

Kingston at Leisure: All Fun and Games?

Education Resource Key Stages 3 - 4



A variety of discussion points and activities exploring leisure and community through time



Kingston University London

Introduction

This teacher's pack explores the changing face of leisure and community in Britain by investigating clubs, societies and associations across history; with a particular focus upon Kingston and its surrounding areas.

The resource has been produced to function as a supplement to *Kingston at Leisure* an exhibition running at Kingston Museum until the 28th May 2011. However, all sections can also be used independently as part of your school syllabus.

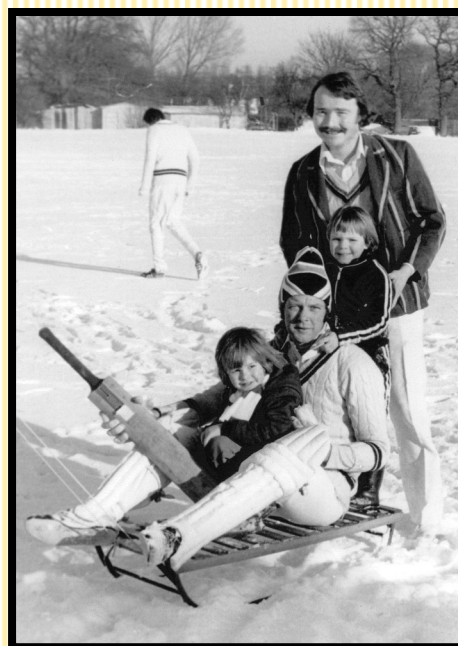
The material in this pack is split up into two sections. The first section, Leisure Over Time, is a case study using images from the *Kingston at Leisure* exhibition. The second section, Women, Clubs and Campaign, draws on women's groups as another important theme of the *Kingston at Leisure* exhibition, and expands this theme for the classroom with a case study and exclusive access to images from the Kingston Museum archive.

Each section holds an exhibition worksheet, a historical information sheet, images from the Kingston at Leisure project and a range of activities and discussion points. The resource has been produced in line with the National Curriculum, and pertains mainly to History and Citizenship.

If you would like further information or contact details on any of the clubs explored in the resource, please contact the Local History Room on 0208 547 6738 or email local.history@rbk.kingston.gov.uk



Above: Kingston Workmen's Club Trip. A trip on the Ferry From Ifracombe to Swansea, 1935. Right: Malden Wanderers Cricket Club. A snowy centenary match against the BBC in 1971



Front Cover, Clockwise From Top: National Women's Aid Federation Magazine, 1980, New Malden Rifle and Pistol Club. The opening of New Malden Rifle and Pistol Club, 1907 Malden Wanderers Cricket Club, Malden Wanderers women's team c. 1930

Leisure Over Time



New Malden Rifle and Pistol Club. The opening of New Malden Rifle and Pistol Club, 1907

Contents:

- Overview for teachers: Leisure Over Time
- Exhibition Worksheet
- Images from the exhibition
- Classroom discussion points and activities

Learning Outcomes:

Key Stage Three:

History (1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 2.2, 2.3) A local history study helping pupils understand the beliefs and attitudes of people in past societies and how these change over time, including their causes and consequences. Pupils begin to understand the significance of these changes and interpret them using a wide range of media. They gain experience in historical enquiry, and use evidence to communicate their findings.

Citizenship: (1.3, 2.1, 2.2) Exploring community cohesion and the forces that bring about change in communities over time. Being able to research topical issues using a range of sources and communicate findings to the class.

Key Stage Four:

Citizenship: (1.3, 2.1, 2.2) Exploring community cohesion and the forces that bring about change in communities over time. Being able to research topical issues using a range of sources and communicate findings to the class.

Historical Background Information

Leisure over Time

In the late Victorian and Edwardian years, leisure time began to grow enormously because of big changes in society. Working hours started getting shorter and people began to earn more money to spend in their newly found free time.

Also, society was slowly becoming less religious. Secular leisure started to be accepted and many leisure activities were non Christian. Even churches started to offer non-religious leisure pursuits to keep people interested in the Christian community!

Nevertheless, this change was slow and gradual. For example, while sport was encouraged to keep the population fit and retain a healthy balance between work and play, there was also an emphasis on 'Muscular Christianity': keeping the population fit in body and mind, so they could serve God.

