

Supplement to 'Woking News & Mail,' Friday, October 22nd, 1954

SIXTY YEARS IN WOKING

*Growth from Village to
Largest Town in
West Surrey*



DIAMOND JUBILEE

of

News & Mail



1894	Statistics :	1954
9,776	Population	52,780
8,892	Acreage	15,712
1,584	Houses	14,325
£62,100	Rateable Value	£535,000

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'NEWS AND MAIL' SUPPLEMENT

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October 22, 1954

'NEWS AND MAIL' SUPPLEMENT

Our Diamond Jubilee

SIXTY years ago this week—on October 19th, 1894—the first issue of 'The Woking News' was published, and, as the period covered by the publication of the leading local paper corresponds with that of the history of Woking as we know it, we have attempted to present in the following pages a record of local progress.

'The Woking News' was first published by Mr. Moore at our present offices at 52, Chertsey Road, and was a development of a monthly news magazine with a gratuitous circulation of 1,000 copies. The 'News' afterwards passed into the hands of the present proprietors, the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., who had already acquired 'The Woking Mail' from Messrs. Chandler and Evans, and the two papers were merged under the present title.

From that time the 'News and Mail' has advanced steadily, keeping abreast of local newspaper trends to build itself an unassailable reputation as the leading weekly publication in Woking and district with a circulation that now exceeds 11,000.

Our object, as set forth in the first leading article of the 'Woking News,' was 'to give news, to supply information, to keep our readers well posted up in all matters connected with the district, and to afford space for the ventilation of matters concerning anything of local interest.'

This duty we have endeavoured faithfully to discharge week by week, through the whole 60 years, all the while though keeping up with the changing public taste, such as when in 1950 we put news on the front page for the first time.

From the start we have maintained an attitude of complete independence in all matters political, as it is only so that we believe that the best interests of the public can be served.

These then are the principles that have brought us so successfully to our Diamond Jubilee, and it will be our earnest endeavour in the future to merit a continuance of the confidence and goodwill of the public and to maintain the high traditions we have established.

And the 'Woking News and Mail' has grown up step by step through the 60 years with the town itself, because Woking became self-governing in 1893, the year before the first 'Woking News' appeared.

The break from the old Guildford Rural Sanitary Authority came in 1893 with the formation in 1893 of the Local Board with the late Mr. W. H. Corrie, J.P., as chairman. In 1895 the duties of the Local Board were trans-

ferred to the Urban District Council under the Local Government (District Councils) Act, 1894, and so it has remained until this day, despite the efforts to gain borough status for the town.

Throughout its long service the 'News and Mail' has enjoyed the confidence of the public men and women whose labours have created the thriving and prosperous Woking of to-day. Of the chairmen of the Council, Mr. A. H. Godfrey was outstanding, giving six years of service during the difficult period of the first world war, Mr. Conrad Samuel will be remembered for the Woking Swimming Pool, and Mr. A. D. Campbell worked hard, though unsuccessfully, for incorporation. Although never chairman, Mr. I. S. Dalgleish, the present 'father' of the Council, has since 1927 been its most outstanding servant.

In church and religious life the town has been fortunate. With gratitude the services of the Rev. W. F. T. Hamilton, Canon E. R. P. Devereux and Canon J. Clifford Banham in connection with Christ Church we remember. For Methodism the Rev. G. King Pryor was an outstanding builder, and for the Baptists the Rev. F. Middleton Price did great work. Of laymen, the generosity of Mr. G. Unwin (Congregationalists), Mr. F. Derry (Methodists) and Mr. H. O. Serpell (Baptists) will be remembered.

Mr. W. R. Skeet's initiative in providing grammar schools for Woking must be recorded. The town has been fortunate in its headmasters, and we

recall such names as Messrs. L. J. Plymen (Maybury), E. Saunders (Maybury), A. R. J. Broderick (Goldsworth), H. O. M. Herbert (St. John's and Knaphill), F. F. Marsh (Monument Hill), Joshua Holden (Woking Boys' Grammar School), Miss K. E. Maris (Woking Girls' Grammar School), Messrs. G. S. Humphreys (Woking Boys' Grammar School), A. E. Cooper (Kingfield) and W. H. Gower (Monument Hill).

It is by those who give of the best of their talents without thought of reward that a town is developed. The example of the past must be carried on if Woking is to fulfil its true destiny of a happy and contented town envisaged to provide homes for 75,000 people in another 20 years' time if the Surrey Development plan matures. The 'News and Mail' in the years to come hopes to make its contribution in recording faithfully and impartially the succeeding stages in this great enterprise.



MR. G. F. WERMIG,
First Chairman of Woking U.D.C.

The Changing Face in Sixty Years

FOR a picture of the 'town' into which 'The Woking News' was born there are the words of Mr. G. J. Wooldridge (surveyor to the Woking Local Board, forerunner of the Urban District Council), when he was interviewed on the occasion of our 1,000th issue. 'There was no drainage, no lighting and no made roads except the main roads, the other so-called roads being mostly mere tracks often used as a convenient spot to deposit the contents of cesspools!'

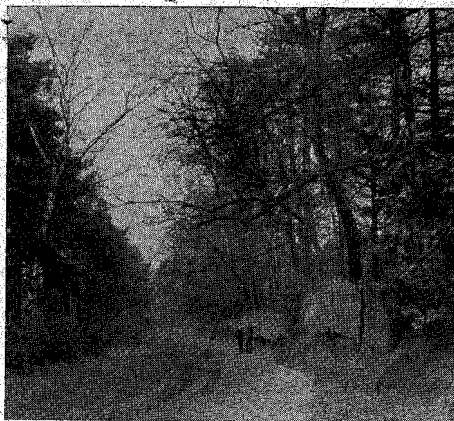
However, by 1914 Mr. Wooldridge could say: 'We have carried out a main drainage scheme which, including sewage disposal works, has cost £118,992, and we have made up no less than 70 roads.'

The first thing the Local Board did in its short life (1893-95) was to introduce a scheme for emptying the contents of cesspools and pail closets, and collecting the refuse of the town. Drainage was the main preoccupation of the Board, although a scheme was not put into effect until the Urban District Council came on the scene.

Inclusion of Old Woking in the scheme at the outset was insisted upon by the Local Government Board, and while the scheme was being prepared, the War Department brought pressure to bear upon the Council to extend their sewers to St. John's. Then came the application of the London County Council for the inclusion of Mayford School.

Seeing that the drainage rate had to be levied over the whole civil parish with the exception of Sutton and Bridley, the outside districts, such as Knaphill, Brookwood and Mayford, clamoured for drainage. This made the scheme grow from a very small one to a very large one. When the civil parish of Horsell was joined to that of Woking in 1907—a small portion having been absorbed in 1901—drainage there had to be carried out.

In 1933 the Byfleet was added and the Council's engineer and surveyor, Mr. G. F. Hawkins, prepared a scheme to drain the whole of the district—and parts of Bagshot and Guildford Rural Districts—by gravitation. The



Oriental Road, before being made up or built upon. It was known locally for many years as Lovers' Lane.

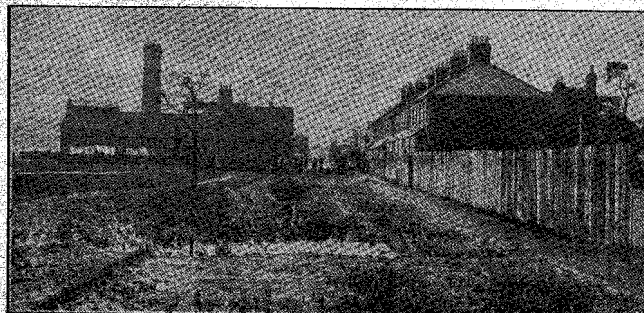
abolition of pumping stations would have made an enormous saving. But other neighbouring districts heard of this, and a comprehensive scheme was put forward for the county.

Disagreement and delay followed. Then came the war and the whole thing was shelved. Now a programme of supplementing the existing works and sewerage is being carried out.

