

## LATE 14<sup>TH</sup> & EARLY 15<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY OLD WOKING

In the last essay we saw how Joan, the 'Fair Maid of Kent', secretly married Thomas Holland, who was made the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Kent in 1360, before being killed fighting in Normandy. Their son, also called Thomas, was made the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Kent, although he didn't take control of Woking, as it was still held by his mother in dower<sup>1</sup>.

At that time the manor of Byfleet was part of the Duchy of Cornwall, held by Edward III's eldest son, Edward, the Black Prince, who it seems had had his eye on Joan for some time, as within ten months of her husband's death the two were married<sup>2</sup>!

Edward and Joan spent much of their time abroad, mainly in Bordeaux, but that didn't stop them carrying out transactions in this area as the Feet of Fines for 1363/4 record a case between 'Edward Prince of Aquitaine & Wales and his wife Johanna, v Eustace Dabrichcourt and his wife Elizabeth in Wokkyne, Sutton and Baggeshot<sup>3</sup>.

The transaction is also referred to in the registers of the Black Prince, with £400 paid to 'Sir Eustace Daubridgescourt and the lady his wife, for the release of the manor of Wockyng' being recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1363<sup>4</sup>, and a further payment of £65.11s., in February 1364 noted 'for divers kinds of stock which were bought from him in the manors of Wockyng and Sutton when the prince received them by his grant'<sup>5</sup>. Elizabeth, the wife of Eustace, was the widow of John, Earl of Kent<sup>6</sup>.

The Black Prince's registers offer a number of insights into the affairs of this area, with an order on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 1363 to Adam atte Feld 'bailiff of the prince's manor of Wockyng, to pay to Adam de Hoo, the prince's parker and warrener there, 1½d., a day for his wages and 6s.8s.' a year for hose<sup>7</sup> – apparently back-dated to when the prince took control of the manor<sup>8</sup>. Atte Feld had apparently previously worked for Sir Eustace before becoming bailiff at Woking<sup>9</sup>

Adam atte Feld is again referred to on the 6<sup>th</sup> July that year when he was ordered 'to sell as profitably as possible all this year's hay of the said manor, reserving enough for the prince's stock there and ten cartloads for the prince's foals during the winter season'<sup>10</sup>.

Later that year atte Feld was asked to pay John Basset 'whom the prince has appointed to be keeper of his foals at Wockyng, 2d., a day for his wages and 13s.4d., a year for his robe and hose so long as he has the said keeping'<sup>11</sup>, Adam to also 'provide hay, oats, wheatmeal, litter and candle for the foals that stay there'.

In July 1365 a payment of 6s.8d. was paid to a John Haket 'for his help in taming and breaking-in' horses at Woking, with 'Robert de Ware and his page' paid 3d., as wages 'for the keeping of two horses which were then withdrawn from the prince's stud there, and 2d a day from now onwards for the wages for the said Robert so long as the horses stay there and he remains their keeper'. These horses were also to have as much hay as they needed and '½ bushel of oats every night'<sup>12</sup>.

Back in July 1363 Adam atte Feld was also ordered to 'cause all the necessary repairs of the houses of the manor, and of the mills there and the 'waryngs' thereof, to be carried out quickly by advise and testimony of the prince's yeoman, William de Seint Omer'.

It appears that a storm had destroyed several trees, Adam being ordered 'to sell the wood blown down by the wind' and to 'cause shengel to be made for roofing the prince's houses' – 'all the prince's tenants there to carry for the prince – the talwode and faget which shall be made and sold for a reasonable reward'<sup>13</sup>.

It is possible that some of the wood was used to repair the pail of the deer park at Woking as on the 24<sup>th</sup> November that year, Adam atte Feld was asked 'to cause the enclosure of the prince's park of Wockyng to be repaired and mended'<sup>14</sup>.

