

October 2014: **Ottershaw Church 150th Anniversary**

The Chertsey Society Meeting began in the church Hall on 27 October 2014 at 19.47. The usual information about the Society was updated for the Society's Members. The Chairman informed us of David Wheelers death on 22 October 2014. It would have also been Zane's eighth Birthday on the same day, this was the young boy who was suffocated by possible chemical fumes during the floods of February 2014. A petition is underway for an inquiry into his death.

Various interesting facts were brought to our attention about the Magna Carta Celebrations. Then the Flooding issues about the Borough, with some people still living away from their homes.

Victor Spink reminded us of his talk about WWI Artists artwork during that War, in November 2014.

The Meeting then continued at 20.16 with the introduction by the Chairman of the guest speaker **Mrs Sheila Binns** about the ***'150th Anniversary of Christ Church, Ottershaw'***.

The Church was built for Sir Edward Colebrooke. Who lived on the Ottershaw Mansion Estate. He owned property in London, Scotland (Abington) and in South Street, Mayfair. Eventually he was elected as a Member of Parliament in 1857 for Lanarkshire. The Church was originally built for the use of the Ottershaw Estate. He sat as a Magistrate in London and locally. His heir, Henry Colebrooke, died just after his first birthday and is buried in Lyne Church. His parents donated a window in their son's memory of the Ascension. The Church cost £4,000 to build and Sir Edward purchased 120 chairs for the parishioners who could not afford the expense. Sir Edward was elevated to a Baronet, though having received other titles, he was rather modest of his achievements.

The original Church has changed in design since George Gilbert Scott had it built. The bell tower were by Mr Sheerwater. The windows are the original though in plain glass and the Lychgate was built in the memory of the Church's first vicar.

There was a building built within the mansion, looking like a church but, in fact it was a kitchen. The old chapel in Abington was used by the family but is now a workshop. On 19 May 1864 the church was consecrated. There was apparently 50% of the village who attended the Church, although it was the Estate church it was eventually handed over to the village of Ottershaw, as they were requiring a church. The Church was without a vicarage and at the time there wasn't a vicar either. There was a new parish in Addlestone on 7 February 1865. Christ Church was still under the wing of Addlestone, referred to as the 'daughter' Church. Lady Colebrooke asked the Bishop of Winchester to intervene and calm down the situation with the vicar in Addlestone.

Sir Edward Colebrooke had probably contributed to the workhouse.

Polychrome finish to the Church was fashionable at the time, copying that of a Church in London and the architecture was likened to the St Pancras Station building.

The pillars of the Church are elaborate using passion flowers (roses) which repeated outside of the Church. The Colebrookes were considered fashionable people. After their parents had died their children arranged to have a memorial installed in the Church to their memory.

The font has four carved panels, passion fruit as one design, buttercups on the second panel, with strawberries for the third panel and finally leaves likened to shamrock to complete the design. The Church interior has been repainted in a lighter colour to make it look less gloomy.

The talk concluded at 21.16 with the chairman thanking Mrs Binns for an excellent talk.

Stephanie M. Hunt