

AGM

Please make an early note in your diary: the Society's 2007 AGM will be on Thursday evening, 15 March. As ever, the venue will be Royal and Sun Alliance's excellent Parkside Suite, next to the Black Jug (7.15 for 7.45 pm).

Nominations

If there are any nominations for officers or committee members at the forthcoming AGM they need to be submitted at least 7 days in advance of the meeting, with a seconder and in writing. Could anyone wishing to nominate please contact the Hon Secretary for a form. Michael Hall's address is on the back page.

Friends of Warnham Nature Reserve

I am delighted to hear that a new organisation, Friends of Warnham Local Nature Reserve, has been set up. The reserve is home to a huge variety of plant and animal life, and is a regular stop-over for migrating birds. One of its great advantages is its variety of habitats – open water, reedbeds, marshland, meadows, hedge rows and both broad-leaved and coniferous woodland. It is very ably managed by HDC's Leisure Services Department, and the newly-formed Friends will provide valuable support by assisting with daily visitors, events and special projects.

Membership, which comes with a newsletter (edited by Society member Graham Matthews) is only £10 per year and covers all members of the same household, not just one person. For full details contact the Membership Secretary, Friends of WLNR, 61 Crawley Road, Horsham RH12 4DS. Do join!

Waitrose Challenge

The year ahead will, no doubt, offer many challenges – but surely none greater than mastering the new Waitrose layout. Regular customers – and I meet many Society members around the store – will know full well what I mean. Since its comprehensive revamp, all the old certainties have vanished. When once one could trundle around on auto-pilot, scarcely bothering to think before sweeping fizzy water, toothpaste and bread rolls into a trolley from familiar locations around the place, all is now uncertainty.

Excellent though the new store is, I still find it extremely difficult to work out where everything is – and it's depressing that, a month or two on, the process gets no easier. This looks suspiciously like an unwelcome sign of mental decay – and a tough challenge by the store's management. But on the other hand, perhaps an abrupt change to the shopping routine from time to time is no bad thing, if it revs up the grey cells and prevents them from seizing up totally. Now where on earth is the cat food



Miss Effie Simpson of Farlington: see page 16.

3 million say 'no' to junk mail

The Daily Telegraph reported recently that there had been a huge increase in the number of people opting out of receiving junk mail. Apparently the Mailing Preference Service register, which blocks delivery to people's homes, has now received more than three million requests. The ball started rolling after a Welsh postman drew the attention of his customers to the register, and the subsequent mis-handling of the whole business by Royal Mail gained national attention. The issue was covered in our November 2006 Newsletter; we played our part.

Editor's note

John Cannon contributes a fascinating item this month on the old Capitol theatre. It was one of the town's truly original buildings and much loved by many, but that was not enough to save it from the town's redevelopment plan, and what we now have in its place is a mediocre shopping mall. But thanks to John and others like him the images of 'old Horsham' are kept alive.

Copy date for the March issue is 7 February.

From the Committee

Thank you party for distributors

Where on earth would we be without our network of Newsletter distributors? As a pre-Christmas thank you for all their efforts a party was held in the Causeway Barn on the evening of Thursday 30 November. Food and drink were on hand, and the highlight of the evening was a talk by local geology expert and Collyer's master Roger Birch, who entertained and informed the gathering of 50-odd members in equal measure. He told us much about those local natural assets Horsham Stone and Sussex Marble, as well as casting light on the importance of the area as a centre for early dinosaur discoveries. A good time was had by all.



Party scene.

Horsham Park – just right as it is

HDC, with the help of Friends of Horsham Park, organised a park 'user survey', and the results from an analysis of over 420 completed questionnaires make interesting reading. No less than 86% were 'generally satisfied' with it as it is, and a solid core of 33% were 'very satisfied'. Under 2% expressed 'dissatisfaction'. The main areas of complaint were rat infestation (this is a commonly-voiced problem) and overflowing dog bins. Around two thirds of the sample thought cycling should be allowed, but on a controlled basis.

A key finding was that 87% found the current balance between tranquility and activity just right, with the clear implication that further encroachment and fiddling about with the landscape would be unwelcome.

Based on these results, the people of Horsham obviously like their park as it is, and the argument for leaving well alone is much strengthened. As Horsham Society chairman John Steele wrote in a recent letter to the WSCT, 'HDC please take notice and keep our park the way it is'.