The following year John Alisaundre is recorded as steward of the manor of Woking, Byfleet and other manors belonging to the Black Prince, being paid a wage of 12d a day and 5 marks a year fee<sup>15</sup>, with Robert Ware paid 3d a day as the keeper of horses at Woking stud<sup>16</sup>

Somewhere in 'Wokkyng' about this time a Robert Latymer held lands, which in October 1366 the king placed in the ward of Reynold de Neuport, 'to hold until the lawful age of the heirs, rendering yearly at the Exchequer the extents thereof'<sup>17</sup>, but exactly where that land was I have not been able to establish.

Sadly the Black Prince died in June 1376, one year before his father Edward III, so that the crown passed to his second son, who in 1377<sup>18</sup> was crowned as Richard II, aged just ten.

<sup>1</sup> p352 (Cokayne, Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain & United Kingdom, Extant, Extinct, or Dormant, Vol 4 1892)

<sup>2</sup> p351 (Cokayne, Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain & United Kingdom, Extant, Extinct, or Dormant, Vol 4 1892)

<sup>3</sup> p133 (Lewis 1894), another local transaction at that time being between John de Lotegereshale and his wife Matilda, and William Goldemor of Wokkyng of land in Wokkyng and Sende.

<sup>4</sup> p500 (Registers of Edward the Black Prince, preserved in the Public Records Office, Part IV, 1351-1365 1933)

<sup>5</sup> p524 (Registers of Edward the Black Prince, preserved in the Public Records Office, Part IV, 1351-1365 1933)

<sup>6</sup> Inquisition upon the death of Elizabeth, widow of John Earl of Kent, 7<sup>th</sup> June 1411 (Kirby 1987) Item 861-863 helpfully sets out how the manor of Woking descended through the family. It notes that 'the premises were part of a grant of Edward III by letters patent to Edmund, earl of Kent'. 'From him they descended to his son Edmund, and then to John, brother of Edmund, whose wife Elizabeth was. John's heir was Joan, his sister, late princess of Wales. From her the right to the reversion descended to her son Thomas, and then to his sons Thomas and Edmund, successive earls of Kent. The heirs are now Edmund, earl of March, son of Eleanor, countess of March, first sister of Thomas and Edmund; Joan, duchess of York, wife of Henry Lescrop, knight, the second sister; Margaret, widow of John, late earl of Somerset, the third sister; Eleanor, wife of Thomas, earl of Salisbury, the fourth sister; and Elizabeth, wife of John Neville, knight, the fifth sister'.

<sup>7</sup> p205 (Green 1998)

<sup>8</sup> p494 (Registers of Edward the Black Prince, preserved in the Public Records Office, Part IV, 1351-1365 1933)

<sup>9</sup> p199 (Green 1998)

<sup>10</sup> p503 (Registers of Edward the Black Prince, preserved in the Public Records Office, Part IV, 1351-1365 1933)

<sup>11</sup> p512 (Registers of Edward the Black Prince, preserved in the Public Records Office, Part IV, 1351-1365 1933)

<sup>12</sup> p560 (Registers of Edward the Black Prince, preserved in the Public Records Office, Part IV, 1351-1365 1933)

<sup>13</sup> In Sutton 'defects of the houses and dovecote' were also to be repaired as well as at Byfleet where the 'wood blown down by the wind' was also to be sold 'except timber and the branches from which faget or talwode can be made'. (Registers of Edward the Black Prince, preserved in the Public Records Office, Part IV, 1351-1365 1933) p503-4.

<sup>14</sup> p512 (Registers of Edward the Black Prince, preserved in the Public Records Office, Part IV, 1351-1365 1933)

<sup>15</sup> p188 (Green 1998)

<sup>16</sup> p218 (Green 1998)

<sup>17</sup> p340 (Calendar of Fine Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office, Vol 7, Edward III, 1356-1368 1923)

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Four years later, it appears that Woking was only slightly caught up with the Peasant's Revolt, although at Chertsey the tenants 'stormed the Abbey and burnt some of its manorial rolls' and in Guildford a mob 'destroyed the town's charter'<sup>19</sup>.

