

Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newark Priory
West Viento

Journal Volume 7 No. 233

Nov/Dec 2013



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Send & Ripley History Society

Established 1975 as Send History Society

Registered Charity No 296324

President: John Slatford

St George's Farmhouse, High Street, Ripley, Woking GU23 6AF. Tel: 01483 222107

Email: jmslatford@gmail.com

Chairman: Les Bowerman

The Manor House, Send Marsh Green, Ripley, Woking GU23 6JS. Tel: 01483 224876 Email: les@sendmanor.com

Hon. Secretary: Cameron Brown

Church Farm House, Wisley, Surrey GU23 6QL. Tel: 01932 341206 / 07811 276386 Email: cmb@aappl.com

Treasurer: Christina Sheard

Old Manor Cottage, Send Marsh Green, Ripley, Woking GU23 6JP. Tel: 01483 224600

Email: christina.sheard@btinternet.com

Journal Editor: Cate Davey

Waters Edge, Potters Lane, GU23 7AJ. Tel: 01483 773452. Email: editorsrhsjournal@gmail.com

Journal Distribution: Hilary Percy

30 Wentworth Close, Ripley, Surrey GU23 6DB. Tel: 01483 212950 Email: spezet@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary: Andrew Jones

106 Georgelands, Ripley, Woking GU23 6DQ. Tel: 01483 479647 Email: ajones681@tiscali.co.uk

Web site management: Chris Brown

Web site: www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk

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Cover image: The array of bottles unearthed at Church Farm, Wisley (see article p.15)
Photo © Ditz

EDITORIAL

On Monday 16 September I sat down to watch University Challenge 2013-14: Round 1: Match 10: York vs Bath. It began in the usual way with team members announcing their names and home town. The sixth contestant – a member of the Bath team- starts giving his name- Calum Woof, from Send in Surrey, studying Chemistry. Suddenly University Challenge becomes more interesting than usual. York won by 270-70. However I am pleased to report that Calum Woof's four correct answers to starter questions was the best individual score for Bath.

On 21 September the Tour of Britain Cycle Race came through Send and West Clandon as part of the Surrey Stage.

I don't know how many of you are aware that Send now has its own Facebook page. It is possible to access it via Google without having a Facebook account .

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/Send-Village-Surrey/137684162987112>

Linda Parker-Picken of Send Parish Council is running the page and posts information for the Society.

We have a lot of really interesting articles for you this month and I am pleased to say that a couple were prompted by people getting in touch following the September Journal.

We are hoping that you will notice improvements in the quality of images in the journal this month.

We also invite overseas members and those members who receive their copies of the journal by post to consider opting into e-mails copies of the journal. This will mean that you get your journal more quickly and the membership fee will be reduced as you will not be paying the additional postage fee.

Do let me know if you would like to try this out by receiving this edition by e-mail, by e-mailing me at **editorsrhsjournal@gmail.com** and I will e-mail a copy to you so you can compare it with the hardcopy.

We are hoping that by regular postings on the Send Facebook page and Ripley Grapevine we will start to attract more members. It would be nice to think that younger members of the Send and Ripley communities will be interested in what the group has to offer and start to get involved.

With this in mind I am sure members will be pleased to know that we have received a small Arts Council England grant to enable me to attend a conference on the digital archiving of museum records, in November.

Lastly the Chairman makes the point in Chairman's notes that we often only obtain pictures of members when we are writing obituaries!! It would be great to increase our archive of photographs with images of our members and their ancestors. I am sure that many of you will have old family photo's that may be of interest to the Society which we are not yet aware of. Think how interesting that may be for researchers in 50 or 100 years time! Do feel free to email them to me at **editorsrhsjournal@gmail.com** or deliver them to a committee member together

with a note of the names of everyone in the photograph and their relationship to each other and other relevant information. We can scan and return them.

As this is our last Journal for 2013 I take this opportunity of wishing all our readers and their families a very Merry Christmas and very best wishes for a peaceful and happy New Year.

Cate Davey

One-Eye Betsy

John Slatford

Betsy Smith was baptised in Ripley Church on 25 May 1854. She was the daughter of John and Priscilla Smith. They were a gypsy family; travellers who, it would seem, returned to Ripley periodically and pitched up on the Green. He was described at different times as a basket maker, a hawker of toys and a pedlar. They were in Hampton Wick in 1861 for the races and are recorded in the census as being in a 'tent and cart' with seven children between the ages of 2 months and 15!