Carbuncle in the Carfax

I was walking across the Carfax the other day with an architect friend of mine, when he stopped in his tracks, a look of horror on his face. Pointing at Dulcima House he said: 'That has got to be the most disgusting building I have laid eyes on – even Soviet planners would never have allowed that to be built'.

Please HDC get it sorted as soon as possible. It is a real embarrassment to the town.

Ian Dockrey



note: *post hoc* planning permission for Dulcima House has been refused and HDC has requested that the facade of the building be restored. Enforcement procedures are underway – but the wheels of local government grind slowly: ed.



The Capitol at bay.

Relics of the Capitol Theatre 1923-1983

This article was triggered by Chris Aldridge's appeal in the Newsletter (November 2006) for a good photograph of the lamps that once graced the Capitol Theatre forecourt. In response I dug out this photograph (see opposite page), a transparency from an archive I have built up of the theatre's long and chequered history. By 1973 I had photographed most aspects of the Capitol, and on Saturday 17 March 1973, the last night of Horsham Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Group's production of *Ruddigore*, the theatre manager happened to mention to me that the developers for the Horsham central redevelopment were taking over the forecourt on the following Monday. The area immediately surrounding the Capitol had by then been largely cleared of buildings, and I had visions of bulldozers moving in immediately and flattening the forecourt, preparatory to the building of Boots. Although, in the event, this did not happen for several weeks, I decided to make an eleventh hour record of the scene without delay.

On the Sunday morning I was able to track down the caretaker of The Bedding Centre, who very kindly turned out and provided me with access to the roof, from where I took the photograph, in heavy drizzle. In the circumstances it seems that Chris Aldridge's lamp, which had been acquired by the previous owner of his house, might be the one originally mounted on the left hand pillar of the forecourt frontage, but seen to be missing in the photograph.



Poster frame.

The editor's footnote to Chris Aldridge's letter suggested that his lamp was probably the only remaining vestige of the theatre, but that is certainly not the case. Following the 1983 closure, a window from the upstairs cafe of the 1923 classical Italian-style building went to Horsham Museum; the screen winch and footlight battens were, together with some other stage lighting, later installed at Horsham Arts Centre, where they are still in regular use; some stage lanterns found a new home at the Drill Hall; and as Peter Streamer reported in the January issue, he used salvaged stage floor boards for the floor of a garden shed he built in 1983. The seats and carpets were all in quite good condition, having been renewed during a comprehensive refurbishment in 1973, but because of raking angles, only certain seats were suitable for relocation. However, over 100 went, together with some carpeting, to a green room-cum-small theatre adjoining Dorking Halls, where they have very recently been replaced.



Four lockable glassed crown poster frames had been in place in the foyer throughout the Capitol's 60 years of existence, and I acquired the two most easily removable ones, from the right of the box office and the left of the sweets kiosk. One of these is pictured, filled with an assortment of images of the Capitol. The wooden notices that hung above the two staircases in the foyer and directed patrons to the circle seats, restaurant and bar were also taken as souvenirs, and the last manager has two of the lights that had been fixed to alternate aisle seats in the circle.

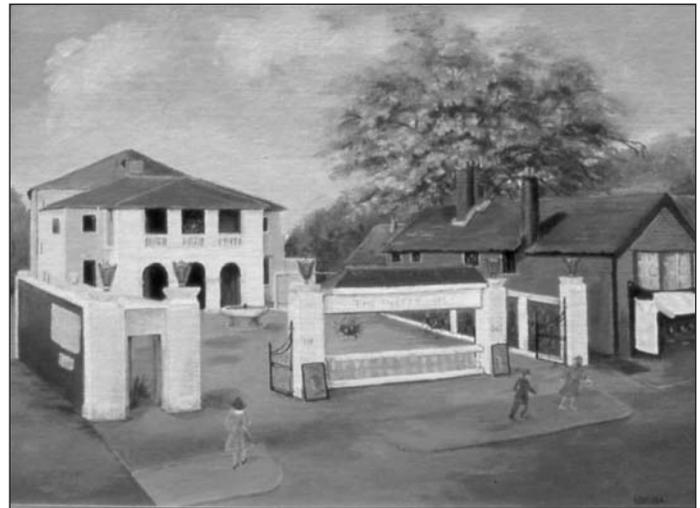
In October 1988, five years after demolition of the Capitol, there came a surprising revelation. My wife Brenda was reading *The Horsham Citizen*, a free local newspaper, when she spotted an advertisement for a property for sale in Bolney, which mentioned a wrought iron spiral staircase from the Capitol. Although we had no direct interest in the property, we rang for an appointment to view, and on arrival were pleasantly surprised to discover that the vendor was well known to us, having worked for the printing firm that latterly designed and supplied most of the Capitol's posters and programmes and all the advertising banners that used to be hung above West Street. Below a trap door at the rear of the Capitol stage had been the wrought iron staircase that led down to the band room and a small adjoining room beneath the stage, and it transpired that our friend had acquired the staircase from the demolition firm and had it built into his new studio annexe.