One important form of leisure was the club, association and society. These organisations could have been either church run or independent, but all aimed to bring like-minded individuals together for hobbies and shared interests, self-improvement or social causes.

Kingston alone had over 50 clubs in 1901, including men's clubs, women's groups, cricket clubs, football clubs, hockey clubs, tennis and croquet clubs, a society for prevention of cruelty to animals, golf clubs, a literary society, philanthropic societies, rowing clubs, swimming clubs, sailing clubs, skating clubs, a model yacht club and Church societies.

Many of these organisations were open to all ages, and became social centres for their communities often offering a wide range of activities and catering for all ages. Some clubs even became a second home for individuals or even whole families, which were visited 5 or 6 times a week and put on dances, entertainment, fairs, competitions and even trips away.

Clubs remained an extremely popular form of leisure into the 1950's and certain organisations in Kingston continue to flourish even to this day. However, in general the popularity of clubs tends to be on the wane because of changing leisure patterns across society.

Over the 20th and 21st centuries, commercial leisure has expanded a great deal and become an important way to make money worldwide, meaning there are many more options to choose from when it comes to spending our free time. Furthermore, some of the most popular entertainments now such as television and video games are activities which take place in the home. More people also catch up with each other over the phone or using the internet rather than interacting face to face.



A Choir Garden Party in 1907

Leisure Over Time

1) What are four of the main ingredients needed to allow people leisure time?

1)3).....

2).....4).....

2) Look around the exhibition and find...

A sports club.....A woman's club.....

A gardening club.....A singing club.....

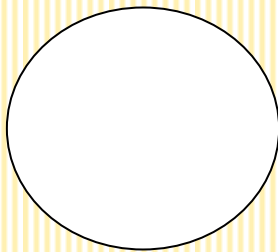
A young person's club.....A church group.....

3) Find two reasons why sport was encouraged by the government in the 19th Century.

1).....

2).....

4) What is the ratio of church clubs to non-religious clubs in the exhibition? Draw a pie chart to show your answer:



5) Look around the exhibition and find:

A garden party.....

A social meeting

A formal group photograph.....

A celebration.....

A trip away.....

A trophy.....

A family group.....

Images from the exhibition I

1) New Malden Rifle and Pistol Club. The opening of New Malden Rifle and Pistol Club, 1907

An example of one of the many societies springing up in the late 19th and early 20th Century around Kingston.

Other clubs in Kingston included men's clubs, women's groups, cricket clubs, football clubs, hockey clubs, tennis and croquet clubs, a society for prevention of cruelty to animals, golf clubs, a literary society, philanthropic societies, rowing clubs, swimming clubs, sailing clubs, skating clubs and a model yacht club and church societies.



2) Kingston Workmen's Club. A members and families trip to Ifracombe August 1926.

Kingston Workmen's club, like many clubs, became a second home to members who visited 5 or 6 times a week, and hosted dinners, dances, family entertainment, competitions and even trips away for members and their families.

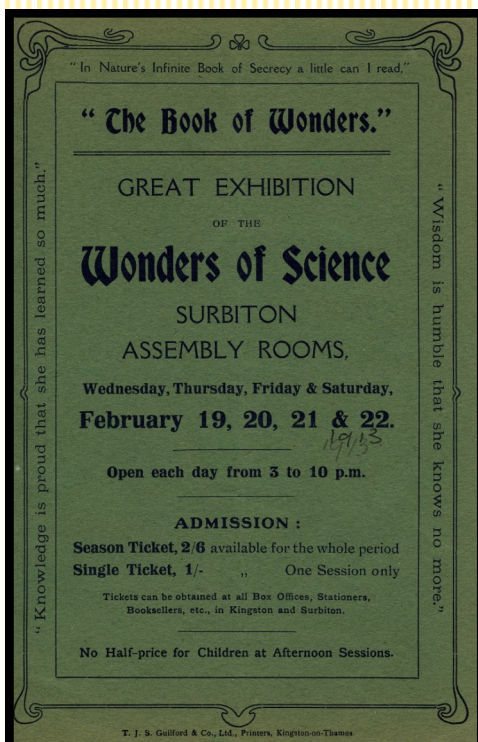


3) Old Kingstonian Hockey Club Match, Undated.

The Old Kingstonian Hockey Club catered for old boys of Kingston Grammar School and is an example of the many sports clubs which grew up around Kingston in the 19th Century.

Sport was encouraged to keep the population fit and healthy. However, it also appealed to a trend of 'Muscular Christianity': keeping the population fit in body and mind, so they could serve God.

