots when "great numbers were assembled riotously", and gave details of the severe penalties handed down for those convicted. At a trial in Winchester the Special Commissioners sentenced 95 men to death; although most of these sentences were later commuted, two men were executed and 69 others were transported. Country poverty tends to remain unseen but the Swing Riots drew attention to the dire straits of agricultural workers.

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The Church Street Walk: Mike Nash, June 2016

In June Mike Nash led a group of 40 members and visitors on a guided walk down Church Street; he explained that his objective was to encourage people to look more closely at the buildings and spot the clues which revealed something of their history.

From the starting point outside the George & Dragon he pointed out the cottages on the west side of the square - one had its timber frame visible while the other was fully plastered. Some years after the original construction such buildings were frequently plastered, but changing fashion since the Victorian era resulted in a desire to reveal the timbers to demonstrate the age of the building.

The older buildings in Church Street would have been timber framed with infill probably of wattle & daub. Much use was made of flint, a material that was readily available. Brick was not made in the immediate area and required transporting - not an easy job with steep hills. This meant that brick was expensive and only used for houses built for wealthy owners. Often the front wall would be built in brick but the sides and back with less expensive flint; several examples were viewed. Brick became more readily available when the railway came to Hurstbourne Priors, and later with the growing use of lorries after the First World War. However change has come full circle, demonstrated by a recently constructed outbuilding beside The Hollies where flint has deliberately been used as a decorative feature on the front wall. Brick built Fern Cottage displays a date of 1896, before bricks were readily available, so must have been built for someone of substance.

The reason for some features would not be understood without knowing something of the past history of the building -for example, a window at The Old Saddlery has bars dating from the time when it was the doctor's surgery and drugs were stored in that room. Shepherds Peace is based on a 15th century timber framed building that was originally a late mediaeval hall house; just across the road the large tithe barn at Parsonage Farm was visited to admire the construction of a similar timber framed building.

The walk ended with a visit to St Peter's Church, where Mike pointed out some of the less obvious features - including apotropaic marks (the subject of a talk at the Historical Society some years ago) probably intended to ward off evil spirits. At first sight Church Street is just a picturesque village street, but look more closely and there is much to discover. An aid to the architectural detective is a leaflet produced by the Historical Society and available in the Church.

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A History of Basing House: Alan Turton, September 2016

Alan Turton is a military historian who spent 23 years as curator of Basing house and is the author of recently published book "The Civil War in Wessex".

The origins of Easing House have been traced from finds including a Palaeolithic axe, evidence of an Iron Age settlement and Roman tesserae. Remains of Saxon buildings were found in 1979. A Royal manor is known to have been on the site in 871. After the Battle of Hastings in 1066 William the Conqueror intended to march on London but, prevented by the Thames, went west and stopped at Easing; he took the surrender of the Anglo-Saxons in Winchester.

On Christmas Day 1066 the manor of Easing was granted to Hugh de Port together with 50 other manors in Hampshire. The earliest features now visible at Easing House are the huge circular bank and defensive ditches of the castle built in the 1100s by the de Port family. The original castle was timber (the nearest stone was at Guildford) and never saw action. The de Ports married into the Poynings but with the last of that family in 1420 Basing became the property of the Paulets.

William Paulet (1485-1572) was a barrister who caught the eye of the Lord Mayor, became Steward of the Drapers Company, was appointed High Sherriff of Hampshire and controlled the church estates for the Bishop of Winchester. He was involved with Wolsey and admired Hampton Court; he also got Thomas Cromwell his first job and was knighted in 1525. Coming to the attention of Henry VIII he was appointed to the Privy Council and Marshall of the King's Wards with a steady income.

By the 1530s Wolsey was out of favour and William Paulet became Lord St John in 1539. He rebuilt Easing House in brick using clay from local fields; with a licence to crenellate it was the last legal castle to be built in England and when completed in 1561 was the largest house in the country, with some 360 rooms. Dendrochronology has revealed that the timbers in the surviving Great Earn were felled in 1534 and were from the same origin as those in the Many Rose. In its final form Easing House was made up of two linked houses; the Old House replaced the keep of the old ringwork castle, so was located within a defensive ring of earthworks and walls while the New House was located outside the defences. A bridge and gateway linked the two across and through the defences, a link that was to prove fatal in the final battle for Easing House.

Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn stayed at Basing. Mary I married Prince Phillip of Spain in Winchester, a match which was unpopular and carried out in secret with William Paulet one of the few present; their honeymoon was spent at Easing House. William Paulet became Lord High Treasurer and 1st Marquis of Winchester in 1550; he was a great survivor, serving Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I. Elizabeth I made a number of visits to Basing House during the times of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Marquis. However these royal visits bankrupted the family, who had to move to their nearby estate at Hackwood Park.

