

# THE "WARDEN'S" CALENDAR FOR 1899.

JANUARY.

4	S	First Sunday AFTER CHRISTMAS	
5	M	First Football Club, started '79	
6	W	Hon. E. S. Parker, Jervis d. '66	
7	Tu	New Charter for Sutton Inc'pn an'ed '86	
8	Th	Christmas—Twelfth Day	
9	F	Loss of Calais, 1355	
10	S		
11	S	Ad. A. Johnson, J.P., buried, '96	
12	M	Rev. J. Shillito notifies resignation, 1896	
13	Tu	Anderson sold to Thos. Gibbons, 1860	
14	W	Miss Mary Hackett buried at Hill 1890.	
15	Th	John de Hely Chawdwick C'ty Magist. '60	
16	F	Wm. Ansell County Magistrate '93	
17	S	Earl Carlisle died, 1787	
18	S	First an' Dinner S.C. Debating Soc. '66	
19	M	J. Forleston, B.A., an. Rev'r High Sch.	
20	Tu	First Inter't. in Com're, '87 St. Hubert, '10	
21	W	C. E. Matthews' Presidential Address '97	
22	Th	Serious Fire at Mr. Raymond's, Erd'n.	
23	F		
24	S		
25	S	S. S. Bellamy buried, '72	
26	M	William Ashford died, '97	
27	Tu		
28	W		
29	Th	Moxs. De Lattre died, '93	
30	F		
31	S	Mr. Williamson died, '97	
32	S	SEPTEAGESIMA SUNDAY	1560
33	M	Anderson resold to T. Gibbons, N. Hall,	
34	Tu	First Meet. S. P. Prot. Soc. at Erd'n.	'74

## FEBRUARY.

1	W	Second Ord. Meet. Royal Hotel Co., '64
2	Th	Geo. Sachererell's sole dist., also Apl. 25
3	F	3 1/2 Acres of Trees pl'd. nr. Streetly S. 97
4	S	
5	S	Dr. G. Boddington died, 1882
6	M	
7	Tu	
8	W	Dr. Henry Sachererell born, 1674
9	Th	W. H. Tisdall rec'd. Cap. Commis. '89
10	F	F. W. Woodington born, 1806
11	S	Dr. Geo. Boddington buried, 1882
12	S	Thos. Holluiche died, 1898 [Ch. '4
13	M	Ap from Miss Ritland to build Walmlie
14	Tu	Meer's, Sut. Park Prot. Soc., Green Man
15	W	Honoraria Haywood [and 89] bu. 3rd Eas't
16	Th	First An. Ball Eas't'n. Conserv. Assn. '87
17	F	Exc. rec. for bidding, Bridge at Brook, ovs
18	S	R. R. & B. Riland died, 1790 [Drowk, '2
19	S	Dinner to Cornet Webster and Ensign
20	M	'85; Oughton, H. Sh'f. 1792 [Bedford, '5
21	Tu	Suicide of S. A. Kimber at Reggar's B. S
22	W	John Addrys, Moor H., el. H. Sher, 170
23	Th	Sam'l. S. Alleyne el. High Sheriff, 1730
24	F	Pandey Jesson, High Sheriff, 1748
25	S	Sir F. Lawley, Bart. [M'dleton] H. Sher
26	S	SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
27	M	
28	Tu	Peter Philbott died, 1685.

MARCH,

1 W I  
 2 Th  
 3 F Archdeacon Riland d. 1672  
 4 S Sir J. B. Stane retired from Council, '91  
 5 S THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT  
 6 M  
 7 Tu  
 8 W Mrs. S. A. Taylor died, '91  
 9 Th Rev. M. Webster came to Hill Vicar'ge  
 10 F Rural Games in Grand Stand Field, '69  
 11 S Duchess of Cumberland died, 1809  
 12 S FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
 13 M Rev. John Riland died, '22  
 14 Tu  
 15 W Snt. Gardeners' Soc. held first Show, '7  
 16 Th John Hackett, Esq., Moor Hall, bur.,  
 17 F First Races at Four Oaks, 1881  
 18 S  
 19 S FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
 20 M First Election persons to oc. Almshs.,  
 21 Tu Com. Colmore ports, inhab's. B'fields,  
 22 W Royal Assent given m'ing T'pike-rd.  
 23 Th Date of Master's Order re Corp. funds,  
 24 F Bellringers dispensed with, 1876  
 25 S Marriage of Miss F. A. Bagot, 1890  
 26 S Palm Sunday  
 27 M Grace Campbell Beilford died, '76  
 28 Tu  
 29 W  
 30 Th Dorothy Smith (Curd's th) acquitted, 1  
 31 F GOOD FRIDAY

## APRIL

2	S	Royal Assent to sale Four Oaks Pl., 1757
3	M	EASTER SUNDAY
4	M	Pres'n to Rev. W. H. Richards (Hill), '86
5	Tu	Corp. give leave alt., lower part Town hl.,
6	W	Sir E. C. Hartopp's letter to inh. 25, 178
7	Th	Vetery deprived of his Sec, 1551
8	S	John Jahn dates from Sutton, 1205
9	S	Ap. made to close Shush Lane, 1879
10	S	John B. Stone elected first mayor, 1886
11	M	Meat. of 2,000 inhabs. Clifton's Hill, '55
12	Tu	W'pton, Walsall & Mid. Ry. Bill disc'd, 72
13	W	Joseph Duncombe, Esq. buried, 1793
14	Th	Great Fire in Sutton Park, 1655
15	S	Sutton Gasworks off. to Corp. 27,000, '91
16	S	Miss Jane Holbeche died, 1891
17	M	Mr. Connellor Kirch-Patten died, 1891
18	Tu	Maria Chattock Way, nee Shaw, died, '91
19	W	
20	Th	Meet. of Trustees, re cal. Gram. Sch., '59
21	F	Ilexon Pearson, Lieut. 14th 1-Drsg., '1
22	S	Meeting of Opposers to an Enclosure, 1778
23	S	First Scheme for Schools, etc., 1808
24	M	P. A. Muntz, Esq. addressed electors, '83
25	Tu	John Oughton, Esq. died, 1849
26	W	Prop. to enlarge Grammar School, 1859
27	Th	Reputations as Exh'bt's at Gram. Sch., '67
28	F	Pub. of New Gram. School Scheme, '77
29	S	Rev. J. H. Gibben died, '83
30	S	Richard, Earl of W'wick, Lord of Manor,

DAY.

1	Tu	Bernard Winter killed by Indians, '85
2	W	
3	Th	Lavinia Sophia Trevanion died, 1880
4	F	Second day's Sale at New Hall, 1880
5	S	John Langley died, 1890
6	S	ROMANTIC SUNDAY
7	S	Jan. Lloyd late (Queen's) 6th Lancers d. 74
8	Tu	Erection of Altar Piece P. Church, 1755
9	W	Enclosure Bill—Meeting of Com., 1822
10	Th	Sir Hugh Willeburgh sail'd of fr. Deptford
11	F	Early Closing Move't started. '87
12	S	1850
13	S	SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION
14	S	Die of 250 Oak Trees fr. Nut and Darnley
15	Tu	Thos. Colmore died, '70
16	W	Hurst, 1750
17	Th	Res. passed for Winding-up Royal Hotel
18	F	Geo. Sacheverell died, 1715
19	S	[Co., '88]
20	Tu	First Goods Tr. (Mid) passed thro' Sut'g.
21	W	S. S. Water'ks. Co. recd. appl. for ex
22	Th	Whit. Synod's Pension to Sutton, '77
23	F	Sir Rd. Bingham, N., died, 1487
24	S	Rangership of Sutton Chase given to John
25	Th	Great Thunderstorm, 1787
26	F	[Holt, 145]
27	S	Wm. Fowler, J.P., died, '87
28	S	Mary Ashford murdered, '17
29	S	TRINITY SUNDAY
30	M	The Rector's Birthday
31	Tu	Opening Church, 7
32	W	Sermon by Rev. W. K. R. Bedford on 7

JUNE.

1	Th	Sutton Coldfield P. Magazine first iss., '2
2	F	First Passenger Train ran to Sutton, 62
3	S	Sir William Wilson died, 1710
4	S	FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY [Eng. S.]
5	M	Letter fr. Mr. Barker prop. sep. Latin and
6	Th	Friendly Soc. first meet. Red Lion, S. [17
7	W	
8	Th	Lorenzo Secker died, 1887
9	F	Prop. to fill Window P.J.C. mem. of Th
10	S	Wm. Homer, gent., d. 1768 [Colmore,]
11	S	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.]
12	M	Mary Kempson buried, 1897
13	Tu	
14	W	
15	Th	Rev. Robt. Riland Mendham died, 185
16	F	
17	S	James Hughes died, 1837
18	S	THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
19	M	jubilee Festivities commenced, '87 [1
20	Tu	Coverdale made Coadjutor Bish. Exeter
21	W	B. P. G. C. Noel qual. County Magist.
22	Th	H. H. C. Horsfall " " "
23	F	H. Duncliffe " " "
24	S	
25	S	FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
26	M	Tenders rec'd. for Lych Gate N. Cem.
27	Tu	Miss Caroline Bracken buried, '87
28	W	Notice conv. meet. op. Grant New Ch
29	Th	
30	F	

III V.

1 S	Sutton Park Races, 1879
2 S	
3 Tu	Fire in Park for more than a week, 1868
4 W	
5 Th	Meeting to con. best means paying off Ch.
6 Th	Rev. W. R. Bedford died, '42 [Feb. '75]
7 F	Joseph Webster died, 1856
8 S	Sporting Bye Laws made, 1872
9 S	Completion of Altar Piece in C. Ch. 1755
10 M	Ethel Francis Riland Bedford married, '84
11 Tu	Joseph Clibbery died, 1889
12 W	Rev. W. K. R. Bedford born, 1826
13 Th	Edward Hands (Hill Hook) prof. Dissent
14 F	Maypole Fete. Sutton Park, '88 [1755]
15 S	"Penns" and New Shipton Ects. sold, '64
16 S	
17 M	
18 Tu	Major Warburton's Com. to hold enq. '50
19 W	Doe Bank, The Anchorage, etc. ests. sold
20 Th	The Sycamores, Maney, sold, 1878 [1758]
21 F	
22 S	Christ Ch., Birmingham, first st. laid, '05
23 S	bridge piers, 1658
24 M	Flood broke dams of Windley and Brace-
25 Tu	Town's Meeting re Sanatorium scheme, '95
26 W	Bazaar in Sutton Park, 1841
27 Th	Second Charter granted by Chas. II. 1664
28 F	Pet. pres. to Hn. of Cons. by Lord John
29 S	New Gram. School op. '57 [Russell, '56]
30 S	Petition for enclosure agreed to by Corp.
31 M	James Adams (from the Canal) buried 1712

## AUGUST

1	Tu	Baron Webster died, 1860
2	W	
3	Th	Order made for funding capital & income
4	F	Chas. A. Addenbrooke d. '91 [disp. of '25]
5	S	
6	S	Gift by Rector of Site Bohlmeres Almshouses, 1865
7	M	BANK HOLIDAY "houses, 1865
8	Su	Sutton became Polling pl. County cl., '77
9	W	Corporation Vote of 1009s. New Bells, 1781
10	F	Book Soc. mmo. cellar under T. II. 1791
11	F	Lord Vernon allowed leave to hunt County
12	S	Prop. for p'mnt Sch. fees '78[covers. 1789]
13	S	
14	M	Vessey resigned his see' 1551
15	Tu	
16	W	John Smith, 29 yrs faithful mes'ger, d. '47
17	Th	Archd. Sandford visited Parish Ch. '57
18	F	
19	S	
20	S	Miss Sarah Holtbeche died at W'wick, 'S
21	M	
22	Tu	Grammar Sch. Found'n. Deed dated 1541
23	Th	First meet. Amat. Harmonic Asso, 1859
24	F	
25	S	Vessey's Tomb examined, 1875
26	S	Wm. Grundy, a celeb'd. Photo'gr, d. '50
27	S	
28	M	Four Oaks Park sold, 1891
29	Tu	Capt. G. H. Arbuthnot rec'd. Commis., 1851
30	Th	"Lieut., 1851
31	W	
32	Th	Earl of Warwick licen. to fol. deer, 1851

## SEPTENBER

9	F	John Antisel (from the Camp) bur. 1812
1	S	Rev. J. B. Harkness died, 1832
3	S	Great Whirlwind at Wishaw, 1801
4	Tu	
5	W	
6	Th	Meet. St. John's Amb. Assn., 141. Let.
7	Th	Dinner to Rd. Spooner. Eq. 341 in ch.
8	F	Battle of Flodden Field, 1513
9	S	First stone of Boldmere Church laid 1850
10	S	Dr. Williamson died, 1865
11	M	Prot. granted Rd. de Belle par. P. Ch. 12
12	W	
13	Th	Robt. Glover suf. martyrdom at Coventry
14	F	
15	S	[Volanteers, 17]
16	S	
17	S	Colours pres. by Lady Harriag to Sutl.
18	M	Hutton saw two highwaymen, Chester-rd., 17
19	Tu	R. B. Riland pres. at meet. Gen. Hosp.
20	W	[Birm., 17]
21	Th	
22	F	Rev. W. K. R. Bedford inducted, 1850
23	S	Wm. Hughes killed by fall of timber, 17
24	S	Ch. of Incorporation, signs, invited, 18
25	M	John Vetter appt. Dean of Windsor, 152
26	Tu	John Wilkins left his bequest to the Ch.
27	W	Opening of Town Hall, 1850
28	Th	Vesley restored to Bishopric of Exeter, 17
29	F	Boldmere Church Consecrated, 1857
30	S	Lydia Riland married Wm. Bedford, 17

## OCTOBER.

1	S	Female Friendly Society estab. 1823
2	M	Appointment of new Trustees by Organists,
3	Tu	— 1863
4	W	First Annu. Gen. meet. of S. C. Inst. 1854
5	Th	Miss A. E. Lloyd (Moor Hall) mar. 1876
6	Fr	
7	S	Bazaar in aid St. Joseph's Sch. ext. fund. '66
8	M	The Warden paid £20 towards Organist's
9	Tu	Wm. Jesson (Langley) d. 1286 [sally. 1781
10	W	Rev. F. Culler comm. duties as pastor, '96
11	Th	John Hartman, priest, sup. to Free Chapel
12	Fr	[of St. Blaine, 1471
13	S	
14	M	Major General Arwhatnot born, 1835
15	Tu	Charles Barker, D.C.L., died, 1843 [1642
16	W	King Charles rev'd. troops at King's Sd'g
17	Th	Edwards' Hand's he. record. pl. of Whip.
18	Fr	Org. of Vol. Rifle Corps, '59 [1785
19	S	Bishop Hackett died, 1670
20	M	"Sutton Park," and other poems pub., '44
21	Tu	Bishop Vevey died, 1554
22	W	In 1822 no burial took place for 10 weeks
23	Th	
24	Fr	
25	S	Breaking up of Camp on Hill Common, '72
26	M	
27	Tu	Severe Frost—two men frozen to death, '72

## NOVEMBER.

1	W	Rev. J. Mendham died, 1856	[Sch. 1809
2	Th	First dist. of clothing to child'n S. Joseph's	
3	W	John Rilani refused to be Warden and left	
4	S	[Corporation, 1872	
5	S	Mr. Harry Hill left for India, 1872	
6	Th	John Bickley (Hill) died 1799, aged 103	
7	Tu	John Rilani objects to enclosure, 1805	
8	W		
9	Th	Pres. to Ald. Seal, J. P. by tradespeople, 95	
10	S	C. N. Newland elected M.P. for North	
11	S	John Henry Call died, 1880 [Worship, 47	
12	Th	Wm. Parbet, Bart., G.C.M. Admiral of	
13	W	fleet, died, 1866	
14	Tu		
15	W	Special Meeting of S.C.C. to con. question	
16	Th	[of a New Scheme, 1875	
17	F	Morton tried at King's Bench for murder	
18	S	[of Mary Ashford, 1817	
19	S	Little Aston Church Consecrated, 1874	
20	Tu		
21	Tu	William Smith buried, 1883	
22	Th	Great Catholic Meeting, Blam Town H	[183
23	S		
24	F		
25	Th		
26	W	Simon Luttrell's black servant b'ried, 176	
27	Tu	Weekly Market re-instituted, 1748	
28	Th	Caualin Wolsey died, 1503	
29	W	Master for Corp. Up. Sch. advt. for, 183	
30	Th		

DECEMBER.

1	F	[Church at Cannes, 18
2	S	
3	M	Rev. W. F. R. Bedford app. to Memor
4	Tu	Sarah Brentall, mistress of Town G
5	W	Plans for Schools app. 1808 [il
6	Th	Appl. to bor. £5,500 for sewerage w
7	Fr	Corporation allow seats in P. Ch. 1763
8	S	Capt. S. A. Howell (Vols.) resign'd com.
9	S	Concert in aid of prop. new Dispens'y
10	Th	School of Industry recommended, 1798
11	W	£500 voted to pay teacher for poor child
12	Tu	Salton surrendered to Crown, 1837 [17
13	W	Hill Church Consecrated, 1835
14	Th	Date of enrolment Sutton Volunteers, '8
15	Fr	Wm. Giffens appointed first Warden, 1
16	S	Sale of 520 Oak trees from Pool Hol
17	S	[Weed, r
18	Th	Vincent Holbeche died, 1867
19	Tu	John Wigan died, 1875
20	W	Capt. Holbeche received Commission,
21	Th	Ser. Taylor's first attack as drill instr.
22	F	Anne Kiland, wife of Asa. Kiland, bur.
23	S	Dr. C. Barlow died, 1888
24	Th	Death of Capt. Phelmont, 1879
25	W	Parliament troops attacked Aston 11.
26	Tu	
27	W	John Wigan buried, 1876, aged 75
28	Th	Foot trans. to Erding's Workhouse,
29	F	O. Elizabeth sells alms-house of Sutt. r
30	S	Voluntary Sermon by Rev. L. L. Wood

## THE WARDEN'S CALENDAR

### INTRODUCTION

*The Warden* was a short-lived magazine published by Mrs S. Brentnall, a Sutton Coldfield stationer and familiar figure in the town who had founded *The Sutton Coldfield News* in 1869, and printed by The Boys' Home, Regent's Park Road, London NW. The Boys' Home Industrial School, originally known as The Home for Unconvicted Destitute Boys, had been established by George William Bell (1822-1910) in 1858; a printing shop was started there in 1889. The first issue of *The Warden*, priced at sixpence, was dated June 1898 and it contained nine articles of local interest, such as 'Four Oaks and its Owners', 'A Guide to the Sutton Park Bazaar' and 'The Vesey Club'. The second, third and fourth issues followed in September 1898, December 1898 and March 1899. Copies of the first four issues can be found in the Sutton Library (shelf reference QSH97SUT), but subsequent issues are missing, apart from one page, which has the heading: THE "WARDEN'S" CALENDAR FOR 1899, which was compiled by George Sidwell and printed by Lea & Jones, Station Road, Erdington. Sidwell was the author of *The Popular Guide to Sutton Park*, the third edition of which was published in 1901, jointly with W.J. Durant, a stationer who had recently taken over The Stationery Deposit in Mill Street from Mrs Brentnall (who had presumably died or retired). He may possibly have been the Sidwell, a painter and decorator, who lived in a half-timbered house in the High Street which was demolished when Railway Road was constructed in 1880. *The Warden's Calendar* records 263 events in Sutton's past (some with a somewhat dubious link to Sutton) from King John's supposed visit to Sutton in 1208 to the distribution of clothing to St. Joseph's School in November 1898, not in chronological order, but according to the day and month of the particular event. This article places the events recorded in the Calendar in strict chronological order, with a short comment about each entry.

### THE CALENDAR ENTRIES

#### 1.        7/4/1208        *King John dates from Sutton*

Agnes Bracken in her *History of the Forest and Chase of Sutton Coldfield* (1860) states that King John "visited his manor house on Sutton Chase, as is shewn by the date of a royal command issued from Sutton, April 7, 1208". Rev W.K. Riland Bedford in his *History of Sutton Coldfield* (1891) questioned the accuracy of this account: "It has been asserted, on the strength of a document dated from Sutton, April 7th, 1208, that King John visited the Manor House; but as he was at Waverley Abbey on the 4th April in that year, and at Guildford on the sixth, it is pretty clear that Sutton in Surrey was the place from which he dated." Waverley Abbey was two miles south-west of Farnham in Surrey; Guildford is about eight miles further east and Sutton is eighteen miles north-east of Guildford. There is, however, another Sutton, Sutton Green, which is three miles north-east of Guildford, and it could therefore have been Sutton Green that King John visited. Be that as it may, it is clear that it was not Sutton Coldfield.

#### 2.        31/8/1289        *Earl of Warwick licen. to fol. deer*

The Warden's Calendar uses abbreviations because of limited space. In 1289 King Edward I granted William de Beauchamp the 9th Earl of Warwick licence to follow and pursue deer that had fled from Sutton Chase into the royal Forest of Kank and there to kill them and bring them away. Otherwise, killing deer in a royal forest was a capital offence under the Draconian forest laws.



3. 12/9/1294 Prot. granted Rd. de Bells par P. Ch.

This entry in The Warden's Calendar defies complete elucidation. Richard de Bello is named as the Rector of Sutton Coldfield from 1294 to 1305 and again from 1308 to 1318 on the Rectors' Board at Holy Trinity Church. 'Bells' is probably a misprint for Bello; 'par' may mean parson; 'P. Ch.' is obviously Parish Church; but 'Prot'? Protection? Holy Trinity Sutton Coldfield edited by Stella Thebridge tells us that Richard de Bello was mentioned in the history of the Hereford Mappa Mundi as follows: "The map is attributed to one 'Richard of Haldringham or Lafford' (Holdingham and Sleaford in Lincolnshire) who was also known as Richard de Bello." Richard de Bello may well have been related to the de Beauchamp Earls of Warwick, who were the Parish Church's patrons, responsible for appointing the rectors, as de Bellocampo is the Latinised version of the French de Beauchamp.

4. 30/4/1439 Richard, Earl of Warwick, Lord of Manor

Richard de Beauchamp (1382-1439) was the 13th Earl of Warwick, succeeding to the title on the death of his father Thomas de Beauchamp 12th Earl of Warwick in 1401. The Earls of Warwick were the Lords of the Manor of Sutton from Roger de Beaumont 2nd Earl in 1126 to George Plantagenet Duke of Clarence and 17th Earl of Warwick in 1478. The Warden's Calendar fails to state the significance of the date 30th April 1439, but it was the day the 13th Earl died. Why George Sidwell, who prepared *The Warden's Calendar* selected the 13th Earl for special mention is open to conjecture.

5. 23/5/1455 Rangership of Sutton Chase given to Jno. Holt

During the Wars of the Roses when Richard Neville 16th Earl of Warwick (1428-71) alternately supported the Yorkists and the Lancastrians (earning him the soubriquet 'the Kingmaker'), King Henry VI confiscated the Manor of Sutton from Neville and King Edward IV restored it to him. Following the confiscation, King Henry, in the words of Agnes Bracken "conferred the rangership of the Chase on John Holt, esq., of Aston, one of his household, to hold for the term of his life". John Holt (or Holte) was related to John atte Holte who purchased the Manor of Aston in 1367, and also to Sir Thomas Holte 1st Baronet who built Aston Hall between 1618 and 1635. According to *Sutton Park A History and a Guide* edited by John C.W. Field and Peter W. James (1965), John Holte, who was also referred to as the Keeper of the Chase, constructed Keeper's Pool in the Park, which is named after him. The Pool remained in the Holte family and then in the Somerville family until, together with Powell's Pool, it was bought by the Sutton Council in 1937.

6. 12/10/1471 John Harman, priest, app. to Free Chapel of St. Blaize

The Free Chapel of St. Blaize (or St. Blaise) was attached to the Manor House on Manor Hill. King Henry VII conferred the Chapel on John Harman, later known as Bishop Vesey, in 1495. It is recorded that the officiating priest in 1441/42 was another John Harman at an annual stipend of £1.13.4d. and there are records of a John Harman as the incumbent of Wishaw in 1431 and the vicar of Hampton-in-Arden in 1432; all three of whom may well have been the same person. It is usually stated that the 1441/42 John Harman was Bishop Vesey's uncle, but it has also been suggested that he may have been his grandfather. The date of 1471 given by The Warden's Calendar for the appointment of John Harman to the Free Chapel of St. Blaize falls between the appointments of Bishop Vesey and his older relative. As this was the year in which Neville the Kingmaker was killed in the Battle of Barnet and his estates were forfeited, perhaps the appointment was actually a re-appointment by King Edward IV (see 8 below). St. Blaise (died c.303) was the Bishop of Sebaste in Cappadocia who suffered martyrdom

under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, and was an extremely popular saint in the Middle Ages. The description of a chapel as 'free' indicates that it is a private chapel independent of a parish church.

7.        22/5/1487        *Sir Rd. Bingham, K. died*

Sir Richard Bingham was a Justice of the King's Bench Court who married Margaret, the widow of Hugh Willoughby of Middleton Hall. Agnes Bracken recounts that he resided at Middleton Hall "till he died, 1475 (15 Edward IV), being joined in all commissions of peace, and other matters of importance, with the superior gentlemen of this county". Specifically, he was one of the judges at the trial of Sir Robert de Arden of Park Hall Castle Bromwich, who was convicted of treason and executed in 1452. He was also one of the judges called on to decide the fate of Sir Robert de Arden's grandson John de Arden who had attempted to elope with Alice Bracebridge of Kingsbury Hall much to the annoyance of her family; this story had a happier ending as the judges ruled that the marriage could take place after a suitable financial settlement was entered into. According to <https://www.genii.com/people/Richard-Bingham>, Sir Richard Bingham died on 22nd May 1476 aged seventy-six. The same year of death is given by <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Bingham-1045>. The 'K' in *The Warden's Calendar's* entry stands for Knight.

8.        13/12/1487        *Sutton surrendered to Crown*

The history of the estates of the Earls of Warwick following the death of Richard Neville (the Kingmaker) 16th Earl of Warwick at the Battle of Barnet in 1471 is somewhat complicated. His estates were confiscated by King Edward IV, but he then settled them on Neville's two daughters, the King's sisters-in-law, Isabel the wife of George Plantagenet Duke of Clarence who became the 17th Earl of Warwick, and Anne the widow of Edward Prince of Wales (King Henry VI's son) and the wife of Richard Duke of Gloucester (later King Richard III). Isabel died in 1476 and Anne died in 1485, but their mother Anne Neville, née de Beauchamp, 16th Countess of Warwick was still living. In 1487 King Henry VII restored her estates to her, but, according to Agnes Bracken, "it appears not for her benefit, as he made her convey the whole to himself, and entail it on his issue male: and two years after the king assigned to her the Manor of Sutton for her maintenance, out of the 118 Lordships and other territories which should have been her dower". Riland Bedford gives a slightly different account: "In 1487, Anne, Countess of Warwick, resigned to the King, Henry VII, all her manors (of which a list is given, including Sutton Coldfield) only reserving the Manor and Lordship of Erdington." The Countess died in 1492 leaving as her heir her seventeen-year-old grandson Edward, the son of the Duke of Clarence and Isabel Neville), but the unfortunate boy had been imprisoned in the Tower of London since 1485, and he was executed, on a trumped-up charge of treason, in 1499, whereupon King Henry VII became the undisputed Lord of the Manor of Sutton Coldfield.