Images from the exhibition 2



Clockwise from Top. Kingston United Reformed Church (URC).

4) A URC Church Tennis Party, 1913

5) A URC Pageant of Fairy Tales photograph, 1933

6) A URC Wonders of Science exhibition catalogue, 1913

Discussion Points and Activities

Discussion Points

Leisure Over Time.

Look at source one and the list of other clubs and societies available in Kingston at the beginning of the 19th Century. Which of these activities would you consider taking part in? What would you add to the list? What would you take away?

Is Club Life for You? Look at source two and read the caption. How does this compare to your social life? Do you go to the same place for all your leisure activities 5 or 6 times a week or lots of different ones? Why? Would you go on holiday in a big group of people of all ages like this? Do you go out with your whole family or more often with just your friends?

Why join a club? List the reasons why you think people joined clubs as a class. Do you think we still need these things? How does society cater for these needs now? Do you feel part of a community?

Sport over Time. Look at source three. Why did the government encourage sport? Do you think sport is still encouraged today? For the same reasons? Should sport still be encouraged?

Religion Over Time. Look at sources four to six. Does anything surprise you about these leisure activities put on by the church? Why do you think the church would stage leisure activities like these at the beginning of the 20th century? How important is religion to leisure time in society now?

Activities

Interview Conduct an interview with a friend or someone in your family who has been a member of a club or society. Try to find out about the club and why they became involved in it. When was the club formed? Does it still exist? Were there membership rules? Was there a uniform?

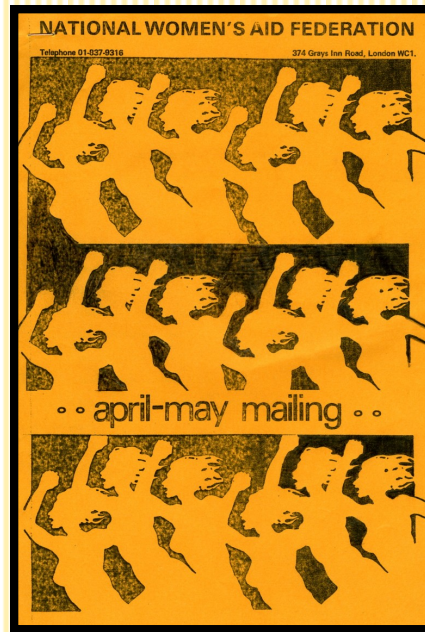
Campaign! Less and less people are joining traditional clubs today. Put together a campaign and poster which encourages people to join a club of your choice.

Timelines Clubs have been in gradual decline in membership since the 19th century, when they were one of the main forms of entertainment. In groups, pick from television, professional football, cinema, the internet, and make basic timelines of each, by researching on the internet. Then make a graph as a class which shows your findings.

If Twitter were a Country... Try to find out how many people use twitter, how many people went to Glastonbury last year and how many people watched the X factor final. What does this tell us about leisure time and community now?

The Global Village. Think about Facebook. Is this an example of a modern day club? Why? What does Facebook share with traditional clubs and where does it differ? Form your own Facebook club.

Women, Clubs and Campaign!



National Women's Aid Federation
Magazine Front Cover, 1980

Contents:

- Overview for teachers: Women, Clubs and Campaign
- Exhibition Worksheet
- Images From the Archive
- Classroom discussion points and activities

Learning Outcomes:

Key Stage Three:

History: (1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3) Pupils look at the diverse ideas, beliefs and attitudes of individuals in past societies, how their actions have changed the world over time and the significance of these changes. Pupils carry out their investigations using a range of historical sources. They are encouraged to think critically about historical events and evaluate sources in a reasoned way to draw and communicate their conclusions.

Citizenship: (1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2) Pupils look at rights, campaign and changing identity over time. Pupils develop their critical thinking, evaluate different ideas and present arguments convincingly whilst taking action on topics they feel strongly about.

Key Stage Four:

Citizenship: (1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2) Pupils look at rights, campaign and changing identity over time. Pupils develop their critical thinking, evaluate different ideas and present arguments convincingly whilst taking action on topics they feel strongly about.

Women, Clubs and Campaign

Historical Background Information

Women's groups were an extremely important part of the female struggle for equality. These groups flourished during the 1880's and were set up either by the church, rich philanthropists or middle class women who had time for leisure.