But most of this has been underground development. What of more evident changes? None of the three northern

over-canal approaches of the town bears any resemblance to its predecessor of 1894. Wheat-sheaf Bridge was an 11ft. wide hump-back allowing only one vehicle to cross at a time. This was replaced with the present structure in 1914. Chertsey Road Bridge, as we know it now, was opened in 1923, eliminating the acute bend on the town side, and replacing a rickety, wooden-fenced structure which patched up the original bridge that had spanned the canal at right angles.

Victoria Arch was only 15ft. wide, with no footpaths, and had to take all the traffic between the north and south sides of the railway. Now it



The Courtenay Road (continuation of Board School Road) as it appeared in the closing years of the last century, showing the first Electric Light Works chimney.

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'NEWS AND MAIL' SUPPLEMENT

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is 40ft. wide. It was during negotiations for this improvement that the Arch got its name. A local deputation was waiting upon the London and South-Western Railway when one of the members, Mr. Bircham, suggested it should be given a distinctive name. On the spur of the moment Mr. G. F. Wermig (the first chairman of the Council, 1895-97) suggested 'Victoria Arch,' and so it has been known ever since.

There are residents living to-day who recall when there was not enough traffic through the arch to wear away the grass towards the sides of the old 15ft. tunnel.

Just across the road the Council's first offices were erected in 1906 at a cost of £4,500, including a fire station. The land had been bought in 1896, partly for road widening 'at this very busy junction.' There was vigorous opposition by a section of the Council to the erection of offices. Hence the delay. Mr. R. Mossop (first clerk to the Council, who had also been clerk to the Local Board), had only one room over Ashby's Bank — where Barclays Bank now stands — in which to transact the Council's business, and Mr. Wooldridge had only one room for his department. Access to the small Council Chamber was through one of these two rooms.

The elections of 1898 resulted in the defeat of candidates who had opposed the purchase of a fire engine, following a town protest, and the new Council at their first meeting decided to purchase a steamer for the Fire Brigade. But before this could be delivered the Council Offices above the bank were completely burnt out in a spectacular blaze on a hot summer day in 1899. The old bank building had had a steeple, which crashed in the Broadway, a mass of molten metal.

That fire nearly cost Mr. Hawkins his life, as he recalled recently. 'I was just about to leave our office when I heard a crackling sound from above. It seemed to be at the top of the clock weight shaft, which ran through our office to the ground floor. We prised away the wooden casing with a pick. I was putting my head into the shaft to look up when the weights came crashing down just in front of my face.'

'And we had to wait for the engine from Guildford to arrive,' added Mr. Hawkins, who is the only surviving member of the original Central Station of the Woking Fire Brigade.

The Council then had to move into rooms over what is now a baker's shop in the Broadway.

This bank site has had a bearing on the whole development—top-sided development it has been called—of the town. It belonged to a Mr. George Rastrick, a recluse, who lived in the high walled Woking Lodge, close to the south side of the station, and owned a great deal of land in the vicinity. He sold the bank site, but on discovering that the purchaser had made a market out of his price, within a few days he determined to sell no more land while he lived. At the sale which followed his death in 1905 no less than £16,480 was realised by his property in 90 minutes. The site on which the Woking Boys' Grammar School now stands went for £3,000.

In the nineties nearly the whole of the Mount Hermon district was still farmed, and a little earlier stag hunts had been witnessed in the neighbourhood. The whole of York Road and neighbouring roads, as well as Hockering Estate, were developed in the years around the turn of the century.

When the Local Board came into being there were only the main roads from Guildford to Chertsey, through Guildford and Commercial Roads, through Woking Village to Chertsey and through Goldsworth Road to Knaphill.

Walton Road, Church Street and the adjacent streets were quagmires. A dip in Church Street which filled with water forced children on their way to Maybury School to cling to a wire fence at the side, in wet weather, to get from one end of the street to the other.

But the Local Board went rapidly to work. As the first issue of 'The Woking News' was being printed, the Walton Road footpath was being made up under the Private Street Works Act. Chertsey Road was still coming into being. Shortly before, the site of leading business premises in the road, including the bank corner, was occupied by tent dwellers and utilised for circuses and fairs.

By 1914 it was possible to walk on a paved footpath from Woking Station through St. John's and Knaphill and Brookwood to the boundary of the district at Pirbright.

At the present time there are 98.94 miles of roads in the Urban District made up as follows: Class I, 18.57 miles; Class II, 10.76; Class III, 12.41; Unclassified, 57.2.

The district came into being with 8,892 acres, and the addition of Horsell brought it to 11,826. Under the Surrey Review Order of 1933 the Byfleet and Pyrford were joined, bringing the Urban District to its present area of 15,712 acres.

At the 1891 census, the last prior to the advent of the Local Board, the population of the parish of Woking was 9,776, of which 1,770 occupied public institutions. By the succeeding census of 1901 it had jumped to 16,222. In

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1911 it was 21,782, but by this time Horsell's 3,026 had to be added to make 24,808.

Now, after the addition of the Byfleets and the development of Sheerwater, the population is estimated at 52,780.

GROWTH THROUGH THE YEARS

Year.	Houses.	Population.
1891	1,584	9,776
1901	2,807	16,222
1911	4,072	24,808
1921	5,078	26,430
1931	6,853	29,950
1941	10,743	47,770
1951	11,949	49,310
1953	14,325	52,780

The rateable value of Woking in 1893 was £62,100, with 2,370 rateable hereditaments. By 1914 it was £175,750, with 5,000. This year's figures are £535,000 and 14,325 inhabited houses, which does not include shops. A penny rate produced £270 at the start. Now it produces £2,162.

The half-yearly rates in 1894 started at the modest figure of 1s. in the £ for the Station Ward and 7d. in the £ for the rest of the district, with a highway rate of 5d. in the £ over the whole district.

With the need for sewers and lighting the general rate rose to 2s. 6d. and the highway rate to 1s. 1d. in the next few years. But by 1912 the general rate had been reduced to 1s. 10d. Now it is 9s. 5d. for the half-year.

Grant of Arms and the Council's Badge and Chairman's Chain of Office were presented by Mr. H. O. Serpell, J.P., former High Sheriff of Surrey in 1930. At a ceremony in the Council Offices on October 25th, Mr. Henry Quartermaine (Chairman of the Council) was robed and invested with the Chain of Office by Mr. Serpell.

The Chain consisted of 26 shields, 22 inscribed with the names and years of office of the chairmen from the time the Urban District was created, and supported the gold and enamel pendant embodying the Arms of the town. It was completed with a medallion at the back recording the donor's name and date of presentation.



Chertsey Road Bridge before it was rebuilt in 1923.

The chosen Coat of Arms—Quarterly Or and Gules a Cross Flory between in the 1st and 4th Quarters a Fleur-de-Lys and in the 2nd and 3rd Quarters a Fret all counter-changed—has these origins: The Cross ascribed to Edward the Confessor; the Fleur-de-Lys taken from the Arms of the Beauforts; the Frets form part of the Arms of the Despenser family; the colours (gold and scarlet) are those of the Bassets.

Proposals that Woking should apply for a Charter of Incorporation as a Borough were made in 1933, the year of the Surrey Review Order, under which the Byfleets and Pyrford were joined to Woking. The Rt. Hon. J. Chuter Ede (then Chairman, Surrey County Council) publicly urged Woking to apply for borough status. Two years later Woking Council sent a petition to the Privy Council; the usual public inquiry took place and some opposition was put up.

A counter petition was organised by the Woking Ratepayers' Association, and the Privy Council decided that consideration should be deferred for at least five years. By the end of that period we were at war, and it was not until three years ago that the Privy Council announced they were again in a position to receive petitions for Incorporation Charters.

Woking Council went ahead again at the end of 1951. They again met some opposition, but in March, 1952, the decision was taken to petition the Privy Council, with one member abstaining. A counter petition was organised, and early last year the Council decided to defer formal approval of their draft petition until the re-warding of the district was approved by the Minister of Local Government. The Council's re-warding plan allows for fewer Wards and 27 Councillors instead of 30.



Kettlewell Hill, Horsell, looking towards Woking, before the huge barn which restricted the roadway was removed.