During the Civil War Easing House was held by Royalist John Paulet, 5th Marquis. It was attacked on three separate occasions but was successfully defended until on 8th October 1656 Cromwell arrived with 6,000 men and heavy artillery with instructions to "clear this nest of vipers". His artillery breached the walls and Easing House fell; Cromwell lost 15 men but 100 of the Basing garrison of 300 were killed. Basing House was set on fire and the ruins given to the local people; many local houses were built from the stone they salvaged. John Paulet had his estates confiscated and was sent to the Tower of London on a charge of high treason, although these charges were later dropped; his estates were returned to him by Charles II. His eldest son Charles did not get on with Charles II but became wealthy again as a result of his support of William of Orange during the Glorious Revolution in 1688. He became Duke of Bolton in 1689.

The route of the former Basingstoke Canal ran around Easing House.

Post meeting note

Following the talk, a question revealed a local link with the family of the Marquis of Winchester the oldest memorial in St Peter's Church is a marble slab on the north wall of the chancel dedicated to the memory of Hon Charles Paulet (eldest son of Lord Charles Paulet) who died in 1677 also his wife (1697) and daughter (1694).

Subsequent research revealed that after the manor of Hurstbourne Tarrant passed to the crown following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, in 1547 it was granted by Edward VI to William Paulet, later 1st Marquis of Winchester. On the death of 4th Marquis in 1630, the manor passed to his 3rd surviving son Lord Charles Paulet.

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The Rise and Development of Village Schools

Chris Brooks-Martin, October 2016

As head teacher at Hurstbourne Tarrant Church of England Primary School Chris Brooks-Martin was able to display some very interesting material from the school's archives, including photographs and registers.

Before the 19th century there were few schools; most of those that did exist were run by church authorities and stressed religious education. The Church of England resisted state attempts to provide secular education. In 1811 the "National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church in England & Wales" was established. A number of these "National Schools" were founded and by 1831 Sunday Schools were ministering to 1,250,500 children, approximately 25% of the population.

The school in Hurstbourne Tarrant was founded 170 years ago, on 23 February 1847. Copies of the original handwritten Trust Deed (and a more legible typed version) were distributed for study by the audience. The deed records that the school was built on land donated for the purpose by one Henry Atkins, an Innkeeper and Master Carpenter living in Bulford (whose link to the village is not known), the freehold being conveyed to the Vicar and Churchwardens. The deed required that "no person shall be appointed or shall continue to be a master or mistress of the said school who is not a member of the Church of England".

The 1944 Education Act made major changes in the provision and governance of schools. The act left a third of the Anglican Church schools in place with enhanced subsidies, increasing public and teacher control over them. Church schools were split into two types, "Controlled" and "Aided". In "Voluntary Aided" schools the majority of governors were church appointments; capital works were the responsibility of the governing body and 90% funded by the Department of Education. In "Voluntary Controlled" schools the church governors were in a minority and capital work was funded by the local authority.

In recent years "Free Schools" have been set up by parents under the Department for Education and free from local authority control. Academies may be "Forced Academies", where the school has failed Ofsted inspection, judged not to have the capability to improve on its own and taken out of local authority to be "owned" by an Academy Chain. In contrast, "Selective Academies" have chosen this route, many being in smaller local authority areas where there is insufficient funding to support their development.

Hurstbourne Tarrant School reached a low point in the 1980s when the number of pupils was down to 29, and the school was threatened with closure. In January 2009 the school was Ofsted rated as "Good" but there followed three terms with no fixed term head appointed and the school was downgraded to "satisfactory". In 2012 work was started on "Values & Vision" leading to "Learning & Teaching" linking to "Behaviour Policy", all of which are cornerstones of quality education; from there the school started to move towards being "future thinking". In March 2015 Ofsted rated the school Outstanding. With 114 pupils, it is now full and oversubscribed with a waiting list for every year group. The school has adopted 5 Ethos Values with the acronym REACH standing for: Respect - for everyone and everything; Effort - try our best; Aim High - and set ourselves new challenges; Care & Love - for ourselves, each other and our environment; Honesty - with one another in work and play. The philosophy of the school is to believe that first hand experiences lead to quality outcomes for all, and this ethos of learning allows children to grow into rounded individuals who become respected members of the community. Chris displayed such tremendous enthusiasm and dedication to his work that no one in the audience could have the slightest doubt that in his hands the continuing success of the school is assured.