In 1866, they were back in Ripley again when, sadly, John Smith died of cholera and was buried in Ripley on 27th July. The next day it was reported in the Surrey Advertiser that there had been in the past week two cases of cholera in Ripley and that one, a caravan man was now recovering. The other who died would have been John Smith. His entry in the parish register describes him as a 'stranger died in a van on Ripley Green'.



Betsy acquired her nickname as a result of a violent confrontation with another traveller. She spent the rest of her life wearing a patch over her left eye. She went on to marry another traveller called Tom Rowland and their travels eventually took them to the west country where

they founded a fairground dynasty in Cornwall. This is today J Rowland & Sons, one of the largest of fairground families in the west. The photograph shows Betsy and Tom in front of their stall at Penzance Fair in the early 1900s – a formidable pair!

It is interesting to speculate about what sort of education, if any, the children of gypsy families might have had in those days. They would rarely have been in any one place for more than a few

days. In more recent days, in his memoirs, Fred Dixon, headmaster of Ripley School from 1936 to 1961, made reference to the problems of the short times some children stayed at school. There was one group who made regular ‘short stays’. Their address was The Fair, Ripley Green and they were children of fairground parents who travelled the country and they got their education wherever they happened to be. Fred Dixon recorded them as ‘nomads’.

I am grateful to Frances Brown who approached us recently to purchase two of our books. She is the great-granddaughter of One-Eye Betsy and is a writer on fairground and travelling families. She has given me all of the above details.

Gathering on the Green

Audrey Smithers and Ruth Harvey

The 28th July was just about perfect for the ‘Gathering’ on Ripley Green. About 40 members of the Mandeville/Smithers families came. A good number but as there were eleven siblings in the Smithers family and fifteen in the Mandeville family there must be a lot more descendants out there somewhere who did not join us.



Everyone was welcomed with a drink – very necessary for lubricating the vocal chords as there was so much reminiscing with family not seen in many years and new family members to get to know. Those old sepia photos did anyone really know who those people were? Then the family tree was displayed. Did everyone know their place on it?

Well we know ours. Our
grandfather Enough
Smithers

married
Edith Eliza Mandeville
in 1905. Her brother William was
married to Enough’s sister Meliora. So it
made them quite a close family.
(Hopefully we’ll write more for a later
issue).



Then it was time for the picnic. Plenty of food as everyone had brought something to share. Next we all had to gather together for a group photo. It will be a good one to add to the collection. The oldest member there was ‘Little’ Bert Woods who is 91 so we thought that it would be appropriate for him to cut our special cake which had a picture of ‘Pigeon House’ on it. This was the house, now demolished with nothing remaining, where the Mandevilles lived for quite a few years. It was situated near Pigeon

House Bridge, not far from the Anchor Public House, Pyrford. We used it to represent family and home and that was where it was time for us all to go. With hugs and kisses, must keep in touch and didn't we have a wonderful time.



Thomas Tickner (c1837-1920), the Sex Family and the Forge in Send *Vincent Tickner*

In the September 2011 issue of *Root and Branch*¹, Sheila Brown wrote a two-page article entitled *The Send Blacksmith*, about the forge in Send, and the May and Sex blacksmith families who ran it for many years. My great-great-grandfather's youngest brother, Thomas Tickner (*ca* 1837-1920) seems to have been a tannery worker in Send, but living at The Forge in Send for a time between sometime in the 1890s after 1891, and pre-1910, and obviously had strong connections with the Sex family, who were then blacksmiths there from 1899.

Thomas Tickner's maternal grandmother's family, by the surname of Heath, were blacksmiths in Burpham in the early 19th century, and her sister, Elizabeth Grover (*ca* 1795-1827), had married into the May family who were blacksmiths in Send in the middle of the 19th century, while her other sister, Sarah Grover (1800-1846), had married Thomas West (1795-post-1845/pre-1868), who was blacksmith in Knaphill, while Thomas West's elder brother, Stephen West (*ca* 1784-1870), was blacksmith in Sutton Green. Thus there were strong family links with a number of blacksmith families in the area.

