



# RECTORY NEWS

FOR THE SUPPORTERS OF CARSHALTON OLD RECTORY

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## A LONG HISTORY

As you know, the Old Rectory was built by the Byne family sometime between 1703 and 1710. This family lived through turbulent times, not least the English civil wars and the great changes that followed. The Bill of Rights of 1689 is seen as a crucial landmark in English constitutional law whereby the Crown would rule by the consent of the people as represented by Parliament. It also established freedom of speech within parliament, free elections and regular parliaments.

Following the death of our Queen, there have been a lot of reminders of our long history and the ceremonies associated with the accession. The proclamation of our new King in front of members of the Privy Council included the swearing of oaths. The Act of Settlement 1701 reinforced the Bill of Rights, its aim to ensure a Protestant succession to the English throne. The oath taken by the King to maintain and preserve the Church of Scotland is part of the provisions of the Act of

Union 1707. At the time when the Old Rectory was being built, this constitutional reordering was being enacted. It is easy to imagine the gentlemen of Carshalton discussing these historic changes - just as in 1689 they must have talked about the Bill of Rights. Heady times. Perhaps the men engaged in building the Old Rectory discussed these issues too as they dug the foundations of the house and took such pains when laying, in Flemish bond, the soft red bricks, placing alternate black headers and red stretchers to make the regular pattern.

## STATE OF PLAY

In September, our Chairman, John Phillips, contacted Chris Rhodes and Mark Norrell at Sutton Council to find out if the consultant's report on the Old Rectory was available for us to look at. It was not, but the report was expected within the following three to four weeks.

Once the Officers have received the consultant's recommendations, the options are to be discussed within the Council and with Ward Councillors. After that we have been assured that CORA will be consulted.

Early in 2023, the Officers' recommendations will be submitted in a report to the Strategy and Resources Committee for a decision. The first Strategy and Resources committee meeting in the new year is scheduled for 20th February.

At least, we now have a better idea of when a decision on the future of the Old Rectory is likely to be made - and can prepare ourselves accordingly.

A few more details came to light on the 4th October when Sue Kelsall, John Thornton and John Phillips attended the Carshalton Area Committee for a presentation, of sorts, on the historic houses around the ponds.

For the Old Rectory, the information given was that independent valuers had visited the house and had look at different possible configurations, residential as well as other uses. They are preparing a financial appraisal of the options that are considered to be viable.

Maintenance of the house was also mentioned - monitoring, inspections and essential repairs carried out as required. But as Sue Kelsall pointed out, the building looks run down and depressing.

As neither Mark Norrell nor Chris Rhodes attended the meeting, it wasn't possible to ask any searching questions. Sue Kelsall requested that at the next Carshalton Area Committee meeting on 22nd November, at least one of these officers should attend so that questions could be put to them.

## FRONT PAGE PHOTO

*Ever wondered why photos of the Old Rectory are usually taken in winter? Now you know why! When the plane tree is in full leaf, there's no clear shot of the front of the house - but isn't the tree magnificent.*

*Photo taken 4/08/2022*

# CARSHALTON'S SEWER VENT PIPES

The old Carshalton Council didn't do things by halves. When they decided to improve the sewer system, they made sure that it was done properly – and not just underground but above ground too. Dotted about Carshalton are handsome examples of sewer vent pipes many of which are now listed Grade II. The pipes are extremely tall and it is likely that the height of the poles and the design of the funnels was to ensure an efficient dispersal of gas so as not to inconvenience local residents with noxious smells.

The listing describes one such column as: 'Sewer ventilation column, of 1896-1903, constructed by W Macfarlane & Co to a scheme design by Baldwin Latham (1836-1917), and one of around 28 remaining in Carshalton.

