

Policing in Victorian Surrey

1898: The Surrey Standing Joint Committee wrote to the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police on the 28 July informing him of the intention to establish **telephone communication between police stations within the county**. A suggestion that the Surrey Constabulary police station at Egham should be connected to the Metropolitan Police at Staines was not met with a great deal of enthusiasm.

The commissioner's views were sought on the proposal and the possible sharing of cost. The superintendent of T Division expressed the view that the system would be of greater value to Surrey than to the Metropolitan Police.

"We very seldom have any occasion to communicate with the county police beyond informing them of previous convictions against prisoners for minor offences but on the other hand Egham police communicate with Staines on all petty offences in the Surrey district, for instance, a coat and vest stolen from Ottershaw six miles outside the Metropolitan Police District they send particulars to us.

It would be for the greater advantage of the Surrey Police who now have to walk or cycle to give us information of their cases."

He recommended that the cost or at least the greater part of any cost, be borne by Surrey, to which the commissioner agreed and consequently the connection did not go ahead.¹¹³

1899: Towards the end of the 19th century crime was on the increase and the Force was greatly handicapped by the inability to rapidly communicate information about offenders and their movements. It looked towards the new invention of the telephone to help solve the problem **and in 1899 the first telephones were installed in police stations**.

1899: after forty eight years as chief constable, Captain Hastings retired aged 86.

1899, 1 September: The new Chief Constable Captain Sant who had been the chief constable in Northumberland was appointed. At that time the **force strength was: chief constable, superintendents seven, inspectors eight, sergeants twenty two, and constables one hundred and ninety three making a total of two hundred and thirty one**.

1899: GO 442: In future where a constable applies to marry, his application must be accompanied by a recommendation or testimonial from a clergyman, or some responsible person who can guarantee the suitability of the woman whom the constable intends to make his wife.¹¹⁴

1900: Ernest Dyer killed his parents at their Surrey stud farm

1900, 8 June: GP 451: Note: The early part of the 20th century witnessed the **development of the motor car** and a running battle between the Chief Constable and motoring organisations about **speeding drivers and cyclists** along with the need for some form of **index plate**.

The GO: Having given cyclists and motor-car drivers due notice, I am now anxious to take such steps as may be practicable to put an end to the nuisance and danger caused by reckless riders and drivers and show them that the warnings were not idle ones.

I would suggest if possible you place constables (two together, one in uniform and out of sight and one in plain clothes) at intervals so that if any motors are driven too fast or cyclists ride at a dangerous pace, one set of constables could signal to the other to stop the offender. These men should only be placed on points on the road such as villages, hills etc., where rapid travelling would be dangerous, and where there are many inhabitants.¹¹⁵

1901, January: Guildford: Twenty three year old Edith Raggett was arrested on a warrant from the coroner's inquest for the wilful murder of her child. Raggett was accused of theft and police searched her room and found bloodstained linen and in the lumber room. PC Galloway found a paper parcel and wrapped in a woman's apron was the body of a newly born baby with a piece of lace knotted tightly around the neck.

A post-mortem showed the cause of death as strangulation and the mother was charged with murder later reduced to concealment of birth and even this charge was not upheld as the jury found her not guilty to an outbreak of applause in the court.¹¹⁶