Parks and Open Spaces

Constitution Hill Recreation Ground, as Woking Park was originally known, or The Rec as it is still referred to by many old timers, first found recognition in the bye-laws of the Council in January, 1906. But in the early days it was not a shadow of the place it is to-day.



Woking Swimming Pool.

Not until after the first World War did the Park start to take its now familiar shape, embracing tree lined avenues, terraced walks and gardens, tennis courts, ornamental pond, putting green, bowling green and children's playground. The enterprise was undertaken by the Council to relieve unemployment. The design and lay-out were largely the work of Mr. G. J. Wooldridge.

It is impossible to see the Park without seeing the Swimming Pool, just as it is impossible to delve into the history of the town without coming up against the controversy that surrounded the Pool before it was constructed in 1935 at a cost of £21,600.

The development of the Kingfield side of the Park, of which the Pool is the chief feature, fell largely to the supervision of Mr. G. F. Hawkins, who had by that time become surveyor. But completion did not take place until after the second World War, when the area between the Pool and Kingfield gates was built up.

Now, and for many years, the Park has been in the skilful care of Mr. C. R. Newstead (park superintendent).

Public parks and recreation grounds total 94 acres, and are to be found at Brookwood (11 acres), Byfleet (12), Knaphill (5), Old Woking (2), Sutton Green (4), Lower Knaphill (15), West Byfleet (11) and Woking — Woking Park (3).

Another 337 acres of open spaces are provided by the five golf courses; there are also 1,116 acres of commons.

Woking Grows Up Politically

In 1950 Woking grew up politically, for in that year it became the centre of its own Parliamentary Division, Mr. Harold Watkinson (Conservative) becoming Woking's first M.P.

When Woking became an Urban District it was in the Chertsey Division, the Member at that time being Mr. C. H. Combe (Conservative). Two years later Mr. Combe resigned, and the seat was won in 1897 by Mr. H. C. Leigh-Bennett (Conservative), who sat until his death, being followed in 1903 by Mr. J. A. Fyler (Conservative).

After only just over a year Mr. Fyler resigned, and in the by-election on June 6th, 1904, Lord Bingham (Conservative) won the seat. In the 1906 General Election the Chertsey Division followed the country in the Liberal 'landslide' and Mr. F. J. Marnham (Liberal) unseated Lord Bingham.

Mr. Marnham did not seek re-election in 1910, and once more the Division turned to the Conservatives, the elected Member being Mr. D. Macmaster, K.C.

Then in 1918 Woking came into the Farnham Division, and the Member was Mr. A. M. Samuel (Conservative), later Sir Arthur Michael Samuel, who sat until 1937, when he was elevated to the peerage and became Lord Mancroft.

Mr. Godfrey Nicholson (Conservative), who still sits for the Farnham Division, became the next Member for the Division. Then came the formation of the Woking Division, and Mr. Harold Watkinson was the first Member for the Division, and he successfully held the seat in the General Election of October, 1951.

Philpots

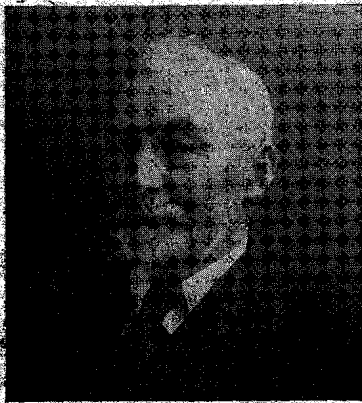
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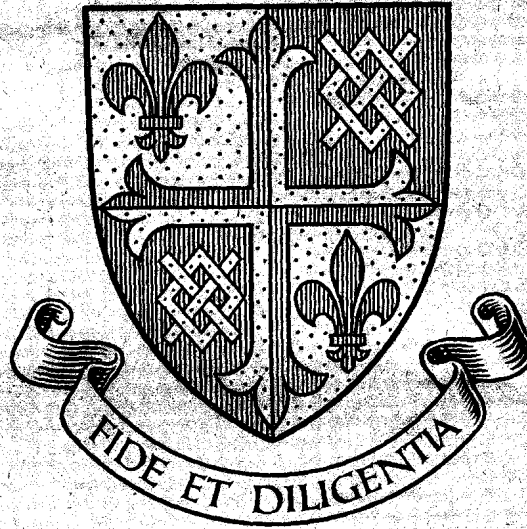
Civic Leaders of Woking

CHAIRMEN OF WOKING COUNCIL

1895-8	Gustav Friedrich Wernig.
1898-1903	George Harris.
1903-4	Wm. Christopher Higgins Burne.
1904-5	Henry Wm. Gloster.
1905-9	Patrick Herbert White.
1909-10	Sparkes Cornelius Knight.
1910-11	William Aird.
1911-13	James Hutchinson Driver.
1913-14	Henry Alfred Whitburn.
1914-20	Albert Hamilton Godfrey.
1920-21	Harry Trevor Wilson.
1921-22	Albert Richard James Broderick.
1922-23	Frederick George Rice.
1923-24	Alfred Hardy.
1924-25	Philip David Warren.
1925-26	Henry Quartermaine.
1926-27	William Harker.
1927-28	Walter John Mathews.
1928-29	Albert Foord.
1929-30	Seymour William Price-Williams.
1930-32	Henry Quartermaine.
1932-34	Arthur Duncan Campbell.
1934-36	Philip George Easton.
1936-38	Alfred William Stollery.
1938-41	Conrad Samuel.
1941-43	Frederick Elsworth Sowden.
1943-44	Edgar Ashley Cook.
1944-45	Harry Orenzo Matthew Herbert.
1945-46	Charles Henry May.
1946-47	Henry Somerfield Cawsey.
1947-48	Graham Francis Winstanley Wilson.
1948-49	Bertram George Ralph Brown.
1949-50	Guy George Morris Pritchett.
1950-51	Harold Cecil Barrett.
1951-52	Thomas Leam.
1952-53	Gerald Edward Colpoys.
1953-54	Walter Llewellyn Darby.
1954	Robert Geoffrey Beldam.



MR. ROBERT MOSSOP.
The Council's first clerk who held office for 33 years.



CLERKS TO WOKING COUNCIL

Mr. Robert Mossop (part time)	.. 1895-1928
Mr. F. J. R. Mountain	.. 1928-1931
Dr. F. H. Smith	.. 1931-

Mr. Mossop came to Woking in 1889, and was appointed Clerk to the Local Board on its formation in 1893. He was also Clerk to the London Corn Exchange, and was in private legal practice. He would travel to the City in the morning, returning by mid-afternoon to attend to Council business.

Dr. Smith came from Basingstoke in 1931 to take the place of Mr. Mountain, and in 23 years has missed only one Council meeting, that through indisposition. Dr. Smith is due to retire next May.

ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS TO WOKING COUNCIL

Mr. G. J. Wooldridge	.. 1895-1931
Mr. G. Marsland	.. 1931-1932
Mr. G. F. Hawkins	.. 1932-1942
Mr. H. P. Tame	.. 1942-

Mr. Wooldridge came to Woking from the Guildford Rural Sanitary Authority upon the creation of the Local Board, combining the offices of surveyor and sanitary inspector. Mr. Hawkins started to assist Mr. Wooldridge a month after the latter's arrival, and was officially appointed assistant surveyor in 1897.

On his retirement in 1931, Mr. Wooldridge was succeeded by Mr. G. Marsland. But, after a year, Mr. Marsland took another post and Mr. Hawkins was appointed. Mr. Tame became his deputy. When Mr. Hawkins retired in 1942 he was within a few months of a half century of service to the local authority. Mr. Tame took his place.

Stress and Storm of the Fire Service

PROBABLY without parallel in the country was the early history of Woking Fire Brigade. It was bitterly attacked by hostile critics as a result of ward jealousies, and more heated debates took place in the Council Chamber over fire extinguishing equipment than any other question.

As in so many places, the idea of forming a Fire Brigade came from the local Torchlight Society. Its November 5th Carnivals were the talk of West Surrey. In 1892 one of its leading members, Mr. C. Sherlock, suggested they should reserve their balance of funds until they had sufficient to buy hose and hydrant equipment. This was agreed, and members volunteered to act as firemen.

