

rather staid country town, with a few picturesque corners near the church, and much new development on the outskirts.

THORPE CHURCH is prettily situated in a quiet, tree-shaded corner. The building is old (parts are thirteenth-century), with a seventeenth-century brick tower, but is much restored. There are some notes on it inside. In the chancel is a brass to a London goldsmith (William Denham, d. 1583), a family memorial to husband and wife and thirteen children. Thorpe is a serene little village.

VIRGINIA WATER. For this beautiful portion of the Great Park we have to thank the Duke of Cumberland (third son of George II), who, as Ranger, set about converting a dismal swamp of the Bourne in Windsor Forest into a pleasanter to resemble the wild woodlands and wide waters of the Virginia Colony. The Duke, incidentally, was never Governor of Virginia as is sometimes stated. The work was executed by Thomas Sandby, RA (brother of Paul Sandby, RA), who was Deputy Ranger and had been secretary and draughtsman to the Duke in Flanders and Scotland. The Duke introduced the Scotch pines from the Highlands. Much more timber was planted by George III.

THE CUMBERLAND OBELISK was raised by George II to his son, the Martial Boy. The Duke was six months younger than Prince Charles Edward. Macaulay sums him up acutely in his second *Essay* on Chatham.

CHERTSEY CHURCH. In the porch is some information about the tiles for which Chertsey Abbey was famous; some price-less examples of them cover the floor of the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey. In the nave, by the door, is a copy of an early fifteenth-century map of Chertsey Abbey, and among the monuments is one to Charles James Fox, erected by his widow.

LALEHAM. The chief source of pilgrimage to Laleham is the grave of Matthew Arnold, the poet son of the famous head-

master of Rugby. For some time the latter lived at Laleham, and Matthew Arnold was born there. The grave is in the churchyard, south of the chancel. The poet is buried with his wife and children. East of the church is the grave of the third Earl of Lucan, who commanded the cavalry in the Crimea and passed on the misunderstood order for the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava. The Arnolds' house at Laleham was pulled down in 1864. Laleham Park, the tree-screened estate by the river, once the home of the Earls of Lucan, has been acquired by the Staines Council. There are entrances by the riverside below the ferry and on the Littleton road near the Three Horseshoes.

How to get there and back

CHERTSEY by Green Line Coach route 716.

VIRGINIA WATER by Green Line Coach route 701 or 702.

SHRUBBS HILL by Green Line Coach route 702.

WINDSOR by Green Line Coach route 704, 705 or 718.

STAINES by Green Line Coach route 701, 702 or 718.

Walk 1

CHERTSEY TO VIRGINIA WATER (5½ miles) OR TO SHRUBBS HILL (7¼ miles) BY THORPE AND WENTWORTH.

From the north end of CHERTSEY High Street follow the Staines road for ¼-mile to a swing-gate at the end of the raised footwalk on the left. Take the right-hand path, the Monk's Walk, along the verge of a delightful stretch of parklike meadows, with St Anne's Hill rising beyond the Bourne on the left. The path runs straight ahead to a passage that leads to THORPE CHURCH (1½ miles).

After leaving the church turn left past Thorpe Place, left again at the Red Lion, and left once more at the fork—along the lane that leads to St Anne's Hill. On nearing the Old Mill, take the path from a stile on the right and follow beside the Bourne, into a lane. Cross over and continue along public footpath (signposted), veering left and then, in a few yards, sharply *right*—beside a hedge to Thorpe Green (3 miles).