Early clubs variously offered a place for shoppers to rest, sporting activities or social networking for professional women. Others had a particular agendas such as charity work, education or social improvement, or were specifically Christian organisations attached to the church. Although most clubs were intended for middle class women, some organisations such as the Townswomen's Guild aimed to address the concerns of working class women. Talks were fairly political here, including discussions on the women's role in local government, women as factory inspectors, women as poor law guardians, technical education for girls and women's suffrage!

Not all groups had such a directly political agenda. However, in a world where women rarely had any rights, independence or leisure time, just putting together a women's group, and having a public space to share thoughts was very subversive. Therefore all groups in their own way helped pave the way for real steps to equality, such as the vote in 1928, the chance to work and the right to equal pay.

Case Study: Kingston Women's Group

Kingston Women's Group followed on from previous groups which helped give women a voice in society. This campaign group was formed in 1975 when feminism was sweeping the Western world and women were demanding equal social and political rights to men and tackling issues such as employment and abortion. The Kingston Women's Group was one of many groups nationwide who aimed to raise the social and political consciousness of women about such issues.

The group would meet weekly, circulating feminist texts and news articles around its members, debating current issues and writing campaign letters to politicians on issues they felt were important. However, they also had fun, organising trips, playing games and co-counselling.

The group have kept some articles, letters and texts which have a lasting educational purpose. However, unlike most clubs, there is no formal archive of photographs, minute books or membership details. In fact, the club never had formal membership, rules, officers or minutes from meetings. This was because the group felt these structures represented masculine hierarchies and rules they wanted to work against in society.

Many of the issues the Kingston Women's Group have campaigned for over the years such as equal pay and abortion rights are now resolved. However, the group still have 8 members, and continue to meet weekly, discussing contemporary topical issues such as global equality for women and socialising.

Exhibition Worksheet: Exploring Women's rights

1) When did women get the vote?

.....

2) List three factors which contributed to women's liberation

a).....

b).....

c).....

3) Look at the women's group sources and find:

A campaign group.....

A church group

A social group.....

4) Find these images in the exhibition: which groups do they show?



a).....

b)

c).....

How do you think playing the same sports as men might have aided women's liberation?

.....

.....

6) Which of these groups would you say contributed most to women's liberation? Why?

.....

.....

Images From the Exhibition



1) Kingston Workmen's Club and Institute Club members' wives, undated

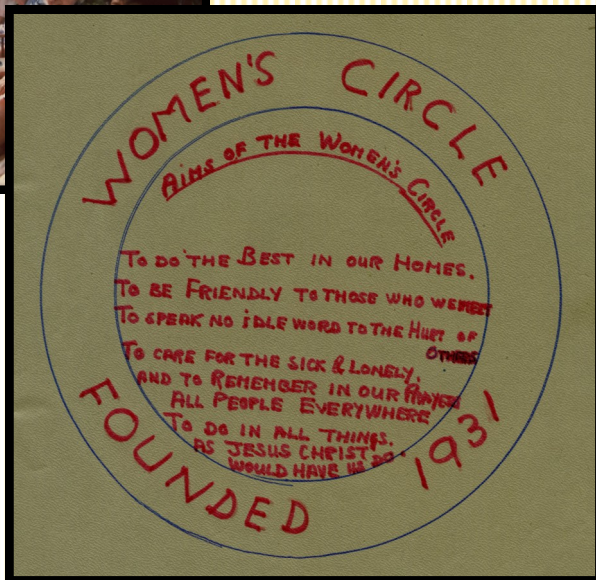
2) Malden Wanderers Cricket Club, Malden Wanderers women's team c. 1930

Although it offered a lot of family entertainment, Kingston Workmen's club only allowed women full membership in 2002. Similarly, although the Malden Wanderers cricket club had a women's cricket team since the 1930s, women only gained access to some of the club's bar areas in the 1960s!