Dr Morton, in his booklet on St Peter's Church<sup>20</sup>, notes that during the great rebellion 'many ordinary people rose up against oppressive lords'. He notes, however, that at the time the holder of Woking Manor was Joan – 'the Fair Maid of Kent', and that the people of Woking appear to have had no grievances against her. 'Instead, they turned against the vicar of St Peter's, John Hendes de Dodeford, who sadly had been notoriously negligent in his duties. In particular he had failed to hold services in the nearby chapels of Sutton and Pyrford, and was twice brought up to face the Bishop of Winchester, in 1381 and 1382'. He went on to note that 'having been threatened with excommunication, he eventually had to resign in 1385'.

It was about this time that the floor of St Peter's Church was tiled, with tiles and fragments of tile 'made at Penn in Buckinghamshire between 1322 and 1390'<sup>21</sup> being preserved in Victorian times when they were replaced by 'restorers' of the church.

The 'Fair Maid of Kent' died in 1385<sup>22</sup>, at which point Thomas Holland, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Kent, inherited Woking, before he too died in 1397 at Arundel Castle (his wife, Alice, being the daughter of the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Arundel<sup>23</sup>).

Their son, also called Thomas, became the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Kent, and later that year was created Duke of Surrey, having supported Richard II (his uncle on his father's side) by arresting the Earl of Arundel (his uncle on his mother's side), and in so doing being rewarded with some of Arundel's forfeited estates.

His reward was short-lived, however, as with the deposition of Richard II in 1399, Henry IV removed his title of Duke of Surrey along with the Arundel estates, with Thomas eventually being executed early in 1400 for plotting to depose Henry IV and restore Richard II to the throne<sup>24</sup>. When the 3<sup>th</sup> Earl was executed in January 1400, with no children, his youngest brother, Edmund, became the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Kent<sup>25</sup>.

Part of the 1400 plot may have involved mercenaries from the Low Countries as he apparently promised Hermann van Mekerem an annuity of £10 from the revenues of the manor of Wockyng - Henry IV in the first year of his reign granting Hermann £10 a year from the petty customs in the port of London in recompense<sup>26</sup>.

Mercenaries or not, the plot almost certainly included some of his Woking tenants and servants, as an inquiry<sup>27</sup> found that a number of the earl's retinue 'arose treasonably and rode against the king from the Sunday before Epiphany until the following Wednesday'. It went on to note that 'Richard Dogel and John Taillour rode with the said lords from Woking to Cirencester', with others allegedly riding with the Earl of Kent 'from Woking to Abingdon against their wills'.

Stansfield<sup>28</sup> acknowledged that 'some of his followers apparently only joined reluctantly', but points out that 'this was no doubt an impression they were keen to foster for the inquisition juries'. He also noted that 'the chroniclers give 4-500 mustered at Kingston', whilst pointing out that the standard practice of dividing that number by ten (i.e. 40-50 men) would be consistent with a rebellion 'conceived as a rapid surprise blow with the prime objective of despatching an unsuspecting king'.

Seven of the Woking men deserted the rebellion at Abingdon. They were listed as William Bakere, Roger and Austin Bolton, Barnaby Wapshote, Richard Hay, William Heggeshaygh and John Thecchere<sup>29</sup>.

As a result of the rebellion, on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 'Richard Gest came to Woking by virtue of the king's commission and took the earl's goods, value unknown, and carried them with a cart and a chariot from Woking to Windsor'. He may also have taken some of the property of John Taillour, as the inquiry noted that at his house at Woking there 'are four quarters of rye worth 20s., three cows worth 18s., a young ox worth 2s., and 10lb of wool worth 13s.4d.'.

Others caught up in the rebellion appear to have been Robert Porter and Robert Swalwe who had £80 in gold and silver coins, and 'Nicholas atte Witrowe'<sup>30</sup> at Woking' who had six 'cofferys' worth 5s., mail worth 10s., a 'harnessyd horn' worth 20s., and two gowns (one red, one green) worth 5s., each.

John Benyt of Crastock had 'two fardels packed with goods worth 6s.8d.' in his house, whilst 20s. was taken from the wives of John Taillour and William Bakere.