Thomas Tickner (*ca* 1837-1920) was baptised in Woking on 23 April 1837, and was recorded, after his father's death in 1847, as a 'Paper Mill Labourer', aged 14, in the 1851 Census in Woking. He subsequently joined the 9th Brigade of the Royal Artillery, but was pensioned out of it on November 29, 1870. In the 1871 Census he was recorded in Westfield as being aged 34 and a pensioner, with his mother, Mary Webb (*née* Grover) (1797-1889)², aged 70!, widow of papermaker, and his wife, Mary Jane (22) (born in Exmouth, Devon). It would appear, however, that Thomas Tickner (34), bachelor, farm labourer, residing at Poyle Hill, Woking, son of William

Tickner (deceased) (1799-1847), was only married the following year on 8 October 1872 in Guildford Registry Office to Mary Jane Tiller Hockin (or Hockins) (23), spinster of Poyle Hill, Woking, with her father's name not given. Isaac Edwards and Emma Tickner (probably his sister-in-law; my great-great-grandmother, Emma Tickner (née Chuter) (1830-1915)) were witnesses to the marriage. Emma was living in Lower Westfield at the time.

Two Mary Jane Hockins had their births registered in the third quarter of 1849, one in Helsworthy (Ref: 9/309) and one in St. Columb (Ref: 9/94). Mary Jane seems to have been an elder sister of Ellen Alice Tiller (1856-1950)³, who, in 1876 was living in Sutton Green, aged 19, and who married William Tickner (1876-1929), Thomas's nephew, in that year (see below). Cliff Carson of Oakville, Ontario, who is descended from this branch of the family, believes she was a daughter of George Tiller and a Jane (née Hockins), they having had two children: William Henry and Mary Jane, before they were married in 1853.

Thomas and Mary Jane appear to have moved to Send by January 1879, because on 9 January 1879 a T. Tickner, was recorded as living in Send, and had received a blanket from Smith's Charity. In the 1881 Census he was recorded in Send Heath, with his wife, Mary, but not with his mother, who had moved to live with another of her sons, Abraham Tickner (1829-1905), in Send. In that Census Thomas Tickner was described as a 'labourer at Saunery'⁴. He and his wife do not appear to have had any children. In the 1891 Census he was recorded as a farmer's labourer, aged 54, living with Mary Jane (43) at Tucker's Cottages, Send. In the 1901 Census, Thomas Tickner (64) tannery labourer, worker, born in Woking, was recorded at 'The Forge', Send (Census number 140), with his wife, Mary Tickner (52) (born in Exmouth, Devon), and his 'Sister-in-law' (actually his nephew, William Tickner's wife) Ellen Tickner (44) laundress (wash) employer, born in New Passage, Devon. Ellen's husband and some of their children were living in Eastbourne, Sussex at the time and it is assumed that Ellen was only visiting, or maybe looking after Mary Jane and Thomas. Ellen was a keen Salvation Army member. Mary Jane died on 9 June 1908, aged 59 (i.e. born *ca* 1849), and was buried in Send between 10 and 27 June 1908, given as living at Send Forge at the time.

On 1 September 1910 Thomas became an in-pensioner at the Chelsea Royal Hospital in London, being recorded there, aged 74, in the 1911 Census, and died there of bronchitis and heart failure, aged 82, on 24 April 1920. He left a Will, made on 1 June 1909, before he became an in-pensioner, in which he was indicated as living at Caversham Cottage, Send at the time. He made Clarence Henry Sex of 'The Forge', Send his Executor. He made bequests to members of the Sex family, as well as to John Tickner Boxall (1849-1916)⁵ and Samson Boxall (1857-1942)⁶ both of Westfield (two of his nephews), who were also to receive the residue of his estate, along with his nephew, William Tickner Senior (1876-1929) of 1 Kilburn Terrace, Junction Road, Eastbourne, Sussex. The Will received Probate on 20 May 1920.

Vincent Tickner
7 October 2013

gamco@netcomuk.co.uk

Notes

1. Sheila Brown, 'The Send Blacksmith', *Root and Branch* Vol. 38, No. 2, September 2011, West Surrey Family History Society.