Staircase leading to 'Baggy' Middleton's private bar.



Artist: Sue Ford.



Artist: Lorna Bunting.

When I related this development to a former projectionist from the Capitol's early days and mentioned the small room adjoining the band room, he immediately said 'Oh, you mean Major Middleton's private bar!' Major Rupert 'Baggy' Middleton, formerly the adjutant of the 4th battalion of the Sussex Regiment, had formed the Blue Flash Company, following WW1, to build the Capitol Theatre, thereby providing employment for former members of the regiment during hard times in the 1920s. His nickname 'Baggy' derived from the fact that he had been the first member to wear Oxford bags at Mannings Heath Golf Club, where he once broke the course record, using wooden-shafted clubs.

The memory of the Capitol is perpetuated, not only by postcards and photographs, but also by three oil paintings by Lorna Bunting, based on its appearance in 1923, and a number of miniature 1982 watercolours by Sue Ford. One can, though, also conjure up a mental picture of the manager, 'Baggy' Middleton, sipping gin and tonics while on duty in his hide-out beneath the stage, in those far off pre-WW2 days.

John Cannon

editor's note: it is perhaps worth mentioning that John has shown his two-screen presentation *Theatre and Cinemas of Horsham* locally on no less than 29 occasions.

sleeping accommodation is generous, with four bedrooms.
 And a final surprise is the wrought-iron spiral staircase which was once part of the stage in the now-gone Capital Theatre in Horsham.
 Full details can be obtained from White heads/GA Property Services in Horsham.

Extracts from *The Horsham Citizen*

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PROPERTY

Stars' staircase in studio annexe

WEST View Cottage in Bolney is part of a residential complex sited out of the divided Old Mill armhouse, built at the turn of the century.

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John Coote of Horsham: an early magazine publisher

by Brian Slyfield

Coote or Coot is an old Horsham name (originally a nickname, like other animal or bird surnames), with a fair sprinkling of entries in our early parish registers. Ralfe Coote and his wife Agnes, for example, baptised their baby son Charles on 16 March 1606, and two years earlier, on 11 March 1604, Joice was also baptised (although the parents, likely to be the same ones, were then recorded as Raffe and Anne – which shows how variable these records can sometimes be). In a survey of 1611, this same Ralph (or Ralfe/Raffe) Coote was listed against a Horsham burgage property ('Coote's since Nye's' appears on a 1792 property map reflecting the 1611 survey), located at the upper west side of the Causeway. Coote was said to rent 'one messuage, with a backside and garden adjoining, with the appurtenances being half a Burgage', and his rent was to be paid annually 'at the Feast of St Michael the Archangel'. So the Cootes at that time were a reasonably prosperous family.

There is also, of course, today's Coote's Avenue, named after the old Coote's Farm nearby, and the local pub The Coot – a name which seems to have slipped into association with the adjacent pond and its residents.

A 'John, son of Robert Coot by Sarah' was baptised on 15 March 1733, and the young child was to become the man who is the subject of this profile, an important figure (for a while) on the London publishing scene, and responsible for a number of books which are now collectors' items – and interestingly he was also an early and prolific publisher of magazines. Parents with the same names as his also baptised Sarah (17 August 1725), Ann (23 April 1728) and Mary (5 December 1739), and these are likely to be his sisters. A Robert Coot had married Sarah Stedman on 29 July 1722, and again these may well be the parents.