9.        29/11/1503        *Cardinal Wolsey died*

Bishop Vesey first met Thomas Wolsey at Magdalen College Oxford, where they were both students in 1482, and they remained good friends until Wolsey's death in 1530 (not 1503). Wolsey played a considerable role in Vesey's advancement through the Church, culminating in his appointment as Bishop of Exeter in 1519. Wolsey did even better for himself; in 1515 he was appointed as a Cardinal by the Pope, and as Archbishop of York and Lord Chancellor by King Henry VIII. However, he incurred the King's wrath over his failure to annul the King's marriage to Katherine of Aragon so that he could marry Anne Boleyn; he was arrested for treason, but died of natural causes before he could come to trial.

10. 9/9/1513 *Battle of Flodden Field*

King Henry VIII was in France in August 1513 routing the French army in the Battle of the Spurs, when the Scots, allies of France, invaded England. Thomas Howard Earl of Surrey raised an English army, marched northwards and won a resounding victory over the Scots in the Battle of Flodden in Northumberland. The Scottish King, James IV, King Henry's brother-in-law, was killed in the battle. There is no obvious reason why *The Warden's Calendar* chose to commemorate this battle (making no mention, for instance, of Crécy or Agincourt in which Sutton bowmen played a part, or of Malplaquet, Blenheim, Trafalgar, Waterloo or other famous English victories), except that it occurred during the Bishop Vesey era, so dear to the hearts of stalwart Suttonians.

11. 25/9/1525 *John Vesey app. Dean of Windsor*

In *John Vesey and his World A Biography of Bishop Vesey of Sutton Coldfield* (1997) Geoffrey R.D. Fryer says that Bishop Vesey was created Dean of Windsor by a patent of 28th September 1515 and that he held the post until he became Bishop of Exeter four years later. *The Warden's Calendar's* date of 1525 is an error.

12. 16/12/1528 *Wm. Gybons appointed first Warden*

William Gibbons (died 1543), Bishop Vesey's brother-in-law, was named as the first Warden of Sutton Coldfield in King Henry VIII's Charter dated 16th December 1528 and he was reappointed for one year at a meeting of the Warden and Society held on 2nd November 1529.

13. 22/8/1540 *Grammar Sch. Found'n Deed dated*

Bishop Vesey's first Foundation Deed was dated 14th May 1527, in which twenty-one individual trustees were named, who were given £7 a year to find a fit person to teach grammar and rhetoric in the Parish of Sutton. For various reasons of a legal nature the School was refounded in 1540, when Bishop Vesey appointed the Warden and Society of Sutton Coldfield as the trustees. For many years 1540 was treated as the School's foundation date and the School celebrated its 450th anniversary in 1990. However, after the 1527 deed was found in an attic in the Clerk to the Governors' office, the date was brought forward by thirteen years and the School's 500th anniversary will be celebrated in 2027.

14. 20/6/1550 *Coverdale made Coadjutor Bish. Exeter*

The Protestant reformer Miles Coverdale (1488-1569) was the first person to translate the whole Bible into English. He succeeded Bishop Vesey as Bishop of Exeter in 1551, but before that he was appointed as Vesey's Coadjutor or Assistant, which gave him the right to succeed when Vesey died or retired.

15. 6/4/1551 *Vesey deprived of his See*

16. 14/8/1551 *Vesey resigned his see*

Geoffrey Fry says that Vesey surrendered the See of Exeter on 14th August 1551. The Calendar of Patent Rolls of the Reign of Edward VI bearing that date records that he surrendered the Bishopric to

the King being required by the King's letters to do so, "induced by his extreme old age and other considerations", but that "considering the said bishop's services to his [the King's] father for twenty years and more" he was to receive annuities totalling £485 during his lifetime "which cannot but be short since he is over 87 years old". The significance of the April date mentioned in *The Warden's Calendar* is not clear, possibly the date of the King's letters referred to in the August entry in the Patent Rolls.

17. 28/9/1553 *Vesey restored to Bishopric of Exeter*

Bishop Vesey remains a Roman Catholic at heart. He was deprived of, or resigned from, the See of Exeter during the reign of the Protestant King Edward VI (reigned 1547-53), but when the King was succeeded by his half-sister the Catholic Queen Mary I (Bloody Mary) on 6th July 1553, she soon restored Vesey to his former position "with all its spiritual and temporal rights", despite his age. Vesey had been appointed as one of the Queen's tutors following her birth in 1516, and she evidently held him in high esteem.

18. 23/10/1554 *Bishop Vesey died*

The inscription on Bishop Vesey's tomb in Holy Trinity Church says that he died "in the 103rd year of his age, in the year of our Lord 1555", but the correct year, as stated in *The Warden's Calendar* is 1554. It is also more likely that he was born in about 1465, making him eighty-nine when he died.

19. 14/9/1555 *Robt. Glover suf. martyrdom at Coventry*

Robert Glover was born in the Manor House at Mancetter in Warwickshire in about 1520. He was educated at Eton College and King's College Cambridge. He married a niece of the Protestant reformer Hugh Latimer, and he himself became a committed Protestant. He suffered martyrdom by being burned at the stake for heresy at Coventry during the reign of Bloody Mary, one of twelve unfortunate victims of Catholic bigotry known as 'the Coventry Martyrs'. His wife's uncle suffered the same fate at Oxford a month later. Glover does not appear to have any connection with Sutton Coldfield.

20. 6/1/1558 *Loss of Calais*

The French port of Calais was captured by the English in 1347 during the Hundred Years War. By 1453 the English had lost all their possessions in France apart from Calais, which was finally retaken by the French in the last year of the reign of Queen Mary, who is reported to have exclaimed: "When I am dead and opened, you shall find 'Calais' lying in my heart".

21. 30/12/1559 *Q. Elizabeth sells advowson of Sut.*

22. 10/1/1560 *Advowson sold to Thos. Gibbons*

23. 30/1/1560 *Advowson resold to T. Gibbons, N. Hall*

The advowson of Sutton Coldfield (otherwise known as the patronage, that is the right to appoint the Rector) had been in the hands of the crown since the estates and possessions of the Earls of Warwick had been forfeited in the 15th century, and had been retained by King Henry VIII when he granted Sutton its Charter in 1528. According to Norman Evans, Queen Elizabeth sold the advowson to John Glascock and a Mr Blunt, referred to as brokers, on 31st December 1559, who on the same day sold it to John Gibbons LL.D., a London solicitor who was the grandson of Bishop Vesey's sister Agnes and her

husband William Gibbons (see 12 above). John Gibbons sold the advowson to his nephew Thomas Gibbons of New Hall Sutton Coldfield in 1560. It is not clear how it came to be resold to Thomas Gibbons in the same year, unless John Gibbons sold it to his brother Thomas Gibbons who resold it to his nephew Thomas Gibbons (son of Thomas and John Gibbons' brother William Gibbons).

24. 11/5/1563 *Sir Hugh Willoughby sail'd fr. Deptford*

Hugh Willoughby was the youngest son, by his third wife, of Sir Henry Willoughby (1451-1528) of Middleton Hall. Between 1521 and 1523 he went to school at Sutton Coldfield, but this was before the foundation of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School. He was firstly a courtier under King Henry VIII, but in 1544 he embarked on a military career, serving as a captain in the Scottish campaign of that year, for which he was knighted. After a successful nine years in the armed forces, he was elected by the Company of Merchant Adventurers, also known as the Muscovy Company, to lead an expedition, organised by Sebastian Cabot, hoping to find a north-east sea route to the Far East. Willoughby set sail from London on 10th May 1553 (not 1563 as stated in *The Warden's Calendar*) on the *Bona Esperanza* with two other vessels, the *Edward Bonaventura* and the *Bona Confidentia*, under his command. It was agreed that the three ships would stay close together, but in the event of their being separated they would rendezvous on the Norwegian island of Vardø. Storms in the Norwegian Sea in the vicinity of Cape North caused the *Edward Bonaventura* to lose touch with the other ships; she sailed on to Vardø to wait for them, but they never appeared. The *Edward Bonaventura* successfully reached Russia where her captain was summoned to Moscow by the Tsar Ivan the Terrible, and a trade agreement was negotiated. The following Spring the other two ships, with the dead bodies of their crews, including Willoughby's, were discovered by Russian fishermen. It was assumed that the men had died of a combination of starvation and hypothermia, but another possibility is that they were killed by carbon monoxide poisoning, having blocked the ships' stove chimneys to fight the Arctic cold. In July 1556 English crews were sent to Russia to sail the ships back to London, but another storm off the west coast of Norway caused both ships to sink, with Willoughby's body on board one of them.

25. 18/10/1642 *King Charles rev'd troops at King's St'd'g*

Under the heading 'King's Standing Hill' Absalom Peers in his *History and Guide to Sutton Park* (1869) adds: "Where in 1642 the unfortunate King Charles the First addressed his army, just arrived from Shropshire, on their way to Edge Hill. But King and men have passed away, and history only tells us of the circumstance." What Peers' *Guide* calls King's Standing Hill is a small mound on the west side of Kingstanding Road just before it becomes Sutton Oak Road at the junction with George Frederick Road. There is not much to see nowadays, but there is a commemorative plaque on the site. 'Rev'd' means reviewed. The indecisive Battle of Edgehill near Kineton in south Warwickshire was fought on 23rd October 1642. It was the first major battle of the English Civil Wars, although there had been earlier skirmishes at Coleshill Manor and at Curdworth Bridge (one of two bridges across the River Tame built by Bishop Vesey).

26. 26/12/1643 *Parliament troops attacked Aston H.*

King Charles I stayed at Aston Hall on 16th and 17th October 1642 at the invitation of Sir Thomas Holte. Sir Thomas's son and heir Edward was a groom of the bedchamber to the King; he was wounded at the Battle of Edgehill and killed at the Siege of Oxford in August 1643. On Boxing Day in 1643, 1,200 Parliamentary troops attacked Aston Hall and cannonaded it. Agnes Bracken tells us that "Sir Thomas held it until twelve of his people had been killed, and on the 28th surrendered. The rebels destroyed

all the family papers they could seize, and caused a damage of about £20,000. Sir Thomas had to compound for his estate at £4,401.2s.4d; he also suffered imprisonment.”

27. 27/6/1664 *Second Charter granted by Chas. II*

Riland Bedford relates that the newly-restored King Charles II was desperately short of money and that “one of the schemes for extracting money from corporations at this time was granting them new charters, and in 1662 [correctly 1664] Charles the Second graciously conferred that privilege on the town of Sutton. It was, however, too transparent a device simply to restore powers which had never lapsed, so in addition to confirming all the privileges granted by Henry VIII, or by other prescription lawfully enjoyed, the new Charter authorised the appointment by and from the corporation of two persons of the more honest and discreet men of the society, to be called capital burgesses, and to assist the warden in the administration of justice in all cases except those of life or limb. George Pudsey, of Langley, and his son, Henry, were the first nominated to hold the office during their lives and residence in the Manor [living in Sutton]. By this Charter it was also provided that the warden might carry a white staff, a matter of more importance than at first sight it would appear – as it signified that he exercised within his own jurisdiction the full authority of a sheriff, and as he was also coroner his powers were both ample and complete.”

28. 14/4/1665 *Great Fire in Sutton Park*

A year before the Fire of London there was a great fire in Sutton Park, as recorded in a memorandum inserted in the Parish Register. No further details are known.

29. 24/7/1668 *Flood broke dams of Windley and Bracebridge Pools*

Three years after the Great Fire there was another catastrophe which merited a mention in the Parish Register: “There was a great Flood of water, so great here att Sutton pools, that it Floed over the stone wall at the further end of the dam, by reason of a suden Rayne, which did breake downe Wynly-pole Dam and alsoe Brass-bridg pool dam.” The Sutton Pools referred to were situated at the bottom of Mill Street and served the Manor Mill there; the mill was severely damaged when the Sutton Pools dam proved inadequate to hold back the flood of water pouring down from the Park, where it had already broken down the dams at Wyndley and Bracebridge Pools. Fortunately, the centre of Sutton was around the High Street at this time and the principal houses in the town were not affected by the Great Flood.

30. 21/10/1670 *Bishop Hackett died*

John Hacket D.D. Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry (1592-1670) restored Lichfield Cathedral after the damage it suffered in the Civil Wars. His son, the first of five generations of Andrew Hackets, married Mary Lisle of Moxhull Hall, which property the Hackets owned until the death of the fifth Andrew Hacket in 1815. The third Andrew Hacket (died c.1783) married Mary Scott of Little Aston, who was the niece of John Addyes, the owner of Moor Hall. When Addyes died without issue in 1762 Moor Hall passed to his niece’s son John Hacket (1738-1810), and when he also died without issue it passed to his nephew Francis Beynon Hacket (1784-1864). The Hackets were one of the most influential families in Sutton during the 18th and 19th centuries. The east window in the Vesey Chapel at Holy Trinity Church is known as the Bishops’ Window as its four panels commemorate bishops associated with the



Church, John Arundel Bishop of Chichester, John Vesey Bishop of Exeter, John Hacket Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry and James Fleetwood Bishop of Worcester.

31. 3/3/1672 *Archdeacon Riland d.*

Rev John Riland, the Archdeacon of Lichfield who died in 1673, was the father of the first Riland Rector of Sutton Coldfield, another John Riland (Rector 1689-1720), and the ancestor of all the Rectors until Rev William Campbell Riland Bedford retired in 1909, 220 years after his great-great-great-great-grandfather was appointed to the post. A change to the calendar took place in 1752 when England adopted the Gregorian Calendar in place of the Julian Calendar. An Act of Parliament known as Lord Chesterfield's Act 1751 decreed that the first day of January should be the start of a new year. Previously, the first day of a new year had been 25th March (Lady Day). This meant that, before the change, the days from 1st January to 24th March were in the same year as the previous December. After the change, there was a tendency to give retrospective effect to it, so that, for instance, Archdeacon Riland who died on 3rd March 1672 (old style) was said to have died on 3rd March 1673 (new style). This has been a source of confusion for historians ever since.

32. 8/2/1674 *Dr. Henry Sacheverell born*

George Sacheverell (1632-1715) of New Hall was appointed as High Sheriff of Derbyshire at the age of seventy-seven in 1709 and he appointed Rev Dr Henry Sacheverell (1674-1724), a notorious hot-headed high church Anglican clergyman, as his chaplain. Henry Sacheverell was not a relative of George, although it suited him to be taken as such. He preached an inflammatory sermon at All Saints Church Derby, and another on 5th November 1709 at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, condemning the deposition of King James II and the Protestant succession. He was impeached by the House of Commons, his sermons, which had been published and sold in their thousands, were publicly burned by the common hangman and he himself was banned from preaching for three years. Henry Sacheverell resided at New Hall under George's protection for several years. When King George I ascended the throne in 1714 Henry preached another incendiary sermon at Holy Trinity Church, deploring the accession of a low church monarch. When George died in 1715, Henry delivered the funeral oration, for which he was paid £50 under the terms of George's will. A month later the good doctor married George's widow (he was forty-one and she was fifty-five) and he continued living at New Hall until his death in 1724.

33. 2/10/1675 *Appointment of new Trustees by Dugdale*

Sir William Dugdale (1605-86) of Blythe Hall Shustoke, the well-known antiquarian and historian, author of *The Antiquities of Warwickshire*, was appointed as one of thirteen trustees of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School (then known as the Free Grammar School of Sutton Coldfield) by Order of the Court of Chancery in 1636, when the management of the school was taken out of the hands of the Warden and Society of Sutton Coldfield after it was shown that they had leased the school lands to their own members at nominal rents. It was a condition of the appointment of the thirteen trustees that when no more than ten of them had died (they were appointed for life) the survivors should appoint new trustees. Despite this requirement, by 1675 all the trustees had died except Dugdale, who was then aged seventy. He saved the day by appointing fourteen new trustees.

34. 22/2/1703 *John Addyes, Moor H., el. H. Sher.*

John Addyes (1684-1762) inherited Moor Hall in 1706 from his father, also John Addyes, who had built a new hall in the fashionable Palladian style immediately in front of Bishop Vesey's Moor Hall, which was retained as a substantial but less attractive rear wing. Addyes was a member of the Sutton Corporation for forty years and was appointed as the High Sheriff of Warwickshire in 1702 (according to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High\\_Sheriff\\_of\\_Warwickshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_Sheriff_of_Warwickshire)). See 31 above for the calendar change in 1752.

35. 26/9/1707 *John Wilkins left his bequest to the Church*

John Wilkins (1661-1726) of Ravenstone near Coalville Leicestershire (formerly partly in Derbyshire) was a self-made coal magnate who was M.P. for Leicestershire from 1698 to 1708 and High Sheriff of Leicestershire in 1694. He was a member of the Sutton Corporation and a Trustee of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School. In 1707 he donated Sharratt Field in Hill to trustees to use the rental income for the distribution of religious books by way of reward "to such poor children and other indigent inhabitants of Sutton Coldfield as shall have been publicly catechised in the parish church". *The Warden's Calendar* is therefore incorrect in referring to a bequest, which implies a legacy in a will.

36. 3/6/1710 *Sir William Wilson died*

William Wilson was born in Leicester in 1641, the son of a baker, and he served an apprenticeship with a local statuary mason, working as a stonemason in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire. In 1666 he was in London as assistant to Sir Christopher Wren in connection with the rebuilding of the city following the Great Fire of London. This experience entitled him to call himself an architect, but he preferred to say he was a stonemason. In 1669 he was commissioned to carve a statue of King Charles II for the west front of Lichfield Cathedral, and in the next two years he designed an entrance porch at Sudbury Hall in Derbyshire and carved monuments for the Wilbraham family in St. Andrew's Church at Weston Staffordshire. When Henry Pudsey of Langley Hall died in 1677, his widow Jane commissioned Wilson to design the elaborate marble monument to his memory now in the Vesey Chapel at Holy Trinity Church. This included busts of Henry and Jane, the latter sculpted during her lifetime but only added to the monument after her death. While working on this commission Wilson fell in love with Jane, his love was reciprocated and, despite strong objections from her family, they were married in 1680. Using his wife's money Wilson bought a plot of land in the High Street (now part of Lichfield Road) and built a splendid mansion there surrounded by an artificial moat, which was called Moat House (but only two hundred years later, after the moat had been removed). Wilson was knighted by King Charles II in 1681, with the help of his wife's influence at court and more especially her money (knighthoods were then quite reasonably priced). Sir William continued his work as a stonemason after Lady Jane's death in 1697 and moved to a smaller house in the High Street.

37. 18/5/1715 *Geo. Sacheverell died*

New Hall, built c. 1200, was bought by Henry Sacheverell of Morley in Derbyshire in 1590. His grandson George Sacheverell (1632-1715) inherited it from his father Valens Sacheverell in about 1650. He was a Roman Catholic with strong royalist leanings. After the deaths of his first wife, his mother and his sister, he suffered a nervous breakdown and kept to his room at New Hall for long periods as a recluse. Rumours were rife to account for George not appearing in public, some suggesting a forbidden love affair, others that he dabbled in the occult, conjuring up the devil by black magic. By 1696 George,

now aged sixty-four, recovered from his ills and enjoyed an Indian summer. He remarried, his second wife Maria Wilson being aged thirty-six, and he was appointed as the High Sheriff of Derbyshire and as a trustee of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School. See also 32 above.

38. 2/2/1716 *Geo. Sacheverell's dole dist; also Apl. 23*

In his will George Sacheverell bequeathed a funeral dole of £10 to the poor of the parish, and an annual distribution of bread to the poor worth £5 a year was set up in perpetuity on 23rd April (St. George's Day).

39. 23/2/1730 *Saml. S. Alleyne el. High Sheriff*

Samuel Stevenson Alleyn (died 1734) was elected as High Sheriff of Warwickshire in 1730. He was the son of John Alleyn of Gresley Hall in Swadlincote Derbyshire and he inherited the Hall from his father in 1712. Gresley Hall still stands as a Grade II listed building; it is unoccupied but open to visitors for its reputation as one of Britain's most haunted houses. Alleyn's mother was Esther Stevenson, the daughter of Samuel Stevenson of Sutton Coldfield, who was the High Sheriff of Warwickshire in 1697. Samuel Stevenson settled in Sutton Coldfield in 1664, living at 38 High Street. His neighbour at 36 High Street was Ann Sacheverell (née Devereux) the widow of Valens Sacheverell of New Hall. Mrs Sacheverell was a high church Tory and Stevenson was a Presbyterian Whig whose house was licensed for non-conforming worship in 1672, and the neighbours soon fell out. Stevenson complained about a dunghill at No. 36 overflowing into the yard at No. 38. Mrs Sacheverell took exception to the accusation, which incensed Stevenson, who then aired further grievances, that her horses had broken his fence, that her pigs had got into his garden and eaten all his plants and that she had failed to carry out promised repairs. Roger Lea referred to Mrs Sacheverell as the "Neighbour from Hell". (*History Spots Nos. 17 and 421*). It is not clear why *The Warden's Calendar* considered that Alleyn's appointment as High Sheriff of Warwickshire was worthy of mention, when he appears to have had no connection with Sutton apart from his grandfather living there. The more remarkable circumstance is that Alleyn is said to have been born in about 1707 and was therefore only twenty-three years old when he became the High Sheriff.

40. 24/2/1738 *Pudsey Jesson, High Sheriff*

Pudsey Jesson (1696-1748) was the son of William Jesson and Anne Pudsey, and the grandson of Henry Pudsey of Langley Hall. He inherited The Rookery in the High Street from his father in 1725, and was the Warden of Sutton Coldfield in 1726 and 1727 and a Capital Burgess from 1728 to 1748. He was appointed as the High Sheriff of Warwickshire in 1738.

41. 28/11/1748 *Weekly Market resuscitated*

Roger Lea in *The Story of Sutton Coldfield* (2003) suggests that there may have been a regular market in Sutton before the Norman Conquest. A weekly market on Tuesdays was formally established by a Charter of King Edward I in 1300, which was renewed by King Edward III in 1353. The market was allowed to fall into disuse during the Wars of the Roses when the manors of the Earls of Warwick were forfeited to the crown, but was given a new lease of life by the Charter of 1528, clause 33 of which confirmed that the Warden and Society could have one market every Monday "as the Custom is there". This wording suggests that the market had never entirely disappeared, but it had changed from Tuesday to Monday. The Charter also appointed the Warden as the Clerk of the Market. Bishop Vesey

built a Town Hall at the junction of Mill Street, Coleshill Street and High Street, where the weekly market had been held, and this new building included a covered market on the ground floor. Bishop Vesey's Town Hall collapsed in 1671 and a new bigger Hall was built on the same site, said to have been modelled on the recently-built Market Hall at Warwick, which still stands, now a museum in Market Place Warwick. That building was constructed with a large open-plan ground floor with wide arches to allow easy access to the stalls, so as to provide shelter from the weather for stallholders in the town's regular market. A sketch of the Sutton Town Hall by Agnes Bracken shows some similarities to the Warwick building. *The Popular Guide to Sutton and Park* by G. Sidwell and W.J. Durant (1901) says that the weekly market "experienced all the ups and downs forced upon it by the exigencies of the time, until the date of the Second Charter *temp.* Charles II [1664], when having had a new lease granted, it existed in some way or other until about 1740, when it became forsaken. An attempt was made to resuscitate it in 1748, but with indifferent success."

42. 30/3/1753 *Dorothy Smith (Curdw'th) acquitted*

Dorothy Martin, whose late husband had been the Rector of the Church of St. Nicholas and St. Peter ad Vincula at Curdworth, died suddenly in March 1753. There was a Coroner's inquest which brought in a verdict of wilful murder and the deceased's niece Dorothy Smith was immediately arrested and committed to Warwick Gaol. Her trial took place at Warwick Assizes on 5th April (not 30th March). A report of the trial appearing in *The London Magazine or the Gentlemen's Monthly Intelligencer* for April 1753 reads as follows: "Miss Dorothy Smith was tried at Warwick assizes upon an indictment for poisoning her aunt, Mrs Dorothy Martin, relict of the Rev Mr Martin, of Curdworth near Coleshill. Mr Serjeant Willes, Mr White and Mr Peake were counsel on behalf of the crown; and the prisoner pleading not guilty, she was defended by Mr Caldecut, Mr Hewit and Mr Geast. The gentlemen who opened the body were examined, and it was their opinion that, by the appearance of her stomach and bowels, she died of poison. Many other evidences were examined; but no proof could be given of the administration of the poison; and a point of law arising, whether the girl that bought it, who was under nine years of age, could be admitted as evidence, which was learnedly debated for above two hours, it was determined in the negative; and many persons of reputation appearing to testify for the prisoner's good behaviour towards her aunt from her infancy, she was acquitted." No connection between Dorothy Smith and Sutton Coldfield is known, but one of her team of counsel, Richard Geast (1724-1806) who lived at Blyth Hall, was engaged by the Sutton Corporation in a chancery Court case in 1763, and was also appointed as a trustee of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School in 1782.

43. 9/5/1755 *Erection of Altar Piece P. Church*

The reredos with its Roman Catholic iconography situate behind the chancel altar and underneath the large east window in the Parish Church dates from the time of Queen Mary I (1553-58), but it was originally installed at Worcester Cathedral and only came to Holy Trinity from Worcester in 1875. Above it there is "a finely carved festoon, another rare survival, and possibly part of the organ case of 1612" (*Holy Trinity Sutton Coldfield* chapter 10 by Carol Hoare). It seems, therefore, that the present reredos is not the altarpiece referred to in *The Warden's Calendar*, but, rather confusingly, the 'Timeline of Events' in *Holy Trinity Sutton Coldfield* records that in 1863 "the Queen Anne reredos (altarpiece) is removed to the new Town Hall in Mill Street (now the Masonic Hall)", but makes no mention of an altarpiece being installed during the reign of Queen Anne (1701-14).

44. 9/7/1755 *Completion of Altar Piece in C. Ch.*

Coming only two months after the previous entry, is 'C. Ch.' a misprint for 'P. Ch.' (Parish Church)? There is an entry for 22nd July 1805 relating to Christ Church in Birmingham, but as that Church was not built in 1755 it cannot be the 'C. Ch.' referred to. Likewise, the first Catholic Church in Sutton was opened in 1834, and 'C. Ch' cannot therefore stand for Catholic Church. There is no mention of the altarpiece in the Corporation Minute Book.