**MATERIALS:** cast-iron.

**DESCRIPTION:** the cylindrical sewer column is around 9m high. It is formed of two conjoined lengths of pipe, linked with a flanged joint, and stands on a circular and decorative moulded plinth. The top of the column is terminated by a Corinthian-type capital, above which sits the ventilation apparatus. It is topped by an ornate arrow (thought either to orientate the vent into the wind or to indicate the line of the sewer), a ball with four projecting and circular vents, a filigree crown and a finial. Near the base of the column is a manufacture stamp with the name W MACFARLANE & CO GLASGOW.'

The Council's choice of Baldwin Latham to design the sewage system shows their determination to have the best: he was considered to be the foremost sewage and water works engineer of his day. Surveyor to the Croydon Board of Health from 1863 to 1870, by 1868, he had designed the sewerage, irrigation and water works for 15 English towns, including the schemes at Carshalton, Croydon, Birmingham, Harrow and Rugby.

The choice of manufacturer, W Macfarlane & Co of Glasgow, was equally prestigious; their Saracen works was one of the great Victorian



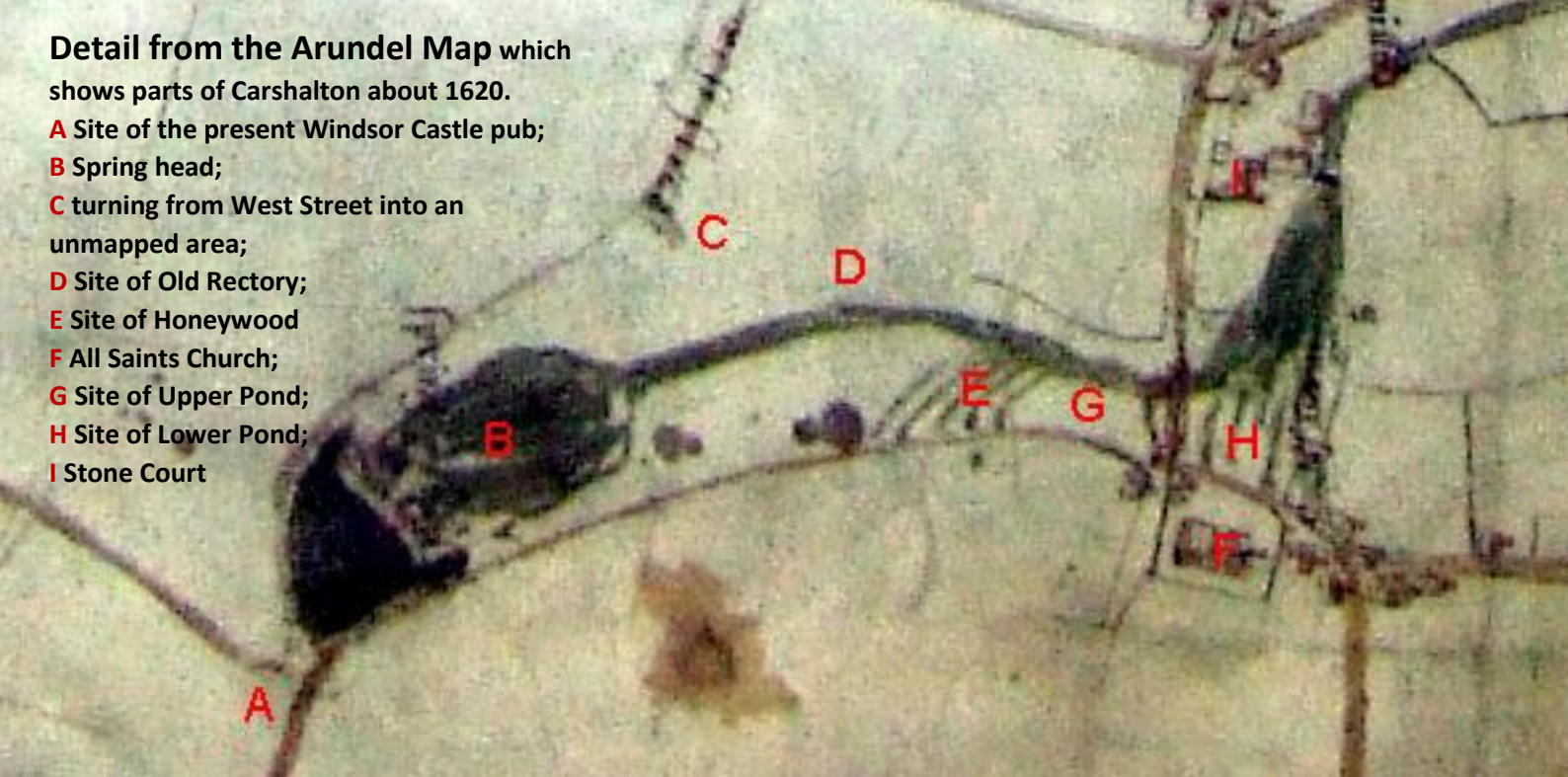
iron foundries, producing decorative iron work that was exported across the globe.