William Gyles of Woking had a foal worth 33s.4d., taken from him and 'on Thursday after St Hilary (14<sup>th</sup> January) it was noted that John Benet sold barley, rye, oats and hay of William Gylys with a cart worth 100s., to John Smyth at Sutton'.

An inquisition held at Guildford on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1400 noted the value of the Manor of Woking<sup>31</sup>. 'Within its moat are a hall, a kitchen with divers chambers and a garden of no net yearly value'. Outside the moat it noted two barns, a cowshed and a great stable – again of 'no net yearly value'.

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<sup>18</sup> p14 (The Friends of Woking Palace 2015)

<sup>19</sup> p56 (Janaway 1994)

<sup>20</sup> p5 (Morton n.d.)

<sup>21</sup> p14 (Morton n.d.)

<sup>22</sup> According to the inquisition, held at York in late August 1385, 'the princess died on Monday before St Lawrence last' (St Lawrence's day being the 10<sup>th</sup> August). It then notes that 'Thomas de Holland, earl of Kent, aged 30 years and more, is her heir'. Item 303 (Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem. Vol 16. Richard II 1974)

<sup>23</sup> p352 (Cokayne, Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain & United Kingdom, Extant, Extinct, or Dormant, Vol 4 1892)

<sup>24</sup> 'He was taken prisoner and beheaded by the populace at Cirencester, 6<sup>th</sup> January 1399/1400, being subsequently declared a traitor by Parliament' p352 (Cokayne, Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain & United Kingdom, Extant, Extinct, or Dormant, Vol 4 1892)

<sup>25</sup> p352 (Cokayne, Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain & United Kingdom, Extant, Extinct, or Dormant, Vol 4 1892)

<sup>26</sup> p261 (Calendar of Patent Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office, Henry IV, Vol 1, 1399-1401 1903)

<sup>27</sup> p66 (Calendar of Inquisitions Miscellaneous (Chancery) Preserved in the Public Record Office, Vol VII - 1399-1422 1968)

<sup>28</sup> p134 (Stansfield 1987)

<sup>29</sup> p66 (Calendar of Inquisitions Miscellaneous (Chancery) Preserved in the Public Record Office, Vol VII - 1399-1422 1968)

<sup>30</sup> Nicholas obviously lived at 'Witrowe' (white-treow, or tree – i.e. silver birch trees) which was later corrupted to White Rose (see p160 (Gover, Mawer and Stenton 1934)), the record of the name in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century dispelling any assumption that the later name had anything to do with supporters of the Yorkists during the War of the Roses. As we shall see, Woking was very much a Lancastrian stronghold.

<sup>31</sup> p66-67 (Calendar of Inquisitions Miscellaneous (Chancery) Preserved in the Public Record Office, Vol VII - 1399-1422 1968)

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This inquiry is obviously nowhere near as detailed as earlier surveys of the manor, but it does give us some interesting facts about the land-holdings. It found that the Earl of Kent 'also had with the manor ninety acres of arable land worth 2d., an acre yearly, ninety acres of meadow worth 14d., an acre yearly, a deer-park of no net yearly value because it is occupied by the game, and two pastures called 'Cowlese' and 'Fetesbrok' worth 30s., net yearly beside the enclosures.'

There was also a 'water-mill in poor condition and broken worth 20s., yearly', and 'a fulling-mill worth 10s net yearly' (although in the exchequer copy of the inquiry it is also valued at 20s.). These figures compare favourably to those from the survey of 1327 when only the fulling-mill was worth anything at 8s.4d. per annum.

Added to the above, the inquiry concluded with a note that the 'customary works' were worth 6s.8d., yearly, and that twenty shillings a year came from 'amercements of pleas of divers courts there with the common fine of a view of frankpledge'.

The result of the inquiry appears to be that Woking became a Crown property once more, as in June 1400, Thomas' widow, Alesia, claimed that as 'Joan, late Princess of Wales, had given the manor of Wokkyng to both her husband and herself, she should have retained the manor'<sup>32</sup> - a situation Henry IV agreed to in November that year<sup>33</sup>.