However, before the project could be carried through the Local Board was formed in 1893. This authority decided in 1894 to form a Brigade and purchase a steamer. But, two years later, Woking Urban District Council came into being, and decided to rely entirely on the pressure of the mains for fire fighting, and shelved the purchase of an engine.

The Brigade was formed, the Central Section comprising Captain C. Sherlock, Supt. H. Quartermaine and six men. There were also sections at St. John's (Foreman G. A. Jackson), Woking Village (Foreman J. W. Grantham), and Knaphill (Foreman A. Gunner). They first appeared on Nov. 5th, 1895, and a month later the Central Section received its baptism of fire at a stable in Goldsworth Road.

A corrugated iron hut halfway down Chertsey Road was then the Fire Station. The Council turned a deaf ear to the request of Captain Sherlock for a Central Station to be built for a steam fire engine and sufficient hose to cope with any fire. In October, 1897, three fires occurred within a week, and at each the Brigade was practically powerless. It resigned in a body because of the Council's continued refusal to buy a steamer.

A public protest meeting was called, and the ratepayers supported the Brigade, at the same time condemning the Council's decision to erect municipal buildings at £6,000-£7,000, on the grounds that they were not yet needed and a steamer was. The controversy was carried on in the correspondence columns of the 'News and Mail.'

Elections in 1898 resulted in the defeat of the candidates who had opposed the fire engine, and the new Coun-

cil at its first meeting voted to buy one. But before it arrived the Council's Offices were burnt out, as told elsewhere.

A volunteer Brigade was formed at Brookwood in 1906, and in 1912 a section of the Council Brigade was established for that district.

Woking Council ceased to have control of the Fire Brigade in 1939, when the administration was taken over by Whitehall. In 1948 responsibility for fire protection was handed to the Surrey County Council. The present strength of the Brigade at Woking is 35 men, under Station Officer J. McGregor.

For many years the Woking Brigade carried out valuable and very efficient work on a voluntary basis and gave admirable service under the command of Capt. Sherlock. In turn, Capt. S. Wright and Capt. W. Barnes (the Council's Chief Public Health Officer) took over the charge of the Brigade, and later still Major C. H. Hudson had command. It was while Capt. Barnes was in control that the splendid new Fire Station in Church Street was established, and this admirably equipped station has formed the local headquarters ever since.

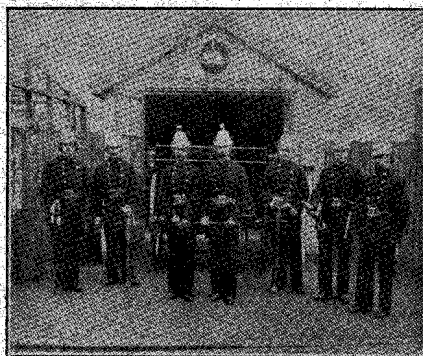
Many big fires were tackled in the course of the years, notable among them being Martinsydes' factory alongside the Railway, the Accumulator Works at Maybury, Woodham Church Hall and a number

of large houses in the Woking and Byfleet areas. There were also busy times due to the war time bombing raids.

The cost of this service to Woking in the days when the Brigade was a voluntary one was in the neighbourhood of a 14d. rate—in comparison with the 84d. rate which it has cost since the responsibility for the service passed to the County Council.

Reception Centre During War

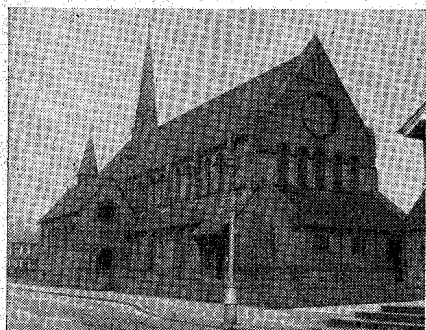
Woking, as a reception centre during the last war, provided homes for thousands of evacuees. Both Grammar Schools shared their buildings with London schools—Wandsworth Grammar School being at the Boys' and Putney Grammar School at the Girls'. Other London schools were at Lampeter, York Road, and another at St. John's. All the children were billeted in local homes.



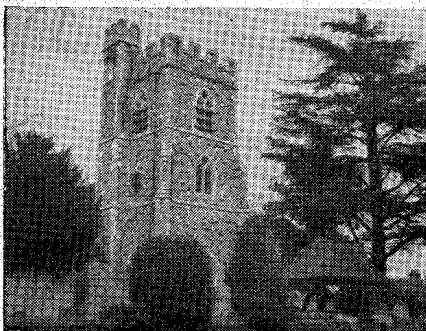
Our picture shows the Central Station Section of the Woking Fire Brigade, with their hose truck, outside the old Fire Station in Chertsey Road, where Mr. H. S. Bennett's shop now stands. Those in the photograph (from left to right) are Firemen G. F. Hawkins (afterwards Woking's engineer and surveyor), S. Wright (afterwards Chief Officer of the Brigade), W. Abrey, E. Abrey, J. Harding, H. Quartermaine (Superintendent) and C. Sherlock (Captain).



Woking Parish Church (St. Peter's).



Christ Church, Woking.



Horsell Parish Church.

Meeting Spiritual Needs

RESPONDING to the spiritual needs of the rapidly expanding district, the Church of England established ten places of worship and fellowship in the town area within the first 20 years of 1894, the year in which the town parish of Christ Church came into being.

Rapid growth of the district had made necessary the separation of St. John's and Christ Church from Woking parish (St. Peter's, Old Woking) in 1884, and St. John's had become a parish in that year.

Christ Church was consecrated in 1893 (although services had been held in a temporary iron structure from 1877, and before that in a back room of a shop in Chertsey Road), and in the following year the chancel was added to the nave and a new parish formed. Its population was about 4,000. St. Paul's Church was built at Maybury as a chapel-of-ease to Christ Church in 1895; both Christ Church Hall and the original Vicarage in Onslow Crescent were erected in 1898.

In 1906 the foundation stones of Walton Road Mission Hall and St. Mary of Bethany Church were laid, the latter a gift of Rev. W. F. T. Hamilton, who built it in memory of his wife. Christ Church was completed in 1908, and in the same year St. Mary's was dedicated and opened as a chapel-of-ease. The Ellen Street Iron Room, relinquished by the S.A., was acquired in 1910. St. Mary's Church Hall, Kingsway, was opened as a mission hall in 1911.

During these years the daughter churches of St. John's — Holy Trinity, Knaphill, and St. Saviour's, Brookwood, and the Saunders Lane Mission Hall — were opened, whilst, in the parish of Horsell, the St. Thomas' Mission Hall was opened at Littlewick, and plans prepared for St. Andrew's at the Viggory.

It was in 1894 that the Bishop of Winchester opened All Saints' Church, Woodham, and eight years later it was consecrated as a parish church by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

METHODISM STRONG

Methodism, the strongest stream of nonconformity here, had a lead on the Established Church, for Woking became a Circuit in 1877, but it must be traced through two channels until 1932.

The Wesleyan Movement erected the first place of worship in modern Woking, a school chapel in Chapel Street. Built in 1872, it is now the headquarters of the 4th Woking (Christ Church) Scout Group. A larger church was erected in 1884, and is now the Public Library. In 1893 new Sunday School buildings were erected and a Manse built. The church, however, soon demanded more accommodation, and in 1905 the present Trinity Methodist Church, with its schoolrooms, was opened, having been built at a cost of nearly £8,000. In the early 20th century there were village stations at Knaphill, St. John's, Ripley, Byfleet and West End. John Wesley had travelled through Ripley to Guildford and Godalming, and preachers from Guildford brought Methodism to this part of Surrey.

Is of a Growing Town

The interest they stimulated at Knaphill saw fruit in 1866 with the erection of a Wesleyan Church, which served the Methodists of that and nearby villages until 1935, when it was demolished to make way for the present Knaphill Methodist Church. In 1869 the little church at Ripley was opened, and six years later the Wesleyan Church at Byfleet was started.