45. 1/4/1757 *Royal Assent to sale of Four Oaks Pk.*

Simon Luttrell, the owner of Four Oaks Hall, wanted to increase the size of his grounds and in 1757 he obtained the sanction of the Sutton Corporation, with the consent of the local inhabitants by way of a signed petition, to have an Act of parliament to allow him to enclose forty-eight acres of Sutton Park to add to the west and south of Four Oaks Park at an annual rent of £12. The Act of Parliament recited a clause in the 1528 Charter which allowed any person to take up to sixty acres of waste land if he was willing to build a new house on the land and live there, and also recited that Luttrell intended to demolish the Hall and build a new one, but he actually only made alterations to the existing Hall by removing the courtyard and outbuildings at the front of the property, constructing four large pillars at the main entrance, creating a wide flight of stone steps to the front door and adding four rather ugly turrets at the corners of the flat roof with a connecting balustrade. An Act of Parliament was needed because in 1682 the Court of Chancery had ruled that no further exercise of the clause in the Charter should be made, and the consent of local inhabitants was considered desirable since they had ancient rights of pasturage in Sutton Park. Luttrell was an unsavoury character who could usually bully his way into achieving what he wanted.

46. 15/5/1759 *Sale of 750 Oak Trees fr. Nut and Darnel Hurst*

47. 17/12/1760 *Sale of 520 Oak trees from Pool Hollies Wood*

Whenever the Warden and Society needed money for a project they would order trees in Sutton Park to be felled and the timber sold. There was no coherent plan for the regular management of the woods in the Park, but ad hoc decisions were made when a need arose. On 23rd August 1758 they agreed "that £100 shall be paid and allowed towards new Pewing the Parish Church", but it was soon discovered that the work would cost a lot more and on 2nd November 1758 it was "agreed that £637 shall be forthwith raised by a fall of timber". While this work was being carried out the nave of the Church collapsed. It was initially thought that this was due to the incompetence of the workmen, but once it was discovered that the collapse was caused by the poor state of the foundations, the Corporation, on 2nd November 1759, ordered "that a further Parcell of Timber shall be set out ..... and then sold for the best price that can be got for the same ..... and the money applied towards ..... paying for the Repairs of the Church, so that the said Fall to be made and had does not exceed Four Hundred Pounds". Nut Hurst and Darnel Hurst are woods just south of Bracebridge Pool and Pool Hollies Wood lies just north of it. There was no Corporation meeting on either of the dates referred to in The Warden's Calendar; there was a meeting on 14th May 1759 at which it was agreed that the chancel at Holy Trinity Church should be fitted up with benches so that services could be held there while the nave of the Church was out of action, but the Minute Book makes no mention of the sale of timber. One of the complaints against the Corporation in the Chancery Court case which was commenced in 1788 related to the felling of trees, with the exaggerated allegation that they intended to fell all the trees in the Park, but also that trees were felled in the wrong season and that sales were made to Corporation members and that not all the money was paid on time or at all. In August 1791 the



Corporation filed an answer to the allegations in which they listed all the sales of timber in the previous thirty years. The first two were: “26/2/1759 Sale to Abraham Austin £802.15.0d. 29/12/1762 Sale to John Riland and Richard Woodhouse £125.5.4d.” Austin, Riland and Woodhouse were all members of the Corporation; Austin was Warden in 1746 and 1747 and Woodhouse was Warden in 1740 and 1741. The dates given in *The Warden’s Calendar* do not correspond with the dates recorded in the Corporation’s Minute Book or in the answer filed in the Chancery Court.

48. 18/9/1761 *Hutton saw two h’waymen, Chester-rd*

William Hutton (1723-1815) was born in Derby into a Unitarian nonconformist family. In 1749 he opened a bookshop in Southwell Nottinghamshire and a year later he moved to Birmingham, where he also ran a small bookshop. In 1756 he opened the first paper warehouse in Birmingham, which was immensely successful and profitable. He began taking an interest in local history and published *An History of Birmingham* in 1781. In 1801, at the age of seventy-eight he walked 600 miles from Birmingham to Hadrian’s Wall, then along the entire length of the Wall and back to Birmingham, writing *The History of the Roman Wall* when he returned home. He also wrote, amongst other diverse works, two books of poetry and an autobiography. In 1791 Hutton was a victim of the Birmingham Riots which started on 14th July and lasted for four days. The rioters’ main targets were religious dissenters; Hutton’s house in High Street Birmingham, his country house in Washwood Heath and his business premises were all attacked and badly damaged. He and his family fled to Sutton and stopped at the Three Tuns Hotel for a meal before seeking lodgings elsewhere. In the late evening of 17th September or early morning of 18th September, he was walking along the Chester Road towards Stonnall when a man approached him, whom he initially thought might be a highwayman, and gave him the news that it was safe for him to return to Birmingham as the cavalry had quelled the riot. There is no mention in Hutton’s autobiography, which contains a year-by-year account of his life, of his being near Chester Road in 1761 or seeing a highwayman, and as the day and month in *The Warden’s Calendar* are correct it seems likely that 1761 is a misprint for 1791, although in his autobiography Hutton mentions only one suspicious character approaching him (he does not use the word ‘highwayman’. Absalom Peers’ *Guide to Sutton Park* (1869) says that Chester Road “was very lonely a century ago, leading over wild commons, and it seems to have been a favourite resort for highwaymen”.

49. 8/12/1763 *Corporation allot seats in P. Ch.*

After new pews were installed in the Parish Church (see 46 and 27 above) the Corporation allotted the seating amongst the parishioners. Not everyone was satisfied; in fact, there was quite a rumpus. Thomas Bonell, a local attorney and notorious troublemaker, caused information to be filed in the Court of Chancery. As no faculty had been obtained or applied for from the Bishop prior to the new pews being installed (an omission which showed a deliberate disregard of legal requirements) the Court ordered a public meeting to be held to appoint a committee of eight of the principal persons of the parish to make the allotment. The committee confirmed the original allotment with only a few minor adjustments, but Bonell and three other disgruntled persons (the Corporation called them “greedy people of low rank”) applied to the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry for faculties for some of the seats to be reallocated to themselves. The Corporation, at a meeting held on 8th December 1761 instructed their Deputy Steward Edward Homer to oppose the application “by all lawful means”. After some delay the Court upheld the committee’s allocation. In *Investigation of Holy Trinity Church 1988* by Norman Evans, a plan of the approved seating is dated 16th January 1762;

*The Warden's Calendar's* date of 8th December 1763 is possibly the date of the Consistory Court's decision.

50. 27/11/1764 *Simon Luttrell's black servant b'tised*

Simon Luttrell of Four Oaks Hall (later Baron Irnham and Earl of Carhampton) married Judith Maria Lawes, the daughter of Sir Nicholas Lawes the Governor of Jamaica. Judith was the heir to a slave coffee plantation owned by her father, which after the marriage came into Luttrell's ownership. According to English Heritage, "waged and enslaved servants formed the largest group of black workers" in England in the 18th century, and "a black servant, often a young page or handmaid, was seen as a status symbol, adorning the houses of the well-to-do" ([english-heritage.org.uk/black-people-in-late-18th-century-britain](http://english-heritage.org.uk/black-people-in-late-18th-century-britain)). It would be characteristic of the disreputable Luttrell to have a black servant as a status symbol, no doubt a West African slave from Jamaica, more of a slave than a servant in England if male, or a concubine if female.

51. 10/6/1768 *Wm. Homer, gent d.*

There was a William Homer (1746-1805) who was the Corporation's Deputy Steward from 1767 to 1805. His father, Edward Homer (died 1763) had been the Deputy Steward from 1751 to 1763. No other William Homer has come to light (perhaps Edward's brother?), but the fact that *The Warden's Calendar* records his death implies that he was well-known in 1899.

52. 6/6/1775 *Friendly Soc. First meet. Red Lion S.C.*

A Friendly Society is a mutual-aid organisation formed voluntarily by individuals to protect members against debts incurred through illness, old age or death. They were most numerous in the 19th century and were not regulated until the passing of the 1875 Friendly Societies Act. The Friendly Society formed in Sutton in 1775 must have been one of the earliest; it predates the Grand Order of Oddfellows, the Ancient Order of Foresters and the Loyal Order of Shepherds Friendly Societies. This was the same year in which the country's first Building Society was founded in Birmingham. The Red Lion Hotel was in the High Street, opposite Vesey House; it was regularly used as a meeting place by clubs and societies and by the turnpike trustees, and for auctions and inquests. The members of the Warden and Society often adjourned to the Red Lion after their meetings at the Town Hall in Mill Street. It closed down in 1813 and was demolished in 1900.

53. 22/4/1778 *Meeting of Opposers to an Enclosure*

In early 1778 two members of the Corporation, Joseph Scott of Great Barr (later Sir Joseph 1st Baronet) and the Rector Rev Richard Bisse Riland, supported by John Hacket, who had resigned as a Corporation member two years earlier, put forward a proposal to enclose all waste and common land in Sutton, including the Park, and to divide the land among all the landlords of the district, who included the three proposers of the scheme, although the largest landowner was the Corporation itself. The argument in favour of the proposal was that as more land came under cultivation there were more job opportunities, and the increased circulation of money as more produce was sold was for the general benefit of the town. The opponents mainly objected to the Park being included, which would deprive local farmers and poor cottagers of their rights of pasture of cattle, pannage (the feeding of pigs in a wood) and haybote (taking fallen wood for repair of fences), which had been enjoyed since the time of King Athelstan in the early 10th century. A petition opposing the scheme was drawn up and signed

by 150 householders, although at that point a majority of the Corporation members were in favour. As the population of Sutton was around 2500 at the time, the supporters claimed they had a majority. The matter came to a vote at a Corporation meeting held on 2nd April 1778, when it was resolved by seventeen votes to three “that the Design of applying to Parliament for leave to Bring in a bill for inclosing the Park Waste Common and Commonable Lands within the parish of Sutton Coldfield is an unjustifiable attack on the undoubted rights and privileges of this Corporation being calculated to wrest from them their property and Estate solemnly granted and confirmed to them by Charter and will tend eventually to dissolve their existence as a Body Corporate”. The Corporation was more concerned about its own future than the ancient rights of the local inhabitants, but as a consequence of the resolution the proposal was dropped. If *The Warden’s Calendar’s* date is correct, the meeting referred to took place three weeks after the Corporation vote; it seems more likely that the meeting was earlier in the year when the petition was drawn up.

54. 12/12/1778 £30 voted to pay teacher for poor child’n

The Corporation Minute Book records that at a meeting of the Warden and Society held on 1st December (not 12th) 1778 it was “ordered that the sum of £30 be paid into the hands of Mr. Richard Bisse Riland [the Rector] to be by him paid to such persons as he shall think proper to undertake the instructing and teaching poor Children of Sutton Parish reading”. At this time the Grammar School had an obligation to teach writing and elementary arithmetic to twelve parish boys, but possibly the Rector’s scheme envisaged a larger class of boys (and girls?). The Minute suggests that this was a one-off payment, not an annual one, and it may well have been agreed as some sort of concession to the Rector for being outvoted on the enclosure issue earlier in the year. It is not clear why *The Warden’s Calendar* thought this modest payment to be worthy of mention, unless it was to show that the Corporation was ahead of its time in supporting free elementary education.

55. 19/9/1780 R.B. Riland pres. at meet. Gen. Hospital Birm.

The first meeting of a committee for a proposed hospital in Birmingham was held at the Swan Inn in 1765, attended by such luminaries as Dr John Ash, Sir Lister Holte, the Earl of Aylesford, Sir Henry Gough, Simon Luttrell, Matthew Boulton, Richard Geast, Charles Colmore and Sampson Lloyd. Eight acres of land were bought and building work started but had to be stopped because of lack of money. It took another twelve years to raise the necessary funds (largely from the Birmingham Triennial Music Festival) and at last, in September 1779, the General Hospital in Summer Lane opened. It relocated to Steelhouse Lane in 1897 and the original site is now occupied by Centro House, the headquarters of Transport for West Midlands. Robert K. Dent in *Old and New Birmingham* (1880) gives a detailed account of the founding of the General Hospital, but makes no mention of Rev R. B. Riland or of a meeting on 19th September 1780, a year after the official opening.

56. 9/10/1781 The Warden paid £20 towards Organist’s sal’y

In 1760, a new organ, donated by Rev John Riland, then a curate but later the Rector, was installed at Holy Trinity Church to replace the old organ given by Bishop Vesey in the 1530s. The eminent musician Dr John Adcock (1715-1806) was appointed as the organist and he gave the inaugural recital in 1761. Alcock had been a pupil of the blind organist and composer John Stanley at St. Paul’s Cathedral. He held organist’s posts at St. Andrew’s Church Plymouth and St Laurence’s Church Reading before becoming the organist, Vicar Choral and Master of the Boys Choir at Lichfield Cathedral in 1750. He remained at Sutton until 1786, when he was appointed as the organist at St. Editha’s Church in

Tamworth. He was a composer of instrumental music, part-songs and much church music, and was awarded a Doctorate of Music by Oxford University in 1766. He was also the Earl of Donegall's organist at his private chapel at Fisherwick Park near Lichfield. At a meeting of the Warden and Society held on 1st October 1781 it was "ordered that the present Warden [Rev Francis Blick, the Holy Trinity curate] do Retain in his Hands at the passing of his accounts the sum of Twenty pounds to be paid towards a Salary of an Organist for the ensuing year to commence from the present Michaelmas [29th September]". This minute reads as if a new organist was replacing Alcock, but this did not happen until five years later. Stella Thebridge says that he "was unhappy at Sutton Coldfield with his salary". Roger Lea (*History Spot No. 20*) says that "Alcock was succeeded in 1786 as Organist at Sutton by Mr Clarke, on an increased salary of £20 a year", which implies that Alcock was on less than £20 p.a. In October 1784 Alcock wrote a long letter to the Rector complaining that he had been underpaid between 1775 and 1781 to the extent of £25.3.6d. and saying that "I have great reason to fear, that notwithstanding my constant diligence in business, I shall scarcely receive money enough to procure me, and my Family, even the common necessities of life".

57. 4/4/1782 *Corp. give leave alt. lower part of Town hl.*

The Corporation Minute Book records that at a meeting of the Warden and Society on 16th April (not 4th) 1782: "Whether if a Society of Gentlemen be found to support the expence of making an Alteration in the lower part of the Town Hall the Corporation will Give them Consent The Question being put it was Resolved in the Affirmative by the Majority of the Members then present." This minute shows that the Corporation was not agreeing to finance any activity at the Town Hall, but only consenting to its alteration at the expense of "a Society of Gentlemen". The minute does not say what the proposed purpose of the alteration was, but this is revealed by The Warden's Calendar's entry for 10th August 1798 (see 72 below). The Town Hall in question was at the top of Mill Street by the Parish Church.

58. 13/7/1783 *Edward Hands (Hill Hook) prof. Dissent*

Edward Hands was a cordwainer, or cobbler, who lived in a cottage, as tenant of the Warden and Society, which is now incorporated in the Quill and Taper Restaurant in Blake Street (formerly the Blake Barn and originally the Black Cock Inn), the oldest part of which is reputed to have been one of Bishop Vesey's stone houses. He was a Protestant dissenter or nonconformist. Presumably there was some specific occasion on 13th July 1783 when he professed his dissent, such as a meeting of nonconformists to form a recognised congregation (see also 61 below).

59. 9/8/1784 *Corp'tion Vote of 100 gs. New Bells*

When the tower was added to Holy Trinity Church in the late 15th century there was one bell installed (a sanctus bell, to call the faithful to worship). In 1530 Bishop Vesey added four bells from Canwell Priory, which he had acquired following its dissolution by King Henry VIII in 1525. A meeting of the Warden and Society held on 17th August (not 9th) 1784 ordered "that the sum of One Hundred Guineas [£105] be paid out of the Corporation Fund to the Churchwardens of the Parish of Sutton Coldfield towards purchasing a New Ring of Bells for the Parish Church". This ring of six bells was installed in 1786 by Rudhall of Gloucester, a leading firm of bell founders established in the 1680s, but was for some reason short-lived, as a new ring of six bells was installed by Thomas Mears of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry (established in 1530) in 1795 (see also 62 below).

60. 30/9/1784 *Lydia Riland married Wm. Bedford*

Lydia Riland (1761-1848) was the elder daughter of Rev Richard Bisse Riland, Rector of Sutton Coldfield from 1758 to 1790. William Bedford (1755-1832) was a Birmingham attorney with a keen sense of his own importance. When his father-in-law died, the advowson of Holy Trinity Church was inherited by Lydia and her younger sister Phoebe, and Bedford persuaded his sister-in-law to sell him her half share, so that he became the sole patron of the Church, and could ensure that his son Rev William Riland Bedford became the Rector when Lydia's uncle Rev John Riland died in 1822. Bedford acted as attorney for the Sutton Corporation in the Chancery Court case which started in 1788 and ended in 1825. In 1817 he acted for William Ashford, the brother of Mary Ashford, in appealing against Abraham Thornton's acquittal on a charge of having murdered her; in fact he was the moving force behind the appeal and the principal financial backer, and he stubbornly continued with the appeal despite being advised by his barrister that he would lose.

61. 19/10/1785 *Edward Hands' ho. record. Pl. of W'hip*

At a General Sessions of the Peace held on 7th October (not 19th) 1785 the Protestant dissenter Edward Hands (see 58 above) "did in this Open Court deliver a Petition signed by several persons thereby Solliciting that the House wherein he now dwelleth situate at Hill Hook might be Recorded as a place of Worship according to the Act of Toleration, And also to have a Certificate of the same". The 1772 Toleration Act allowed nonconformists to have their own places of worship subject to their taking oaths of allegiance and supremacy. The Justices of the Peace, the Warden Rev James Hastings and the Capital Burgesses Joseph Duncumb and William Webb, were accordingly obliged by law to grant the request and issue a certificate. However, at a meeting of the Warden and Society held on the very next day it was "ordered that the Deputy Steward do on or before the 29th day of September next Give Notice to Edward Hands to Quit the possession of the Cottage Land and premises which he holds of this Body Corporate situate at Hill Hook". The Warden and most of the other members of the Corporation were staunch Church of England adherents who were intolerant of nonconformists.

62. 23/9/1786 *Wm. Hughes killed by fall of timber*

This accident occurred, not while trees were being felled in Sutton Park, but when new bells were being installed at Holy Trinity Church (see 59 above). According to the *Church Bells of Warwickshire* website, "a certain William Hughes was killed by a piece of timber which fell while workmen were preparing to put up the bells" ([www.warksbells.co.uk](http://www.warksbells.co.uk))

63. 10/10/1786 *Wm. Jesson (Langley) d.*

William Jesson (died 1786) was the son of Pudsey Jesson (see 40 above). He inherited The Rookery in the High Street from his father in 1748, and he also owned Langley Hall, which was let to tenants until it was sold to Andrew Hacket of Moxhull Hall in about 1780.

64. 14/1/1787 *Earl Carhampton died*

According to John Brooke in *History of Parliament The House of Commons 1752-1790* Simon Luttrell (1713-87) of Four Oaks Hall "set about building a parliamentary interest – not on the basis of his property but by jobbery and corruption in boroughs which welcomed an outsider". From 1754 to 1780 he was the M.P. for four different constituencies, all of them rotten boroughs which were abolished by



the 1832 Reform Act. A satirical poem called *The Diaboliad* written by William Combe in 1777 referred to Luttrell as “the worst man in His Majesty’s Dominions”. Nevertheless, he was an obsequious courtier and managed to ingratiate himself with the government of the day. For services rendered Luttrell was created Baron Irnham in the Irish Peerage in 1768, elevated to Viscount Carhampton in 1781 and made Earl of Carhampton in 1785.

65.     24/5/1787     *Great Thunderstorm*

*Aris’s Birmingham Gazette* for Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 1787 reported: “The violent storm of rain, accompanied with thunder and lightning, which happened between the hours of five and six o’clock in the afternoon on Thursday last, did very considerable damage in several places in the neighbourhood of this town. At Sutton Coldfield the whole front of the house of Mr. Richard Whateley was laid open, and almost destroyed; the walls on the opposite side of the rooms bore evident marks of the violence with which the bricks, &c. were driven against them, and a very strong and heavy chest was found forced from its situation, the lock broken, and wide open. The windows of the house adjoining were likewise broken, and their casements much shattered; but what was very extraordinary, a bird that was suspended in a cage close to one of them received not apparently the least hurt, and was not removed from its situation. Mr. Whateley and his servant had, at the commencement of the storm, fortunately gone down into their cellar as a place of the greatest safety; by which prudent retreat they preserved themselves from the danger that threatened them, and most probably their lives.” Richard Whately was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1778 to 1792; he was elected as Warden in 1792 but declined to take office, which meant that he forfeited his membership under a clause in the 1528 Charter.

66.     11/8/1789     *Lord Vernon allowed leave to hunt Corp. covers*

Lord Vernon is George Venable-Vernon 2nd Baron Vernon (1735-1813) of Sudbury Hall in south Derbyshire (now a National Trust Grade I listed building). The Corporation were very strict on who was allowed to hunt foxes in Sutton Park, but they readily granted permission to the likes of Lord Vernon, Lord Donegall and Lord Middleton. According to the Corporation Minute Book, there was no meeting of the Warden and Society on 11th August 1789; there was a meeting on 7th September, but no mention of Lord Vernon.

67.     18/2/1790     *Rev R.B. Riland died*

Rev Richard Bisse Riland succeeded his father Rev Richard Riland as Rector of Sutton Coldfield in 1758 and was succeeded by his brother Rev John Riland in 1790.

68.     20/2/1792     *Jos. Oughton H. Sh’ff*

Joseph Oughton lived at Holland House on the north edge of Maney, which had been built as an imposing gentleman’s residence by his father, also Joseph Oughton (died 1773), a prosperous Birmingham gunsmith who was Warden of Sutton in 1767. The younger Joseph Oughton was appointed as the High Sheriff of Warwickshire in 1792.

69. 3/11/1792 *John Riland refused to be Warden and left Corporation*

Rev John Riland (1736-1822) was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1758 to 1765, acting as Warden in 1762, and from 1790 to 1792. The earlier period was when he was the curate at Holy Trinity Church and the later period was when he was the Rector. He was elected as Warden for a second time on 2nd November (not 3rd – the ‘Warden’s Choice’ meeting was held on All Souls Day [2nd November] in each year) 1792, but he declined to accept the position. There was a strange clause in the 1528 Charter to the effect that if anyone chosen to be the Warden refused to act “then we [King Henry VIII] will and ordain that he be separated from the same Company ..... and thereafter shall not be reputed of the aforesaid Fellowship”. This is why the Rector ceased to be a member of the Corporation. It might be thought that it would be common sense to ask someone if he wanted to be Warden before electing him.

70. 12/4/1793 *Joseph Duncumb Esq. buried*

Joseph Duncumb (the correct spelling) bought Moat House in 1750 and lived there until his death in 1793. He was a member of the Sutton Corporation for thirty-six years, acting as Warden in 1760 and 1761, and was one of the Town’s Capital Burgesses (magistrates) from 1768 to 1793). He owned a long lease of Blackroot Pool in Sutton Park where he built a leather mill powered by a water-wheel; the pool was known for many years as ‘Duncumb’s Pool’.

71. 17/9/1795 *Colours pres. by Lady Hartopp to Sutton Volunteers*

‘Colours’ is the name given to the flags representing different regiments of the British Army. Britain was at war with France on February 1793 following the French invasion of the Austrian Netherlands, a move which threatened Britain’s maritime security and led to fears of a French invasion of England. Following the passing of the 1794 Volunteers Act, the Lord Lieutenants of the various English counties were tasked with organising committees and obtaining subscriptions from wealthy donors to raise and support volunteer forces. Senior officers were usually members of the gentry, junior officers came from the middle or professional classes and the enlisted ranks tended to be lower middle- or working-class men. Rev W.K. Riland Bedford in his *History of Sutton Coldfield* says that “at the ceremony of ‘delivering and consecrating the colours with great splendour’, on September 17th 1797, the officers are stated to have been Captain Sir E. Hartopp, Bart., Lieutenant Perkins, and Ensign Holbeche”. The Warden’s Calendar’s date of 1795 is incorrect, since the Hartopp baronetcy was not created until May 1796. Ann, Lady Hartopp, was the wife of Sir Edmund Cradock-Hartopp (born Edmund Bunney) 1st Baronet Hartopp of Four Oaks Hall, the Captain mentioned by Riland Bedford. Hartopp was succeeded as the Commander of the Royal Sutton Volunteers by Shirley Farmer Steele Perkins of Moat House, who was a Major in the 1st Regiment of the Warwickshire Militia. Ensign Holbeche was the attorney Thomas Holbeche, Warden of Sutton Coldfield in 1797 and 1798 and the Corporation’s Deputy Steward from 1825 to 1836.

72. 10/8/1798 *Book Soc. make cellar under Tn. H.*

The Warden and Society agreed to alterations to the Town Hall in April 1782 (see 57 above), but it took sixteen years for a group of local inhabitants to raise the money to create a room under the Town Hall as a Book Society, that is a library and reading room rather than a book-reading club.

73. 11/12/1798 *School of Industry recommended*

During the Chancery Court case against the Warden and Society of Sutton Coldfield, various suggestions were made for the future regulation of the Corporation's charitable functions and the promotion of schemes for the benefit of the Town. A committee of the freeholders met on 29th August 1798 and proposed that £60 p.a. should be spent on the relief of the poor, £20 paid for the portioning of poor maidens and £60 paid for providing and supporting a School of Industry for poor girls. At a joint meeting of the freeholders' committee and delegates of the Corporation held on 20th December 1798 these proposals were unanimously agreed. The Rector Rev John Riland was a keen supporter of the idea of a School of Industry, that is a school for the instruction of older girls in sewing, spinning and knitting, particularly to make clothes for school children. However, discussions and negotiations between the interested parties dragged on for another two decades, and it was not until 1825 that a Scheme of the Chancery Court was agreed, which included establishing schools in Sutton, Hill and Walmley, the Sutton Town School incorporating a School of Industry.

74. 6/11/1799 *John Bickley (Hill) died, aged 103*

Members of the Bickley family were the millers at Hill Hook Corn Mill for 158 years from William Bickley in 1676 to Thomas Bickley in 1834. Agnes Bracken mentions a John Bickley who, in 1726, "commenced a suit respecting the letting of the cottages within the manor, which terminated by a compromise by which leases for twenty-one years were granted to the complainants". Whether this is the same John Bickley who died at the remarkable age of 103 (outdoing Bishop Vesey who died in his 103rd year, reputedly), is not known, but it could well be. Another John Bickley was less fortunate; he was struck dead by lightning in August 1797, as commemorated on a wall plaque on a block of flats in Clarence Road opposite Hill Hook Road.

75. 24/10/1800 *No burial took place for ten weeks*

This entry in *The Warden's Calendar* is confirmed by a note in the Parish Register which, after the burial of a child of John Bickley from Hill Hook on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1800, reads: "N.B. There was no Burial after this Day for 10 Weeks." Neither *The Warden's Calendar* nor the Parish Register states why there was no burial for ten weeks. The obvious reason is that nobody died and this was a sufficiently unusual occurrence to warrant a special mention. The same page in the Parish Register shows that there were nine burials in April, seven in May, eight in June, four in July, nine in August, five in September and six in October. Alternatively, perhaps the ground was too hard to dig graves, or the sexton was on strike.