A couple of Feet of Fines at this time record the transfer of land in Wockyng and other neighbouring parishes from John Norton and his wife Johanna to Richard Lentewardyn and Richard Teweisle (in 1403-4)<sup>34</sup>, and John Pilton and his wife Margaret to Thomas Ingram (in 1407-8)<sup>35</sup>.

With the death of the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl (in September 1408 at battle in Brittany<sup>36</sup>), Woking passed to his sister, Margaret Holland, who was married to John Beaufort, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Somerset (eldest illegitimate<sup>37</sup> son of John of Gaunt, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Lancaster). They had six children before John Beaufort died in 1410<sup>38</sup>, the eldest of whom, Henry Beaufort, became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Somerset<sup>39</sup>, aged just nine.

Until Henry Beaufort was fifteen his mother continued to hold Woking, but just three years later Henry died and (as he too was un-married and had no offspring) he was succeeded by his youngest brother, John (3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Somerset<sup>40</sup>).

Unfortunately in March 1421 John was captured at the battle of Baugé in France<sup>41</sup>, and whilst he was imprisoned his mother, Margaret Holland (now married to the Duke of Clarence, second son of Henry IV), apparently managed his estates, with a number of new buildings being erected.

Even before then, in 1419 'the Prior of Newark sold ironwork for repairs being made' to the manor house at Woking<sup>42</sup> and a 'receiver's account for 1420-1 recorded 'the construction of a number of new buildings' at Woking<sup>43</sup>, involving the work of carpenters, masons, and the provision of new bricks and ironwork<sup>44</sup>, at a cost of £247.10s.2d.<sup>45</sup>. The Prior of Newark was apparently 'responsible for holding money to pay the various men engaged there, including a mason, carriers and a carpenter'<sup>46</sup>. Poulton<sup>47</sup> notes that the accounts held at Westminster Abbey Muniments<sup>48</sup> 'included expenditure for carriage of bricks and limestone brought for keys that may relate to construction of the standing stone building at the site'.

Many assign the construction of the stone-vaulted building at Woking Palace to Lady Margaret Beaufort, but it appears that it may have been built earlier, by Margaret Holland



<sup>32</sup> p313-p314 (Calendar of Patent Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office, Henry IV, Vol 1, 1399-1401 1903)

<sup>33</sup> p392 (Calendar of Patent Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office, Henry IV, Vol 1, 1399-1401 1903)

<sup>34</sup> p165 (Lewis 1894)

<sup>35</sup> p167 (Lewis 1894)

<sup>36</sup> 'He was mortally wounded while besieging the castle of Briak, in Brittany, and died 18<sup>th</sup> September 1408, aged 24, being buried in the Abbey at Brunne. p352 (Cokayne, Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain & United Kingdom, Extant, Extinct, or Dormant, Vol 4 1892)

<sup>37</sup> Declared legitimate by Richard II in 1390, by Pope Boniface IX in 1396, and confirmed legitimate again by Richard II in 1397, but along with all the Beaufort's, barred from the succession to the throne by Henry IV. Jones and Underwood (Jones and Underwood 1992) noted that 'the properties that descended to Margaret Holland were of vital importance to the Beaufort family and came to form the heart of its landed identity' (p23), adding that 'Margaret Beaufort was a great heiress'.

<sup>38</sup> p170 (Cokayne, Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain & United Kingdom, Extant, Extinct, or Dormant, Vol 7 1896)

<sup>39</sup> *ibid*

<sup>40</sup> *ibid*

<sup>41</sup> p27 (Jones and Underwood 1992) noted that 'he spent the next seventeen years in captivity in France, the longest period endured by an English aristocrat during the entire Hundred Years War'.

<sup>42</sup> p35-6 (Send & Ripley History Society n.d.)

<sup>43</sup> p6 (M. K. Jones 1982)

<sup>44</sup> p14 (Members of the Woking History Society 2014)

<sup>45</sup> p6 (M. K. Jones 1982) WAM 12163 ff6/20v

<sup>46</sup> p36 (Send & Ripley History Society n.d.)