The History of the Women's Institute and Local Branches

Jill Palmer, November 2016

The first Women's Institute was formed in the late 1890s in Canada, inspired by Adelaide Hoodless, who had lost a child due to contaminated milk and was determined to help others avoid a similar experience. The movement brought women together for training in matters like home economics and child care. Later, Canadian Madge Watt came to Britain to promote the movement and the first WI was set up in Llanfair PG in Anglesey in 1915; it had two clear aims: to revitalize rural communities and to encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. In 1914 only 35% of food was produced within the UK but by the end of the war this had risen to 60%. In recognition of their contribution to this remarkable achievement the Government made a grant of £10,000 to the WI. In WW2 the WI organised the setting up of canning establishments - labour was free and air raids were ignored.

The National Federation of Women's Institutes was set up in 1917, rules were adopted and Lady Gertrude Denman was elected Chairman, Grace Hadow Vice Chairman and Helena Auerbach Treasurer; all three were active in the suffragette movement. County Federations guided local branches and women flocked to join. As well as talks and discussions there were crafts and skills - and fundraising. Although in the early days the chair at many WIs was taken by the Lady of the Manor, the WI was open to all and to encourage full participation there was a need to find and equip women to run meetings. Denman College was set up near Abingdon running a variety of courses; initially the emphasis was on education but this developed to broaden minds and included subjects like science and philosophy.

The movement has been active in campaigning for women to play their full part in public life, with resolutions allowing members to vote on alternatives for campaigns to be pursued. Other campaigns to influence legislation have included equal pay, equal eligibility for jury service, litter act, pollution, excessive packaging in supermarkets, better conditions for nurses in hospitals and appropriate care in hospitals for dementia sufferers.

During the 1980-1990s there was a decline in membership as the WI seemed to have become less relevant to the modern world. Originally rural, the WI is now also in cities and the nature of the organisation has changed with the times - witness Calendar Girls! In the 1920s Denman College courses were crafts such as gloves, basketry, chair caning etc. While it is still important to keep rural crafts alive, 600 different courses are now offered - day, residential and weekend. The WI is now growing, with 22 new groups set up in 2015. The movement keeps the same values but strives to remain relevant in the modern world.

Vernham Dean WI was formed in February 1933 with 47 members: by November 1934 there were 100 members. Mrs Dudley of Linkenholt Manor was the chairman. Jill recounted a number of amusing anecdotes and read out a number of extracts from early minute books. One item which seemed to recur was a request that members should stop talking while a vote of thanks was being proposed; in 1938 there was a reference to intoxication of guests.

Today the Vernham Dean WI is a vibrant organisation. It has 28 members but the number attending meetings is swelled by guests. Activities reflect the wide spread of interests and outreach which have always been key to the success of the WI.

A selection of memorabilia relating to the Vernham Dean WI were on display, some of which Jill had very kindly retrieved from the Records Office in Winchester for the occasion.

Sundials – Ancient and Modern

Dr Andy Watson, December 2016

The earliest examples shown were shadow sticks from 1,500BC in Ancient Egypt, a 560BC Greek hemispherical bowl and Roman obelisk from 10BC. Dating from 1024 was a Saxon example from Kirkdale church in Yorkshire, while in 1665 Bologna the day was marked by the rays of the sun coming through a hole on the ceiling of the Basilica di San Petronio. The 1733 Queen's College, Cambridge sundial provided graduations for different seasons. Four-sided sundials exist at Conholt Park and St Margaret's Westminster. During the 12th & 13th centuries "Mass Dials" or "Scratch Dials" were scratched on the walls of many churches. On the south wall of Hurstbourne Tarrant church can be found traces of a "scratch dial" with its set of radial cuts and central hole for a shadow stick. The last example was a modern sundial sculpture at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich created by a very elegant pair of dolphins.

100 Years of Change in an English Social Movement

Jon Tacey December 2016

This was a personal account of Jon's involvement on the periphery of the "Kindred of the Kibbo Kift". The movement was a woodcraft, camping, hiking and handicraft group with ambitions to bring about world peace. It was formed in 1920 by English artist and writer John Hargrave, who had served with the RAMC in the Gallipoli campaign and was horrified at the poor preparation of troops. He saw they simply did not understand the concept of cover, drank dirty water and lacked all the field skills he had admired in the native Indians during his years spent in Canada. Feeling that Baden-Powell's scout movement was too militaristic he formed the Kibbo Kift (the words come from archaic Cheshire dialect used to indicate 'proof of great strength'). The Kibbo Kift did indeed offer an alternative to the Scouts: it was open to both sexes and all ages; the ideas of world peace and the regeneration of urban man through the open-air life replaced the nationalism and militarism Hargrave detested in the post-WW1 Scouts. In the second half of the 1920s the Kindred's educational ideas tended to be swamped by Hargrave's enthusiasm for the economic theory of Social Credit, but the faith in ritual and ceremony remained strong. The movement became defunct in 1935.

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