76. 4/9/1801 *Great Whirlwind at Wishaw*

No other source has been found which confirms this great whirlwind, but it must have been a significant event to have been recalled ninety-eight years later.

77. 23/3/1802 *Date of Master's Order re Corp. funds*

Peter Holford was a Master in Chancery, a senior official of the Court of Chancery. In 1799 the Warden and Society and the freeholders of Sutton Coldfield who had commenced proceedings against them in 1788 made a joint approach to the Chancery Court to request that the case be referred to a Master "to settle a plan for the future Conduct of the Charity". The matter was referred to Holford who took a year to come up with a plan. He calculated that the Corporation had a gross annual income of £220,

and after deducting necessary expenses there was a surplus of £96. Holford looked at the 1528 Charter and recommended that the surplus be given as marriage portions to four poor maidens at £24 each. This recommendation, which satisfied nobody (apart from the selected poor maidens), was upheld by the Chancery Court, which also ordered that £1,825 from the sale of timber in the Park should be invested in 3% Consolidated Bank Annuities (Consols) in the name of the Accountant General, pending further order of the Court.

78. 22/7/1805 *Christ Ch., Birmingham, first st. laid*

Christ Church in Colmore Row Birmingham was consecrated as the local Parish Church in 1813, although the foundation stone was laid eight years earlier. The Church was demolished in 1899, which might explain why The Warden's Calendar, compiled in the same year, mentioned its foundation, although there appears to be no connection with Sutton Coldfield.

79. 7/11/1805 *John Riland objects to enclosure*

Rev Richard Bisse Riland was a keen advocate of the enclosure of common land, including Sutton Park, but his brother Rev John Riland, who succeeded him as Rector in 1790, was strongly opposed to it. An enclosure proposal, which had been thrown out in 1778 (see 53 above), was resurrected in 1800, and it gathered support in the belief that the Rector would give it his approval. However, he wrote a letter to the promoters of the scheme on 7th November 1805, saying: "If you conclude that I have given my consent to the Inclosure, and have reported the same to others, I cannot but take the liberty to let you know that it appears to me that you are all under a mistake ..... I have uniformly, all along from the beginning of this business to this day, said, and have kept to the saying at all times and in all places, that as the Bulk of the lower classes of the parish were seriously against the Inclosure on account of the great and lasting injury it would do to them, I therefore cou'd and would not consent to it." Because of the Rector's opposition, the proposal was again shelved and it was not until after his death in 1822 that it was resurrected again and was successful on the third occasion, but excluding the Park.

80. 10/2/1806 *F.W. Woodington born*

William Frederick Woodington was born at the Three Tuns Hotel, of which his father Thomas was the landlord. William went on to become a notable painter, engraver and sculptor. Some of his paintings were exhibited at the Royal Academy in the 1850s. Many of his sculptures were public commissions, including a bust of Joseph Paxton, the designer of the Crystal Palace for the Great Exhibition of 1851, and a scene depicting Nelson at the Battle of the Nile on the base of Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square. The Woodington family left Sutton in 1815, and William died in 1893. His son presented one of his last statues, *His First Sorrow* (depicting a boy with a dead bird) to the Sutton Coldfield Town Hall in 1897, which was subsequently housed at Woodington Infants School until it closed in 1995. Woodington is still remembered in Sutton by the naming of Woodington Road Falcon Lodge, and by a blue plaque affixed to the front of the Three Tuns.

81. 23/4/1808 *First scheme for Schools etc.*

82. 6/12/1808 *Plans for Schools app.*

A committee of the freeholders and a committee of the Corporation met separately and together on numerous occasions to try to resolve their differences. By 1808 there was a considerable fund of money, approximately £30,000, held in 3% Consols awaiting a scheme to be approved by the Chancery

Court. On 29th April 1808 the Corporation considered a proposed scheme submitted by a sub-committee for the application of their increased revenue, which included a Charity School to be established in the Town for the instruction of male and female children of poor inhabitants of the parish “upon the new and improved System as recommended by Colquhoun and others or upon any other Plan which may be thought more eligible”, and another school of the same description to be established in the Hamlet of Hill. Money was to be provided to pay “proper persons to instruct Poor Children under the age of seven who live in the Parish but at too great a distance to attend the Charity Schools”, the children who attended the Charity Schools were to be “cloathed by the Corporation”, and a School of Industry was to be established “for the Education and Instruction of thirty Girls wherein they are to be instructed in sewing, spinning, knitting etc. and in writing and Arithmetic”. Although there were no costings for these proposals, it was resolved that they be approved and adopted. Eight months later, at a meeting of the Warden and Society held on 6th December 1808, it was “Resolved that Mr Benjamin Wyatt having laid plans for a Charity School and House of Industry before the Corporation, the plan provided by Mr Wyatt be adopted”. Benjamin Wyatt was a member of the Corporation from 1797 to 1813 and was presumably an architect or builder. Patrick Colquhoun (1745-1820) was the author of *A new and appropriate system of education for the labouring people* (1806); he described his system as “a plan established for the religious and moral instruction of male and female children as a means of preventing criminal offences by habits of temperance, industry, subordination, and loyalty among that useful class of the community comprising the labouring people of England”.

83. 11/3/1809 *Duchess of Cumberland died*

Anne Horton née Luttrell (1743-1808), the widow of Christopher Horton of Catton Hall South Derbyshire and the daughter of Simmon Luttrell, Baron Irnham, of Four Oaks Hall, married Prince Henry Frederick Duke of Cumberland and Strathearn (1745-90) in 1781. He was the younger brother of King George III and the King was so displeased that his brother had married a commoner, and had not told him of the marriage until after the event, that he got Parliament to pass the 1772 Royal Marriages Act, which enacted that no descendant of King George II should marry without the reigning monarch’s prior consent. The Act was repealed by the 2013 Succession to the Crown Act, and now only the first six persons in line to the throne are required to obtain the monarch’s consent. According to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne\\_Horton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Horton), the Duchess died on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1808; this date is confirmed by *Anne Horton the Scandalous Duchess of Cumberland and Strathearn* by Catherine Curzon (2014).

84. 16/3/1810 *John Hackett Esq., of Moor Hall bur.*

John Hacket (correctly so spelt) (1738-1810) was the younger son of Andrew Hacket of Moxhull Hall, who in 1762 inherited Moor Hall from his great-uncle John Addys, whereupon he changed his name to John Addys Hacket. He rebuilt Moor Hall in about 1770. He was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1762 to 1776 and a Capital Burgess from 1769 to 1775.

85. 21/4/1810 *Jesson Pearson, lieut. 14<sup>th</sup> L. Drag. d.*

William Jesson Pearson (1784-1810) was the grandson of William Jesson (1730-86) who inherited The Rookery in the High Street from his father Pudsey Jesson (1696-1748). William Jesson had three sons, who all died before him without issue, and two daughters, Elizabeth, who had no children, and Hannah, who had one child, namely William Jesson Pearson. Pearson was a lieutenant in the 14th



Light Dragoons, which in 1810 saw action in the Peninsular War against France in Spain and Portugal. He took part in the Battle of Talavera, in which Arthur Wellesley, later the Duke of Wellington, led the British Army in a costly victory over the French. Pearson survived the battle, but was then taken ill and died at Santarem, near Lisbon, aged twenty-six. With his death the Sutton branch of the Pudsey and Jesson families died out. A tablet was put up in the north aisle of Holy Trinity Church, which ended with the words, "most deservedly beloved, and most sincerely lamented".

- 86. 31/7/1812 *James Adams (from the Camp) buried*
- 87. 2/9/1812 *John Antisel (from the Camp) bur.*
- 88. 29/10/1812 *Breaking up of Camp on Hill Common*

Agnes Bracken records that "in 1815 a camp was formed on part of Hill Common nearest to Little Hay. It consisted of the Edinburgh and Sussex Militias, the Seventh Dragoon Guards, and a brigade of Artillery". The correct date is 1811 (Roger Lea *History Spot No. 143*). The camp was established when fear of a French invasion of England was at its height. The 7th Dragoon Guards was a cavalry regiment first raised in 1688 and engaged in duties overseas. The Edinburgh and Sussex Militias were raised in 1802 and 1792 respectively specifically for coastal defence, manning garrisons and guarding prisoners-of-war. Details of the two soldiers from the camp and how they died have not come to light. If the camp broke up for good in October 1812, it was very short-lived; did the deaths of Adams and Antisel in the previous three months have any bearing on the camp being disbanded? The camp is remembered to the present day in the naming of Camp Road and Camp Farm.

- 89. 31/10/1812 *Severe Frost – two men frozen to death*

*Aris's Birmingham Gazette* for Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1812 reported: "A severe storm of wind, rain and snow, was experienced on Tuesday night in this town and neighbourhood. We have heard that two young men, (brothers) were found lifeless on Sutton Coldfield on Wednesday morning, owing to the inclemency of the weather." The Coldfield was the name given to the large expanse of waste or common land covered in gorse and heather which later became known as Boldmere. Two deaths in Sutton were nothing compared with the losses suffered by Napoleon's army when it began its retreat from Moscow in October 1812.

- 90. 27/5/1817 *Mary Ashford murdered*
- 91. 17/11/1817 *Thornton tried at King's Bench for murder of Mary Ashford*

Mary Ashford's body was found in a marl-pit off Penns Lane on the morning of 27<sup>th</sup> May 1817. The medical evidence gave the cause of death as drowning, but right from day one everyone assumed that she had been murdered, no thought being given to the possibility of suicide or accident. Abraham Thornton, a builder from Castle Bromwich, was tried at Warwick Assizes on 8th August 1817 on a charge of having murdered Mary Ashford. The jury, after deliberating for six minutes without retiring, unanimously delivered a verdict of not guilty, as Thornton had proved an alibi which made it quite impossible for him to have committed the murder – in fact, it is most probable that there was no murder at all, and that Mary drowned accidentally. Public opinion, ignoring the facts of the case, was outraged at the verdict and an appeal against the acquittal was launched by Mary's brother, William Ashford, at the instigation of William Bedford (see 60 above). The appeal was heard at Westminster Hall by the King's Bench Court on 17th November. On being asked how he pleaded, Thornton replied, "Not guilty, and I am ready to defend the same with my body", and threw a gauntlet onto the floor of the court, thus invoking trial by battle. There were then several more hearings in which counsel for

the parties learnedly argued, not whether Thornton had committed murder, but whether Appeal of Murder and Trial by Battle were valid legal procedures. The judges ruled that they were, not having ever been abolished even though they had long fallen into disuse. On advice from his barrister, the slightly-built Ashford declined to do battle with the strapping Thornton and withdrew his appeal. Thornton was accordingly acquitted for a second time and the obsolescent procedures were abolished by Act of Parliament.

92. 5/6/1819 *Letter fr. Mr. Barker prop. sep. Latin and English S.*

Charles Barker MA was appointed as the Headmaster of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School in 1817. Although the school had been founded by Bishop Vesey to teach grammar and rhetoric, which meant Latin or Greek grammar and rhetoric, as confirmed by rulings of the Court of Chancery, it was a requirement of the lease of the school from the Warden and Society to the Headmaster in 1734 that the school taught classes of twelve parish boys in writing and arithmetic and in English. Barker thought that it was beneath his dignity to teach anything but the classics, and he was not keen on paying an assistant to teach English and maths; during his twenty-five years as Headmaster he successfully resisted all pressure put on him to widen the school's curriculum, so that by 1840 there was only one pupil at the school. Barker wrote a letter to the Warden and Society on 30th April (not 5th June) 1819 which was considered by them at a meeting held on 2nd June. In his letter Barker complained that it was not convenient for twenty-four parish boys to share the same room as the Latin scholars, and therefore he wished "to submit the propriety of removing the School of English Boys to some convenient place apart from the Boys on the Latin Foundation of Bishop Vesey". The Corporation Minute Book records that "it was Resolved that this Meeting consider the School room to have been built for the benefit of the Parish Boys and are of opinion that the English Scholars should be continued to be educated therein according to the provisions of the lease granted in the year 1734".

93. 23/12/1819 *Anne Riland, wife of Jno. Riland, bur.*

94. 13/3/1822 *Rev. John Riland died*

Rev John Riland (Rector 1790-1822) married Ann Hudson, who was one of his parishioners when he held the curacy at St. Peter's Church in Huddersfield, whose vicar was the celebrated evangelist minister Henry Vann, in 1768. The couple had four children, Priscilla (1770-1837) and Lucy (1775-1869) who never married, John (1778-1863) who died without issue, and Maria (1774-1841) who married her father's curate, Rev Joseph Mendham, and had two children but no grandchild. Riland was universally admired for his amiable disposition, his goodness of heart and his care for the poor, sick and elderly. He was succeeded as Rector of Sutton by his great-nephew Rev William Riland Bedford.

95. 30/7/1822 *Petition for enclosure agreed by Corp.*

Shortly after the death of Rev John Riland, who had vehemently opposed the enclosure of waste and common land, a petition was got up in support of the enclosure, which was presented to the Corporation

96. 1/10/1823 *Female Friendly Society estab.*

The establishment of a female Friendly Society in 1823, almost half a century before the 1880 Married Women's Property Act gave married women a degree of financial independence from their husband, appears to have been very enlightened (see also 52 above).

97. 10/5/1824 *Enclosure Bill – Meeting of Com.*

The Sutton Coldfield Enclosure Act was passed on 3rd June 1824. A private bill had been presented to the House of Commons earlier in the year, and after its second reading it was referred to a Commons Committee for detailed scrutiny. A report then went back to the House before the bill's final reading. In cases where there was no or little opposition, the whole process took only a matter of weeks; the scrutiny was not usually very thorough. The entry in *The Warden's Calendar* refers to the meeting of the House of Commons Select Committee.

98. 3/8/1825 *Order made for funding capital & income disp. of*

The litigation between the freeholders and the Corporation commenced in 1788 finally came to an end when the Court of Chancery approved a Scheme for the disposal of the capital sum of over £42,000 which had built up during the course of the dispute and of the Corporation's future annual income. According to Donald J. Field in *The History of Sutton Coldfield Municipal Charities* (2011) the date of the Chancery Court Order was 14th May 1825.

99. 22/3/1826 *Royal Assent given to m'king T'pike-rd.*

There had been an informal trust for the maintenance of roads in Sutton since 1792, but with insufficient power for the trustees to carry out improvements, such as reducing the gradient of Mill Street. The 1807 Turnpike Trust Act put matters on a proper footing, which enabled the compulsory purchase of property for road widening and other purposes. This Act was amended by another Act in 1826 which gave the Birmingham to Watford Gap Turnpike Trust responsibility for Lichfield Road, Sutton Road and Birmingham Road from Gosta Green to Watford Gap, Tamworth Road as far as Bassetts Pole and Kingsbury Road. The Sutton turnpikes were abolished in 1872.

100. 5/4/1826 *Sir E.C. Hartopp's letter to inh.*

In 1826 Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet wanted to enlarge the park at Four Oaks Hall and he hoped to acquire Lady Wood in Sutton Park immediately adjacent to his property. The Warden and Society were prohibited by law from selling off parts of the Park, but Hartopp found a way round this prohibition by not buying the land, but giving the Warden and Society an equivalent value of land in exchange. He then set about buying from Wriothesley Digby parcels of land adjoining Sutton Park which he could offer to the Warden and Society. Henry Ryder, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, was appointed to oversee the negotiations, each party engaging their own valuer to make submissions. It was decided that because of the additional value of the timber in Lady Wood, Sir Edmund should give ninety-three acres of land in exchange for the sixty-three acres he had his eye on. Many local people were incensed by the loss of Lady Wood to private ownership, and by what they saw as the Corporation giving favourable treatment to one of their own members. Somewhat irrationally, on the morning of Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April a band of men attempted to set fire to Lady Wood in several places, but their efforts were thwarted by a sudden downpour. Sir Edmund penned an open letter to the inhabitants of Sutton explaining that part of the deal with the Corporation was that he would construct Park Road leading to a new entrance to the Park at the Town Gate. The exchange was completed in 1827; the Corporation added fifty-two acres to the Park, including the Meadow Platt, and retained forty-one acres just outside the new entrance, which was subsequently developed as Richmond Road and Tudor Hill. Sarah Holbeche in her *Diary* described the new entrance as "a great boon".

101. 12/7/1826 *Rev. W.K.R. Bedford born*

Rev William Kirkpatrick Riland Bedford (1826-1905) was the Rector of Sutton Coldfield from 1850 to 1892, in succession to his father's cousin Rev Richard Williamson D.D.

102. 17/2/1827 *Ests. rec. for blding. Bridge at Daw. Over Brook*

This somewhat elliptical entry in *The Warden's Calendar* can only refer to Daw End in Rushall, a mile and a half west of Aldridge, where there is not only the Rushall Canal with its seven bridges, built in 1844, but Ford Brook, which rises in the area south of Brownhills, runs through Walsall and joins the River Tame near Bescot. The connection with Sutton appears tenuous.

103. 20/3/1828 *First Electn persons to oc. Almsho.*

The 1825 Scheme of the Chancery Court which ended the years of litigation between the freeholders of Sutton and the Corporation included a provision that ten almshouses were to be built at a cost of £608 for the reception of "reduced and meritorious inhabitants", with a monthly allowance of fifteen shillings for a single inmate and twenty-five shillings for an aged couple. The almshouses were built in Mill Street below the building that was the workhouse until 1837. At a meeting of the Warden and Society held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1828 it was resolved "that at the next meeting proper persons be elected to the Alms Houses and that the intention of doing it be given in the Notices to the Members". The minutes of the next meeting, on 29<sup>th</sup> March, record "that Thomas Norris, Widow Heath and Widow Wilkins be now put into the Alms Houses beginning with the uppermost House and filling in succession And that the Widow Heath and the Widow Wilkins be not allowed to go into the Alms House until they deliver up possession of the House they are each of them occupying under Mr. Barker with the promise of the Corporation paying their Rents". Mrs Heath and Mrs Wilkins originally lived in cottages which the Corporation wanted to demolish as a site for the new Town School, but they were reluctant to move. In the end the Corporation had to offer them places in the almshouses, when they were built, and to pay their rents to a private landlord in the meantime.

104. 16/10/1835 *Major General Arbuthnot born*

Henry Thomas Arbuthnot was born in Paddington in 1834 (not 1835) and entered the British Army in 1853. He served with distinction with the Royal Horse Artillery in the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny, after which he held administrative posts with the Royal Small Arms Factory in Birmingham and Enfield. He retired with the rank of Major-General in 1887 and was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath (C.B.). He died in Woolwich in 1919, but he was living at Doe Bank House in Lichfield Road Sutton at the time of the 1901 census. In his article *Great Grandad's Army* in *The Proceedings of the Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group Volume 9* (2009) Mike Hinson mentions Major General Arbuthnot J.P. as a speaker at a reception held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1901 to welcome back from South Africa the safe return of 'the Sutton Six', six local volunteers who fought in the Boer War. He was a Governor of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School from 1893 to 1903.

105. 23/11/1835 *Great Catholic Meeting, B'ham Town H.*

Birmingham Town Hall was opened in 1834 and soon became a popular venue for large assemblies and meetings. *Old and New Birmingham* by Robert K. Dent (1880) says that in 1835 the Conservatives "held a great meeting to support Sir Robert Peel, and passed an address expressive of confidence in

his government; also a great meeting 'of the friends of the Protestant Religion, and the Constitution in Church and State,' on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November". No mention is made of a Roman Catholic meeting five days later. Likewise, *A History of the County of Warwick: Vol 7, the City of Birmingham* (1960) says that "the Roman Catholic church in Ireland was attacked at a public meeting in the town hall in 1835", but does not refer to a Catholic meeting. However, if you are willing to pay £90 you can buy from the antiquarian bookseller Richard Ford an original pamphlet by Mr W. Pare published in 1835 by R.P. Stone and entitled *A Full and Authentic Report of the Great Catholic Meeting, which took place in the Town Hall, Birmingham, on Monday November the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1835.*

106. 14/12/1835 *Hill Church Consecrated*

St. James's Church in Hill and an adjacent vicarage were built on land given by Francis Beynon Hacket of Moor Hall. The total cost was over £3,000 of which almost £1,500 was raised by public subscriptions, and the balance was paid by the Rector of Sutton Coldfield, Rev William Riland Bedford. The Rector's curate, Rev Joseph Mendham (1769-1856) whose wife Maria Riland was the daughter of the Rector's great-uncle Rev John Riland, and who lived at The Firs next door to the Grammar School, was the first incumbent. The church (technically it was a chapel-of-ease and became the Hill Parish Church in 1852) was consecrated by Henry Ryder, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry.

107. 28/7/1836 *Pet. pres. to Ho. of Coms. by Lord John Russell*

The 1835 Municipal Corporations Act reformed 178 old corporations by setting up new democratically-elected councils. Alexander Cockburn (1802-80), one of the Municipal Corporations Commissioners, later Sir Alexander Cockburn 12<sup>th</sup> Baronet, Lord Chief Justice from 1859 to 1880, had visited Sutton in November 1833 and recommended that the town be included in the Bill. Local opinion was deeply divided, the Warden and Society being keen to retain the status quo, but the ordinary townspeople supporting reform. *Hansard* records that in a House of Lords debate on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1835 two petitions were mentioned: Lord Brougham presented a petition in favour of the Bill from Sutton Coldfield and Lord Lyndhurst referred to a petition sealed by the Warden and Society which had been presented against the Bill. In the words of Agnes Bracken, "Sutton made a great effort to escape demolition, and succeeded in preserving her ancient charter, the house of lords judging that the new act could not be applied here beneficially, as the trust committed to the corporation was principally of the management of a charity". Lord John Russell (1792-1878), later 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Russell, was the Home Secretary from 1835 to 1839 (subsequently twice Prime Minister). According to the report of a Corporation sub-committee, it was Sir John Eardley Eardley-Wilmot 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet (1783-1847), M.P. for North Warwickshire, who moved in the House of Commons that Sutton Coldfield be withdrawn from the Schedule to the Bill, and Lord John Russell objected to the motion.

108. 29/12/1836 *Poor transf. to Erding'n Workhouse*

The 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act brought about a radical change in the poor law, in an attempt to bring some uniformity of practice across the country. Parishes were merged into groups called 'unions', to be run by a Board of Governors. Sutton, along with Curdworth, Minworth and Wishaw, were taken over by the Aston Union; at its first meeting in November 1836 the Aston Board of Guardians decided that the inmates of the Sutton workhouse in Mill Street would be transferred to the Erdington workhouse on the next quarter day (25<sup>th</sup> December). Roger Lea in *History Spot No 23* says that the transfer took place in 1837. The redundant workhouse was sold by auction in June 1837.

109. 17/6/1837 *James Hughes died*

James Hughes was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1816 to 1837. He was a woolstapler, that is a merchant who buys wool from a producer, sorts and grades it and sells it to a manufacturer. He lived in a house in the High Street on the corner of Clifton Street, a narrow road which ran off the High Street along the northern boundary of the Three Tuns Hotel. He also owned the land behind his house, on which he built a large wool warehouse measuring forty-four feet by twenty feet. The minutes of a Corporation meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1822 record that it was “resolved that Mr. James Hughes be prosecuted against by Action for money due to the Corporation”, believed to be rent arrears.

110. 8/8/1837 *Sutton became Polling pl. County el.*

Sutton was represented by the two Members of Parliament for North Warwickshire. Before 1837 Suttonians who qualified to vote had to go to Coleshill to cast their vote. Sutton had its own polling station for the general election held in 1837; votes were cast at the Town Hall at the top of Mill Street. Sarah Holbeche in her *Diary* refers to the prominence of “Dugdale and Wilmot for ever” posters “in all colours and all forms”. The Conservative candidates, Sir John Eardley Eardley-Wilmot (1783-1847) and William Stratford Dugdale (1800-71), were duly elected.

111. 30/11/1837 *Master for Corp. Up. Sch. advt. for*

In 1838 the Corporation built a school, known as the Corporation Upper School, in Church Hill off Mill Street, where the Sons of Rest building now is; it was a boys’ secondary school for the teaching of English and mathematics to a higher level than was taught at the Town School. The driving force behind this project was Charles Barker, the Headmaster of Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School, Warden of Sutton Coldfield in 1836 and 1837, who wished to offload responsibility for teaching anything but Latin grammar and rhetoric from the Grammar School. The Upper School was short-lived, as the Corporation decided to close it down in 1852 and to transfer its twenty-four pupils to the Grammar School. By this time Barker had died, the Grammar School’s curriculum had been widened by a Scheme of the Chancery Court and the new headmaster was happy to be paid for taking on a class of local boys who did not want a classical education.

112. 25/2/1839 *Sir F. Lawley, Bart (M’dleton) H. Sheriff*

Sir Francis Lawley 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet (1782-1851) was the Whig M.P. for Warwickshire from 1820 to 1832 (at the latter date the Warwickshire constituency was divided into North and South Warwickshire). Although the principal seat of the Lawley family was Canwell Priory, Sir Francis’s sister Jane, the wife of Henry Willoughby 6<sup>th</sup> Baron Middleton (1761-1835), made Middleton Hall available to him in 1815 and he lived there for the rest of his life. He also owned a town house in Grosvenor Square London. He was appointed as the High Sheriff of Warwickshire in 1839.

113. 26/7/1841 *Bazaar in Sutton Park*

Sarah Holbeche has an entry in her *Diary* for 12<sup>th</sup> August 1841: “Grand Bazaar for Walmley Church, Mr Barker’s poems, Miss Ellen’s groups of dried flowers in my scrapbooks, and many inventions of usefulness and taste, Miss Perkins’ Floral Fete, her cupids and the Great Success of [indecipherable word].” St. John the Evangelist Church at Walmley was consecrated in 1845. The site was provided by the Warden and Society, Lucy Riland, daughter of Rev John Riland (see 94 above) contributed £1,000,

and £4,000 was raised by donations and from events such as the Grand Bazaar in Sutton Park. Charles Barker, the Headmaster of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, wrote several poems extolling the beauties of Sutton Park, which presumably were on sale at the Grand Bazaar. Eliza Perkins, the daughter of Shirley Farmer Steele Perkins of Moat House, was a poetess and artist whose *Flora and Pomona's Fete*, a book of verse with hand-coloured illustrations, was published in 1834 and ran to six editions.

114. 8/9/1841 *Dinner to Rd. Spooner, Esq.*

Richard Spooner (1783-1864) was born at Birches Green and educated at Rugby School. He was the partner of Thomas Attwood in Attwood and Spooner's Bank in New Street Birmingham, which went bust in 1865. He was a Radical reformer in his youth, but became an Ultra-Tory in later life. He stood for Parliament in elections in 1820, 1826, 1830, 1832, 1835 and 1841 and was unsuccessful on each occasion. He was finally elected as the Tory M.P. for Birmingham in 1844 and was the M.P. for North Warwickshire from 1847 to 1864. The 1841 general election was held in July, two months before the dinner recorded in *The Warden's Calendar*. There does not appear to have been any cause for celebration.