2. On 17 April 1852, the widowed Mary Tickner (née Grover) (1797-1889) was married a second time, by banns, in Woking to James Webb (ca 1793/5-1861) (widower), paper-maker of Woking.
 3. George Tiller was a Labourer. Her mother was Jane Tiller (née Hockings) (b. ca 1825 in Appelfing!, Devon).
 4. Possibly 'labourer at Laundry'.
 5. He died in 1916 before his uncle, Thomas Tickner.
 6. Bricklayer of Westfield at this time.
-

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Les Bowerman

Journal 232 – some observations

My cover photo of the grotesque stone image was, of course, taken in the Undercroft in Guildford High Street, not in Guildford Castle as attributed on Page 1.

Photograph of the SRHS Group visiting Selborne Church. I like to think that the Journal records for the future not only what has happened in the past, but also what is happening in the present as exemplified by Cate's brilliant photos of a hot-air balloon taken as it descended at Burnt Common on her way to work on 21st August this year. The same I feel should apply to members of SRHS. Usually we seem to wait until their obituaries appear in these pages before we see identified images. How will future historians illustrate any history of this Society if there are no images of members through the years? I'll kick off by naming those depicted in the photo in J232/3 of members sheltering from the strong wind in the corner between the porch and nave of Gilbert White's church of St Mary at Selborne on 9th May. From left to right they are Carol Morris, Sam & Rosie Sheppard, Joan Chandler, Jackie & Ted Strange, Anne & Les Bowerman, Hazel Creasey, Barbara Tinkler, Ruth & Terry Harvey, Nick Brook, and Roma & Terry Martin. Also present on the trip were our President John Slatford & Pat, Michael Morris and, of course, photographer John Creasey.

Changes to Forthcoming Events

It's a bit like No. 11 buses, as the saying goes. In 38 years I believe we have only once had a change of advertised open meeting speaker and subject, and now this autumn we have had changes to our first two indoor meetings. Both have been due to the originally booked speakers changing their employment between booking and the arranged date. On both occasions Anne has quickly arranged quality substitutes and done her best to notify all who may have wanted to hear the original speaker but, almost inevitably, there are one or two who are inconvenienced by the change. To them we apologise.

Ockham and Wisley

Although not strictly part of our patch, we in SRHS always take an interest in anything of historic or archaeological interest from Ockham and Wisley, since they are neighbouring parishes and they have not had their own local history society for many years. Two items of interest have recently arisen in regard to Ockham. Firstly, there was the wonderfully detailed book, A history of Ockham

to 1900 by our member Gillian Lachelin and Robert Primrose, published this May by the Surrey Archaeological Society. It is a spiral-bound book of 90 A4 pages priced £10, p&p £1.50. Contact historyofcockham@gmail.com There are many illustrations, some in colour.

David Williams, the Surrey Finds Liaison Officer, has even more recently reported an amazing find of Middle Bronze Age objects at the long-closed Hautboy Inn. It was amazingly found after a modern extension was demolished and was close to the outer wall of the original Lovelace building. Incredibly it was not disturbed either by the original building or the modern one. There was evidence that the objects had been in a bucket urn. There were six palstave axes, two bracelets and two spiral finger rings. They are likely to date to around 1400-1250BC. Somewhat similar finds have previously been confined to the Brighton area and this hoard is therefore very significant. It is at present being considered at the British Museum.

Woking Palace

Over the years there have been many references in these pages to Woking Manor House/ Woking House/Woking Palace and its 590 acre deer park, the boundaries of which can still be traced. Anyone walking along the towpath on or near our boundary with Woking will have seen across the river Wey the forlorn remains of what originated as the moated Manor House of Woking around 1189, developed into a large medieval grand house sometimes owned by royalty over the next 300 years, and was made into a palace by Henry VII from 1503 which it remained for over 100 years until demolished soon after 1620. Henry VIII and Elizabeth I also improved and expanded it.

Until recently, apart from a 'dig' by the 2nd Earl of Iveagh in the early 20th century, it had never been properly examined archaeologically. Four years of professional excavation from 2009 to 2012 were carried out by the County Archaeological Unit and Surrey Archaeological Society, financed largely by Woking Borough Council. This work confirmed most of what has been described very briefly above.

