

From the Middy 1894.

**119 YEARS
AGO**

**HANDCROSS.
DARING
BURGLARY
AT TILGATE
LODGE.**

On Thursday afternoon, about four o'clock, Tilgate Lodge, the residence of Mr Francis Luscombe, was the scene of a daring attempted robbery by two men who are believed to come from London. The first that was seen of them appears to have been as they were getting out of the drawing-room window, when they were challenged by one of the outdoor labourers on the estate. A scuffle took place, another workman coming to the assistance of his colleague. The housebreaker was thrown down, but his companion appeared with a piece of iron, and struck one man a violent blow on the arm and the other a severe blow on the head. Another man employed on the estate came up, but the two rascals decamped in the direction, it is thought, of Horsham, the woods of the district lending themselves to a successful escape. An ornamental silver spoon was picked up after the scuffle. Information went to PC Anscombe, of Handcross, and he went in pursuit of the men, who benefited by a long start. He learnt that they were inquiring for the road to Brighton, which direction they possibly afterwards took. One of the men is described as about 21 or 22 years of age, dark and clean

shaven. He wore shoes and blue socks or stockings, and his clothes were dark in colour. His companion was about 26 years, and is described as fair, with stoutish figure, thick lips, and talking hoarsely. He wore a brownish tweed suit and a purple necktie.

On Thursday two persons of some notoriety in this place took leave of Mother Earth, for, we trust, a better country. Cornelius Woolgar was well known from having a terrible burden to bear through life in the form of a wen on the side of his head. It had grown to an enormous size, and its eventual rupture and the breaking of a blood vessel was the immediate cause of death. Deceased was 57 years of age.

William Harman, or "Billy The Postman", was a well-known character in former years, in connection with the old Post Office, as the "slow" telegraph messenger. Billy was a native of Bolney, and was in the late Mr Meux's employment as an odd(sic) man and a telegraph messenger. Billy was not good on his feet, and his progress was slow, and if the district was a long one the results were not always satisfactory. He spent the last four years of his life under the care of the parochial authorities. He attained the age of 59, and was of a happy contented disposition to the last. The funerals of both deceased took place at St Wilfrid's Church yesterday.