The first Woking Circuit included Cobham and Leatherhead Churches, but in 1902 these were separated. For the next 27 years Woking remained a single station, but in 1931, during the ministry of the Rev. J. J. Johnston, Woking Circuit undertook the responsibilities of a second minister with a view to further developments.

In 1928 the old church at Byfleet was sold and a new church hall built, but the new church was not completed until 1939. By that time the Trust property of Woking Circuit consisted of three modern groups of church buildings—Woking, Knaphill and Byfleet — and two smaller churches at Ripley and Walton, as well as two Manses.

Here must be mentioned the Primitive Methodist Church. Formed locally in the early 'sixties at College Road, Maybury, the movement set up a trust in 1898 which put up the Walton Road Methodist Church as a school hall, intending to build a church in front of it.

Since the war the principal development has been the sale of this building, the proceeds being made a contribution to the new Sheerwater Methodist Church, the first section of which was opened last month.

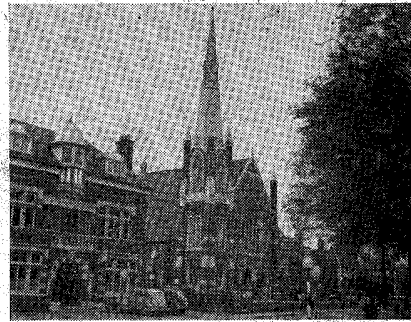
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH STARTED IN 1899

There was no Congregational Church in Woking in 1894. At that time Congregationalists attended the original Baptist Church in Goldsworth Road, known as the Baptist Congregational Church. But in 1899 the Congregational Church body was formed locally and services were held in the Onslow Hall. Largely through Mr. George Unwin the Congregational Church, York Road, became their home in 1901. The lecture hall, built then, has served for services and meetings ever since. This year plans were approved for enlarging the original building and erecting a permanent hall on the west side.

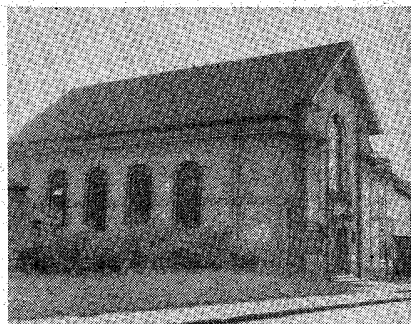
BAPTISTS PROGRESSIVE

In the early days of Woking Baptists they shared their church in Goldsworth Road with the Congregationalists. It was stove heated, a constant source of trouble. In 1907 hot water heating was introduced and no longer did the congregation go to services in the winter with the knowledge they might very well have to worship in the cold. A pastor's vestry was erected at the same time. The Rev. A. J. Stanton was then pastor. During the pastorate of the Rev. W. H. Tebbit, which started in 1911, a new organ was installed. The many worshippers from outlying villages were provided with a cycle shed.

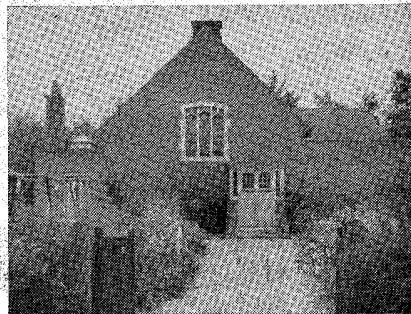
(Continued on page 16)



Trinity Methodist Church.



Woking Baptist Church.



Congregational Church.

Woking's Development as Shopping Centre

THERE was but a handful of shops at Woking Station in 1894. It was possible to stand at the railway station and look out across open country. A little earlier High Street had been a country lane lined with a few cottages. The building up of Chertsey Road did not start until the nineties.

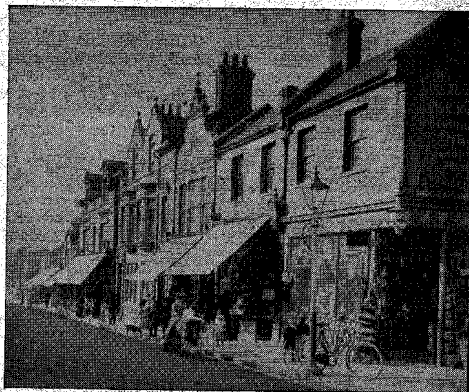
The town's development as a trading centre was rapid during the first few years of this century. It is constantly changing to provide a complete service to the large community it serves and keep as much as possible of the retail trade of the town and district within its borders. The problems of the motorist-shopper have yet to be satisfactorily tackled in the town area.

Strange as it may sound to-day, in the early years of the Urban Authority there was a gravitation of shoppers to Chertsey from Woking. 'You could get anything there. I well remember walking to Chertsey and back to get things for my mother,' Mr. G. F. Hawkins, of Brackley, Apers Avenue, Westfield, told the 'News and Mail.'

In the autumn of 1897 there was a meeting of a few of Woking's shopkeepers to discuss the possibilities of forming an Alliance of Traders. The result was another meeting on February 10th, 1898, attended by a large body of traders, and the Woking Tradesmen's Alliance was born. Of those who joined in the first year only Mr. M. H. Westgate lives on in the district.

In the early days of its existence the Alliance regularly nominated candidates for Woking Council. Three were successfully put forward in the first year—Messrs. Clinton, Hunt and Sawyer. They were followed and added to by others, listed as Alliance candidates. But in 1923 a resolution passed by the Chamber deemed it inexpedient to nominate candidates. Of the chairmen of Woking Council a dozen have been members of the Chamber of Trade.

The title was changed to Woking and District Chamber of Trade almost 40 years ago, affiliation to the National Chamber of Trade having taken place in 1911.



Woking High Street at the turn of the century.

Many will recall the Shopping Week of 1922 — £100 went to Woking Victoria Hospital extension fund as a result—and the British Empire Shopping Week of 1926. There have been many displays and exhibitions in the life of the Chamber. The first took the form of a general show day for Christmas, 1906, which was continued for several years. Then there was the Trades Exhibition of 1927, staged in the old Sorbo factory in Maybury Road. This raised nearly £400 for the hospital.

Another success was the exhibition 'Wokympia' in 1928, at what is now the Lion Works, which had the backing of the Chamber, and was put on by Mr. F. W. Cooke and Mr. S. W. Colman.

PRESIDENTS:

Woking and District Tradesmen's Alliance.

Mr. A. G. Clinton .. 1898	Mr. H. Quartermaine 1906
Mr. W. R. Skeet .. 1899	Mr. S. Colman .. 1907
Mr. R. Pain .. 1900	Mr. W. E. Mallard .. 1908
Mr. W. J. Drowley .. 1901	Mr. W. Ireland .. 1909-10
Mr. E. Whitome .. 1902	Mr. R. Pain .. 1911
Mr. W. J. Boullin .. 1903	Mr. C. Duplock .. 1912
Mr. M. H. Westgate 1904	Mr. H. Trevor Wilson 1913
Mr. L. Dexter .. 1905	Mr. A. Foord .. 1914

The Woking and District Chamber of Trade.

Mr. A. Foord .. 1915-18	Mr. H. Parnell .. 1935-36
Mr. W. A. Elton .. 1919-20	Mr. F. W. Cooke .. 1937
Mr. H. D. Jeffes .. 1921	Mr. N. P. Thompson 1938-40
Mr. F. J. Arnold .. 1922	Mr. H. A. Crispin .. 1941-42
Mr. F. G. Rice .. 1923	Mr. W. J. Heselwood 1943-44
Mr. H. R. Thompson 1924	Mr. F. C. Neve .. 1945
Mr. G. Langford .. 1925	Mr. B. Ford .. 1946
Mr. F. W. Cooke .. 1926-27	Mr. E. T. Trotman .. 1947-48
Mr. E. G. Nicholson 1928-29	Mr. C. G. Miller .. 1949-51
Mr. H. W. Lambert 1930-31	Mr. F. H. Thomas .. 1952
Mr. E. Ashley Cook 1932-33	Mr. E. T. Trotman .. 1953
Mr. E. C. Dutton .. 1934	Mr. R. V. Wilson .. 1954



Chobham Road, Woking, about 1890, showing Chertsey Road unbuilt upon. Messrs. Glosters engaged a band on Saturdays to attract customers.