115. 6/7/1842 *Rev. W.R. Bedford died*

The Rector of Holy Trinity Church from 1822, Rev William Riland Bedford (1794-1843) suffered a stroke and collapsed in Temple Row Birmingham on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1843 (not 1842) and was taken to the Royal Hotel, where he died shortly afterwards, aged forty-nine. He was succeeded as Rector by his cousin Rev Richard Williamson D.D., as his son William Kirkpatrick Riland Bedford, who would have taken over if his father had lived longer, was not yet ordained.

116. 17/10/1842 *Charles Barker, D.C.L. died*

Charles Barker M.A., B.C.L. (Bachelor of Civil Laws; he was not a Doctor) was the Headmaster of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School from 1817. He was not a dedicated teacher and preferred his involvement in local politics and his hobbies of hunting and writing poetry to his classroom duties. By 1840 there was only one pupil at the school. On 17<sup>th</sup> October 1842, having visited his friend Joseph Webster at Penns, he had set out back home on horseback. However, the horse turned up at the School House stables without its rider, and later in the day Webster's son Baron found Barker lying in the lane leading from Penns to Sutton and he died shortly afterwards, aged forty-nine. The jury at the inquest returned a verdict of "died by the visitation of God".

117. 13/2/1844 *Ap from Miss Riland to build Walmley Ch.*

Lucy Riland (1775-1869) was renowned for her charitable work in Sutton throughout her long life. She donated £1,000 towards the cost of building St. John's Church in Walmley, approximately one fifth of the total (see 113 above).

118. 22/10/1844 *"Sutton Park" and other poems pub.*

*Sutton Park and other poems* by Harry Howells Horton (1811-96), with illustrations by the author, was published by the Birmingham bookseller and printer Thomas Ragg in 1844. It was dedicated to Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp of Four Oaks Hall. Horton had spent his childhood in Sutton, attending the Town School, and although he lived elsewhere as an adult he often returned to the Park to rekindle childhood memories. *Sutton Park* had previously been sold at the Grand Bazaar (see 113 above) to raise money for Walmley Church, and was reissued a decade later to raise funds for the building of St. Michael's Church Boldmere.

119. 16/8/1847 *John Smith, 29 yrs' faithful mes'ger, d.*

It is difficult to track down someone named John Smith. It may be that John Smith who died in 1847 was a bank messenger, a job that no longer exists. Bank messengers were responsible for transporting money, documents and other valuables between banking institutions and businesses. They ensured the secure delivery of items, verifying that everything was accounted for and delivered to the correct recipient. Lloyds Bank had been established in Birmingham in 1765 but did not open a branch in Sutton until 1864. Smith may have worked for the Sutton Coldfield Savings Bank which opened in Sutton in 1819, operating from the Town Hall at the top of Mill Street.

120. 10/11/1847 *C.N. Newdigate elected M.P. for North Warwick*

Charles Newdigate Newdegate (1816-87) was the Ultra-Tory M.P. for North Warwickshire from 1843 to 1885. He lived at Arbury Hall near Nuneaton, which he inherited from his uncle in 1835. His surname is correctly spelt with an 'e' in the middle.

121. 12/2/1848 *Thos. Holbeche died*

Thomas Holbeche (1772-1848) was a member of the Sutton Coldfield Corporation from 1796 to 1807 and from 1842 to 1848. He was Warden in 1797 and 1798, and was the Corporation's Deputy Steward (Town Clerk) from 1825 to 1836, being succeeded in that post by his son Vincent Holbeche and his grandson Thomas Vincent Holbeche. The Holbeches were solicitors who lived at and practised from 1/3 Coleshill Street. Thomas was the father of Sarah Holbeche whose *Diary* is a valuable source for local historians.

122. 25/4/1849 *John Oughton, Esq. died*

John Oughton was a member of the Sutton Coldfield Corporation from 1811 to 1849, Warden in 1813 and 1814 and a Capital Burgess from 1826 to 1849. He lived at Holland House, built by his grandfather Joseph Oughton, a Birmingham gunsmith, in about 1760. He also owned the adjoining mill, used for gun-barrel grinding, known as Oughton's Mill.

123. 16/1/1850 *J. Eccleston, B.A., ap. Rector High Sch. Hobart*

James Eccleston (1816-50) was appointed as the Headmaster of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School in August 1843. He was a dedicated teacher who sought to increase the number of boarders at the school. He was also the author of *An Introduction to English Antiquities*, a popular school and university textbook still in print today. He was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1845 and was appointed as Warden in November 1848. However, he was chronically incapable of managing his finances, and with the boarding side of the school failing to take off, he got deeper and deeper in debt, until in 1849 he resigned as Headmaster and as Warden before being arrested for debt. He was able to convince the Court that he was not guilty of any dishonesty and was spared imprisonment. He then managed to be appointed as the Rector, or Headmaster, of the High School at Hobart Van Dieman's Land (later called Tasmania). He arrived at Hobart in November 1849, which suggests that the appointment was earlier than the date given by *The Warden's Calendar*. The January 1850 date was probably when he commenced his duties at the High School. He was not destined to enjoy a long and successful career in his new post, as he died of a brain fever only two months later, on 18<sup>th</sup> March, aged thirty-four.



124. 22/9/1850 *Rev. W.K.R. Bedford inducted*

Rev William Kirkpatrick Riland Bedford (1826-1905) was ordained in 1849 and, after a year as the curate at the Parish Church in Southwell Nottinghamshire, he succeeded Rev Richard Williamson (Stella Thebridge says in October 1850) as Rector of Sutton Coldfield, a post which he held for the next forty-two years.

125. 21/6/1851 *B.P.G.C. Noel qual. County Magist.*

Berkeley Plantagenet Guildford Charles Noel was the son of Berkeley Octavius Noel and Letitia Penelope Adderley, the widow of the last Andrew Hacket of Moxhull Hall. Hackett had no children and it was expected that he would make his brother Francis Beynon Hacket of Moor Hall his principal heir, but when he died in 1815 he left his whole estate unconditionally to his widow. She promptly remarried and on her death in 1860 her splendidly-named son inherited everything. Sarah Holbeche recorded in her *Diary* that “the alienation of the family property by the unjust will of his elder brother so depressed and distressed him [Francis Hacket] that he never recovered”. Noel sold his Sutton Coldfield estates in 1881.

126. 29/5/1852 *The Rector’s Birthday*

The Rector in 1899 was Rev William Cambell Riland Bedford (1852-1922), the son of Rev William Kirkpatrick Riland Bedford. He was Rector from 1890 to 1909, the last of his family to hold the post since his great-great-great-grandfather, Rev John Riland, was appointed in 1689.

127. 31/1/1854 *First Meet. S. P. Prot. Soc. at Erd’n*

128. 14/2/1854 *Meet’g. Sut. Park Prot. Soc., Green Man, Erd.*

The objects of the Sutton Park Protection Society were not quite what the name implies. They were not so much to protect the Park as to protect the rights of local inhabitants to enjoy the Park. The Warden and Society were in the habit of passing regulations which controlled activities in the Park, not only with regard to hunting and wildfowl-shooting but also dictating where horse-riders and even walkers could or could not go. Prof Stephen Roberts says: “The regulations issued by the corporation forcefully reminded the local population that it was an unelected body ‘with perpetual power to elect their successors to office’. This sense of injustice seems to have been felt particularly strongly by those who had left Birmingham and made their homes in Sutton. In the early months of 1854 the Sutton Park Protection Society – subsequently known as the Sutton Coldfield Protection Society – emerged to campaign for a new charter of incorporation.” At the early meetings of the Society a decision was made to distribute handbills to all Sutton residents calling on them to sign a petition for the Warden, Dr George Bodington, to convene a public meeting at the Town Hall for the question of local government reform to be debated. The Warden turned this request down (see 131 below). The Green Man, also known as the Lad in the Lane, in Bromford Lane is one of the oldest public houses in the country, dating from the first decade of the 14<sup>th</sup> century; it was largely rebuilt in 1930, but part of its original timber-framing still survives. Subsequent meetings of the Society in March and April 1854 were held at the Old Swan Inn in Coleshill Street Sutton.

129. 4/10/1854 *First Annl. Gen. meet of S.C. Inst.*

In *Glimpses into Sutton’s Past Part II* (2021) Prof. Stephen Roberts says that the Sutton Coldfield Institute and Reading Room came into existence in the autumn of 1853, but that it grew out of a subscription library founded with the support of the Rector Rev Richard Williamson in the 1840s. Before that there had been a Book Society (see 72 above). The Institute was housed firstly and briefly

in the Town Hall at the top of Mill Street, next in the vacant Corporation Upper School off Church Hill and then in the old workhouse in Mill Street. It closed down shortly before the start of the First World War.

130. 19/2/1855 *Dinner to Cornet Webster and Ensign Bedford*

The Crimean War between Russia on the one side and Britain, France and Turkey on the other started in July 1853 and was concluded by the Treaty of Paris in March 1856. Peter Charles Gillies Webster (1830-77) served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars in the Crimea with the rank of Captain. A cornet was a junior officer in a cavalry troop, who carried the colours. Webster was a younger brother of Baron Dickinson Webster of Penns Hall. Charles John Riland Bedford (1828-1910), the younger brother of the Rector, Rev William Kirkpatrick Riland Bedford, enlisted as an Ensign in the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1855 and also served in the Crimea. An ensign was the lowest rank of infantry officer; Bedford was subsequently promoted to lieutenant.

131. 10/4/1855 *Meet. Of 2,000 inhabs. Clifton's Hill*

132. 28/6/1855 *Notice conv. meet. op. Grant New Chart.*

Following the refusal of the Warden to convene a public meeting in connection with local government reform (see 127/128 above), the leading members of the Sutton Park Protection Society, Henry Fielding, George St. Clair, John Buggins and Joseph Fulford, organised a meeting on privately-owned land at Clifton Hills, where Upper Clifton Road now is but then open land. It was reported that between 1,500 and 2,000 people attended. The year of the meeting was 1854, not 1855, and it resulted in a decision to get up a petition, addressed to Queen Victoria, to grant Sutton a new Charter under the 1835 Municipal Corporations Act. The petition was signed by 729 people, but during the subsequent investigation 533 of the signatures were struck off for various reasons (not Sutton inhabitants, not rated householders or – 231 of the signatures – signed by a third party without proper authority), reducing the total to just 196 signatures. The Corporation soon got up their own petition in favour of maintaining the status quo (again dated 1854, not 1855), which particularly mentioned that the matter had been officially enquired into by a Commissioner in 1835 and Sutton had been “erased from the schedules of that Act”. There were 101 signatures to the counter-petition (of which 19 were struck off in the subsequent investigation). There was a quibble as to whether the signatures of the Corporation members should be allowed, and there was an allegation that a Corporation delegation to London had been told by an official of the Privy Council that a numerously signed petition was not required.

133. 18/7/1855 *Major Warburton's Com. to hold enq.*

18<sup>th</sup> July 1855 was the date of the letter from W. L. Bathurst, clerk of the Privy Council, to George Drought Warburton (1816-57), a retired major in the Royal Artillery, enclosing the petitions in favour and against Sutton being granted a new charter, and requesting “that you should forthwith proceed to Sutton to investigate the Allegations contained in these Petitions, and that you should report, for their Lordships’ information, and with as little delay as may be compatible with a complete and satisfactory investigation”. The Inquiry at Sutton started on 2<sup>nd</sup> August and lasted for twelve days. Much of the time was spent arguing about the validity of the signatures on the inhabitants’ petition; it transpired that many of the names on the petition were written by someone else without consent, that several people signed without having read the petition in the belief that they were signing for something quite different, and in some cases a man’s wife had authorised his name to be added without consultation. The upshot was that Warburton recommended that Sutton’s 1528 Charter be left to continue in

operation, and consequently, as had happened in 1835, the petition for a new charter was turned down. Major Warburton was elected as an independent Liberal M.P. for Harwich in 1857, but he was soon taken ill and, wracked with pain, he shot himself through the head, aged forty-one.

134. 7/7/1856 *Joseph Webster died*

Joseph Webster (1783-1856) was the youngest of three generations of Joseph Websters who owned a wire-drawing business at Penns Mill Walmley and lived at Penns Hall. He was only five when his father died, but his mother kept the business going during his childhood, handing over control to him when he reached the age of eighteen. He was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1805 to 1826 and from 1833 to 1841, being appointed as Warden in 1809 and 1810, at twenty-six the youngest ever Warden. Webster had eleven children and he considerably enlarged Penns Hall to accommodate them all.

135. 10/9/1856 *First stone of Boldmere Church laid*

The foundation stone of St. Michael's Church in Boldmere was laid twelve months before the church was consecrated (see 139 below).

136. 1/11/1856 *Rev. J. Mendham died*

137. 15/6/1857 *Rev. Robt. Riland Mendham died*

Rev Joseph Mendham (1769-1856) married Maria Riland, the daughter of Rev John Riland, Rector of Sutton from 1790 to 1822, and in the same year he was appointed as a curate at Holy Trinity Church, a post which he held for thirty-two years. He then spent his time in study and writing treatises of a religious nature, mainly critical of the papacy. In 1835 he was appointed as the first incumbent of the newly-built St. James's Chapel at Hill, but only on a temporary basis until a permanent incumbent could be appointed. He was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1807 to 1829 and was Warden in 1807 and 1808. He lived at 'The Firs' on the corner of Lichfield Road and Boswell Road (later incorporated within the site of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and demolished). Rev Robert Riland Mendham (1798-1857) was Rev Joseph Mendham's son. He acted as his father's assistant, both in his literary works and in his parochial duties. He was a member of the Sutton Corporation for a year and a half from November 1856. He never married and he survived his father by only seven months; he left money in his will for building a spire at St. John's Church Boldmere.

138. 17/8/1857 *Archd. Sandford visited Parish Ch.*

John Sandford (1801-73) was the Vicar of Dunchurch near Rugby from 1833 to 1854, the Vicar of Alvechurch in Worcestershire from 1854 to 1873, an Honorary Canon of Worcester Cathedral from 1844 to 1873 and Archdeacon of Coventry from 1851 to 1873. As Archdeacon he visited and preached at many parish churches in Warwickshire, but his visit to Sutton is not mentioned in Stella Thebridge's *Holy Trinity Sutton Coldfield*, Rev W. K. Riland Bedford's *Three Hundred Years of a Family Living* or Sarah Holbeche's *Diary*.

139. 29/9/1857 *Boldmere Church Consecrated*

St. Michael's Church Boldmere was consecrated by Henry Pepys, the Bishop of Worcester. Sutton had been transferred from the see of Lichfield and Coventry to the see of Worcester in 1837. The first

incumbent was the Holy Trinity curate Rev Edward Hooper Kittoe, who remained in post until his death in 1894. Agnes Bracken says that “the cost of the building was defrayed from private subscriptions and other sources, the deficiency being made up by the present rector [Rev W.K. Riland Bedford], who also provided an endowment for the incumbency. The cost of erection of the parsonage-house was borne by the rector and the rev. E.H. Kittoe.”

140. 20/4/1859 *Meet. of Trustees, re enl. Gram. Sch*

141. 26/4/1859 *Prop. to enlarge Grammar School*

These two entries in *The Warden's Calendar* appear to duplicate the same event. Joseph Wright was appointed as the Headmaster of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School in 1849 and ten years later the number of pupils at the school had doubled from fourteen to twenty-eight, and was likely to continue increasing. Wright had an ambitious plan to build a three-storey extension on the north end of the School House with a single-storey addition at the rear of the extension. These works would include a new school-room measuring fifty by twenty feet, dormitories for forty boarders, a second master's bedroom and a housekeeper's room. The Trustees, or Governors, considered the proposal at a specially convened meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1859 and gave it the go-ahead. A meeting had been called in April, but the minute book shows that only the Rector turned up and no business was transacted. The works were completed in April 1861; the north extension still stands, but the addition at the rear was demolished in 1966.

142. 1/6/1859 *Sutton Coldfield P. Magazine first iss.*

The date of Holy Trinity Church's first Parish Magazine is not recorded elsewhere; this entry in *The Warden's Calendar* is therefore a valuable source of information. Launching a Parish Magazine was, presumably, the brainchild of the fairly recently appointed Rector, Rev W.K. Riland Bedford.

143. 23/8/1859 *First meet. Amat. Harmonic Asso.*

There were several short-lived amateur musical societies founded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, such as the Philharmonic Society (not the same as the Sutton Coldfield Philharmonic Society which flourished in the 20<sup>th</sup> century) and the Boldmere Musical Society. No details have been unearthed about the Amateur Harmonic Association; presumably it was a mixed voices choir.

144. 26/8/1859 *Wm. Grundy, a celeb'd Photo'er d.*

Morris Grundy (1778-1852), a well-to-do currier and patent leather manufacturer from Birmingham retired to Sutton in 1847, living at the house in the High Street which is now part of the Townhouse Hotel. His unmarried children, William, Sarah and Elena, moved in with him and continued living at the High Street property after their father moved to Cheshire in 1850. William Morris Grundy (1806-59) had joined his father's flourishing business, Horton & Grundy with premises in Bradford Street Birmingham, but his main field of interest was photography, in which he made something of a name for himself, exhibiting his photographs, particularly his extremely fashionable stereoscopes, to critical acclaim in Birmingham and London in 1857 and 1858. His photographs, including several of Sutton Park, were used to illustrate a book of verse *Sunshine in the Country* published in 1861. His resident servant Thomas Bromwich assisted him in his hobby, being responsible for a special horse-drawn van which was fitted up as a dark room where the complex process of developing and printing photographs could be carried out on site. Grundy left an estate valued at £25,000, most of which he left to his

sisters, who were then able to make generous donations to the Roman Catholic Chapel (now known as the Guildhall) in Lichfield Road.

145. 27/9/1859      *Opening of Town Hall*

Sutton's third Town Hall, in Mill Street (now the Masonic Hall Building) was opened by William Henry Leigh 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Leigh of Stoneleigh Abbey (1824-1905), who had been appointed as the High Steward of Sutton Coldfield earlier in the year. The Warden, Baron Dickinson Webster of Penns Hall, had negotiated compensation of £3,000 from the London & Northern Railway Company for its failure to build a railway line from Birmingham to Sutton as agreed in 1846, and he, supported by the Rector and Dr George Bodington, persuaded the Corporation to use the money towards the new Town Hall. The opening ceremony was followed by a banquet laid on by the Corporation, attended by the Corporation members and local gentry. Sarah Holbeche wrote in her *Diary* that it was "a proud day for Baron and Baroness Webster". Baron was, of course, a forename, not a title. The new hall was designed in an Italian Gothic style by the well-known Wolverhampton architect George Bidlake.

146. 20/10/1859      *Org. of Vol. Rifle Corps*

In an article in Volume 7 of *The Proceedings of the Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group* Mike Hinson recounts how the Sutton Coldfield Volunteer Rifle Corps was formed following a public meeting at the Town Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1880. However, there had been an earlier formation of a Volunteer Rifle Corps, brought about on a wave of patriotism following the Crimean War of 1853 to 1856. There had also been an even earlier local militia formed during the Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815), the Royal Sutton Coldfield Volunteers (see 71 above).

147. 12/1/1860      *John de Hely Chadwick C'ty Magist.*

John Charles de Hely Mavesyn Chadwick (1834-97) inherited New Hall from his father in 1854. He was a lieutenant in the Second Dragoon Guards during the Indian Mutiny, a Deputy Lieutenant of Warwickshire and a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1859 to 1876, as well as being a Magistrate for Warwickshire. He was extravagant and generous, hosting lively parties at New Hall. He spent considerable sums on major alterations to New Hall, extending the length of the building and adding another storey on most of the house. He was also a gambler and he was forced into bankruptcy in 1883. He died without male issue in 1897, bringing to an end his family's connection with New Hall after 182 years.

148. 9/3/1860      *Rev. M. Webster came to Hill Vicar'ge*

Rev Montagu Webster (1819-1903) was the younger brother of Baron Dickinson Webster of Penns Hall. He was a curate at St. Peter's Church Netherseal and St. Matthew's Church Overseal in Derbyshire before becoming the vicar of St. James's Church at Hill (see 105 above) in 1860, a post which he held for the rest of his life. His wife died at the Hill Vicarage in 1871, aged forty-one.

149. 1/8/1860      *Baron Webster died*

Baron Dickinson Webster (1818-60) of Penns Hall took over the running of the wire-drawing business at Penns Mill in 1842. He was appointed as Warden of Sutton Coldfield on a record six occasions and was very active in furthering the interests of the town, notably the building of a new Town Hall (see

145 above), and the promotion of a railway line from Birmingham. He died of pneumonia after five days illness at the age of forty-two. Rev W. K. Riland Bedford remembered him with affection in 1891: "Mr Baron Webster was a leading sportsman, an active magistrate, and an efficient officer of yeomanry. He was conspicuous in Sutton affairs and a most useful member of all public bodies with which he was connected.

150. 6/8/1861 *Gift by Rector of Site Boldmere Alms-houses*

Two semi-detached one-storey almshouses were built in Boldmere Road after Rev W.K. Riland Bedford donated a small plot of land for this purpose. The Trustees of the Sutton Coldfield Municipal Charities decided to close down the almshouses in 1961 and the property was sold to the Warwickshire County Education Committee for £2,700.

151. 2/6/1862 *First Passenger Train ran to Sutton*

The possibility of a railway line from Birmingham to Lichfield via Sutton was first mooted at a public meeting in September 1845, but it was not until 1862 that the London & North-Western Railway Company opened a branch line from Aston to Sutton. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2,000 passengers arrived at Sutton, most of them going on to visit the Park. The first Train was welcomed by the Warden, Josiah Wright, the Deputy Stewards, Vincent Holbeche and Henry Addenbrooke and other dignitaries together with "a large concourse of people" (*Birmingham Daily Post*).

152. 10/3/1863 *Rural Games in Grand Stand Field*

A horse-racing course was constructed at Holly Knoll in Sutton Park in 1844. It was oval in shape and about a mile in length. Although it attracted large crowds of spectators from Birmingham, it was not looked on favourably by the more conservative Suttonians, who particularly objected to the betting and drinking which the race-course engendered. A permanent grandstand was built, but it was completely destroyed by fire in April 1846 and not replaced. The race-course was closed in 1852. The name Grand Stand Field cannot be found on any map of the Park, but it seems likely that the 1863 rural games took place on the site of the Holly Knoll race-course, as the next race-course with a grandstand in the Park, near Westwood Coppice, was not built until 1868.

153. 1/2/1864 *Second Ord. Meet. Royal Hotel Co.*

When the railway line from Birmingham to Sutton opened in 1862, a group of enterprising businessmen thought they would be onto a good thing to build a hotel overlooking the new Sutton Station. They had visions of Sutton becoming a popular resort such as Leamington Spa and Buxton, Rowtons Well in the Park serving as a source of natural spring water. The Italianate Gothic-style hotel took two years longer to build than originally envisaged and was officially opened as the Royal Hotel with a Directors' Dinner at the Town Hall in May 1865, although the date 1863 appears in blue bricks on the south side of the building (now a block of apartments known as Royal Sutton Place in King Edward Square). The Sutton Royal Hotel Company Limited soon ran into financial difficulties and it went into compulsory liquidation in December 1865 with debts of £13,000. It is not clear what was significant about the meeting held in February 1864, possibly a meeting of shareholders in an attempt to raise more funds to finance the escalating cost of the new building and its luxurious internal fixtures and fittings.

154. 15/7/1864      *"Penns" and New Shipton Ests. sold*

Following the death of Baron Dickinson Webster in 1860 (see 148 above) and the deaths of his widow and eldest son two years later, his Walmley estates were sold by auction. The outlying parts of the Penns Estate had been sold for £15,000 in 1861, and Penns Hall with 200 acres of land, including New Shipton Farm was sold for £23,000. John Horsfall in his book *The Iron Masters of Penns* says that the latter sale took place in 1865. The purchaser on both occasions was Webster's erstwhile partner James Horsfall.

155. 11/9/1865      *Dr. Williamson died*

Rev Richard Williamson D.D. was the Rector of Sutton Coldfield from 1843 to 1850. The first cousin of the previous Rector, Rev William Riland Bedford, his appointment to the post was understood to be temporary until Bedford's son William Kirkpatrick Riland Bedford, who was only seventeen when his father died, was qualified to succeed him. At the time of his appointment Dr Williamson was the Headmaster of Westminster School. The diarist Sarah Holbeche, who in common with many others greatly admired Williamson during his time at Sutton, paid for a stained-glass window in his memory, which can be seen in the north wall of the Vesey Chapel at Holy Trinity Church.

156. 12/11/1866      *Wm. Parker, Bart., G.C.B. Admiral of Fleet, died*

Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Parker 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet G.C.B. (Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath) (1781-1866) entered the Royal Navy in 1793, aged twelve, and served with distinction in the French Revolutionary Wars, the Napoleonic Wars, the Portuguese Civil War and the First Opium War, rising through the ranks until he was appointed as Admiral of the Fleet in 1863. He retired to Shenstone Lodge in Birmingham Road Shenstone (now Shenstone Lodge School), which he had purchased in about 1815. He died from bronchitis at Shenstone Lodge (Wikipedia says on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1866) and was buried in the churchyard at St. John the Baptist Parish Church at Shenstone. Parker was related to the Honourable Edward Swynfen Parker Jervis of Little Aston Hall, but otherwise appears to have no connection with Sutton Coldfield.

157. 5/12/1866      *Sarah Brentnall, mistress of Town G. Sch. d.*

Sarah Holbeche wrote in her *Diary* for 5<sup>th</sup> December 1866: "Mrs G. Brentnall after long and trying illness died, long prepared and ready to go, she did her duty well to God and man. Many have cause to bless her."

158. 23/1/1867      *William Ashford died*

William Ashford, an illiterate labourer who worked on a farm at Hints, was the older brother of Mary Ashford whose dead body was discovered in a pond off Penns Lane in May 1817 (see 90 above). When Abraham Thornton was acquitted by the jury at Warwick Assizes on a charge of murder (see 91 above), William Ashford was persuaded by the attorney William Bedford, father of the Rector Rev William Bedford, to appeal against the acquittal, although this was an obsolescent legal procedure. Thornton responded by claiming trial by battle, an even more archaic and disused process of law. After days of learned argument the Court decided that both Appeal of Murder and Trial by Battle were lawful processes, having never been abolished. Ashford was willing to take up Thornton's challenge, despite being no match for the well-built Thornton, but his barrister advised against it, and consequently

Thornton was acquitted a second time. After his brief appearance on the public stage, Ashford moved to Birmingham, married and worked as a fishmonger.