The registers noted that a little earlier a similiarly-named Robert Coot had married Ann Hill, on 15 May 1720, and baby Elizabeth, whose parents had those same names, was baptised on 9 April 1721 – but no other children were recorded from this couple. It was a long shot, but I speculated that perhaps Mary Coot had died, maybe in childbirth, and then Robert Coot had then quickly remarried. So I checked the registers again, and under 'Burialls' did indeed find an entry for 'Ann the wife of Robert Coot' – and the date was 9 April 1721, the very same day that Elizabeth was baptised. Mother and daughter, the one buried and the other baptised – together at St Mary's.

There was also another Coot family in Horsham at the time. James and Margaret Coot had a son, and Thomas was baptised on 16 November 1735.

John Coote was one of a select band of Horsham men who went to London and made a career in the publishing trade, and while not the

earliest (that accolade probably goes to Thomas Burrell, who was producing books between 1670-79: April 2003 Newsletter), he was around at roughly the same time as two other figures in the business, Henry Lintot (1703-58), son of the more famous Bernard Lintot of Southwater, and Henry's daughter Catherine (1733-1816), whose dates more closely mirror those of Coote. With their Horsham connections in common – and in the small world of London publishing – Catherine and John must, at the very least, have known of each other. There is no record of Coote as a Stationer's Company apprentice, but Plomer, in his *Dictionary of Booksellers and Printers 1726-1775*, lists him as 'a native of Horsham'.

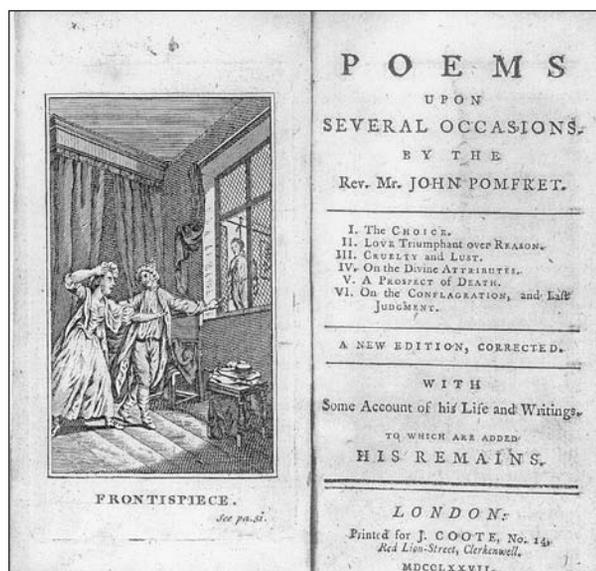
Coote married Jane Weaver in 1758 at St Clement Danes, and they had seven children. The eldest, Charles, was sent to St Paul's School and afterwards studied at Pembroke College, Oxford, and became a historian and biographer of some note. Unlike his father, he was, according to *The Gentleman's Magazine*, 'of a retired disposition, with much of that eccentricity and indolence which often accompany literary men'. Charles Coote had a son, Henry, who also made a name as a historian, and Charles's sister Mary achieved some distinction as a painter of miniatures.

About a year before his marriage John Coote entered the book trade, in partnership with John Cooke, who specialised in publishing jest books and crime chronicles, and they were based at a shop (in those days publishers were booksellers as well) opposite St Clement Danes in the Strand. One Cooke-Coote enterprise was the 1757 publication of *An Appeal to the Nation: a Full and Fair Vindication of Sir John Mordaunt*. Mordaunt was an able soldier, who had played his part in suppressing the Scots at Culloden, but he was held responsible for an expensive and abortive mission against the French in 1756, and was put on trial the following year. In the event he was pardoned.

This fledgling partnership lasted less than a year, and about the same time as he married Coote set up shop on his own account at the King's Arms in Paternoster Row, near St Paul's Cathedral. He began producing books and pamphlets, and among his early work was Arthur Young's political pamphlet *The Theatre of the Present War in North America*, which appeared in 1758.

In May the next year he was granted a royal licence to print the two-volume *New Geographical Dictionary*, a work that appeared in parts between 1759-60. It represented a significant investment (and remember Coote was still only 26), and in his advertisements for the publication he claimed that the plates alone cost £800.

Coote's work included a number of important books. One in particular,



From the author's collection.

a co-production between Coote and a number of others (a sensible way of spreading costs and risk), whose names varied volume by volume, was the five-part *New and Complete System of Husbandry* by John Mills, which appeared between 1762-65. It included the observations of a number of well known figures, such as John Evelyn and Jethro Tull, and was the earliest complete treatise on all branches of agriculture. It was the first work to refer to the potato as a farm crop, and today you would have to pay something like £1,500 if you wanted a set on your shelves.