So, when you're next ambling around Carshalton, 'spot the vent pipe' is a harmless way to pass the time. And it's not only these splendid columns that are worth looking out for, there's a wealth of interesting architectural features to see if you just look up above the modern shopfronts. To set you off on your vent pipe hunt, examples can be found in Palmerston Road, Wallace Crescent, Mill lane, the junction of Denmark Road/North Street, and opposite Carshalton Beches station.

**Sources:** Historic England's listing database, Sutton's Local Listing Directory, The Past on Glass: [pastonglass.wordpress.com/2020/06/12/stinkpipes-and-sewers-a-fragrant-history-of-carshalton/](https://pastonglass.wordpress.com/2020/06/12/stinkpipes-and-sewers-a-fragrant-history-of-carshalton/) Archives Hub: <https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/345d546c-4f42-33a8-a320-895ab1b65a84>

**Detail from the Arundel Map which shows parts of Carshalton about 1620.**

- A** Site of the present Windsor Castle pub;
- B** Spring head;
- C** turning from West Street into an unmapped area;
- D** Site of Old Rectory;
- E** Site of Honeywood
- F** All Saints Church;
- G** Site of Upper Pond;
- H** Site of Lower Pond;
- I** Stone Court



## WHY DOES THE OLD RECTORY FACE EAST?

The present Old Rectory faces east and there is no reason to think it was ever different. The east side has the steps and porch and is the most stylish of the three surviving early 18th century elevations. The original back is hidden by the 19th century extension but there are two chimney stacks against it which would have spoiled any attempt at an elegant elevation just as single chimney stacks do to the north and south walls. When John Hassell painted the house in 1823, he showed the east side more or less as we know it now – and clearly the front.

The house is about halfway between West Street and Honeywood Walk but it could easily have been built nearer the former and turned around so that it's most impressive side faced a reasonably significant road. This neat little argument overlooks two things. Firstly, if the Rectory was built about 1703, West Street was probably not there.

The Arundel map of Carshalton of about 1620 shows West Street running south on more or less its present line until it reached Swan Yard.

It then turned, crossed the grounds of what is now St Philomena's and then joined Pound Street at the Windsor Castle crossroads. This section of road seems to have been blocked by Sir John Fellows about 1717 to enlarge Carshalton House grounds. He then created the current road which ran from Swan Yard to the junction with Pound Street by Margaret's Pool.

The second reason is that two early 19th century paintings by Gideon Yates show that the new diverted West Street ran through a very long ford which started before the Water Tower and continued almost to the junction with Pound Street. Even if the road was there it was thoroughly inconvenient, especially as the footway was on the Carshalton House side of the Road.

So the Rectory was built in a significantly different landscape. It is possible that the picture is even more complicated. There are several references in the 17th century manor court rolls which refer to the blocking of sections of road which appear to be in the vicinity of the Rectory and Honeywood but I don't at present know where these were or how they fitted together.

**John Phillips**

### **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

We'd like to hear from you. Your comments and suggestions would be very welcome.

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