<sup>47</sup> p23 (Poulton 2017)

<sup>48</sup> WAM 12163/6r-20v

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Could some of these workers also have been employed by Margaret Holland on building the South Aisle of St Peter's Church – the arcade piers of which are dated to 1420? Abigail Coskun, in her work on Medieval graffiti in Surrey Churches, seems to think so, noting that 'on the jambs of all the windows in the south aisle are multiple graffiti inscriptions comprising of simple depictions of heraldic shields, each with the same design of a cross' and that 'since the shields are limited in distribution to this one architectural area, the implication is that they related to someone specifically linked to this aisle: perhaps the founder<sup>49</sup>.

She argues that they could be a way for Margaret Holland 'to demonstrate support for the local church community and to cement her claim to the inheritance' or possibly as 'a tribute or demonstration of loyalty to her'<sup>50</sup>.

Morton notes that the South Aisle was 'probably added to accommodate a larger congregation', although the 'eastern end may have functioned more as a private chapel'<sup>51</sup>.

Interestingly, Coskun also notes the depiction on one of the piers of 'three ballock knyves', or daggers, thought by some to be related to 'the threshold in the life course reached by a boy upon his first kill or hunt'. She also discovered nearby 'an animal resembling a rabbit or hare' – adding that 'if the depictions of ballock knyves at Woking are related to the rabbit to which they are in close proximity, this graffiti may have been created to mark such a rite of passage in the life of a young medieval man'<sup>52</sup>. I wonder who!

The South Aisle is also said to be associated with 'Lionel Power, one of the leading musicians of his day', who according to the Woking History Society 'resided with that court at Woking and supervised the music in one of the two chapels there'<sup>53</sup> – possibly even playing in the new South Aisle of the church.

Margaret Holland, the Duchess of Clarence, is recorded in a Feudal Aid of 1428 relating to Wokkyng, with another of that date noting Johanne Wyntereshall and Willelnus le Frenche being responsible for land once held by Waltero de Shaldeford in Wokkyng<sup>54</sup>.

Her son, John Beaufort, was ransomed in 1438, but his 'long captivity had blighted his prospects of securing an advantageous marriage. He finally secured a relatively modest match, marrying Margaret Beauchamp of Bletso around 1442<sup>55</sup>, with whom he had a daughter, Margaret (born 31<sup>st</sup> May 1443<sup>56</sup>).

He was made Duke of Somerset in March 1443<sup>57</sup>, but numerous losses in France and financial scandal led to his downfall<sup>58</sup>, before he died (some say of suicide<sup>59</sup>) the following year.

The tile Duke of Somerset then passed to his younger brother, Edmund (married to Eleanor, daughter of the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Warwick), who was apparently equally unsuccessful in battle, and when his bitter rival, Richard, Duke of York became Lord Protector in April 1454, Edmund was imprisoned in the Tower of London. He was saved by the temporary recovery of Henry VI later that year, but when York confronted Edmund and the King at St Albans in 1455, Edmund was killed, leaving his sons (Henry, Edmund & John) to carry on the family feud<sup>60</sup>.

It was evidently before then that Edmund Beaufort, 'procured a charter for holding a fair at Woking on Whit-Tuesday, annually<sup>61</sup>', Manning & Bray noting that Edmund 'in 27 Hen VI (1449) obtained a Charter dated 20 May in that year, for a Fair to be holden yearly at Woking on the Tuesday next after the feast of Pentecost<sup>62</sup>. The Calendar of Charter Rolls also notes that it was dated 20<sup>th</sup> May, but gives the year as 1452<sup>63</sup>.

The Mayford History Society agree with that year, but dispute that the fair was to be held on the Tuesday after Pentecost, noting that 'another sign of affluence came in 1452 when King Henry VI granted to Edmund, Duke of Somerset, the right to hold a charter fair on the Tuesday after Easter'<sup>64</sup>. To add to the confusion, Alan Crosby<sup>65</sup> and the Surrey Archaeological Unit<sup>66</sup> claimed that the charter for a Toy Fair was granted in 1442, presumably to John Beaufort<sup>67</sup> - although I believe the date 1452 (and therefore Edmund) appear to be now more generally accepted.

