

A FEW PIRBRIGHT FACTS



Pirbright's name was first record in 1166 as Perifrith, a compound of pyrige (pear tree) and fryth (a wood or wooded country).

The Manor House and adjacent **Mill House** date from the 13th century. The present house is 16th century and the manor formed part of Catherine of Aragon's dowry when she married Henry VIII.

In more recent times **Pirbright Mill** operated as a saw mill and was recorded in 1851 as producing 5000 ft of timber each week. Heath Mill was a corn mill and was known at one time as the Health Mill as it specialised in wholemeal flour.

Vice Admiral John Byron, Grandfather of the poet Lord Byron, built '**Mount Byron**' (now Pirbright Lodge) in Mill Lane. He lived there until his death in 1786 and the lane opposite the house where he took his daily constitutional is still known as **Admiral's Walk**.

The little girl's statue at the south-west of Lord Pirbright's Hall was presented by Lord Pirbright to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897

Henry Morton Stanley, explorer and founder of the Congo Free State was most famous for finding Dr Livingstone at Lake Tanganyika in 1871. He later became an MP and set up home at **Furzehill Place** in Stanley Hill, naming part of his land Mazamboni Farm. His carved initials can be seen above the



Furzehill Place, home of Henry Morton Stanley

gate. He is buried in St Michael's churchyard, the grave marked by a granite monolith inscribed 'Bula Mutari', meaning 'stone breaker'. The Congolese gave him this name in recognition of his ability to find practical solutions to apparently insoluble problems.

The Cricketers' Inn dates from the 17th Century. Once a carpenter and wheelwright's shop, it was first licensed in 1850 and became famous for illegal bare knuckle prize fights. The last fighters were arrested there in 1880. The landlords continued to organise village sporting events, including an annual tug of war across the pond against an army team.

The White Hart was once called Lane End House and in the 18th century it was common for both manorial courts and vestry meetings to conduct business there; the Parish Council met there before the building of Lord Pirbright's Hall. In 2000 it was relaunched as The Moorhen but then renamed as the White Hart in 2005.

Pirbright's population was recorded as 400 in 1801, 1540 in 1901, 3273 in 1921 and 4214 in the census of 2001. Nearly half the residents live in Pirbright Camp.

Pirbright became associated with the **army** after 1875 when the War Office purchased a large area of common, much of which is still in use as a firing range and subject to restricted access. Popular for walking, entry is prohibited when red flags are flying. Pirbright Camp was home to the Guards for many years; currently it houses the Army Training Regiment.