Postal Services' Big Growth

THE small country town post office of 1894, total staff 28, including 13 rural postmen, has grown to be one of the most important postal centres in the South of England. Indeed, it became very much so in the space of 20 years. By 1914 there was a staff of 100, now 365. Outstanding railway facilities were largely responsible, Woking having been made a parcels depot for a wide area.

Sixty years ago Woking Post Office was on the present site of the International Stores, before that in Walton Road, and earlier still next door to the 'News and Mail'.



An attractive floral design by Mr. C. R. Newstead, a feature of Woking Park in pre-war years.

offices, on the site of the Gaumont Cinema, where, in the meantime, have stood the Central Assembly Halls and the Central Cinema.

The staff in 1894 comprised a postmaster, nine clerks and 18 postmen. No mail vans ran between the town and outlying villages. The service to and from Chobham and West End, for instance, was performed by a postman on foot.

Letters and parcels dealt with weekly were about 120,000 in 1894; by 1914 they were a quarter of a million and to-day they are between 1 million and 1½ million letters and 60,000 parcels. It was in 1895 that the post office moved to the premises in Chertsey Road, which remained the public offices until about five years ago.

In 1911 a sorting office was built on the other side of the railway to relieve pressure and provide accommodation for telephone service, which became a post office duty in 1912. A bungalow building, it was pulled down to make way for the present sorting office and administrative block in 1935.

Letter boxes throughout the town and district numbered 20 in the middle 'nineties; now there are 188.

Sergeant and Two Constables Policed Woking in 1894

POLICING Woking was the task of a Sgt. Coleman and two constables in 1894. There was another sergeant at Knaphill and four constables for the remaining villages. To-day Woking Division has a strength of 81, under Supt. W. H. Collis.

Woking Police Station—or that part which faces Guildford Road—had just been built, but Woking was still part of Guildford Petty Sessional Division, and all cases were heard there. By 1908, however, Woking had grown sufficiently in size and importance to become the centre of a new police division with Supt. Marks at its head and a staff of an inspector, two sergeants and 14 constables, the other men of the division bringing the total strength to 31.

Courts were already held on alternate Saturdays at Guildford and Woking, first in the old Onslow Hall and Assembly Rooms, and later in the Court House, built in 1904.

Local agitation brought recognition as a petty sessional division in 1910, with Col. R. Phayre as chairman. Mr. Wm. Davies came from Worthing to be the first Clerk to the Justices, the office filled to-day by his son, Mr. W. Bryn Davies. In 1912 the present Court House was completed.

Prior to 1908 Woking was a Sub-Division of the Guildford Division. From January, 1899, to November, 1907, Inspector William Upfeld was in charge of the sub-Division.

On January 1st, 1908, the late Mr. William John Marks, who was already a Superintendent, was transferred from Hersham to Woking, and became the first Superintendent of the newly-formed Division. He remained there until his retirement on pension in December, 1919.

Since 1919 the following Superintendents have been in charge of the Woking Division:—

January, 1920, to October, 1921—Mr. William R. Lucas, who is now residing at Farnham.

November, 1921, to September, 1930—The late Mr. Ernest Boshier.

September, 1930, to June, 1934—Mr. Joseph Gooby, who is now living at Worthing.

July, 1934, to September, 1945—The late Mr. John H. White.

October, 1945, to June, 1947 — Mr. William G. Elkins, who is now living at Southwick, Sussex.

June, 1947, to present date—Mr. William H. Collis, M.M.

The present authorised strength of the Woking Division is one Superintendent, one Chief Inspector, three Inspectors, one Detective Inspector, 11 Sergeants, 65 Constables (two Women)—a total of 84. Apart from Woking Town the Woking Division covers the Byfleet, Chobham, Knaphill and Ripley areas.

Big Reforms in Education

SCHOOLS in Woking numbered five, with 1,718 pupils in 1894. But within 20 years the schools had doubled their number, with 3,890 children on the roll and a staff of 92 teachers. Further, there were 784 students on rolls of evening schools. Sixty years ago the controlling authority was the School Board of seven members, with considerable powers. These were swept away by the Act of 1902, Surrey County Council became the authority and the work was split up between three local committees—School Managers, School Attendance Committee, and Building Advisory Committee. However, this arrangement met with little success in Woking. An important step was taken in 1912 by the formation of the Woking Education Committee, a body of 25 members, which, subject to the sanction or veto of the County Committee, had large powers over all grades of education in Woking. This was a unique arrangement, not only in Surrey but in all England. It continued until replaced with the system of County Divisional Executives in 1947.

The Education Act of 1944 has had far reaching effects. The division of pupils into primary and secondary at the age of 11 plus, followed by the establishment of secondary modern schools to replace senior schools meant a great deal of reorganisation. Woking, fortunately, had a good basis to work on, the area having previously been reorganised.

The raising of the school leaving age to 15 and the rapid increase of population brought in its wake big problems for the newly-established North-West Surrey Divisional Executive centred on Woking, which had Mr. W. Davies as its first Chairman, and has since been ably

led by Mr. H. O. M. Herbert, a former headmaster of Knaphill County Secondary School.

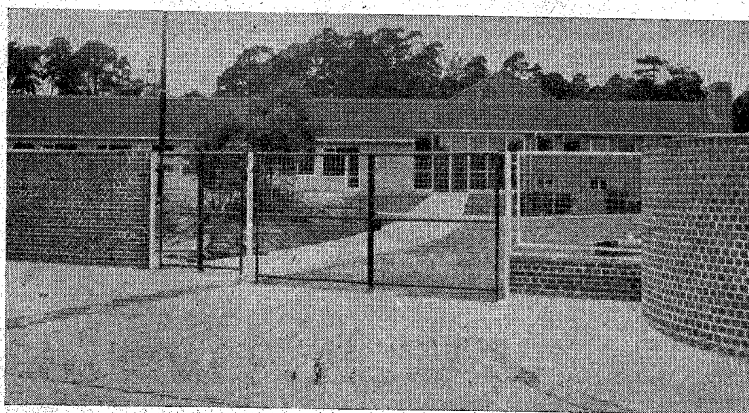
Since the 1939-45 war six schools have been built, and many extensions, permanent and temporary, have been carried out within the 'News and Mail' area. Four of these are at Sheerwater, and other new schools are Byfleet County Primary and Fullbrook County Secondary. The fact that houses on the Sheerwater Estate were completed some months ahead of schools created difficulties and improvisation on a large scale was necessary.

Woking Boys' Grammar School was built in 1914 as a secondary school for 200 boys and a Technical Institute for a similar number. To-day its pupils number 506.

The high standard of scholarship achieved in this school and its varied out-of-school activities has meant much to Woking, and many of the leading personalities of the town look back with gratitude to the character-forming years spent at the school.

Woking Girls' Grammar School, founded after the 1914-18 war in ex-military hutments, continues in this accommodation to this day. However, after many delays, a start is to be made on the permanent building at any time now at Old Woking Road, Maybury. The school has triumphed over adverse environment in a remarkable manner.

Medical care of school children found high priority with the Woking Education Committee. Without waiting for the county scheme, they formed a voluntary association in 1913 which secured treatment for 334 children in the first 18 months.



Woodlands County Primary, the first school to be completed on the Sheerwater Estate, opened July, 1953.

Public Services—Water, Electricity and Gas

WOKING and District Water Company was incorporated by Act of Parliament as Woking Water and Gas Company in 1881, and was known by this name until changed by Ministerial order in 1949. The powers to supply gas were never used and the rights disposed of in the early days.

Water is supplied to the Urban District of Woking (excluding Byfleet), Pirbright, Bisley, Worplesdon, the Clандons, the Horsleys, Ockham, Ripley, Wisley, Send—an area of about 63 square miles.

The original works were sited at Clandon, where a well with adits and boreholes was sunk in the chalk and a reservoir constructed. Additions were made later. After a few years works were started at Horsley. At both pumping stations there have been alterations in recent years, and they now contain modern pumping plant capable of dealing with the full yield of water from these sources.