Where the fair was held is not recorded, although the junction of the High Street and Church Street seems the most likely spot. It is thought there was once a 'High Cross' there, the Mayford History Society<sup>68</sup> noting it as a 'market cross' erected by 1547 'when a survey of manorial tenants locates some properties



One of the inverted shields on the window jamb of the South Aisle – thought to relate to a female patron – in this case Margaret Holland

<sup>49</sup> p50 (Coskun 2020)

<sup>50</sup> p51 (Coskun 2020)

<sup>51</sup> p12 (Morton n.d.)

<sup>52</sup> p58 (Coskun 2020)

<sup>53</sup> p14 (Members of the Woking History Society 2014)

<sup>54</sup> p123-4 (Inquisitions and Assessments relating to Feudal Aids Preserved in the Public Record Office, 1284-1431, Vol V 1908)

<sup>55</sup> p28 (Jones and Underwood 1992)

<sup>56</sup> Recorded in the calendar of the Beaufort family book of hours as the 31<sup>st</sup> May 1443

<sup>57</sup> p25 (Jones and Underwood 1992)

<sup>58</sup> p29 (Jones and Underwood 1992)

<sup>59</sup> p35 (Jones and Underwood 1992) 'The Crowland chronicle, a particularly well-informed source, reported a current rumour that the duke's death shortly afterwards (on 27 May 1444 at Wimborne in Dorset) was a suicide'.

<sup>60</sup> p171 (Cokayne, Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain & United Kingdom, Extant, Extinct, or Dormant, Vol 7 1896)

<sup>61</sup> p6-7 (Brayley 1850)

<sup>62</sup> p121 (Manning and Bray 1804-14)

<sup>63</sup> p115 (Calendar of Charter Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office, Vol VI, 5 Henry VI - 8 Henry VIII, 1427-1516 1927), 'Grant of special grace to Edmund, duke of Somerset, and his heirs of a yearly fair at Wokkyng, co Surrey on Tuesday after Whitsunday'.

<sup>64</sup> p13 (Members of the Woking History Society 2014)

<sup>65</sup> (Letters Last Updated 16th December 2013)

<sup>66</sup> p8 (Robertson March 2002 (revised June 2003)) erroneously quoting the Victoria County History Volume 3, page 383, which actually gave the date of 1451.

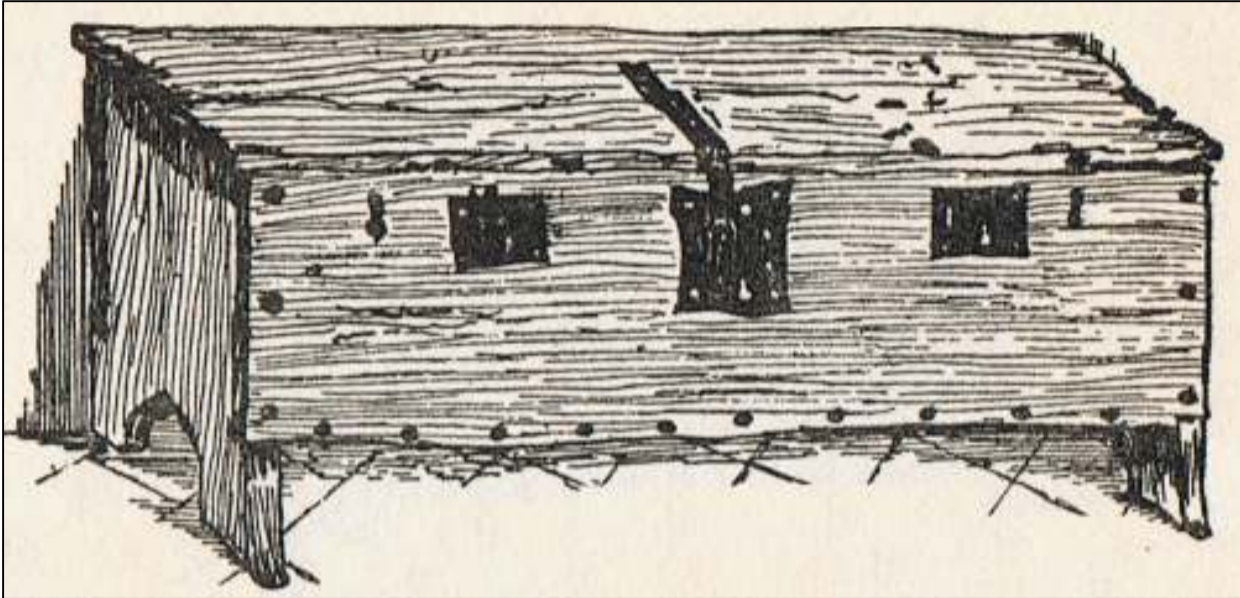
<sup>67</sup> p30 (Crosby 1982)