A successful bid by the Friends of Woking Palace to the Heritage Lottery Fund resulted in a grant of more than £306,000 which has enabled a further three year project to be undertaken, the first of which has recently finished. Volunteering and learning are key aspects of the grant and local communities will be involved, including up to 1000 young people from local primary and secondary schools.

Our member Jean Follett of the Friends of Woking Palace has been heavily involved with the project, including running the annual Open Day at the site which took place this year on 6th October. The site is on private land and access was only by foot or cycle. Anne and I took advantage of a beautiful early autumn day to go along. Very many people were there, although we saw no-one else from SRHS, and even though we went late there were continuous groups being guided round the site. Perhaps what surprised most was being told that the palace site covered 8 acres, making it one of the largest big houses in the country. We were also greatly impressed by the emerging footings of the Queen's Gallery and Watergate beside the river at its junction with the moat.

Ripley Farmers' Market

On an unexpectedly fine mid-October morning Anne and I had the pleasure of un-parcelling for the first time the Society's new instantly erectable gazebo which will enable those manning our stall at the market both to remain dry and to avoid in summer the risk of sunstroke, should we be so lucky with the weather in future years. The deluxe stainless steel pegs make stabilisation of the tent easy, but we had no need of the side walls or the water-fillable weights, let alone the extra tension bar for use in windy conditions. Now that the stall has a degree of civilised protection, it would be good to welcome more volunteers for the rota.

MEMORIES OF SEND PRIMARY SCHOOL 1961-7

C. Henry Parr

After a couple of years in the blissful security in the solid dependable house in leafy Boughton Hall Avenue I felt totally at home and at peace. This was my world now, and I couldn't imagine ever existing anywhere else.

Then, one day, my mother took me to a large rambling Victorian building in the village, and left me there. Just went off and left me! She encouraged me to play in the sand tray but it was a trick; when I looked round she was gone. I was absolutely livid. I had, of course, started school.

It seemed like an institution far too huge and powerful for me to comprehend; a bewildering world of enormous echoing classrooms and strange routines. There were corridors stalked by powerful and dangerous older boys, cloakrooms full of steaming wet coats, weird bell turrets on the roof, and strange choirs singing in the walls.



Henry Parr in 1967

And there was Miss Perrin, the headmistress, a permanently angry ogre with powerful striding legs and a voice like thunder. She roared instructions at us – controlled and maneuvered us like she was herding sheep. She seemed to regard us as an unruly mob that had to be battered into shape. Her anger seemed to be a permanent state, she was even angry as she tried to teach us country dancing.

It was a very effective power structure – the teachers in the classroom could be fairly nice to us, while fear of the ogre kept us in line. Similarly 'the cane' apparently didn't hurt much, but was terrifying because of who wielded it, and because of the mythology that had built up around it.

The playgrounds were in a large hollow with a steep bank all around. Tall trees towered on top of the bank and the school towered on a promontory. Behind and to the side of the school was a wild untamed wilderness of impenetrable head high nettles. It stretched right round one side of the school, and classes 2 and 4 sliced into it like ships.

Guarding the edge of the wilderness at the end of the playgrounds was the canteen; a green tin shed where the tablecloths smelt of rancid plastic. Here I was confronted by food I had never heard of; like semolina, strange sickly goo. At the other end of the wilderness were the equally rancid toilets, and some steps led down into a small doorway under the building where there were rumours of a secret tunnel.

The school had the full range of children, from middle-class kids, to children from the council estate. There were notorious boys with myths attached to them, and there were a few outcasts who smelt or talked funny.

As infants, we were allowed to play in the relative calm of the girls' playground, but even here, there were terrors for a shy, sensitive, sheltered child. There were boys who ran around screaming and threw things, boys who grabbed me for no reason and boys who tormented me with accusations I couldn't understand.

The school was full of all these horrors and yet it was benign. It was like being taken as a pet by a terrifying but friendly giant. I was small and lost and yet safe; scared but secure; helpless but protected. I was completely at its mercy but it didn't hurt me, and when the monster ejected me at the end of the day, there was my mum, waiting for me - that's all right then. Of course I had to do it all again the next day, and the day after that. I soon got the hang of it though, and after a few weeks I made my first friend.

In the playground, there was an old car*. I have no idea why, but there was, and we used to enjoy playing in it. It was in this car that I remember, for the first time in my life, looking at another human being and thinking 'I like him'. It was a momentous event, though I didn't realise it at the time. It was momentous because it was my first contact outside the family; it was the first thing that was really mine, the first thing I had gone out into the world and got for myself.