However, the main source of supply has long been at Chertsey. Owing to the increasing demand for water and the limited yield of the chalk wells, Parliamentary powers were granted for the construction of works alongside the Thames between Laleham and Chertsey in 1899. Since then many extensions have been carried out. Water is abstracted from gravel beds, and there is now modern rapid gravity filtration plant.

With the outbreak of war in 1939 and the influx of civilian and military population, the demand for water rose to such an extent that additional pumping work at Chertsey became urgent. The machinery then installed had a capacity in excess of the requirements of the hour, and it sufficed to meet the needs of Woking at war.

But with peace the demand continued to rise. There were the housing schemes not only of Woking Council but of the L.C.C., and Guildford Rural District Council. In 1950 the Board of the Company decided on further development which took the shape of new works opened last year. Plant capable of pumping five to six million gallons a day has been installed. Now a programme of main laying is in progress to enable fuller use to be made of the water available.

An average daily supply of approximately 2,500,000 gallons is made throughout the area, but in summer it often reaches 3,500,000. This goes to an estimated population of 80,000—upwards of 30 gallons per head.

In quality the water is of the highest bacteriological standard. On no occasion in the history of the Company has a single local authority found an unsatisfactory sample in the course of frequent examinations. It is fortunate in the purity of the raw water obtained. Notwithstanding this it treats the water with rapid gravity filtration followed by chlorination.

Pride is taken in the fact that rates and charges have not been increased since the 1914-18 war despite steeply rising costs in wages and materials. The achievement is believed to be unique.

At about the time the 'Woking News' made its appearance the first instalment of public street lighting took place. Electricity was generated by a firm known as New and Mayne, who established their works on the site of the South-Eastern Electricity Board's buildings and had an office in Walton Road.

The first portion of the district to be lighted was Maybury Road towards Maybury Hill with a double lamp in front of Ashby's (now Barclays) Bank, and one at the junction of Guildford Road, Goldsworth Road and High Street, near Victoria Arch.

Private consumers in those days had to keep a store of candles on hand because of the frequency of the current fusing.

Between the wars street lighting turned over to gas and then back to electricity.

Both gas and electricity undertakings, in common with others throughout the country, were nationalised by the Labour Government of 1945-50. The Woking electricity area extends as far as Shepperton, and with the rapid growth of building in the area a million pounds modernisation scheme is shortly to be embarked upon.

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Hospital Services—Voluntary to State

ERECTED to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and opened in September, 1899, Woking and District Victoria Hospital started with seven beds. It cost £4,200 and served a population of about 20,000, including outlying areas. Early this century an out-patient department was added, and later a temporary children's ward was attached.

Thirty years ago the hospital was largely rebuilt at a cost of over £20,000. The money was raised by public subscriptions, a carnival, the United Services Fund and



Wheatshaf Bridge and Victoria Hospital prior to rebuilding in 1914.

Woking War Memorial Fund. A children's ward of 12 beds was opened at the same time as a new general ward.

However, during the 'thirties' the inadequacy of the hospital for the rapidly growing town became obvious, and in 1936 a public meeting agreed that the town's memorial to King George V. should take the form of hospital accommodation. But there was division of opinion—build a new hospital or extend the existing one.

The committee which was appointed brought out a scheme of enlargement, bringing the number of beds to 100, and this took three years to complete. When expansion on the existing site proved impossible an appeal for £100,000 was launched, and a site at Kettlewell Hill was secured for £7,000. By the outbreak of war in 1939 the fund had reached £25,000. After the war the Government announced its intention of nationalising the hospital service, and the money collected was spent on improvements before the take over in 1948.

The accommodation problem, especially of out-patients, became steadily more acute. Eventually, early last year a new out-patient department scheme was approved by the Ministry. But before it could materialise there leaked out the news that the Surrey and West Sussex Area Committee of the S.W. Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board had plans for dividing the hospital horizontally and devoting the ground floor to out-patients.

There was a public outcry. Within a month the Regional Board had produced an alternative plan—a new two storey block behind the hospital, incorporating out-

patients' department, casualty station, dispensary, laboratory, recovery room, consultants' rooms to be finished within 18 months.

But this does not solve the long term problem, and there is now a search on for a site for a new hospital within the vicinity of the town; for nobody is satisfied with the long journey out-patients and visitors have to make to St. Peter's, Chertsey.

The first Woking Maternity Home was sponsored by an organisation known as the Woking Health Society, and opened in 1921. The pioneers had the inspiration and leadership of Dr. John Lawrie. There were 10 beds at first, but by 1936 the demand for accommodation had risen to 24. In that year a scheme for a new Maternity Hospital was launched.

When Woking Maternity Hospital was built in 1939 it was to a design for 36 beds. But the onset of air raids on London in 1940 impelled the conversion of part of the Nurses' Home to take another 18 beds for evacuee patients. Because of the increase in Woking's population these beds have remained in constant use.

What was sufficient out-patient accommodation for 36 beds is no longer adequate for a hospital of 54 beds, especially with the importance now placed on ante-natal supervision.



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60 Years of Sport in Woking

MANY local men have made their name and left their mark in national sport; but, with one outstanding exception, prior to the 1939-45 war, these men were products of Woking Football Club. The exception was, of course, the Bedser twins—Alec and Eric—who signed as Surrey professional cricketers in 1938. Even so, it was only in post-war years that they came really to the fore. Alec, as a Test cricketer, earning himself the description of the greatest bowler in the world.

Then in the two post-war Olympic Games Woking has had its representatives, who have also achieved successes in other athletic events. Bill Nankeville, the miler, was in the 1948 Olympics in London and, with Chris Chataway, the middle distance runner, and Nick Stacey, the sprinter, in the 1952 Games in Finland.

With a history dating back even further than that of the 'Woking News and Mail,' Woking Football Club, which was founded in 1887, has had many players whose names have become known all over the country.

SOCCER INTERNATIONALS

English Amateur International caps were won by E. H. Lintott, A. H. Bell, R. J. Thorne Thorne, W. J. Price, W. H. Warnes, A. Cardidge and C. Mortimore, and T. M. R. Briggs played for Scotland. Evelyn Lintott also played, as an amateur, in all the full Internationals of 1907-08. Many players have also played for Surrey and for other representative sides.

Woking players who have become professionals include E. H. Lintott (Q.P.R., Bradford City and Leeds City); W. J. Price (Fulham); H. May (Crystal Palace); W. H. Warnes (Arsenal, Norwich City and Aldershot); R. Hobbs (Aldershot); W. Chitty (Reading); J. J. Tompkins (Fulham); J. Wharton (Birmingham); F. Preskett (Plymouth Argyle and Torquay); G. R. Perrett (Fulham); J. Elliott (Millwall); R. Rooke (Crystal Palace, Fulham and Arsenal); H. E. Medhurst (West Ham and Chelsea); D. Pacey (Leyton Orient); Edwards (Chelsea) and C. Nugent (Cardiff).

Woking, who have always been known as the Cardinals, first played on the Wheatsheaf Common, and next at the junction of Chobham Road and Woodham Road. About 1893 the club moved to a pitch on Church Hill Estate, Horsell. Later moves were to Pembroke Road and Hobbs' Field, Kingfield, before headquarters were established on the Sports Ground, Kingfield, which has been the club's home since 1923.

WHEN CHOBHAM BEAT WOKING

In 1893 the club, now firmly established, was affiliated to the Surrey County F.A. Woking opened that season with a match against Ripley, which they won 3-0, and the following week lost to Chobham 2-5!

In the season 1895-6 Woking entered the West Surrey League, and won the championship at their first attempt. Two years later, playing for the first time in the Surrey Senior Cup, they reached the final, losing to powerful Weybridge.

The succeeding years saw the Cardinals growing in strength to become one of the country's leading amateur

clubs. Then, in 1907-8, Woking had a great season, in which only three matches—all cup ties—were lost.

It was Woking's magnificent achievement this season in winning their way through the qualifying rounds to the last 64 in the F.A. Cup, and meeting Bolton Wanderers, at Bolton, on January 11th, 1908, which placed the club on the football map, and which led to Woking's election, in 1911, to the Isthmian League, in which they have played ever since.