3) The Circle, Circle members at a Garden Party, July 1979

4) The Circle Card with the Circle's Pledge, undated



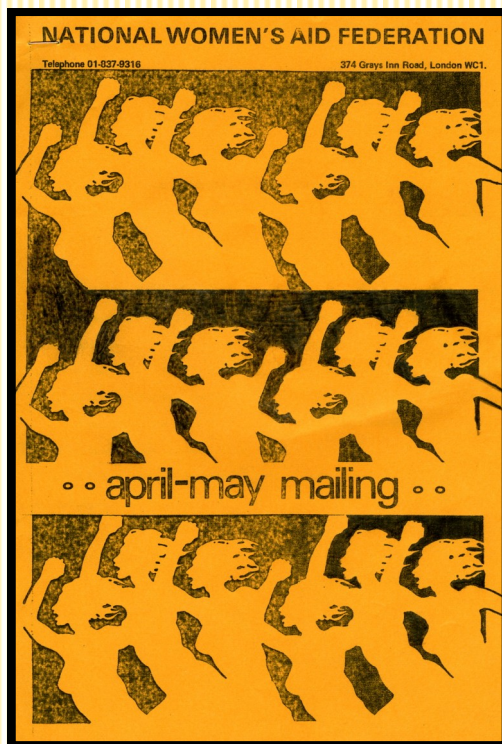
The Kingston Women's Circle is a church group, which has very Christian aims attached to it as we can see here. Nevertheless, many people would suggest that just by being in existence, the women's circle helped gain women's rights by making a public space where women could meet and express themselves.



4) Tolworth Afternoon Townswomen's Guild, Photograph showing a baby dress embroidered by a Guild member and presented to Princess Alexandra, 1964

The Townswomen's Guild is a nationwide organisation and is actually very political. It was one of the first organisations to give working class women a voice, and gives talks on social issues, as well as making campaigns to parliament.

Kingston Women's Group: Images From the Archive

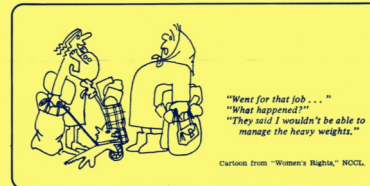


Thursday 27th April 1978
8.30 p.m.
Bar Opens 7.30 p.m.

MERTON HALL
Kingston Road, SW19
South Wimbledon Tube

WOMEN'S THEATRE GROUP "IN OUR WAY"

A MUSICAL PLAY FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION



Tickets 50p at door or 45p in advance from

R.A.C.S. Education Department
Church Street,
Woking, Surrey
Tel: Woking 64478

Kingston Women's Liberation
Study Group
7 Brockenhurst Avenue,
Worcester Park,
Surrey KT4 7RQ

STIMULATING! CONTROVERSIAL! FUNNY!

Shopping

What's wrong?
Women do most of the family shopping but working women have to shop in their lunch-hour or the Saturday crowds and women at home with small children and no car find it a hard struggle. Shop workers are mostly women, their pay and status is low and they can't go back to excessively long hours.
What could we change?



HOUSE OF COMMONS,
LONDON SW1A 0AA

7th November, 1979

Dear Mrs. Parker,

Thank you very much for your letter about the John Corrie Bill restricting the 1967 Abortion Act. As I explained at our meeting, I would not want to see over-restrictive legislation, but I am specifically concerned about the time period in which abortions can take place. However I will want to look at the Bill in its entirety when it has finished its Committee Stage.

I will certainly bear your views very much in mind when the Bill comes for its final consideration in the House.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Hunt

Clockwise From Top:

6) National Women's Aid Federation Magazine Front Cover, 1980. This is an example of a feminist magazine circulated by the Kingston Women's Group, campaigning against domestic violence.

7) In Our Way, 1978. Kingston Women's Group attended plays and gatherings regularly, some of which were put on by feminist groups. This play was actually funded by the women's group itself in 1979.

8) 'Shopping' Undated. A debate card produced and used by the Kingston Women's Group.

9) Kingston Women's group lobbied MPs on issues they felt strongly about such as this 1979 letter.

Discussion Points and Activities

Discussion Points.

Equal Access? Look at source 1 and 2. Do you think all clubs should be open to all people? Is it unfair that women were not allowed equal access to men in these clubs or do you think it is acceptable as the clubs catered for men first of all?

The Path to Women's Rights Look at sources 3 and 4. Do you think a club like The Circle has as much impact on women's liberation as a club which directly campaigns for women's rights to the government? Why?

Knitting Political Look at source 5. What did you think when you saw the picture of Tolworth Afternoon Guild Members? Are you surprised that the guild is political?

The power of the collective. The Kingston Women's Group, like many campaign groups, chooses to meet in a group to share and discuss feminist texts poems and news articles, and go to radical theatre productions. Sometimes, members would meet with other feminist groups for rallies, marches or parties.