And it was momentous because it turned out to be the start of a friendship that was to last the rest of my life.

* This old car was given to the school by Bill Challen, who owned the garage in the village.

Henry would like to make contact with other pupils of his era. If you were at Send Primary School between 1961 and 1967 he would be delighted to hear from you. He can be contacted via e-mail: henry.parr@blueyonder.co.uk

Cast List of *The Stranger*

Here is the cast of *The Stranger*, which Class One put on in 1967. My friend Steven Rackett and I have been trying to work out who everyone is and we've got all but five. *I've put a cross against names that are missing from the book and the addendum.*

Back row: Carol Larcher, Valerie Clack, Helen Hutchinson, Steven Lord, (Dorothy's son) Roger Bradshaw X, Me, Steven Perkins X, Lorraine Hotsun, Christine Stone, Unknown.

Second from back: Martin Guess (you have down as Guest), Simon Tassano X, Unknown, Andrew Wood, Bonnie McDermid (the princess), Richard Jenkins, Paul Charman, Duncan Fry, Eve Bodicome X (she wasn't there for long).



The Cast of The Strangers, Send Primary School 1967

Third from back: Janet Meyer, Andrea Stephania, Linda Williams, Linda Sumner X (you may have down as Lydia), Unknown, Alison Roberts, Sylvia Bicknell, Lynn Stokes, Anita Jackman, Unknown, Carol Atherton.

Front row: Jane Wheatley X (you may have her down as Janet), Unknown, Christopher Carter, Richard Shinn, Lesley Stanley, Kelvin Trewartha X (he turned up in class 2), Steven Rackett, Robin Heberd X (you have his sister, Rosemary), Kathleen Gregory.

Other names I remember, who aren't on the pupil list, all around my age: Ruth Hodge, Brian Bowers (brother of Keith), Rodney Dewey, Peter Freestone. And some more obscure, who I think may not have been there for long – Sandra Cobbet, Donald Cartledge, Christopher Monroe (came to my house once!) Bruno Scrastins (who could forget a name like that, we used to call him 'prunes') Nicholas Lyons (not related to Katie I happen to know), Colin Weller, Derek Hack, Glen Wallace, John Gales (lived in a caravan in the woods behind my house) Robert Sutton, Robert Moore, Pauline Royale, Angela Atter and various other Atters, Amanda Clew, Lance Freeman (Daryl's younger brother), Andrew Wye. Also both our brothers are missing, Robin Parr (1960 – 63) and Nigel Rackett (1956-62).

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Watkins & Simpson Ltd - Wholesale Seed Merchant Growers

Mavis Perryman has written with this memoir of nursery activity in the village..

'Watkins & Simpson(W&S) are known to have been in existence since the 1890s having premises in London and selling seed to growers who came with their wares to Covent Garden, especially farmers who would buy bulk vegetable seed to take back on their empty horse and cart! They are known to have had a large acreage in Feltham adjoining the Bedfont Young Offenders Institution- now a prison.

Reg Perryman went there to work in charge of the trial grounds in 1950, he grew samples of all the batches of seeds to make sure they grew true to type and colour, if they got a customer complaint. The bulk of the acreage was used to grow areas of plants for seed production. I went to work there in 1952 met Reg, and we got married in 1956. In the notice of our wedding in the Middlesex Chronicle they noted that Reg was a speed trial grounds foreman!

In 1960 W&S sold the land at Feltham and moved to the site behind Fogwills at Burnt Common and down the A3 as far as Stickings Nursery. Again Reg was in charge of trials. No names were ever put at the gates and the public could not buy the seeds produced. After about 4 years this area of land was sold and eventually Clark & Spears put a large area of glasshouses on the land.

Reg then moved the W&S trial grounds to a field next to Sussex Farm at the far end of Tithebarns Lane adjoining Send Prison. W&S already farmed the larger fields opposite, which went down to the pair of houses by the stream. Mr Curl was the manager there. He lived in a house in Gresham Gardens in Send Road but he sadly died and Ron Wallace from East Clandon took over.