159. 19/12/1867      *Vincent Holbeche died*

Vincent Holbeche (1806-67) was the son of Thomas Holbeche (1772-1848) and the father of Thomas Vincent Holbeche (1846-1904). All three practised as attorneys or solicitors from offices in Coleshill Street and were the Corporation's Deputy Steward, Thomas from 1825 to 1836, Vincent from 1836 to 1867 and Thomas Vincent from 1869 to 1885 (and Town Clerk from 1886 to 1904). Vincent married Emma Addenbrooke, whose brother Henry was a joint Deputy Steward from 1847 to 1885.

160. 3/7/1868      *Fire in Park for more than a week*

Rev W.K. Riland Bedford devoted a paragraph in his *History of Sutton Coldfield* to this fire: "One of the most remarkable events in these years was the great fire in Sutton Park in the year 1868. This fire, which was suspected to have been the act of an incendiary, commenced on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, and consumed trees and woods in an area of over 500 acres of Sutton Park. It was not extinguished for several days, and then only by the greatest exertions on the part of Mr Cooper and the Park staff and of the constabulary. The year 1868 was one of great heat and drought, no rain falling between April and August. Many fires occurred that summer throughout England in forests and commons." Absalom Peers in his 1869 *History and Guide to Sutton Park* says that the fire started on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, and this appears to be the correct date according to contemporary newspaper reports. Peers says that from 700 to 800 acres of gorse, heather and underwood were burnt at the Streetly end of the Park adjoining the Little Aston Park of Hon. Edward Swynfen Parker Jervis. Charles Cooper was the Corporation's surveyor. The fire was extinguished by a heavy fall of rain on 16<sup>th</sup> August.

161. 16/5/1870      *Thos. Colmore died*

162. 9/6/1870      *Prop. to fill Window P.C. mem. Thos. Colmore*

Thomas Colmore (1803-70) was a Birmingham solicitor who purchased Ashfurlong House (later Ashfurlong Hall) at the junction of Tamworth Road and Weeford Road in about 1860. He was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1863 to 1870, Warden in 1864, 1865 and 1866, and a Capital Burgess from 1867. His Ashfurlong estate comprised 118 acres when he died. The Bishop Hacket panel in the Bishops Window in the Vesey Chapel at Holy Trinity Church was dedicated to his memory as a tribute to his public services.

163. 11/4/1872      *W'hpton, Walsall & Mid. Ry. Bill disc.*

The Wolverhampton, Walsall & Midland Junction Railway Company presented a bill to Parliament for the building of a railway line from Wolverhampton to Walsall which would then run eastwards through Sutton Park and down to Water Orton. There was strenuous opposition to there being a line through Sutton Park led by the Rector, Rev W.K. Riland Bedford, Dr James Johnston, Sampson Lloyd and the Vicar of Boldmere, Rev E.H. Kittoe. Prominent supporters of the scheme were the Warden, Thomas Eddowes, Dr George Bodington and James Horsfall of Penns. Public meetings were held in April 1872 organised by the supporters and the opponents of the bill. In June 1872 a select committee of the House of Lords heard evidence from both sides; on a vote the committee was evenly divided and the chairman gave a casting vote in favour of the promoters of the railway, which opened in August 1879 with new stations in Midland Road and Midland Drive.



164. 8/7/1872 *Sporting Bye Laws made*

The bye-laws for regulating sporting in the Park agreed at a meeting of the Warden and Society on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1872 were as follows:

1. All persons being bona fide Inhabitants of Sutton Coldfield who claim the privilege of Sporting in Sutton Park are to send their names to the office of the Deputy Stewards, and apply for and obtain a written License signed by the Deputy Stewards on behalf of the Corporation previous to their being entitled to Sport in the Park.
2. The Sporting in Sutton Park shall for the future commence on the first Wednesday in October all further Sporting in the said Park shall be restricted to one day in each week namely Wednesday and all Sporting in the said Park shall end on the last Wednesday in January.
3. No person shall enter the Park for the purpose of Sporting before nine o'clock in the forenoon or remain to sport therein after five o'clock in the afternoon, nor shall be accompanied by more than one brace of dogs and two beaters.
4. All persons not bona fide Inhabitants of Sutton Coldfield are prohibited from Sporting in the said Park except as hereinafter mentioned, but any Inhabitant, having obtained such License as aforesaid may apply to the Deputy Stewards for and obtain a written permission, signed by them on behalf of the Corporation, authorizing a Friend of such Inhabitant to sport in company with him (but not otherwise) for a day to be named in such written permission, and not being earlier than the second Wednesday in October; such Inhabitant foregoing as an equivalent, his own next day of Sporting to which he would otherwise be entitled.
5. No person unless licensed to kill Game and having permission to sport as aforesaid will be allowed to pursue or take Game, Rabbits, or Wildfowl of any description in the Park.
6. All persons offending against any of the above Bye Laws and Regulations will be proceeded against according to law.
7. All persons not bona fide Inhabitants of Sutton Coldfield who shall sport in the said Park without having obtained written permission as aforesaid will be proceeded against as wilful trespassers.

165. 5/11/1872 *Mr. Harry Hill left for India*

Henry (Harry) Charles Hill (1852-1902) was the eldest son of John and Ann Hill who lived in Coleshill Street. John Hill was a builder who employed twenty-one men in his business. Harry attended Bishop Vesey's Grammar School from 1860 to 1869 and was then employed by the Imperial Forest Service (later the Indian Forest Service), which had been established by the British Government in 1864 in order to provide timber, particularly teak, for the Royal Navy. Hill went on to become the Inspector General of Indian Forests. He visited Sutton on leave in May 1902, but died suddenly on holiday in Yorkshire. He donated a fifteenth century misericord to Holy Trinity Church (which was sold in 2008), and there is a brass plaque to his memory on the south wall of the church. Marian Baxter in a chapter on Memorials in *Holy Trinity Sutton Coldfield* says that Harry Hill was living in India by 1870.

166. 22/1/1874 *S.S. Bellamy buried*

William Sheldon (not S.S.) Bellamy was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1867 to 1874. He is described in the Corporation Minute Book as a woolstapler, a middleman who bought wool from a producer, graded it and sold it to a manufacturer. Bellamy was a shareholder in the Wolverhampton, Walsall & Midland Junction Railway Company (see 163 above) and consequently a supporter of the

railway line being constructed through Sutton Park, although he did not live to see the line opened. He also owned land outside the Park which the Railway Company purchased for the line.

167. 8/5/1874 *Jas. Lloyd late (Queen's) 9<sup>th</sup> Lancers d.*

Formerly known as the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Dragoons, the 9<sup>th</sup> Queen's Royal Lancers was formed as a cavalry regiment of the British Army in 1715 in response to the Jacobite rising of that year. The regiment was posted to India in 1842 and saw service in the First and Second Anglo-Sikh Wars (1846-49) and the Indian Rebellion (1857/58). James Lloyd was probably related to Sampson Samuel Lloyd (1820-89) and his brother Joseph Foster Lloyd (1833-90) of the Birmingham banking family, who were tenants of Moor Hall in the 1860s and 1870s. Whether James died while on active service or after his retirement is not made clear.

168. 31/5/1874 *Sermon by Rev. W.K.R. Bedford on re-opening Church*

Major works were carried out at Holy Trinity Church in 1874. The clergy vestry was added on the north side of the Vesey Chapel, the church's north wall was replaced by pillars to match those in the nave, the church was widened by the building of a north aisle and gallery, the previous north aisle becoming the Vesey aisle, and the box pews were removed and replaced by open pews.

169. 19/11/1874 *Little Aston Church Consecrated*

St. Peter's Church in Roman Road Little Aston was built entirely at the expense of Hon. Edward Swynfen Parker Jervis of Little Aston Hall on land which he donated. The church, which was designed by the renowned architect George Edmund Street (1824-81) in the Early English Revival style, was consecrated by George Augustus Selwyn, the Bishop of Lichfield, assisted by Rev W.K. Riland Bedford. The first vicar was Rev Philip Edmund Monkhouse.

170. 5/7/1875 *Meeting to con. best means paying off ch. debt*

In addition to the traditional methods by which a church raises funds, such as bazaars, garden parties and concerts, Holy Trinity Church has always relied on generous donations by wealthy parishioners to finance improvements to the church building and facilities.

171. 25/8/1875 *Vesey's Tomb examined*

The monument to Bishop Vesey at Holy Trinity Church, erected in 1748 by Sir John Wyrley, a direct descendant of Vesey's brother Hugh Harman, was restored by the Warden and Society in 1875, and the opportunity was taken to examine the late Bishop's remains. The *Sutton Coldfield and Erdington News* reported on 28<sup>th</sup> August: "Mr [Richard] Cook, the sculptor employed in the restoration of the monument of the benefactor of the town, laid open the vault in which his remains were supposed to be deposited, on Wednesday morning last, in the presence of the Warden [Rev Montagu Webster], the Deputy Stewards [Henry Addenbrooke and Thomas Vincent Holbeche], the Rector [Rev W.K. Riland Bedford] and Churchwardens [Thomas Eddowes and John Henry Cull]. Upon raising the alabaster slab formerly enclosed by the iron railings, a vault was exposed six feet ten inches long, by two feet five inches broad, and two feet six inches deep. Upon the floor, lay a skull and various human bones scattered in the utmost confusion, having evidently been disturbed. The upper part of the skull, which was of a remarkably globular figure, lay at the western end of the enclosure, while the lower jaw, in

which two teeth still remained, was at the east end. It may be added that the traces of extreme old age were perceptible in the jaw bone, as, not only were the whole of the back teeth wanting, but the sockets were almost filled up with the growth of bone. The whole of the earth having been carefully sifted, and all fragments of bone picked out, the latter were placed in an earthen jar covered with stone, in which a certificate of the facts was enclosed in a bottle; and the order was given to replace the earth, and turn an arch over the vault, for the purpose of supporting the monument."

172. 15/11/1875 *Special Meeting of S.C.C. to con. question of a New Scheme*

Attempts to replace the Warden and Society of Sutton Coldfield with a democratically elected Town Council had failed in 1835 and 1855, but by the 1870s the support for a new charter under the Municipal Corporations Act was overwhelming and even the Corporation members had come round to agreeing that change was inevitable.

173. 7/12/1875 *Appl. to bor. £5,500 for sewerage wk.*

It is unclear why this entry refers to an application to borrow money rather than money being borrowed; does it imply that the application was unsuccessful? Until around 1825 all householders had the responsibility of disposing of waste products, but with the increase in the number of houses it became necessary to have a more efficient sewerage system. In 1866 there were complaints that sewage from new houses was being discharged into the Ebrook (now called Plants Brook). It does not appear, however, that much was done immediately, and in any event it was decided that the obligations imposed on Local Authorities by the 1872 Public Health Act did not apply to unreformed Corporations such as Sutton, and that the Aston Rural Sanitary Authority was responsible for matters of public health. When the new Borough Council was set up in 1886 one of its pressing tasks was to improve the town's drainage. According to Stephen Roberts, the new Council inherited a debt of £35,000 from the Aston Authority which it had borrowed to build a system of sewers; it could therefore be that the borrowing in 1875 was by the Aston Authority, rather than the Sutton Corporation – there is nothing to be found in the Corporation minute book. In 1889 the Borough Medical Officer of Health reported that Sutton had never been in a better sanitary state. The Council borrowed £1,500 for improvements to the sewers in 1892 and they borrowed a further £3,200 in 1899 for work on the sewers and roads. It therefore appears not only that questions of public health were being taken more seriously than previously, but that considerable sums of money were being spent on improvements.

174. 20/12/1875 *John Wiggan died*

John Wiggan (1797-1875) was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1854 to 1875. He was a prosperous Birmingham gunmaker in partnership with his nephew Henry Elliott. When the Blade Mill in Sutton Park, powered by a stream flowing from Keepers Pool, closed down in 1847, Wiggan purchased the site from Vincent Holbeche, demolished the mill and converted the mill-house into a gentleman's residence, called Park House, with ornamental gardens and walks beside the stream. The new house was badly affected when the dam at Keepers Pool broke during a storm in 1859.

175. 24/3/1876 *Bellringers dispensed with*

No details about dispensing with bellringers have been found. Was the belfry unsafe? Were the bellringers not up to the job? Were the bells past their best? Possibly the state of the bells is the answer. Norman Evans wrote that by 1884 the six bells, which dated from 1795, had become cracked.

A run of eight new bells was installed in November 1884 at a cost of £410. *Holy Trinity Sutton Coldfield* (ed. Stella Thebridge, 2020) does not make any reference to the bellringers in 1876.

176. 27/3/1876 *Grace Campbell Bedford died*

Grace Campbell Bedford was the wife of Rev William Riland Bedford (Rector 1822-43). She was the daughter of Charles Sharpe of Hoddam Castle in Dumfriesshire and the mother of five children, all boys, including Rev William Kirkpatrick Riland Bedford (Rector 1850-92). She survived her husband by thirty-three years.

177. 5/10/1876 *Miss A.E. Lloyd (Moor Hall) mar.*

Alice Elizabeth Lloyd (1854-1932) was one of eleven children of Sampson Samuel Lloyd (1820-99) who was the tenant of Moor Hall from 1866. She married Rev John Houghton Gibbon (1847-83) from Woolton, Liverpool in 1876. They settled in the Cotswold village of Willersey where their two sons, John Houghton Gibbon and Edward Llewelyn Lloyd Gibbon, were born in 1878 and 1879. John Gibbon was appointed as the Rector of St Peter's Church at Willesley in 1881, but he died two years later, aged thirty-six (see 203 below), after only seven years of marriage.

178. 28/12/1876 *John Wiggan buried, aged 78*

John Wiggan died on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1875 (see 173 above). Unless, for some reason, it took over a year for his body to be buried, it seems that the year given in *The Warden's Calendar* is incorrect, but why record both his death and his burial?

179. 28/4/1877 *Pub. of New Gram. School Scheme*

The Charity Commission published a draft scheme in April 1877, which dealt not only with Bishop Vesey's Grammar School but with the Corporation's elementary schools. The principal proposal was that all the schools would be managed by the same Board of Governors, under the name of the Sutton Coldfield Grammar School Foundation. The Grammar School Governors approved the scheme, but the Corporation were totally opposed to it. A public meeting was held and a resolution against the proposals was passed by an overwhelming majority. A petition got up against the scheme was widely supported and as a consequence the Charity Commission abandoned the proposals.

180. 20/5/1878 *S.S. Water's Co. recd. appl. for extension to Sutton*

The wording of this entry referring to an application, as in entry no 173 above, leaves it in doubt what the outcome of the application was. The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company Limited was formed in 1853 with an office at Lichfield Railway Station with the object of "providing an adequate supply of pure water to the inhabitants of the city of Lichfield and the towns of Walsall, Bilston, Willenhall, Tipton and Wolverhampton". In the next two decades the sphere of its activities extended to Dudley, Burton-on-Trent, West Bromwich, Cannock, Halesowen, Handsworth, Oldbury, Smethwick, Bloxwich, Brownhills and Tamworth, and it moved its headquarters to Birmingham. Sutton obtained its water supply from Sutton Park, and in 1865 the Warden and Society had defeated a proposal by the Birmingham Waterworks Company to draw its water from the Park, but as the town grew in size (a population of 4,574 in 1851 and 7,337 in 1881) it was inevitable that an outside supplier would be

needed. The obvious choice was the expanding South Staffs Company, who opened a depot in Sutton in 1900, rather than the mistrusted Birmingham Company.

181. 19/7/1878 *Doe Bank, The Anchorage, etc. ests. sold*

Richard Hurst Sadler (1847-1917) purchased The Anchorage, a large house in the High Street (later part of Lichfield Road) set in several acres of land, in 1869. He also bought up extensive fields to the west of the High Street and in the late 1870s he divided the land into building plots and sold them off individually, creating Anchorage Road through the middle of the land. The Anchorage itself was retained and let out, but was sold following Sadler's death. It was demolished in 1950 when the Fire Station was built. The district of Sutton between Tamworth Road and Four Oaks Road was known as Doe Bank, taking its name from Doe Bank House, the dower house belonging to Four Oaks Hall (a Georgian property demolished in 1965 when Hampton Drive off Wentworth Road was laid out on the site). There is another Georgian property known as Doe Bank, now 105 Lichfield Road, which stands between Barker Road and Wyvern Road (which Richard Sadler's brother Ralph Stanley Sadler owned in the 1880s). With the coming of the railway line between Birmingham and Sutton, many professional men and businessmen moved away from the big city to the more salubrious country town of Sutton, and local landowners took advantage of this population increase by selling off their land for middle-class housing, accumulating much wealth in the process.

182. 20/7/1878 *The Sycamores, Maney sold*

The following advertisement appeared in the *Birmingham Daily Post* on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1878: "THE SYCAMORES, MANEY, NEAR SUTTON COLDFIELD. A most substantial and exceedingly well-arranged FREEHOLD FAMILY RESIDENCE, specially built for occupation without regard to expense, situated upon the Turnpike Road, and about ten minutes' walk from the Wylde Green and Sutton Coldfield Railway Stations. MESSRS. LUDLOW, DANIELL, & ROBERTS will Sell by Auction, at their Sale Rooms, No. 18, New Street, Birmingham, on TUESDAY, August 20, at 12 o'clock (by direction of H.H. Plante, Esq., who will give early possession to the purchaser) – the above FREEHOLD RESIDENCE, which is most substantially built, exceedingly well arranged, and admirably adapted for the requirements of a Family. The first-floor Rooms are all 11ft. high, and comprise noble Dining Room, 23ft. long (exclusive of bay windows) and 16ft. 4in. wide; well proportioned Drawing Room and Breakfast Room. The Entrance Hall is laid with encaustic tiles, and the windows are of plate-glass. The House also contains eight Bed Rooms, one being similar in size to the Dining Room; Dressing Room, Box Room, two Clothes Closets, w.c., two Kitchens, and very excellent Cellaring. There is a good two-stalled Stable, with Loft over; paved Yard, excellent Water, and the Gas is laid on throughout; a small Vinery, Rustic Summer Arbour, Lawns, and productive Garden, the whole occupying an area of about half an acre, with a frontage to the main road of 35 yards. *Note. – This Property gives all Grammar School and other valuable Sutton Coldfield rights and privileges.*" The property was on the east side of Birmingham Road between While Road and Holland Road (now known as Maney Corner). Although the advertisement refers to Birmingham Road as the Turnpike Road, it had, in fact, been disturnpiked in 1872. Henry Hodson Plante was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1877 to 1878 (resigned) and from 1882 to 1886.

183. 12/8/1878 *Prop. for p'mnt Sch. fees*

At a meeting of the Sutton Corporation on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1878 the Warden, Dr James Johnston, proposed that "a uniform payment be made by all Children for Education in the Corporation Schools". Thomas Eddowes suggested that a decision was deferred until the outcome of an application for a grant from

the Education Department was known, and this was agreed. At a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> August Arthur Wills proposed that “in view of the inadequacy of the income of the Corporation Schools to meet current expenditure it is expedient that the following scale of fees be adopted for all Scholars admitted to such Schools, except those whom the School Committee shall consider it desirable to exempt from payments of the whole or a part of such fees upon production of satisfactory reasons for such exemption, namely for Scholars in the Fifth and Sixth Standards three pence per week, for those in the Third and Fourth Standards three pence per week, and for those in lower Standards one penny per week”. However, it was again agreed to defer the matter until the outcome of the grant application was known. In February 1879 a total grant of £437.1.0d. for the twelve Corporation schools was made and at a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March it was resolved that “all children of Inhabitants be admitted free (except in the cases of parents willing to pay [surely, unlikely?])”, subject to minimum attendance requirements.

184. 2/1/1879 *First Football Club started*

According to Stephen Roberts, there were four football teams in Sutton in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Sutton Town, Sutton Unity, Sutton Athletic and Ye Olde Gayte. Sutton Town Football Club (The Royals) was founded in 1879 and played its first match against the second XI of Birmingham Football Club on 1<sup>st</sup> February of that year. It was associated with the Gate Public House in Mill Street and in the early years played on the Meadow Platt in Sutton Park and competed in the Central Birmingham League. Its ground has been in Coles Lane since the 1930s, and, although it has had a chequered career with regular promotions and relegations in various leagues, it still survives.

185. 8/4/1879 *Ap. made to close Slash Lane*

Slash Lane was the former name of Riland Road. A plan on a Conveyance of 1890 still records the name as Slash Lane. Roger Lea says that its name arose because the road was so deep in mud, ‘slashy’ being a dialect word meaning wet and miry.

186. 19/5/1879 *First Goods Tr. (Mid) passed thro’ Sutton*

The railway line which passed through Sutton Park (see 162 above) was used for both passenger and goods trains. The local ironmasters and colliery owners were all in favour of the new service, particularly for the transportation of coal. The passenger service was axed in 1965, but goods trains are still to be seen trundling through the Park.

187. 26/6/1879 *Tenders rec’d for Lych Gate N. Cem.*

‘Lych’ derives from an old English word for body. Traditionally, a lychgate was a roofed gateway to a churchyard under which prior to a funeral a coffin could be sheltered awaiting the arrival of the priest who was to conduct the burial service. The cemetery in Rectory Road, needed because the churchyard at Holy Trinity was full, was consecrated by Henry Philpott, the Bishop of Worcester, on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1880 and the first burial took place in the following November.

188. 1/7/1879 *Sutton Park Races*

Following the closure of the racecourse at Holly Knoll in 1852 (see 152 above), sixteen years elapsed before a new course, near Westwood Coppice, was opened in July 1868. As before, the new course

was popular with visitors from Birmingham and the Black Country, but again local opposition prevailed and the last race took place in August 1879. A third racecourse was opened at Four Oaks Park two years later, which lasted for just eight years. It is by no means clear what *The Warden's Calendar's* date of 1<sup>st</sup> July 1879 refers to, possibly the first day of the final meeting of the Westwood Coppice course.

189. 25/12/1879 *Death of Capt. Pheasant*

The death of Captain Pheasant was reported in *The Hackney and Kingsland Gazette* on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1880 as follows: "Another Waterloo veteran, known to many in this district, has gone to his rest – on Christmas-day, Captain Pheasant, of the Park-road, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, after a short attack of paralysis. He was born Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1795: entered the army in 1812, spent the winter 1812 and 13 in Holland, took part with his regiment, the 52<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry, in the memorable battle of Waterloo, where the regiment under Lord Seaton [Field Marshall John Colborne 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Seaton (1778-1863)] made a gallant charge on the flank of the advancing Imperial Guards at a critical moment that materially assisted the fortunes of the day. He was wounded in that charge through the left hand, but remained with the army of occupation three years. He afterwards served in Ireland during the riots and in 1823 went with his regiment to St. Andrew's, [Charlotte County] New Brunswick [Canada], where he purchased his discharge after serving in the 52<sup>nd</sup> nearly 18 years. He then engaged in the shipping trade for some years successfully. In 1864 he was made Captain of the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion Charlotte County Militia, and again saw active service during the Fenian raids. He retired in 1872 with the rank of Major, and spent the remainder of his life in England, principally at Sutton with now and then a visit to Kingsland and Hackney to see his relatives. Although he purchased his discharge he has been in receipt of a pension for some years. Thus closes an eventful life." The Fenian Raids were incursions carried out by an Irish republican organisation based in the United States on military bases and other targets in Canada in 1866 and 1870/71, intended to put pressure on the British Government to withdraw from Ireland; they failed to achieve this aim.

190. 4/5/1880 *Lavinia Sophia Trevanion died*

The genealogical websites MyHeritage, Ancestry and Geni, although somewhat contradictory, tell us that Lavinia Sophia Trevanion was born in 1817 or 1818, and she was the daughter of the Hon, John Perceval. She had seven siblings, Thomas Perceval (died 1877), Elizabeth Helen Perceval and five others. She married Rev Frederick or Frederic William Bettesworth Trevanion in 1836; he was born in Middlesex, married in Yorkshire, lived in Cheshire and died in London in 1855. Lavinia's grandfather was Charles George Perceval 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Arden of Warwickshire (17566-1840), who was the elder brother of Spence Perceval (1762-1812), the only British Prime Minister to be assassinated. Her grandfather was John Perceval 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Egmont P.C., F.R.S. of Enmore Castle Somerset (1711-70). After Lavinia was widowed, she moved to Sutton to live with her uncle John Wiggan (1797-1875), a retired Birmingham gunmaker, at The Park, later known as Park House, a large gentleman's residence in Sutton Park, which had been converted from the mill-house at the former Blade Mill. He was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1854 to 1875. Lavinia's cousin, and Wiggan's nephew and business partner, Henry Elliot also lived at The Park; he was a Corporation member from 1878 to 1886. Lavinia's son Johnnie, who was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bengal Native Regiment, died in India in 1868.

191. 11/11/1880 *John Henry Cull died*

John Henry Cull was a schoolteacher who ran a private academy known as the Preparatory School for Young Gentlemen from 56 High Street, where he and his family also lived. Richard Holbeche, who

wrote his memoirs in 1892, recalled his school days under Cull from the age of five in 1855. The school catered for pupils up to the age of twelve, including boarders, and according to Holbeche Cull's wife Ann "a kind motherly woman, did most of the teaching". Cull was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1875 to 1880 and was also the Registrar of Births and Deaths for Sutton Coldfield.

192. 15/12/1880 *Date of enrolment Sutton Volunteers*

193. 22/12/1880 *Ser. Taylor's first attend. as drill inst'r*

A Public Meeting was held at the Town Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1880 to enrol members in the Sutton Coldfield Volunteer Rifle Corps, "when the personal attendance of every man willing to join is earnestly requested". The Warden, the appropriately named Edward Wellington Simkin, presided at the meeting and sixty men, aged between eighteen and forty, enrolled. The new company was linked to the South Staffordshire Regiment, as the Warwickshire and Birmingham Volunteers were fully manned. On 15<sup>th</sup> December the new recruits attended the Crystal Palace in Clifton Road to be sworn in and to receive their first instruction in drill, given by drill sergeants from the Regimental Headquarters. The purpose of the Rifle Volunteers was to provide part-time soldiers who could be called on to support the regular army for the defence of the country against invasion.

194. 17/1/1881 *First Inter't. in Cem'try*

Following the consecration of the new Rectory Road cemetery by the Bishop of Worcester in May 1880 (see 187 above), the first burial took place in November 1880 according to Stella Thebridge's *Holy Trinity Sutton Coldfield*, but in January 1881 according to *The Warden's Calendar*.

195. 17/3/1881 *First Races at Four Oaks*

The Four Oaks Park Company Limited purchased Four Oaks Hall and the 246 acres of Four Oaks Park from Sir John William Craddock Hartopp in 1880 for £60,000, and then proceeded to construct a racecourse with stands, paddocks and stables at the cost of a further £40,000. The Directors and shareholders were hopeful that the racecourse, within walking distance of the Midland Road Railway Station, would become one of the most popular in the country. The first meeting, held on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 1881, was a great success, attracting 15,000 punters on each day, and even more at the Easter and June meetings. However, this success was not repeated in subsequent years. The Four Oaks Park Company had mortgaged the property to Thomas Ryland of Moxhull Hall as security for a large loan, and by 1889 the company was insolvent, unable to continue in business and was wound up after only ten years of existence.