Other outstandingly successful seasons were in 1912-13, when Woking won the Surrey Senior Cup for the first time, and took the Surrey Charity Shield as well, and in 1926-27, when the Surrey Senior Cup was again brought to Woking.

Season 1930-31 saw their best run in the F.A. Amateur Cup, when they lost in the semi-final to Wycombe Wanderers, who won the trophy.

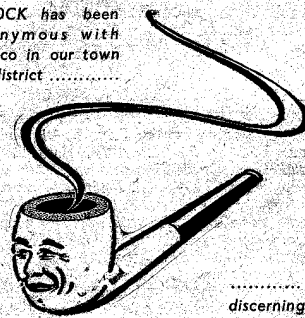
Presidents of Woking F.C. have been Messrs. R. N. Stevens, A. H. Godfrey, T. C. Gloster, A. H. Bell, W. J. Dixon and W. Bryn Davies.

Hon. secretaries and treasurers have been Messrs. H. W. Robertson, A. Wells (assistant secretary), E. T. Engall, E. ('Dad') Saunders (in office for 20 years) and F. E. B. Clark, and C. Jarman and J. H. Goddard (secretary and treasurer respectively for the last thirteen years).

Of course, in addition to the town club, there is a large number of senior, intermediate and junior clubs in the

(Continued on page 16)

For nearly 60 years
—thro' fair winds and
foul—the name of
POCOCK has been
synonymous with
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and district



..... to the
discerning smoker

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CHERTSEY ROAD

and

GUILDFORD ROAD

WOKING

SIXTY YEARS OF SPORT—Continued from page 15
district. Vickers-Armstrongs play in the Metropolitan League, while Brookwood Hospital, Ripley Village, Byfleet and West Byfleet have teams in the Surrey Intermediate League.

Then there is the highly successful Woking and District League, which provides sport for hundreds every Saturday afternoon. The League was formed in 1919/20 at a meeting held in the Comrades Club in the Broadway, Mr. J. Steer becoming the first chairman and Mr. A. Horwood (now president) the first hon. secretary. There were 12 teams in one division, a second division being formed the following season. The League has now grown to five divisions, with 33 clubs entering 48 teams. The high reputation gained by the League has attracted clubs from well outside the bounds of the Urban District.

Naturally, there is the usual support for other outdoor sports, while the indoor sports have a large following. Particularly strong are darts, in various leagues, and table tennis. In the latter, teams are gathered into five divisions in the Byfleet and District League, which was formed in 1948 with twelve teams in a single division. Between the wars there was a small Woking League.

Although not highly organised into competitions as is football, the summer sports of cricket and bowls have always maintained great popularity. Nearly every leading industrial concern and many business premises run teams among their employees, and then there are the village sides. One of the strongest cricket teams in the locality is Horsell, for whom the Bedders played before joining Surrey, and who regularly entertain county players in benefit matches.

MEETING SPIRITUAL NEEDS—Continued from p. 9

But time came when a new church and rooms were needed, and in 1924 the present church in Percy Street was started.

It says much for the enterprise of the Woking Baptists that within five years of its completion a new church at Kingfield was started and has just celebrated its silver jubilee.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Early in the 1939-45 war a Presbyterian congregation was founded in Woking by the Rev. G. M. Nicol, and services were held in the Y.M.C.A., Bath Road, for several years. Then in 1951 work was started on a Woking Presbyterian Church—St. Andrew's—on a site at the corner of White Rose Lane and Heathside Road. It is in replacement of a Lambeth church destroyed by enemy action, which was not rebuilt upon the original site because it was seen that the congregation was moving towards the southern counties.

St. Andrew's was opened and dedicated in February, 1952, and draws its congregation from as far as Guildford, Godalming, East and West Horsley.

ROMAN CATHOLICS

Adherents to the Church of Rome worshipped in a corrugated iron building in Percy Street 30 years ago. St. Dunstan's R.C. Church, White Rose Lane, was started in 1925 largely due to the enterprise of one man, Father H. E. Plummer, who was priest from 1923 until last year.

A Town of 75,000 Envisaged

To the future. Under the Surrey Development Plan Woking will keep its residential character, but its population will rise from the present 52,780 to 75,000 by 1971.

The expansion of a town to 1½ times its size cannot be accomplished without some changes in physical and social characteristics. But much of Woking's attraction has always lain in its natural background of commons, woodlands, trees and nurseries. These will not be lost, in fact new public open spaces are planned.

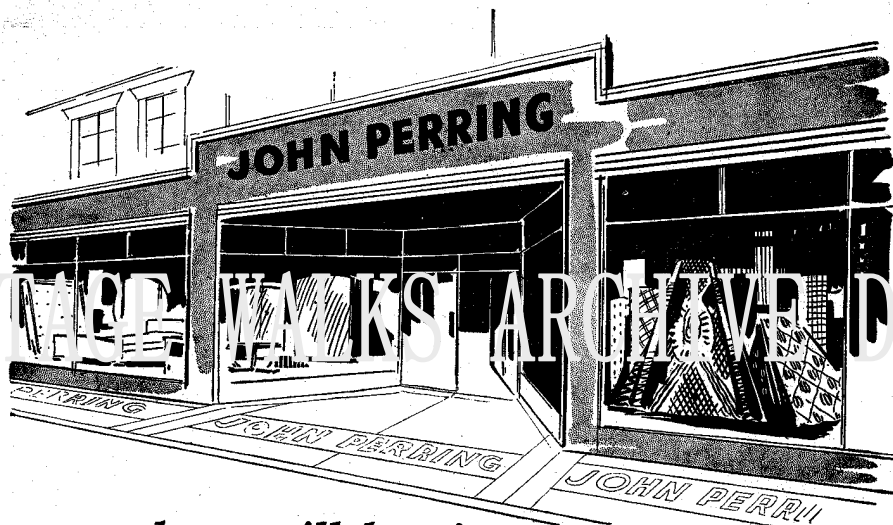
However, details of the Woking of 1971 are by no means settled, for the Plan is at this very time undergoing rigorous examination at a public inquiry already months old and, in any case, the Plan merely 'suggests how development may proceed when conditions are favourable.'

Clearly, to cater for the additional population will mean expanding the town centre, and some rebuilding will not only be inevitable but is desirable. The aim is to preserve the best of the old buildings and secure good designs in the new, to overcome traffic congestion by widening roads and providing more car parks, and to encourage the growth of office and commercial buildings.

Adequate industrial development, of an appropriate kind, will be encouraged on sites allocated for the purpose. In this respect Mr. Harold Watkinson, Woking's M.P., who is Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour, is not only giving close attention, but has secured promises of new light industry. The introduction of the large L.C.C. estate at Sheerwater and the plans for the development of the West Byfleet Golf Course to provide homes for the overspill of certain Surrey Metropolitan Boroughs make it imperative that local industry should be available. By virtue of its excellent train service to London, Woking will always be, in a measure, a dormitory town, but the tendency will be to make greater provision locally.

To-day Woking has an excellent framework by its numerous cultural, artistic and sporting societies to provide the media for a happy social life. Professional entertainment is provided by its excellent cinemas. On the artistic side there is the Woking Art Society, a progressive body of long standing that is ever ready to welcome new artists, the Woking Choral Society, whose continuity extends almost over the 60 years covered by this supplement, the Woking Orchestral Society and numerous dramatic societies. For many years the W.E.A. have arranged winter courses to meet local needs. Amateur dramatics have flourished in the town. There are something like six or seven catering for different sections.

One of the problems of Woking socially is the knitting together of the inhabitants in this very large urban area, which contains no fewer than five railway stations. A new re-warding scheme will be introduced next year, thus providing the town with nine wards, each electing three councillors. Many residents, however, feel that complete unity will not be established until a Charter of Incorporation making Woking a borough is granted. While the town has been excellently served by chairmen of the Council, the leadership of a Mayor adds prestige and the community spirit provided by borough status would be to the advancement of the area.



... and we will be sixty

next year !



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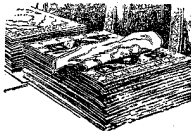
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