

Extract from Dickens (Chas Dickens Jnr) Dictionary of the Thames 1885 (pages 205 & 206)

(see <https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=g8IHAAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&hl=en&pg=GBS.PA204> )

Surbiton.— A suburb of Kingston, has grown immensely of late years. Some of the best houses face the river, and it contains what is generally known as the villa residence in every size and at almost all rents. It is very convenient of access from London, being on the main line of the London and South-Western Railway, and affords excellent facilities for boating, The distance between locks here being nearly five miles. Along the river side the authorities have constructed an esplanade, with gardens, which extends from the Waterworks some distance towards Kingston, and affords a fine promenade. From the ferry opposite Raven Island, by Grove-road, nearly opposite to the railway station, is ten minutes' walk.

The headquarters of the well-known Kingston Rowing Club and **Thames Sailing Club** are at Surbiton, the boat-houses of the former being on Raven Island, and of the latter on the right bank, a little above the island. Five minutes from the river are the Surbiton Reading Rooms, Library, and Recreation Ground. Here, in addition to library, &c, is one of the fastest cinder-paths in England for bicycle riding, a cricket ground, bowling green, lawn tennis, &c. The annual subscription is £1 1s. The churches are all modern building of no particular interest. There is also a Surbiton Club (entrance £2 ; subscription. £5 ; election by ballot in committee : two black balls exclude).

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**Thames Sailing Club**, Surbiton. — The object of the club is to encourage the sailing of small boats, especially upon the upper waters of the river Thames. The officers are commodore, vice-commodore, rear-commodore, and 1 honorary secretary and treasurer. The committee consists of 7 members in addition to the 4 officers. Election is by committee. Entrance fee, 10s 6d. ; subscription £2 21. Burgee white, dark blue cross and red fowl anchor in centre of cross. Ensign white, dark blue cross, red fowl anchor in fly.