196. 5/5/1881 *Second day's Sale at New Hall*

John de Heley Mavesyn Chadwick (1834-97) inherited New Hall from his father in 1854 and proceeded to spend considerable sums on major alterations to the property, extending the length of the building, dated 1868 on the gable on the right-hand side, and adding another storey on most of the house. He was extravagant and generous, hosting lively parties at New Hall, but he was also an inveterate gambler and living beyond his means. In 1880 he took out a loan of £40,000 to pay off some of his debts and the following year he organised a sale of some of New Hall's treasures. Kate Holt in *New Hall The History of England in One House* mentions that the chandeliers from the Great Chamber were sold to a Mr Chatwin of Edgbaston. The sale failed to raise enough money to save Chadwick from bankruptcy, which occurred in May 1883.



197. 8/6/1881 *Lorenzo Secker died*

Lorenzo Secker (1814-81) was a solicitor's clerk employed by Messrs Holbeche and Addenbrooke of 1/3 Coleshill Street, the Corporation's Deputy Steward. In 1851 he was living in Church Hill off Mill Street, but by 1861 he had moved to a larger brand-new house in Hackett Street (later renamed Station Street). His gravestone can still be seen in the churchyard at Holy Trinity Church against the perimeter wall overlooking Trinity Hill.

198. 5/2/1882 *Dr. G. Boddington died*

199. 11/2/1882 *Dr. Geo. Boddington buried*

Dr George Boddington (correctly spelt with one 'd') (1799-1882) came to live at Driffold House in Maney from Erdington in 1836, and he also took possession of The White House (demolished in 1935 when the Odeon Cinema was built), which he converted into a sanatorium for the treatment of patients with tuberculosis. In 1840 he published *The Treatment and Cure of Pulmonary Consumption* which advocated a wholesome diet, exercise and fresh air, as opposed to the traditional methods of blood-letting and medicines. The medical establishment poured scorn on his theories, but they became generally accepted within thirty years. In the meantime, Boddington gave up The White House sanatorium and devoted his time to a lunatic asylum which he had established at Driffold House in 1836. In this field he gained a reputation as an enlightened and caring mental health practitioner, again ahead of his time. In addition to his medical work, he was heavily involved in local politics, being a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1848 to 1881, Warden in 1852 and 1853 and a Capital Burgess from 1874 to 1876. He played a leading role in preventing reform of the Corporation when an enquiry was held under the Municipal Corporations Act in 1855. Why *The Warden's Calendar* should mention both Boddington's death and burial is a mystery, since it was inevitable that after his death he would be buried, cremation not being available as an alternative (the first official cremation in England took place three years later).

200. 20/8/1882 *Miss Sarah Holbeche died at W'wick*

Sarah Holbeche (1803-82), the daughter of Thomas Holbeche, later the Corporation's Deputy Steward, was born at Ivy House 20 High Street, the first of fifteen children. As the family grew they moved to 6 High Street and then, in 1817, to 1/3 Coleshill Street. When Thomas died in 1848 Sarah's brother Vincent, also the Corporation's Deputy Steward, moved into 1/3 Coleshill Street with his wife and young son (another six children were to be born there) and Sarah moved to 58 High Street with her six unmarried sisters. She remained there until 1875 when she and her surviving sisters were forced to leave because the property faced demolition to make way for the new railway line from Water Orton to Wolverhampton, which passed through Sutton Park. Sarah moved to Northgate Street Warwick, where she died seven years later. During her residence in Sutton she kept a diary, which came to light in 1999 thanks to the efforts of Janet Jordan, who has also transcribed the diary, since when it has become a valuable source for local historians.

201. 3/9/1882 *Rev. J. R. Harkness died*

Father John Harkness was the Parish Priest of the Roman Catholic Chapel in Lichfield Road (later the Guildhall) from 1870 until his death. The Chapel's congregation increased in numbers and Father Harkness had ambitious plans to build a school and a new church. He purchased half an acre of land on the opposite side of Lichfield Road for £500, for these purposes, and in 1872 St. Joseph's Elementary

School was opened. In 1880 Sarah and Elena Grundy (see 144 above) gave the Chapel a property known as Iona Cottage next door to the school, together with further land worth £1,500 and £1,300 in cash. The money was spent on improvements to the Chapel and its adjoining presbytery, but Father Harkness died before his hopes for a new church could be realised; in fact, it was not until 1934 that the present Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church was built, with Iona Cottage becoming the new presbytery, and the old Chapel becoming the Guildhall (now commercial offices)

202. 15/2/1883 *Honoria Haywood (ag. 89) bu.*

It seems likely that Haywood is a misprint for Hayward as Honoria Hayward was the wife of Thomas Hayward, a wheelwright and pump-maker who later moved into property development. He purchased Bleak House in Lichfield Road in 1848, but died later in the same year when the property passed to his widow. Honoria was the mother of six children, the oldest of whom was another Thomas Hayward (1823-1900), who was a wheelwright and timber merchant operating from the sawmill at Wyndley Pool. He was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1872 to 1886. In 1855 he was a leading light in the movement petitioning for the replacement of the Warden and Society by a democratically elected council, and in 1859 he was a strong supporter of the proposed railway line from Birmingham to Sutton, in the face of considerable opposition. In his earlier days he lived at the White Cottage on the corner of Birmingham Road and Manor Road (known later as Ye Olde Pie Shoppe), but with increasing prosperity he was able to move to the much more prestigious Manor House on Manor Hill. Honoria Hayward's second son William (1838-1901) purchased Norfolk Lodge on the corner of Lichfield Road and Little Sutton Lane (where Sutton Court now is) from Richard Sadler in 1875. Hayward Road in Little Sutton is named after the Hayward family and the adjoining Norfolk Road after Norfolk Lodge.

203. 29/4/1883 *Rev. J.H. Gibbon died*

Rev John Houghton Gibbon (1847-83) was the husband of Alice Elizabeth Lloyd, the daughter of Sampson Samuel Lloyd of Moor Hall (see 177 above). He was the father of Col John Houghton Gibbon D.S.O. (1878-1960) and the grandfather of General Sir John Houghton Gibbon G.C.B., O.B.E. (1917-97), both of whom enjoyed distinguished military careers. He was the Rector of St. Peter's Church Willersey Gloucestershire but died at the age of thirty-six.

204. 24/9/1883 *Ch. of Incorporation, signs. Invited*

The Sutton Corporation twice avoided being forced to become a borough council under the 1835 Municipal Corporations Act in 1835 and 1855. The 1882 Municipal Corporations Act consolidated all previous legislation relating to municipal boroughs, and by section 210 allowed inhabitant householders of a town to petition the Privy Council for a charter of incorporation as a borough. The Act was preceded by a Report of a Royal Commission set up to enquire into unreformed corporations. One of the Commissioners, the Hon. Thomas Henry William Pelham (1847-1916) came to Sutton in March 1879 to conduct an enquiry and, although he was presented with two petitions in favour and against reform, by this time it was almost universally recognised that the Charter granted by King Henry VIII was inadequate for the changed, and rapidly changing, world of the late Victorian age, and Pelham recommended that Sutton was ripe for reform. The 1883 Municipal Corporations Act quickly followed, which included Sutton Coldfield in a schedule of twenty-five "places to which the Commissioners of 1876 consider that the Municipal Corporations Acts might be applied". Even before the 1883 Act was passed, movement for reform was proceeding apace and a petition calling for a borough charter was

raised for presentation to the Privy Council, which resulted in a new charter being granted by Queen Victoria on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1885.

205. 22/11/1883 *William Smith buried*

William Smith was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1864 to 1883. He is described in the Corporation Minute Book as a chemist.

206. 24/4/1886 *P.A. Muntz, Esq. addressed electors*

Sir Philip Albert Muntz 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet of Dunsmore (1839-1908) was a prosperous Birmingham businessman who was elected as a Conservative M.P. for North Warwickshire in 1884. The constituency was abolished in the following year and Muntz was elected as the M.P. for Tamworth from 1885 to 1908. He lived at Dunsmore House near Rugby, which he built in 1881, now a Grade II listed building. He was created a baronet in the Coronation Honours of 1902.

207. 10/7/1884 *Ethel Francis Riland Bedford married*

Ethel Frances (correctly so spelt) Riland Bedford (born c. 1858) was the fourth of Rev William Kirkpatrick Riland Bedford's eleven children. She married George Francis Levenson (1856-1938), a Captain in the Royal Engineers. He was subsequently promoted through the ranks, ending his military career as Colonel of the Staffordshire Regiment. He saw active service in the Boer War and the First World War and was created a Companion of the Order of the Bath (C.B.) in 1913. He was also a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George (C.M.G.) and was enrolled as a Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour by the President of France in 1919. He co-authored *The Conduct of War: A Short Treatise on its Most Important Branches and Guiding Rules*.

208. 28/2/1885 *Peter Pimlott died*

Peter Pimlott was a shoemaker living at and working from a single-storey cottage in Lower Parade in 1861. In 1834 Pimlott was one of seven cobblers who received payment from the Corporation for making shoes for the children from the Corporation's Elementary Schools.

209. 2/5/1885 *Bernard Winder killed by Indians*

There is a brass plaque on the west wall of Holy Trinity Church which reads: "In Memory of Bernard Winder Aged 22 Years, who was killed near Battleford N.W.T. May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1885, Whilst fighting against the Indians during the Rebellion in British North America." Bernard Winder, the son of Walter Winder, a prosperous Sutton Coldfield businessman with a thriving saddlery and ironworks in Birmingham, attended Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and then took a job attending to the horses at the Manor House Farm. In 1881 he and his brother Walter, a currier, emigrated to Canada (British North America), where Bernard joined the Canadian army who were fighting the native Cree and Assiniboine tribes (Red Indians) over ownership of land; he was a teamster, responsible for the horses used to pull wagons carrying food and firearms. He was killed during the Battle of Cut Knife near Battleford Saskatchewan North-West Territories, which was the natives' most successful battle during the North-West Rebellion.

210. 29/8/1885 *Capt. G.H. Arbuthnot rec'd Commis. as Lieut.*

George Holme Arbuthnot (born 1865) came from Enfield Lock in Surrey; having been appointed as a Lieutenant in the British Army in 1885, he ended his military career as a Major-General of the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He served with the Burmese Expedition during the 1886/87 Third Anglo-Burmese War. In 1911 he was awarded the Coronation Delhi Durbar Medal for military services in India. His link to Sutton has not been found. He is not to be confused with Major General Henry Thomas Arbuthnot (see 104 above).

211. 7/9/1885 *Meet. St. John's Amb. Assn. Ld. Leigh in ch.*

The St. John Ambulance Association was founded in July 1877 to teach first aid; its first uniformed first-aiders were founded ten years later as the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Association and the Brigade were amalgamated in 1968 to form the St. John Ambulance Foundation. The Sutton Coldfield Branch of the St. John Ambulance is still in existence, operating from the Fire Station in Lichfield Road, one of the earliest branches in the country. William Henry Leigh 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Leigh of Stoneleigh Abbey (1824-1905) was the High Steward of Sutton from 1859 to 1892 and from 1902 to 1905.

212. 4/1/1886 *New Charter for Sutton Inc'p'n an'ed*

The new Charter granted by Queen Victoria to replace King Henry VIII's 1528 Charter starts as follows: "Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, to all to whom these Presents shall come Greeting", and continues: "We therefore, as well by virtue of our Royal prerogative as in pursuance of and in accordance with the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, or any other Act or Acts, and of all other powers and authorities enabling Us in this behalf, by and with the advice of our Privy Council do hereby grant, order, and declare [that] the parish of Sutton Coldfield is hereby created a Municipal Borough, by the name of the Borough of Sutton Coldfield." The Charter was dated 31<sup>st</sup> December 1885; on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1886 a public announcement or proclamation was made from the Town Hall in Mill Street.

213. 15/3/1886 *Sut. Gardeners' Soc. held first Show*

The late Stephen Roberts (who was himself a keen gardener) wrote in *Glimpses into Sutton's Past Part III 1886-1914*: "Creating a beautiful garden was an important indication of wealth and taste to those with money in Sutton, and they employed gardeners to achieve the high standards they sought. For example, Mary Jerome of Holland House and the Revd. E.H. Kittoe of St. Michaels were known, respectively, for their excellent chrysanthemums and roses, but they both had head gardeners to carefully tend these plants for them – in 1886 J.F. Pears for the former and J. Haynes for the latter. In fact gardeners seem to have been employed by a large number of middle class Suttonians. L.B. Grove was the beneficiary of this passion for gardening – his nursery at Wyndley was a thriving business. The annual exhibitions of the Sutton Coldfield Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Association at the town hall were enjoyable occasions."

214. 3/4/1886 *Pres'n to Rev. W.H. Richards (Hill)*

Rev W. H. Holland Richards M.A. (1856-93) was appointed as the curate at St James's Church Hill; this was his first church post, and after eight or so years, in 1886, he left Sutton to take up a curacy at Smethwick, which was the occasion of a presentation being made to him. Ill health forced him to

resign his post at Smethwick and after a long and painful illness he died at his mother's house in West Kensington, aged thirty-seven. A report of his death in *The Warwickshire Herald* dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1893 commented that "the Rev. W.H. Richards will be remembered for the good work he did in his first curacy at Hill, by which he endeared himself to all". Various Suttonians attended his funeral at St. Andrew's Church West Kensington, including Rev Herbert Edward Wilson, Col. Richard Holbeche and Samuel Allen Taylor.

215. 9/4/1886 *John B. Stone elected first mayor*

Following the new Charter dated 31<sup>st</sup> December 1885 (see 212 above) elections were held for three town councillors in each of the six newly-created wards of Sutton Coldfield. John Benjamin Stone (1838-1914) was elected (unopposed) to represent the Wylde Green ward and at the first meeting of the new Borough Council on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1886 he was elected as the town's first Mayor, and also as one of six aldermen. He was re-elected as Mayor for a further three years, and was Sutton's High Steward from 1905. He was a successful glass manufacturer, a Justice of the Peace, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and the M.P. for East Birmingham from 1895 to 1909. He is best remembered today as a pioneer photographer; he was the official photographer at the coronation of King Edward VII in 1911, and he left behind 26,000 photographs as a remarkable record of his life and times, many of them of great interest to local historians.

216. 23/6/1886 *H. Duncalfe qual. County Magist.*

Dr Henry Duncalfe (1828-1901) was a general practitioner in West Bromwich until 1874 when he retired to live at a house called Aragon in Tudor Hill Sutton Coldfield, and started taking an interest in local affairs. He was appointed as a member of the Sutton Coldfield Corporation in 1877, was Warden from November 1881 until the Warden and Society was abolished in 1885, and was a Capital Burgess from 1879 to 1881. He was a leading light of the Sutton Coldfield Institute and Reading Room, a founder of the Sutton Park Preservation Society and was instrumental in setting up adult art classes in Sutton which led to the building of the School of Art in Lichfield Road. He was also a Governor of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, and left a legacy to the school to fund a prize for the best academic student, which is still awarded as the Duncalfe Exhibition.

217. 4/12/1886 *Rev. W.K.R. Bedford app. to Memorial Church at Cannes*

During the long period that Rev William Kirkpatrick Riland Bedford was the Rector of Sutton Coldfield (1850-92) he suffered frequent bouts of ill-health and spent time recuperating in the warmer climate of the Continent, particularly at Cannes in the South of France. Queen Victoria's son Prince Leopold Duke of Albany (1853-84) suffered from haemophilia and was advised by his doctor in 1884 to move to Cannes for his health's sake. Whilst there he died, aged thirty, from a cerebral haemorrhage following a fall. His brother the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) commissioned the building of an Anglican memorial chapel at Cannes, known as the Royal Memorial Church of St. George, in Prince Leopold's honour. As a frequent visitor to Cannes, Riland Bedford was the obvious person to be appointed as the priest-in-charge of the new chapel. It was converted to a Roman Catholic church in 1974.

218. 24/12/1886 *Dr. C. Barlow died*

The death of Dr Charles Barlow was reported in *The Birmingham Mail* of 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1886 as follows: "This morning Dr. C. Webb Iliffe (Coroner for North Warwickshire) held an inquest at the Swan Inn, Sutton Coldfield, on the body of Charles Barlow (50), surgeon, of Hendon House, Sutton, who was found dead in bed on Tuesday morning last. The Coroner said he had thought it desirable to take the evidence of Mrs. Barlow at her own house, and having done so he should read it over to the jury. Mrs. Barlow stated that on Monday last the deceased appeared quite well, and at half past 11 o'clock at night they retired to rest, her husband being then in good spirits. At a quarter to three the following morning, in consequence of the deceased feeling unwell she went downstairs and fetched some brandy, of which her husband partook. He shortly afterwards became unconscious, and died in about three minutes. She had frequently noticed that the deceased suffered from shortness of breath, and he had intimated that there was something wrong with his heart. Mr. H. Duncalfe, surgeon, said that on arriving at the house on Tuesday morning he found the deceased had been dead about half an hour, death having, in his opinion resulted from syncope. Deceased had repeatedly told his wife that at some time or other he should die suddenly. The coroner, in summing up, referred to the loss which had been sustained by the town of Sutton Coldfield in consequence of the death of Mr. Barlow, who was a gentleman well known and highly respected in the district. The jury returned a verdict of 'Death from syncope'." If the inquest was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, the death was on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December, not on Christmas Eve. The Swan Inn, also known as the Top Swan, stood on Lichfield Road (then part of the High Street) immediately in front of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School. For Dr Henry Duncalfe see 216 above. According to modern dictionaries syncope is a medical term for fainting, that is temporary loss of consciousness, not a sign of serious illness, but formerly it was a synonym for heart failure.

219. 16/2/1887 *First An. Ball Erd'n. Conserv. Asso.*

The parliamentary constituency of Erdington was created in 1918; previously, from 1885 to 1918, Erdington was part of the Aston Manor constituency, which in turn was previously part of the North Warwickshire constituency, created in 1832. The North Warwickshire Conservative Registration Association was formed in the early 1850s, and was very active in Sutton. North Warwickshire returned Conservative M.P.s from 1832 to 1885, and Aston Manor returned a Liberal M.P. in 1885, but reverted to a Conservative majority from 1886 to 1918. Erdington did not become a Labour stronghold until 1945.

220. 21/2/1887 *Suicide of S.A. Kimber at Beggar's B.*

The death of Sarah Ann Kimber was reported in *The Lichfield Gazette* under the headline 'Suicide of a Barmaid at Oscott', as follows: "On Monday morning the barmaid of the Beggar's Bush Inn, Chester Road, New Oscott, committed suicide by hanging herself in her bedroom. Deceased who was twenty-five years of age, was named Sarah Ann Kimber, her father been a blacksmith at Saltley. It appears that she had during the last few days been suffering from a cold, and on Monday morning the landlord took her up a cup of tea, and told her she need not get up. He placed the tea near the door, and she said 'All right' in response to his remark. It is stated, however, that deceased did get up, and performed some of her usual duties downstairs, afterwards retiring again to her bedroom. About half-past eight o'clock the landlord once more proceeded upstairs, and receiving no response to his knock unfastened the door, which, however, would not open without some force, and on entering the room found deceased suspended from a hook over the doorway. He at once gave alarm, cut down the body, and Dr. Fosbrooke Hobbes, of Maney, Sutton Coldfield, was fetched as promptly as possible, but life was

found to be extinct. Several pieces of paper, evidently the remains of a torn-up letter, were found in the room, and these have been secured with the expectation that they may afford some clue to the motive of the rash act. – On Tuesday afternoon Dr. Iliffe (coroner for Central Warwickshire) held an inquest at the Beggar’s Bush Inn, New Oscott, touching the death of Sarah Ann Kimber – Remnants of letters were produced, to the effect that deceased contemplated a change of place owing to the dull life, admitting at the same time that the landlord had promised her good references of character. – Annie Collins, wife of William Collins, builder, of New Oscott, deposed that she had known the deceased for several months, and had found her low-spirited and desponding. Deceased on one occasion told her that she had a sister of weak intellect, and that she was afraid she was going the same way. – Samuel Tyers, the landlord, deposed that he knew of no reason why deceased should commit suicide. On Monday morning he told her not to get up, knowing she was unwell. Later on he took up a cup of tea, but after knocking three times and receiving no reply he opened the door, when he was shocked to find deceased hanging from a hook behind the door. – The jury returned a verdict of ‘Suicide while in a temporary state of insanity.’ “

221. 27/4/1887 *Regu’tions as to Exhib’s at Gram. Sch.*

The Governors of Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School approved regulations for three leaving exhibitions of £50 per year for three years for boys taking up a place of higher education, in April 1887. The awards were to be given after internal examination; only boys who had “paid the School Fees for nine complete consecutive Terms” were eligible and each exhibitioner had to produce a half-yearly certificate “from the authorities of the Place of Higher Education testifying to his general good conduct and satisfactory attention to his studies”. The Governors defined ‘place of higher education’ as “any Institution, the course of study at which in the judgment of the Governors is calculated to extend and develop any course commenced in the School”, which included Queens College and Mason College in Birmingham, the Royal College of Music and Sandhurst Royal Military Academy, as well as Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

222. 12/5/1887 *Early Closing Move’t started*

The Early Closing Association was formed in 1842 to control the hours of labour in retail shops. It was promoted by the social reformers George Dawson (1821-76), Samuel Carter Hall (1800-89) and John Passmore Edwards (1823-1911), but it was not until 1912 that the Shops Act entitled shop staff to a half-day off work, creating a five-and-a-half days working week. The 1912 Shops Act was repealed in 1994.

223. 17/5/1887 *Res. Passed for Winding-up of Royal Hotel Co.*

The first Royal Hotel (now Royal Sutton Place) in King Edward Square opened in May 1865 (see 153 above), but the Sutton Royal Hotel Company Limited went into compulsory liquidation in December of the same year. The hotel was sold to a consortium of businessmen who set up a new company, but with the same name; the hotel reopened in 1869. Although it lasted somewhat longer than its predecessor, it was never very successful and within twenty years it was struggling financially. The company was not wound up in 1887, but the hotel continued to be advertised until it was sold in 1896 to Lt. Col. Walter Wilkinson, a wealthy Birmingham manufacturer and property developer, who was to purchase New Hall in 1903; Wilkinson converted the hotel into a sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis.

224. 25/5/1887 *Wm. Fowler, J.P., died*

William Fowler junior (1818-87) was a well-known local surveyor and land-agent who lived at Wood End Cottage in Erdington. His aunt Ann Fowler (1799-1874) was the wife of Dr George Bodington (see 198/199 above) and he himself was married to Sarah Hannah Bodington (1823-1900) whose father was George Bodington's first cousin. His father, William Fowler senior, was also a surveyor, who jointly with Henry Jacob produced the Corn Rent Map of Sutton in 1824, which detailed every field in the district.

225. 19/6/1887 *Jubilee Festivities commenced*

Queen Victoria ascended the throne on the death of her uncle King William IV on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1837. Fifty years later her Golden Jubilee was celebrated throughout the United Kingdom and British Empire. In Sutton, the new Mayor Sir Benjamin Stone, a keen admirer of the monarchy, ensured that the jubilee was celebrated in style. Jubilee medals and brooches were presented to the town's children, and in Sutton Park there was a dinner in a marquee for the elderly, the planting of two oak trees, sports, maypole dancing and a fireworks display.

226. 27/6/1887 *Miss Caroline Bracken buried*

Caroline Bracken (1803-87) was the younger sister of Agnes Bracken (1800-77), the artist well-known for her sketches of Sutton and the author of *History of the Forest and Chase of Sutton Coldfield* (1860), and Everilda Bracken (1802-49), and the older sister of Emily Bracken (1805-78). The sisters were born in Erdington, but the family moved to Aldridge in 1810, and then when the father, Richard Bracken, died in 1816 the family moved to Sutton, living at first at Mrs Duncumb's house in the High Street and, from 1820, at Acorn House (later renamed Vesey House). After Mrs Bracken's death Agnes and her three younger sisters, all unmarried, continued to live at Acorn House for the rest of their lives. Not much is known about Caroline's life in Sutton, but it is assumed that, like her sisters, she took an active part in the cultural and social life of the town and engaged in voluntary charitable work.

227. 29/7/1887 *New Gram. School op.*

In May 1884 the Governors of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School had thoughts of building a brand-new school on land at the end of Boswell Road, but the Headmaster was not in favour and the Charity Commission turned the proposal down. The following year, the Governors drew up plans for a large extension on the south side of the old School House, comprising "a Schoolroom large enough to accommodate 150 boys, three Classrooms, a Dining-room for 50 boys, Dormitories, of ample size to accommodate 30 boarders or upwards, and a Chemical Laboratory". The work took two years to complete and an opening ceremony was held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1887. A military band was engaged, a tent was borrowed from the neighbouring Swan Hotel, chairs were brought in from the Town Hall, and a lavish buffet tea was laid on; the proceedings were presided over by Charles Bowyer Adderley Lord Norton (1814-1905), who had been an active Governor since 1839.

228. 9/12/1887 *Cap. S.A. Howell (Vols.) resign'd com.*

When the Sutton Coldfield Volunteer Rifle Corps was formed in 1880 (see 192/193 above), Lt. Howell was the officer in command of the drill sessions at the Crystal Palace. He announced that there would be three drills a week and the forty or so recruits were expected to attend at least two of them, and



later reported, "it is satisfactory to note that the men seemed animated with a desire to learn, and a determination to master those elementary principles of drill, upon which their efficiency so much depends". Howell was subsequently promoted to the rank of Captain.

229. 10/12/1887 *Concert in aid of prop. new Dispens'y*

The Provident Dispensary, built in 1888 on the corner of Rectory Road and Coleshill Road, was promoted by one of Sutton's most prominent doctors, Dr (later Sir) Alfred Henry Evans (1847-1938), who lived and practised at 1/3 High Street. Patients of the Dispensary paid a small annual fee, but several local doctors worked there part-time on a voluntary basis. Patients were seen at the Dispensary, as well as the prescribed medicines being dispensed there. Dr Evans, who was a nephew of the novelist George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans), was an Alderman of the Borough Council and was Mayor of Sutton in 1890. His nephew Dr Howard Sidney Chavasse (1867-1938) was one of the local doctors who supported the work of the Dispensary, which closed down in 1948 when the National Health Service came into existence.

230. 21/12/1887 *Capt. Holbeche received Commission*

Thomas Vincent Holbeche (1846-1904) was a partner in the Solicitors' firm of Holbeche and Addenbrooke which practised from 1/3 Coleshill Street. He was one of the Corporation's Deputy Stewards from 1869 to 1885, a position which had previously been held by his father and grandfather, and he was appointed as Sutton's first Town Clerk in 1886. In 1880 he enlisted as a volunteer in the Sutton Coldfield Rifle Corps (see 192/193 above), soon becoming a first lieutenant and then promoted to captain. He resigned in 1891.