Another comprehensive work, published by Coote and others, was the *Complete Index to the General History of the World* by William Guthrie and John Gray, which was published in 1764, and in 1777 he produced – solo – an edition of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. With others he put his name to Charles Churchill's *The Duellist: A Poem* (1764) and again in 1777 he published by himself *Poems Upon Several Occasions* by Rev John Pomfret (a poet admired by Samuel Johnson but no-one else). By this time his address was 14 Red Lion Street, Clerkenwell, where his books were 'sold on Terms remarkably reasonable'.

But Coote harboured creative ambitions of his own, and fancied himself as a playwright and song writer. Apparently he wrote, in rapid succession, an opera and five farces, three of which were actually printed. A contemporary, John Nichols, while acknowledging him to be 'a facetious companion', held that he lacked 'that weight of interest which was requisite to bring them to the stage', and there is no mention of his work in Allardyce Nicoll, the standard reference source for English drama.

But he did publish the work of other playwrights, including five editions of *The Minor*, a comedy by Samuel Foote (1706-61), and his success generally enabled him to develop a substantial portfolio of literary properties. It was said that he purchased 'any valuable Manuscripts that are offered him; and is a Proprietor in several Copies (copyrights)'. He sold assets as well, and in 1770 received over £400 for his share of the copyright and stock of Voltaire's *Works* (1761-70). He was handling significant sums of money, and had become a businessman of substance.

His work in the periodical field is particularly interesting. Monthly magazines became a force in the publishing world in the 1730s, and began to make a dent in the sales of newspapers. Probably the best known was *The Gentleman's Magazine*, launched in 1732, which developed a strong provincial readership. It covered current affairs, politics, (Samuel Johnson was one of its parliamentary reporters), travellers' tales, the arts and sensational crimes of the day: in fact a very broad spread – and it is an excellent research source today. A competitor in the men's market was *The Universal Magazine*, and women readers were particularly attracted to the new medium. Titles aimed at this increasingly literate market proliferated after 1750, when a wide range of publications was launched.

Sarah Hurst, from a well known Horsham family, was just such a reader. She wrote a diary from 1759-62, when she was in her early-to-mid twenties, and made a number of references to her reading matter. She was clearly an intelligent woman, who read widely and well, and was familiar with a range of magazines, including one called *The Ladies' Magazine*. Indeed she submitted a poem to it, and *The Consolation* was published in its February 1760 issue.

John Baker, who lived at Park House for a while, was another diarist of the time, and a keen reader of magazines. In one entry he meticulously recorded his latest delivery from London: 'Had

today *London Monthly* and *Court Reviews* – *London, Gent., Town and Country*, and *Universal Magazines*'.

The periodical publishing innovation came from France, and it was John Dunton who first proved that there could be a market for a wide range of miscellaneous information in this country, when he launched *The Athenian Gazette* as far back as 1691. *The Spectator*, an Addison and Steele collaboration, was also a famous early title; it appeared in 1711 – and of course is still with us.

Members of the book trade were quick to see the importance of this new development, and with improved distribution methods and a rapidly expanding provincial market, together with a growing need for reading matter among gentry such as Baker and bright young ladies such as Hurst, there was a great opportunity for money to be made. Serial publications also helped to provide a regular income stream, so that risk capital could be generated for the launch of new books – and they did wonders for a publisher's cash flow.

John Coote was not one to miss out on all this, and he made his mark with *The Royal Magazine or Gentleman's Monthly Companion*, which first appeared in July 1759 and ran until December 1771. 'Printed, pursuant to His Majesty's royal license, for J Coote', it was well illustrated with colour plates, among which could be found strange and exotic animals and birds from far distant lands – the small mud tortoise, the red and black manakin and the sapphires-crowned parakeet. Foreign affairs were also an important element, particularly the contemporary French and Indian Wars, and in one early issue there was a plan of Wolfe's siege of Quebec. Maps of New England and Pennsylvania were also included, together with plates of Fort William at Calcutta and – closer to home – Hampton Court Bridge.

Sarah Hurst also made reference to *The Royal Magazine*. On Wednesday 20 February 1760 she read *The Royal and Grand Magazines* and 'like them both'. But she was less approving in her entry for Monday 26 January 1761, when she again read *The Royal* and found 'some very indifferent verses on the late King (George II)'.