- a) What do you think the benefit is of meeting in groups for campaign societies?
- b) Why do you think members shared creative work as well as news articles and campaign material?

Campaigns today What sort of campaign groups do you think are the most necessary today?

Activities

Research Look on the internet and put together a simple timeline of events in the history of women's liberation.

Making a difference What other causes can you think of throughout history which might have had pressure groups attached to them? Do a brainstorm on the board.

Design your own magazine Have a look at source 6. What would you make a campaign magazine on? What would the front cover look like? Who would you like to contribute?

Debate Look at source 8. This is an example of one of the topics the Kingston Women's Group debated. Stage the same debate in your class today.

Over to you! Look at source 9. Kingston Women's Group often wrote letters to ministers in the government about issues they felt strongly about. As a class, decide on an issue you feel strongly about, research it and write a letter of campaign to your local MP.

Evaluation Sheet for Teachers

1) What was your overall experience of this education resource? Please indicate below:

Useful.....Not Useful

Engaging for students.....Not engaging for students

Relevant to syllabus.....Not relevant to syllabus

2) How can we make future learning resources more relevant to your needs?

.....
.....

3) What was the most useful/strongest part

.....
.....

4) Would you be willing to meet with us to discuss how we can make the museum work better for you?

Yes ☐ No ☐

5) Contact details (if desired)

Name.....

School.....

Department.....

Contact Number.....

Contact Email.....

6) Please tick the box if you would like to be added to our mailing list

☐

Acknowledgements

Thanks goes to the members of Kingston's clubs and societies who have offered valuable historical information in producing this resource as part of the *Kingston at Leisure* project.

Image and Source Credits

All images and sources are courtesy of Kingston Museum and Heritage service, excluding photographs of the United Reformed Church, the Kingstonian Hockey Club, Malden Rifle Club and the Circle Women's Group, which are on loan from their institutions.

Although all sources from Kingston Women's Group are held at Kingston Museum and Archive, the National Women's Aid Federation Magazine 1980 is courtesy of Women's Aid.

Bibliography

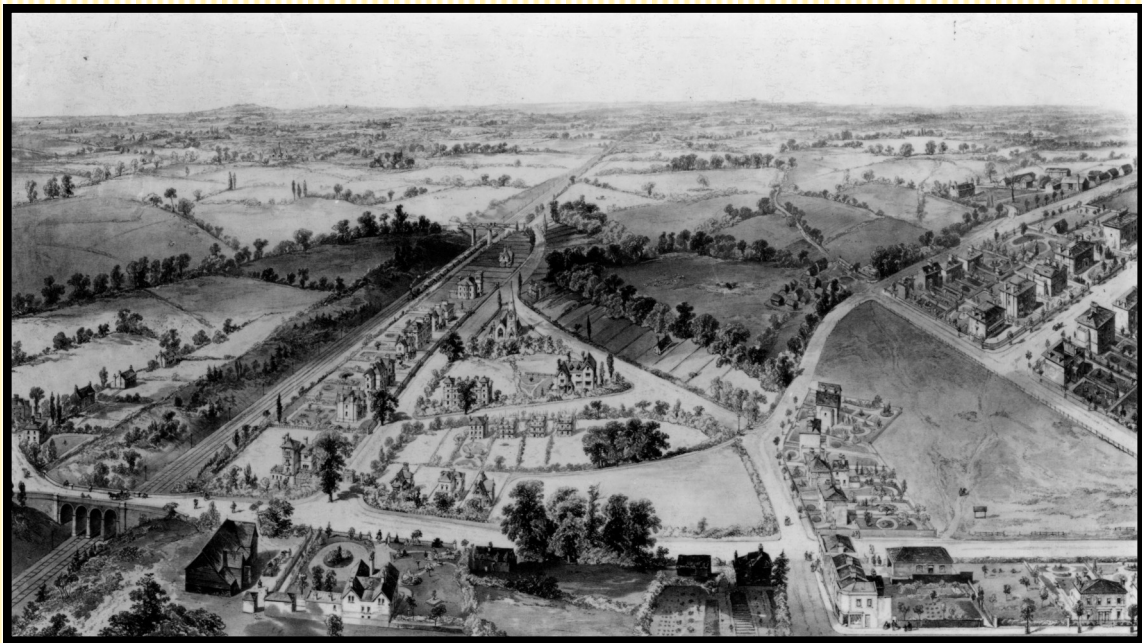
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The Park, Surbiton Hill.