<sup>68</sup> p13 (Members of the Woking History Society 2014)

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as near to it' – although it should be pointed out that Woking did not obtain a market charter until considerably later and the manorial survey that they refer to actually only ever call it the 'High Cross' – not a 'Market Cross'!

About this time, a 'Richard Goly of Woking and a Richard Weste, yeoman, of the same place', are recorded in the archives<sup>69</sup>, with a John Gaynesford esquire, John Kympynden and Philip Amondesham, acquiring land in Wokkyng from Ralph Amondesham and his wife Milicent in 1453-4.<sup>70</sup>



According to Dr Morton, at St Peter's Church, at some time during Henry VI's reign (1422-1461) the oak pews, 'now in the centre of the nave'<sup>71</sup> were installed; the piscina in the south-east corner of the South Aisle is dated 1460 'and provides evidence that an Alter was nearby under the eastern window'<sup>72</sup>; and there is also a wonderful parish chest, now kept in the south-east corner of the south aisle<sup>73</sup>, dating from the 15th century.

The latter has five locks, ensuring that the Vicar, parish clerk and three churchwardens all needed to be present with their keys when it needed to be opened.

In 1461 Henry VI was deposed, and in 1462 Henry Beaufort, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Somerset, had his property attained<sup>74</sup> – most of his lands being granted to the king's brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

Henry Beaufort died at the Battle of Hexham in 1464<sup>75</sup>, and as he was unmarried and had no children, the title passed to his younger brother, Edmund, 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Somerset, who along with the other brother, John, died in 1471 at the Battle of Tewkesbury (John in battle and Edmund soon after, being caught and executed<sup>76</sup>).

That only left their cousin, Lady Margaret Beaufort and her fourteen-year-old son by her first husband, Henry Tudor, to carry on the Lancastrian cause – Henry being then exiled to the safe-keeping of France – and Margaret by then married to Sir Henry Stafford<sup>77</sup>.

Stafford was an ally of Edward IV, who rewarded him and his wife by granting her some of the old Beaufort estates in 1466<sup>78</sup> – so that you could say that whilst almost everywhere else in the country had to wait until 1485 to enter the Tudor Age, Woking got there some nineteen years early!

<sup>69</sup> TNA E326/5406, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1450 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 1451

<sup>70</sup> p190 (Lewis 1894)

<sup>71</sup> p14 (Morton n.d.)

<sup>72</sup> p12 (Morton n.d.)

<sup>73</sup> p14 (Morton n.d.)

<sup>74</sup> p15 (The Friends of Woking Palace 2015)

<sup>75</sup> p172 (Cokayne, Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain & United Kingdom, Extant, Extinct, or Dormant, Vol 7 1896)

<sup>76</sup> ibid

<sup>77</sup> p9 (Jones and Underwood 1992)

<sup>78</sup> p15 (The Friends of Woking Palace 2015)

# LATE 14<sup>TH</sup> & EARLY 15<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY OLD WOKING

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