Before long Coote became the proprietor of no less than four of the twelve London monthlies around at the time, and by 1770 he was so involved in the magazine market that he adopted a policy of keeping his name off the imprints, so that the world at large could not see what a dominant force he was. *The Lady's Magazine*, for example, was one of his; he founded his version of it in 1770, hired John Wheble to publish it, and sold it off for £500 in 1771.

There were a number of (often short-lived) *Lady's* (or *Ladies'*) *Magazines*. Jasper Goodwill launched one (the third to carry the name) in 1749, which died with him in 1753, and it was a later version, published by John Cooke until 1765, that was read by Sarah Hurst in 1760-61. Coote's appeared ten years later, as a plagiarisation of another version of *The Lady's Magazine* just launched by Robinson and Roberts – 'a firm favourite with women from the leisured classes' – which was to run until 1847. (As an aside, it has been speculated locally that Sarah Hurst's interest in magazines might have been influenced by the fact that Coote was a Horsham man – but I fear this is over-fanciful, and misunderstands the nature and strength of the provincial market at the time).

At his height Coote was juggling with eight or more periodicals – some on the way up and others on the way down – and his

Letters to the Editor

Do please write in: letters for publication to Brian Slyfield, Arun House, Denne Road, Horsham RH12 1JF

Let's ban 'A' frames

We cannot help thinking we live in a nanny state when local councils decide to pick conkers, fence off fruit trees that have hard pears and insist that hanging baskets are removed - but when it comes to 'A' frames no one can make a decision.

Is this because the local authority cannot be responsible for 'A' frames as it is the shop owner or tenant who sites the 'A' frames, even though they are sited on the council's pavements? Then there is the question of who will police the sites to check on distance from shop front and the limit of one frame per shop.

I have sympathy with pedestrians who have to negotiate around these frames, particularly invalids and those who are blind or have very poor eyesight. Fortunately my wife and I do not suffer from these problems but the danger of these frames was brought home to us both on the morning of Saturday 25 November in the Carfax when a huge gust of wind threw an 'A' frame in our direction and in an attempt to get out of the way I fell flat on my back and my

wife just managed to keep her balance from falling down. My wife and I were very grateful to the many passers-by who came to our aid to see if we were hurt and thankfully we survived the incident.

If the CCTV cameras were working and pointing in our direction then evidence of this incident must be on record if the tapes have not been over-written.

These 'A' frames should be banned completely for safety reasons and shop owners/tenants should place boards in their shop windows to highlight special offers.

**Peter Streamer
Greenfields Road, Horsham**

Swop the barriers

With reference to the dead grass or mud path in the Causeway, on using the path from Sainsbury's it occurred to us that if the barriers were swapped over the natural way to walk would be out of the church hall drive. We think two men for half a day should sort it - better than the meal some contractors would make of a new path.

**Sheila and Andy Leadbetter
Curzon Avenue, Horsham**

PS: we are pleased we joined!

Kissing a pillar box

Early issues of our local paper often quoted bizarre incidents from around the country. And so in January 1904 we find the following: 'William Dowell, 65, a pipe layer of Canning Town, was at Clerkenwell ordered to pay 5s for being drunk and disorderly at Holloway Road. PC Walker found the prisoner at 2 o'clock in the morning kissing a pillar box and asking it to come home'.

Money for false teeth

The advertisements were often equally amusing. In the 10 March 1900 issue of the *WSCT* we read 'Many ladies and gentlemen having by them old or disused false teeth, which might as well be turned into money. Messrs RD & JB Fraser, of Princes Street, Ipswich (est since 1883) buy old false teeth. If you send your teeth to them they will remit you by return of post the utmost value; or, if preferred, they will make you the best offer, and hold the teeth over for your reply. If references needed, apply to Messrs Bacon & Co, Bankers, Ipswich'.

continued from page 14 ...

cunning plan was to re-use editorial material on a cross-publication basis, and by so doing save a good deal of money (all the while hoping none of his readers would notice). But this sleight of hand was exposed during legal proceedings precipitated by an angry Robinson and Roberts, when Wheble, 'a desperate adventurer' and Coote's front man, was found guilty of fraud. Coote's secret ownership of titles such as *The Court Miscellany*, *The Freeholder's Magazine* and *The Court and City Magazine* was also brought to light, and his explanation in court was 'I was then Publisher of several Magazines, and it is a conceived notion amongst people, that if they do publish three or four, they are made up one of the other'. Quite so.

