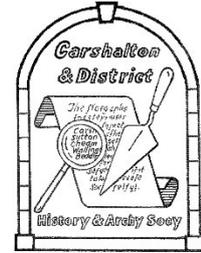


# Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society

## Local History Note 5



## The Chapel of our Lady St. Mary of Bullen, Carshalton Church

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### The name Bullen.

There were many variant spellings of the name Bullen used in the records, namely Bulen, Bullen, Bullin, Buleneys, Bolen, Boleyn and Boulogne. In the 12th century. Pharamus de Boulogne held the Manor of Carshalton and gave the church of Aulton (later Kersaulton and then Carshalton) to the Canons of Merton Abbey and the likelihood is that he introduced the cult of Our Lady of Boulogne, which still exists in Boulogne today. Originally there was a light (candle) to St Mary of Bulen, together with one to our Lady of Pity, maintained in Carshalton Church. Later a Chapel to Our Lady Bullen was built on the north-west corner of the churchyard.

The existence of Bullen Closes adjacent to Bullen Lane, now Brookfield Avenue, west of Wrythe Green, suggests this was land used to finance the maintenance of the light.

The Chapel was probably taken into the hands of King Henry VIII in 1538 at the dissolution of Merton Abbey which held, among other land and properties, Carshalton Church.

The redundant chapel appears to have become a Poor House and then a cottage before being demolished in 1836.

### Light and Chapel of Our Lady St Mary of Bullen.

A charter of 1180-1204 shows Godfrey, Bishop of Winchester, recited his regard for the good conversation of the Canons serving God at Merton at their petition, confirmed to them the Church of Aulton, with all the fruits and obventions arising therefrom, which had been given by the noble Pharamus of Boulogne to the Canons of Merton, and the gift thereof confirmed by Richard, at that time Bishop of Winchester, and he constituted the said church a vicarage of the value of 6 marks, the vicar being exonerated from all works.<sup>1</sup>

In the very late 15th century, bequests were made to the Light of St. Mary or Our Lady of Bullen, and the building of a new Chapel of Our Lady Bullen. John Ormenton of Kerssalton's will, dated 20th August 1487, bequeathed, to the light of St Mary of Bullen, 2 wax candles of 2 lbs and to the light of St Mary of Pity one quarter of barley.<sup>2</sup> Joan Brent's will, dated 1492, left 13s 4d to the new work begun at Kerssalton to be builded a chapel in the honour of our

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<sup>1</sup> Alfred Charles Heales *Records of Merton Priory in the county of Surrey*. Frowde, 1898.

<sup>2</sup> *Archdeaconry Court of Surrey*. Surrey Record Society . Vol XV111.

blessed lady Mary, called the chapel of our lady Bullen. She also bequeathed two tablecloths and a towel to the Chapel of our Lady of Bolen. Nicholas Gaynesford of Carshalton's will, dated 1497, bequeathed 12d to the 'maintayning of the light afore our Lady of Boleyn' in the parish church.

Merton Abbey was dissolved in 1538 and the Abbey's holdings went into the hands of the King. The Chapel of our Lady of Boleyn presumably ceased to function then. Thomas Myn's will, dated 1619, stated that "whereas I have disbursed 40s. to one Mr Cole, Mr Watson's man of the exchequer, for and toward the buying of the Chappell adjoining the churchyard of Carshalton, I do give the same for the benefit of the church for ever to remain". This indicates that the Crown held the Chapel building from the Dissolution until c.1619.

### **Parish or Poor-house.**

The Parish Register for 1693 recorded a tragedy. The two year old son of Richard Gilbert was "dround in bullin well". Anne Boleyn's Well, now capped, is situated at the foot of Church Hill and the name Bullen was changed to Ann Boleyn by an erroneous legend that Anne Boleyn's horse's hoof caused the spring to flow during a journey to Nonsuch Palace.

The Vestry records throw interesting light on the later use of the building. In 1700, there was an account for 13s for mending the churchyard wall and the parish house, which suggests that the chapel had, by then, become re-used as a parish house or poor-house. Records for 1739 show a new poor-house was acquired. It may have been at this point that the building became a cottage.

Lambeth's Minet Library holds a painting showing the building and also the causeway across the Ponds.<sup>3</sup> It appears to be timber framed.

### **Cottage.**

By 1835, the building was described in the Vestry Records as a ruinous cottage formerly occupied by Dame Duffyn. Paintings exist in London Borough of Sutton's art collection showing the building. Records for 1836 show the cottage as demolished, to be replaced by a new engine house. This was for the village fire engine and can still be seen at the north-west corner of the churchyard. At the time of writing, the engine house is being used to store three capitals from columns of the late 12th century aisle which was demolished for the Blomfield restoration of the church.

### **Bullen, Bulling (Bullen) Closes, Little Boulloigne and land called Buleneys and Bullen or Bulling Lane.**

Brightling's History of Carshalton states that, 'in 1244, William de Fielnes, jun, exchanged part of his land here with William de Gryunde for land in Buleneys i.e. in the manor of Sibill de Boloins, (daughter of Pharamus de Bolonia').

However, land in Buleneys sounds more like acre strips in a shott or furlong called Buleneys in the open west field. The name appears to be derived from Pharamus de Boulogne's

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<sup>3</sup> Minet Library SP 50 188 PR1-1).

introduction of the cult of Our Lady St Mary of Boulogne into Carshalton.

The existence of Bullen Closes on Bullen Lane suggests that this land may have been given to Carshalton Church to finance the maintenance of the light or the Chapel. The so-called Arundel estate map of c.1621 shows the un-named Bulling Lane (later Brickfield Lane, now Brookfield Avenue) running west from Sparkmore Lane, the present Wrythe Lane. The closes lay to the north of Bullen Lane.

In the 17th and 18th century land called the Bullen was part of the estate which went with what is now known as Long's House which stood between North Street and Mill Lane.<sup>4</sup>

In 1603 the house, half the manor of Carshalton and land including a 6 acre field called the Bullen was sold to trustees acting for the Countess of Arundel. The property subsequently passed to John Hoskins and then, in 1696, to William Scawen. In 1719 Scawen leased the property to a London Merchant called Joseph Eyles. It included two closes of meadow or pasture ground called Bullens Closes containing 8 acres.

The property passed to William's son James Scawen and in 1781 he, his trustees and a mortgage holder sold it to Beeston Long. It included 'all the three Fields or Closes called Bullens Closes containing 8 acres 3 roods and 12 perches, then in the tenure or occupation of John Durand, Esquire'.<sup>5</sup>

In 1685 a 1½ acre close called Little Bulloine was leased with the Parsonage House.<sup>6</sup> In 1720 the property was sold to Sir John Fellowes<sup>7</sup> This was evidently a separate property from the 8 acre Bullen Close.

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<sup>4</sup> Surrey History Centre K174/1/8

<sup>5</sup> Sutton Archives LG 4/10/17.

<sup>6</sup> Sutton Archives 849/11/1.

<sup>7</sup> Sutton Archives 849/37/1.