231. 31/12/1887 *Valedictory Sermon by Rev. Ll. Wood*

Rev Llewellyn Wood M.A. was a curate at Holy Trinity Church for five years from 1883. He preached his last sermon at Holy Trinity on Christmas Day 1887, and a farewell party was held at the Town Hall on the following Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> December. An address was presented to him on that occasion, as follows: "Reverend and Dear Sir, Your five years' residence at Sutton Coldfield, as curate of Holy Trinity parish, has come to a close, and we must now, to our extreme regret, bid you farewell. We cannot, however, allow you to depart from amongst us without expressing to you our hearty appreciation of the manner in which the duties of your sacred office have been discharged. Your ministerial work in Sutton Coldfield has been characterised alike by earnestness and gentleness, by prudence and unselfishness, and you have never failed to exhibit a ready loving sympathy with your parishioners in the various troubles and sorrows of their daily life. In token of the esteem and affection which the quiet display of these qualities has gained for you, we beg the acceptance of a purse, containing one hundred guineas, and, at the same time, we beg to assure you of our earnest hope that, under God's blessing, your life in your future sphere of work may be as happy as we feel sure it will be useful. We remain, Rev and Dear Sir, Very faithfully yours, Albert Smith M.A. (chairman), H. Allen, E.J. Brookes, T.S. Eddowes, C.J. Harcourt, T.V. Holbeche, J.C. Skelton (hon. sec. and treasurer) (Sub-Committee) Sutton Coldfield Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 1887." A report in the *Sutton Times* of 7<sup>th</sup> January 1888 records that in reply Rev Wood said that the five years he had spent at Sutton were the happiest years of his life.

232. 14/7/1888 *Maypole Fete, Sutton Park*

Sutton's first Mayor Sir Benjamin Stone was particularly fond of maypole dancing. He had organised some maypole dancing in Sutton Park on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 (see 225 above) and there were further displays in the next three years. At least one town councillor grew weary of the maypole dancing, but the events raised money for charitable causes, such as the Provident Dispensary, built in 1888 from public fund-raising (see 229 above)

233. 9/2/1889 *W.H. Tisdall rec'd Capt. Commis.*

William Hodgetts Tisdall (1837-93) was a gunmaker who lived at Westbrook House in Aston before retiring to Tudor Hill in Sutton. He was a Governor of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School from 1884 until his death. He was probably a Captain in the Sutton Volunteer Rifle Corps or some other local militia, where his knowledge of rifles (he had specialised in manufacturing Martini rifles) would stand him in good stead.

234. 11/7/1889 *Joseph Clibbery died*

Joseph Clibbery (1817-89) was the licensee of The Cup Inn in Birmingham Road Maney (advertised in 1893 as Sutton's oldest licensed inn) at the time of the 1871 and 1881 censuses, where he lived with his wife Sarah and family. He sold beer which he and Sarah brewed on the premises. His son, also Joseph Clibbery, and his grandson, William Joseph Clibbery, followed him in the brewery trade.

235. 11/1/1890 *Miss Mary Hacket buried at Hill*

Francis Beynon Hacket (1784-1864) of Moor Hall, who was Warden of Sutton Coldfield in 1815, 1816 and 1817 and a Capital Burgess from 1818 to 1826, had four sons, all of whom died before him, and six daughters, Frances, Catherine, Elizabeth, Mary, Charlotte and Harriet. It is assumed that Mary Hacket who died in January 1890 was the fourth of these daughters.

236. 25/3/1890 *Marriage of Miss F.A. Bagot*

Frances Anna Mary Bagot (1869-1915) was the only child of William Walter Bagot (1847-93) who had inherited Pype Hayes Hall from his uncle Rev Egerton Arden Bagot (1777-1861). She married her cousin Harry Richard Reginald Bagot (1860-1908) the son of Vice-Admiral Henry Bagot (1810-77) of Blithfield Hall near Abbots Bromley. The marriage took place at St. Barnabas Church in Erdington.

237. 6/5/1890 *John Langley died*

John Langley (1821-90) was born in Drayton Bassett. By 1841 he was living in the High Street Sutton as an apprentice to William Brentnall, a clockmaker. Ten years later he had set up on his own account as a watchmaker, living with his family in the High Street, next to Albert Court (later Old Bank Place). His wife Sarah died in 1864 aged forty-two, but he continued in business as a clock and watch maker in the High Street, although an 1888 Trades Directory gives his address as Mill Street. An account of the first meeting of the newly-formed Borough Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1886 appearing in *The Sutton Coldfield and Erdington Times* lists J. Langley as amongst "the burgesses present to witness the proceedings". Dying aged sixty-nine, he was buried at St. James Church Hill.

238. 28/8/1890 *Four Oaks Park sold*

Four Oaks Park, including Four Oaks Hall, had been sold by Sir John William Craddock Hartopp 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet (1829-88) to the Four Oaks Park Company Limited in March 1880. The purchaser mortgaged the property to Thomas Ryland, who transferred the mortgage to Thomas Frederick Vernon Wentworth and Henry Francis Cockayne Cust in 1882. Cust died in 1885 and his interest in the mortgage was transferred to his executor to Homersham Cox. Following the failure of the race-course which the Four Oaks Park Company built at Four Oaks Park, the Company was wound up (see 195 above) and Wentworth and Cox sold the property, as mortgagees in possession, to the Most Noble Hubert de Burgh Canning Marquis of Clanrikarde by Indenture dated 24<sup>th</sup> March 1891. Perhaps the date given by *The Warden's Calendar* was the date the sale was negotiated.

239. 4/3/1891 *Sir J.B. Stone retired from Council*

After serving as the representative of the Wylde Green ward on the Sutton Coldfield Borough Council for five years from 1886, and being the town's Mayor for the first four of those years (see 215 above), John Benjamin Stone (who was always known by his middle name) decided to retire from local politics to concentrate on his duties as M.P. for East Birmingham, and on his passion for photography. He was knighted in 1892.

240. 8/3/1891 *Mrs S.A. Taylor died*

Samuel Allen Taylor J.P. (died 1914) was a prosperous Birmingham button-maker (possibly Heaton & Taylor of Goodman Street) who lived at 'The Larches' and later at 'The Hollies' in Four Oaks. He was a member of the Sutton Corporation from 1875 to 1886 and a Governor of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School from 1882 to 1914, acting as Chairman for four years from 1898. One of his sons, Corporal Samuel Freer Taylor, died of a fever at Bloemfontein in 1900, aged twenty-seven, having volunteered for active service in the Boer War.

241. 15/4/1891 *Sutton gasworks off. to Corp. £7,000*

In his article *Electricity Comes to Sutton Coldfield, 1901* in *Proceedings of the Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group Volume 7*, Alan Howells says that the private gasworks run by the Sutton Coldfield Gas Light & Coke Company, situated on the corner of Slash Lane (later Riland Road) and Coleshill Road, which had supplied Sutton with gas for street lighting and domestic use since 1855 (replacing oil lamps) had become run down and uneconomic by 1892. The gasworks were closed down and the Company was wound up; thereafter all Sutton's gas supplies came from the Birmingham Corporation. The Sutton Borough Council had considered taking over the gasworks, but decided they could not run them economically to compete with Birmingham prices. Nine years later the Council bought the site, comprising an area of almost an acre, for £650 and replaced the old gasworks with a new electricity power station.

242. 16/4/1891 *Miss Jane Holbeche died*

Jane Holbeche (1812-91) was the fourth of seven daughters and the seventh of fifteen children of Thomas Holbeche (see 121 above). She was the younger sister of the diarist Sarah Holbeche (see 200 above) and of Vincent Holbeche (see 159 above). When Thomas Holbeche died in 1848 and Vincent inherited the family home at 1/3/ Coleshill Street, Jane and her sisters Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth,

Catherine, Helen and Frances moved to 58 High Street. They were financially secure, having each received a legacy of £2,000 under their father's will, and they were active in the social life of the town and in various charitable works and the activities centred on Holy Trinity Church.

243. 17/4/1891 *Mr. Councillor King-Patten died*

Mr G. King-Patten, who lived in Wylde Green, was a member of the Sutton Coldfield Borough Council, and the local secretary of the St. John Ambulance Association (see 211 above). He was an accountant, a partner in the firm of King-Patten, Palk & Co. Reports of his funeral appearing in *The Birmingham Mail* and *The Warwickshire Herald* indicate that he was survived by his wife and an unmarried sister, and that a large deputation representing ten Masonic Lodges attended his funeral, which took place at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels in Penkridge South Staffordshire; among other mourners were the Mayor of Sutton Coldfield, Dr Alfred H. Evans, the deceased's business partner, Mr Palk (from Bristol), Inspector Moor and nine police officers representing the Birmingham ambulance classes, Superintendent Tozer and seven firemen, and representatives of the London & North Western Railway ambulance classes. An apology for non-attendance was received from Hugh Seymour 6<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Hertford of Ragley Hall Alcester, who was a Masonic bigwig. King Patten died of peritonitis following scarlet fever.

244. 18/4/1891 *Maria Chattock Way, nee Shaw died*

Maria Chattock Way (1863-91) was the daughter of Dr Henry E.F. Shaw, living in Coleshill Street Sutton Coldfield and described as a surgeon aged sixty in the 1871 census, and his wife Mary, fifteen years his junior, who was a widow by the time of the 1881 census. Maria's older brother, Henry Jekins Shaw, was a pupil at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School from 1864 to 1873, and was described as an undergraduate of Oxford aged twenty-five in 1881. She was married in December 1889 to William Way, a naval rating on HMS Phaeton, then serving in the Mediterranean. The wedding took place at Holy Trinity Church Sliema Malta, conducted by the Venerable Archdeacon Hardy. At the time of the 1891 census Maria was living with her brother, now a Clerk in Holy Orders, in the St. Pancras district of London, but shortly afterwards she died at 25 Fitzroy Road Regent's Park, aged twenty-nine, described in *The Lichfield Mercury* as the wife of Staff-Commander William Way R.N. Bermuda.

245. 4/8/1891 *Chas. A. Addenbrooke d.*

Charles Octavius Addenbrooke (1864-91) – the middle initial A. is incorrect – was the youngest of the four sons and the eighth of the ten children (hence the middle name Octavius) of the solicitor Henry Addenbrooke (1821-1902), who was the Deputy Steward of Sutton from 1847 to 1885, jointly with his brother-in-law Vincent Holbeche (see 159 above) and then jointly with his nephew Thomas Vincent Holbeche (Charles's first cousin).

246. 22/6/1892 *H.H.C. Horsfall qual. County Magist.*

Henry Herbert Coldwell Horsfall (1856-1941) was the adopted son of James Horsfall (1813-87), who was the partner of Baron Dickinson Webster (see 148 above) in the wire-drawing business at Penns Mill, Penns Lane. A year before Webster's death in 1860, the business of Webster & Horsfall was relocated from Sutton to Hay Mills, where it still flourishes. James Horsfall purchased Penns Hall and over 200 acres of land from Webster's estate for £38,000, which Henry inherited in 1887. Henry moved into Penns Hall in 1889; according to his great-grandson Col. John Henry Coldwell Horsfall, writing in

1994, Henry “lived at Penns Hall, owned most of Walmley and the surrounding farms, and was chairman of our family company Webster & Horsfall. He was, by all accounts, an interesting character”.

247. 13/1/1893 *Wm Ansell County Magistrate*

William Ansell (1844-1904) was the son of Joseph Ansell (died 1885) who had founded Ansell's Brewery in 1857. He took over as chairman of the company when his father died. His younger brother Col. Edward Ansell, who became chairman when William died, purchased Moor Hall in 1903, demolished it and erected the present building, with its Gothic-style hexagonal turrets and flat-roofed towers and its tall mock-Tudor chimneys, where he lived in splendour for the next twenty-five years.

248. 26/1/1893 *Mons. De'Lattre died*

Mons de Lattre was an assistant master at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School from 1858 to 1891, teaching modern languages and drawing on a salary of £80 p.a. Ill health forced him to give up teaching in 1891. In the following March he wrote to the Chairman of Governors: “As you are doubtless aware That I have been compelled to give up my duties as French and Drawing Master at your School since last Autumn, through failure of health, after having held the position for 33 years I should be glad if the Governors would consider the length of service rendered by me to this School and make me, if possible, a remuneration in shape of a small pension. I would respectfully draw their attention to the fact that I have passed the best part of my life there and my salary throughout (of £80 no extras) has been such as would not allow for any great provision in old age and I am now entirely without means of my own for subsistence. Hoping that you may look favourably on this Application and render whatever assistance lies in your power to grant.” The Governors' beggarly response was “that the Funds of the School will not allow them to comply with his request”. De Lattre was dead ten months later.

249. 21/3/1894 *Com. Colmore prots. Inhab's B'fields*

The heading to this entry reads in full ‘Commander Colmore protects the inhabitants of Bluefields’. According to a report in *The Colonial Guardian* Bluefields was part of the Mosquito Reservation in Central America which was invaded by Nicaraguan troops in March 1894, who replaced the Mosquito flag with that of Nicaragua, in violation of the terms of a treaty between Great Britain and Nicaragua. The inhabitants of Bluefields appealed to Britain for assistance. Reginald Blaney Colmore (1858-1928) served as First Lieutenant under Captain Curzon-Howe on the corvette *Cleopatra* which was sent to protect Mosquito autonomy. With a landing party from his ship Colmore managed to restore order to the area, and it was only by his firmness that a serious outbreak of violence was averted. It was all to no avail, as later in the year the Mosquito Reservation was incorporated in the Nicaraguan Republic. Colmore was appointed as Commander of *HMS Revenge* under Captain Curzon-Howe in 1896. Colmore's son Wing Commander Reginald Blaney Bulteel Colmore (1887-1930) was killed on board the Airship R101 when it crashed on its maiden flight in France. The reason for *The Warden's Calendar* including this entry is that Commander Colmore was the son of Thomas Colmore (1803-70) a Birmingham solicitor who lived at Ashfurlong House (later Ashfurlong Hall) and was the Warden of Sutton in 1864, 1865 and 1866. One of the panels in the Bishops Window at Holy Trinity Church was dedicated to his memory as a tribute to his public services.

250. 25/7/1895 *Town's Meeting re Sanatorium scheme*

The sanatorium scheme referred to in this entry in *The Warden's Calendar* relates to the Royal Hotel in King Edward Square (see 223 above). The hotel was not a success and was threatened with closure. One possible use for the property was as a sanatorium, and in 1896 the hotel was purchased by Lt. Col. Walter Wilkinson, who, supported by a group of local philanthropists, opened it as a sanatorium, especially for the treatment of tuberculosis. The following notice was issued in 1900: "Terms of Admission. Applicants are reminded that in addition to a Nomination Form, to be obtained from a Subscriber, which must also be signed by a Medical Man, a payment of 10s. 6d. will be required for each week's stay. Applications to be addressed to The Lady Superintendent, The Sanatorium, Sutton Coldfield, from whom all particulars may be obtained." The sanatorium was not a success and it closed down in 1902.

251. 3/1/1896 *Hon. E.S. Parker Jervis d.*

The Honourable Edward Swynfen Parker Jervis (1815-96) of Little Aston Hall was the younger son of Edward Jervis Jervis 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount St. Vincent (1767-1859), who was the nephew of Admiral of the Fleet John Jervis 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of St. Vincent (1735-1823). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount purchased Little Aston Hall for his son in 1844, and 'The Honourable', as he was always known, spent £35,000 in updating the Hall by encasing it with Hollington Red sandstone and adding two large wings. St. Peter's Church in Roman Road was built on land donated by Parker Jervis and entirely at his own expense (see 169 above). In 1849 he founded the Sutton Coldfield Association for the Protection of Agriculture and Native Industry, but in later life he was a very private man, taking little part in local affairs; he declined to become a Governor of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School.

252. 9/1/1896 *Rev. J. Shillito notifies resignation*

Rev Joseph Shillito (1832-1919) was a Congregationalist minister. He was born in York, and studied at the Lancashire Independent College, near Manchester, before becoming a minister in Dewsbury, Liverpool and Birmingham. In 1885 he was appointed as the minister of the Congregational Church in Park Road Sutton Coldfield, where he increased the congregation from eighty members to over 140. He started a Sunday School which enjoyed an attendance of 100 in the morning and 150 in the afternoon. Through the Band of Hope he promoted temperance, and he encouraged the formation of a literary club which offered lectures for working men. He was a Governor of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School for ten years and a prominent member of the Sutton Coldfield Institute, where he regularly gave talks. When he retired in July 1896 he was presented with a gift of £117 from his congregation. He moved to Handsworth where he died aged eighty-seven; while in Sutton he lived first in Wellington Terrace opposite the Grammar School.

253. 8/1/1896 *Ald. A. Johnson, J.P., buried*

Alfred Johnson (1840-96) was an alderman who served on the Warwickshire County Council; he lived at Normanhurst in Lichfield Road (probably no. 103), a substantial six-bedroomed house set back from the road which had been built for Johnson just four years before his death, with a large lawn at the front and two tennis courts and kitchen garden at the back. Johnson committed suicide on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1896, as reported in *The Coventry Times*: "Dr. C.W. Iliffe on Tuesday held an Inquest at Sutton Coldfield touching the death of County Alderman Alfred Johnson, J.P. (55), whose dead body was found at the rear of the summer-house at his residence, 'Normanhurst,' on Sunday morning. The enquiry was held

in the dining-room of the house. Miss Mary Hughes said for some time deceased had been very low and depressed, owing to the loss of his wife and brother, and more recently the loss of a married daughter. When the latter (Mrs Cooke) died he said, 'This is too dreadful; this will break me down.' He never did anything which led witness to think he was not in his proper mind. Witness detailed finding Mr. Johnson in the garden. Miss Johnson, whom she called, pointed to a revolver lying beside the body. Two chambers had been discharged. Dr. Donovan, of Erdington, said that when deceased consulted him on December 17<sup>th</sup>, he was suffering from extreme mental depression and pains in the head. Witness attended Alderman Johnson, who never said anything which would lead him to suppose that he would commit suicide. In fact, he was the last man in the world witness would expect to do such a thing. The deceased must have been practically insane when he committed the act. Dr. Brown said that when he examined the body there was a wound on the left side of the chest. In witness's opinion the bullet had gone through the heart, and death must have been instantaneous. The Coroner, who earlier in the proceedings had spoken of the sympathy felt for the family, in addressing the jury, said that not only Aston but the county of Warwick would be the loser by the death of the Alderman. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased took his life whilst temporarily insane, which was brought on by mental depression, consequent upon great domestic affliction, loss of sleep, and acute pains in the head. Johnson was evidently a wealthy man, as the sale of his household effects included oil paintings by Hans Holbein and Caravaggio, a library of 700 bound books, costly bronzes, 840 bottles of choice wines and spirits, a Collard & Collard rosewood piano, and Axminster carpets.

254. 15/1/1896 *First an' I Dinner S.C. Debating Soc.*

In *Glimpses into Sutton's Past Part III 1886-1914* Stephen Roberts says: "For ambitious and competitive young men there was the Debating Society. Public debating was a popular form of intellectual discourse in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and debating societies often served as training grounds for local politicians – one of the founding members of the Sutton Coldfield Debating Society was A.L. Crockford who was mayor in 1897-8. In 1893 the Debating Society had 69 members, though average attendance at weekly meetings was no more than 15. Women were invited to join from this time onwards, but very few chose to do so. These young men debated such topics as state ownership of the railways, immigration, strikes and, in February 1896, a discussion about the role of trade unions 'was kept up with great spirit to a late hour'."

255. 8/10/1896 *Bazaar in aid St. Joseph's Sch. ext. fnd.*

St. Joseph's Elementary School was founded in 1872 by Father John Harkness, the parish priest of the Roman Catholic Chapel in Lichfield Road (see 201 above). The School was on the west side of Lichfield Road, opposite the Chapel. Initially there was a reluctance to support a Catholic school amongst the conservative members of the Sutton Corporation, but the new Borough Council of 1886 was more tolerant. Public performances of drama and singing were put on and bazaars arranged to raise funds for the School, particularly for building works. The old school building is now a parish hall. The present St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is off Little Sutton Lane.

256. 11/10/1896 *Rev. F. Collyer com. duties as pastor*

Rev Frank W. Collyer succeeded Rev Joseph Shillito (see 252 above) as the minister at the Park Road Congregational Church. He left after eleven years in 1907. There is a memorial inside the Church (now the Sutton Coldfield United Reformed Church in Brassington Avenue) to twenty-three members of the Church who lost their lives in the First World War, including Frank H. Collyer.

257. 9/11/1896 *Pres. to Ald. Seal, J.P. by tradespeople*

Alderman William John Seal (1849-1936) was a Birmingham valuer and auctioneer who came to live in Sutton in 1887 (at Manor Lodge Maney). He was elected to the Sutton Coldfield Borough Council as a representative of the Maney Ward in 1888 and was appointed as Mayor in 1894 and 1895. In the *Popular Guide to Sutton and Park* by G. Sidwell and W.J. Durant, published in 1901, the authors say that "Mr Seal filled the Mayoral Chair with great distinction and dignity, and his many acts of kindness and generosity, and his munificent hospitality during his two years of office will not soon be forgotten. To show how fully Mr Seal's services were appreciated, we have only to mention that when it was found he had definitely decided to retire from the Civic Chair, the tradesmen of the borough united together and gave him, as a practical proof of their appreciation, an illuminated address, together with a sterling silver punch bowl." Seal was reappointed as Mayor from 1916 to 1919, and was a Governor of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School from 1895 until his death in 1936. After ten years living at Manor Lodge, he and his family lived at the Royal Hotel for a few years and subsequently had addresses in Lichfield Road (Doe Bank) and Wentworth Road (Maryvale).

258. 18/1/1897 *C.E. Matthews' Presidential Address*

Charles Edward Mathews (correctly spelt with only one t) J.P. (1834-1905) was a Birmingham solicitor, practising as Mathews, Smith & James at 29 Waterloo Street, who lived at 'The Hurst' in Ladywood Road Four Oaks. A lifelong friend of Joseph Chamberlain, he took an active part in the public affairs in Birmingham as one of the leaders of the Liberal Unionist Party. He was President of the Sutton Coldfield Institute, which may be what the entry in *The Warden's Calendar* refers to, but he was also a keen mountaineer and was the President of the Alpine Club, which he had co-founded in 1857, from 1878 to 1880, and he was also one of the founders and the first President of the Climbers' Club in 1898. He was a Governor of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School for the last eight years of his life.

259. 19/1/1897 *Serious Fire at Mr. Rymond's Erd'n*

No newspaper account of a serious fire in Erdington has been found. Joshua Henry Rymond, a butcher with premises in High Street Erdington, who died in June 1929 and was buried at St. Barnabas Church, may be the person referred to.

260. 28/1/1897 *Mrs. R. Williamson died*

Anne Gray, daughter of Rev Robert Gray (1762-1834) Bishop of Bristol, married Rev Richard Williamson D.D. (1802-65) (see 155 above), the grandson of Rev Richard Bisse Riland, Rector of Sutton Coldfield from 1758 to 1790. Williamson was the highly respected Rector of Sutton Coldfield from 1843 to 1850, after which he was the vicar of the Abbey Church of the Holy Cross in Pershore, Worcestershire, for his last fifteen years. He had also been the Headmaster of Westminster School in his younger days. His widow survived him by thirty-two years.

261. 3/2/1897 *3 ½ Acres of Trees pl'd. nr. Streetly S.*

Streetly Railway Station was off Thornhill Road where the Wolverhampton, Walsall and Midland Junction Railway line emerged from Sutton Park, having crossed the Park from Midland Road via Blackroot and Bracebridge Pools (see 163 above). It was opened in 1879 and closed in 1965.



262. 12/6/1897 *Mary Kempson buried*

There were four members of the Sutton Corporation named Samuel Kempson who served from 1728 to 1866, believed to be four generations of the same family. The last Samuel Kempson (died 1866) was a well-known local surveyor, valuer and auctioneer. Mary Kempson may have been his widow.

263. 2/11/1898 *First dist. of clothing to child'n S. Joseph's*

For St. Joseph's Elementary School see 255 above.

264. 1/1/1899 *FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS*

*The Warden's Calendar* includes 19 dates in 1899, more like a traditional calendar, but not of much use since it is far from comprehensive.

265. 5/1/1899 *EPIPHANY – Twelfth Day*

266. 29/1/1899 *SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY*

267. 26/2/1899 *SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT*

268. 5/3/1899 *THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT*

269. 12/3/1899 *FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT*

270. 19/3/1899 *FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT*

271. 26/3/1899 *PALM SUNDAY*

272. 31/3/1899 *GOOD FRIDAY*

273. 2/4/1899 *EASTER SUNDAY*

274. 7/5/1899 *ROGATION SUNDAY*

275. 14/5/1899 *SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION*

276. 21/5/1899 *WHIT SUNDAY*

277. 28/5/1899 *TRINITY SUNDAY*

278. 4/6/1899 *FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY*

279. 11/6/1899 *SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY*

280. 18/6/1899 *THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY*

281. 25/6/1899 *FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY*

282. 7/8/1899 *BANK HOLIDAY*

No later dates recorded.

#### AFTERWORD

Thoughts about *The Warden's Calendar* can be summarised under several headings

1. Link to Sutton. It was hinted in the Introduction that some of the entries in *The Warden's Calendar* appear to have little, if any, connection with Sutton, such as the death of Cardinal Wolsey, the Battle of Flodden and the loss of Calais.
2. Accuracy. The Calendar is not to be relied upon, as in some instances the year of the event recorded is wrong, e.g. Bishop Vesey was appointed as Dean of Windsor in 1515, not 1525; and the day and month are often doubtful. It is relevant to note that on no day in the year is more than one event recorded, which suggests that some events may have been shifted to fill a gap.
3. Obscure events. Some of the entries in the Calendar have proved difficult to pin down exactly, or at all, such as the thunderstorm in May 1787, the death of William Homer in June 1768, and the fire at Mr Rymond's in January 1897. Many of the entries are abbreviated because of restricted space; 'Com. Colmore prots. Inhab's B'fields' in March 1894 almost defied elucidation.
4. Common entries. Many of the entries relate to well-known Sutton figures, such as Bishop Vesey, various Rectors and other clergymen (including Catholic and nonconformist priests), the Deputy Stewards, magistrates and politicians, but Sidwell also includes events relating to several women (albeit because they had a well-known husband or father) and events relating to persons of a lower social standing than the well-known figures, such as the barmaid who committed suicide in February 1887 and two rank-and-file soldiers who died in 1812.
5. Importance. Despite its shortcomings, as mentioned above, *The Warden's Calendar*, with its wide range of subject matter, from the death of Bishop Vesey to Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, and from the Gardeners' Society's first show to horse-racing at Four Oaks, over a period of seven centuries, is still of value to anyone interested in local history, and the articles in *The Warden* magazine are well worth reading.

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I am most grateful to Janet Jordan for tracking down some of the more obscure entries in *The Warden's Calendar*, and also for assiduously proofreading this article.

Kerry Osbourne

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