From then on Coote's career began to go down hill, and perhaps his exposure in court accelerated the decline. It also sounds as if he walked a financial high wire most of the time, and maybe, in the end, he just fell off. He was made bankrupt at the end of 1772, but recovered four years later and began operating again, this time on a smaller scale, from the Clerkenwell address. We have noted one or two of the books that he published then, and it seems that he was still involved with magazines as well, as he was selling *The Sentimental Magazine* and *The Monthly Miscellany* from these premises.

He lived on in Clerkenwell at various other addresses (which can be traced up to 1787), but little else is known. He died intestate on 20 October 1808, aged 75, leaving an estate valued at less than £100 - a long way from those heady days when he was buying copyrights left, right and centre, and busily launching and selling off magazines.

His obituary appeared in *The Gentleman's Magazine*, and in it John Nichols, ever the harsh but no doubt realistic observer, wrote that 'his talents rose above mediocrity: and he evinced fertility in the invention of schemes, but did not possess sufficient steadiness or patience to carry them into effect, or beneficial execution'. But to be fair, in his hey-day - from say 1759-71 - he really was a major (and opportunistic) force on the publishing scene. It was only after that that his reputation slipped away, and as Barbara Laning Fitzpatrick aptly put it: 'His decision to hide his proprietorships succeeded beyond his expectations: his name had become obscure even before his death'.

note: I am most grateful to Barbara Laning Fitzpatrick for the work she has done on John Coote for *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*; at the request of its editors elements of this profile have also been incorporated into the on-line entry for our Horsham publisher.

Miss Effie Simpson's memorial service



Effie Simpson's memorial window.

Miss Effie Simpson, whose photograph appears on the front page of this issue, was head mistress at Farlington from 1942-1971, and had previously been a pupil at the school. When she died in 2005, aged 100, it was decided to honour her memory by designing a stained glass window to be placed in the Studio at Farlington, which in her day had been the school chapel. Rosalyn Sprey from the Farlington art department, who is a specialist in stained glass, was commissioned to design it and accepted the project with enthusiasm.

The window was finally installed in July 2006 and on Friday 24 November a service was held in the Old Chapel, conducted by Rev David Beal, to dedicate the window to Miss Simpson's memory. The service was attended by over forty Old Girls, members of the Farlington Association who had all been at the school during Miss Simpson's time. The service was introduced by the present head mistress, Mrs Jonnie Goyer, who welcomed members of Miss Simpson's family, Mrs Catherine Plowden with her husband and her young daughters Atlanta and Harriet.

The design of the window was much liked, and even the sun obliged on the day by shining intermittently through the glass and highlighting the many variations of its colours.

Diana Heath



Directory

The Horsham Society is an independent body supported by members' subscriptions, a registered charity (No.268949), affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England and registered with the Civic Trust. It is a member of the English Historic Towns Forum.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individuals: £5 per year **Single Pensioner:** £3.25 per year
Family Membership: £7.50 per year **Family Pensioner:** £5 per year
Businesses: £10 per year **Single Life Membership:** £100
Family Life Membership: £150

£2.50 postage is added to the above rates for out-of-town members

All correspondence should go to the Hon Secretary in the first instance. The Newsletter is published monthly except for August. Letters and articles to be considered for publication should be sent to the Editor, Brian Slyfield, Arun House, Denne Road, Horsham RH12 1JF. Opinions in the Newsletter, whether Editor's or contributors', are not necessarily the policy of the Society.

By The Way

New members

Many thanks for joining and a warm welcome to Mr and Mrs Stanley, Ghyll Crescent, Horsham; Mr and Mrs Halliday, Sedgwick Lane, Horsham; Mr and Mrs Digby, Tanbridge Park, Horsham.

A Sense of Place

Kim Leslie, from the West Sussex Record Office, has produced its important new publication *A Sense of Place: West Sussex Parish Maps*. This is a lavishly illustrated coffee-table format book, based on a series of stunning maps made by some 2,000 local artists and researchers as part of the West Sussex Parish Maps Project. This first ever county book on community map-making will interest all who delight in maps and the heritage and landscapes of West Sussex, and is offered at the discounted price of £20 (retail price £35). For full details call WSRO on 01243 753600.

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