Also at this time Bill Hedges did all the ploughing with a shire horse, and he looked after him too. When in 1970 the farm was sold and moved to Leicester, Bill became the lengthsman in Send keeping the roads and verges tidy until mechanisation took over.

There is still a large barn remaining on the farm. Charles Forte bought the land in 1970 and then later sold the barn area and it is still now a lovely converted home but it still had the name Watkinson Simpsons Ltd on a small whiteboard on one wall! Reg Perryman didn't go to Leicester- he was headhunted to go to RHS Wisley to start their new trial grounds.

On the subject of W&S Mavis also notes that W&S tested seeds brought from other firms and also developed new strains, such as the Feltham Pea and Feltham Bean, which are still available to buy today. Of the founders, Simpson's work was honoured by the award of several gold medals by the RHS. In 1927 he was awarded the prestigious Henry Eckford Gold Memorial medal and the Victoria Medal of Honour for his lifelong work with sweet peas. Alfred Watkins died in 1937 when the firm was one of the most famous seed producers in Europe. Mavis also reports that the W&S Feltham testing grounds is where Bedfont Lakes is now situated.



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BASIL'S WAR

Pat Clack

Editor's note: I have included this fascinating article by Pat not because of its particular relevance to Send or Ripley but because it is a great example for the rest of us of how, on the trail of family history, one thing can lead to another. It also demonstrates how useful the internet can be!

My brother-in-law, Basil Alfred Clack, was born in 1924 on February 18th. When the second World War began, his father enlisted in the Royal Navy and served as a gunnery instructor as chief petty officer at Crail; his younger brother, Eric (my husband) joined the Royal Armoured Corps and his youngest brother, Alan, was in the RAF at Leuchars.

Basil was in the ARP at the age of 18, and went briefly to Belfast University, from whence he went to Canada for training as Air Crew in the RAF. He emerged as navigator and was posted to RAF Skellingthorpe, near Lincoln, in 61 Squadron.

On the night of June 16th, 1944, his Lancaster took part in a bombing raid at marshalling yards in Germany – the crew's 30th sortie. They crashed at Chatellerault near Besse in France at 1am the next morning on their return. They were originally buried at Poitiers and later moved to a small War Cemetery at La Baule, where all seven lie in a row. Also in this cemetery are victims from the St Nazaire "Lancastria" tragedy and the Campbeltown.

After the War his parents planned to go out and visit his grave, but his father died, followed by his mother, and then my husband. Alan and his wife then decided to go but Alan was in poor health and then also died.



The years went by and then my son and daughter-in-law took me out for the first visit by the Clacks – this was about 5 years ago.

Since then my Grandson, Matt, has become very interested and joined a Lancaster website, where he tracked down a cousin of the pilot of Basil's plane in New Zealand, and a Frenchman, Olivier Roelly, whose grandparents lived near the cemetery. I had signed the visitor's book at La Baule and put in my email address and Olivier contacted me.

From all this emerged a visit which we have taken recently – we left here on July 18th. Michael (my son) and I flew; Matt, his wife Emma and baby son Henry, 3 months, went by car.

Olivier gave over his holiday house in Pornichet to us – 10 minutes from the cemetery. We went to the cemetery twice and put Basil's photo on the grave. After that we all, plus Olivier, went to the crash site – Emma drove one car and Olivier another – a distance of some 200 miles.

When we arrived in Chatellerault we were met by a historian, Christian Richards, and he took us to meet Gerard Beauvillain, who (unbelievably) had witnessed the crash when a boy of 16 – he is

now 85 years. One of the wings of the plane fell about 200 yards from his house, the remainder of the plane in the forest. They were then occupied by the Germans but were allowed to remove the pilot's body from the plane – he was strapped in – but not to touch the plane. It remained there for several months. The other bodies were scattered around and all were found except one, which a farm worker found in a haystack about a week later.



Next year will be the 70th anniversary of the crash and Basil would have been 90. His name is in the Book of Remembrance in Lincoln Cathedral and also in the RAF Chapel, St Clement Dane, in London.



© Ditz



© Ditz

The current farmhouse dates from 1575 and there was almost certainly one here before this one, so there was a reasonable chance of finding something interesting (the only thing the builders had found so far was a cat's skeleton).

BOTTLES

Cameron Brown

After his interesting talk on September 17 David Rose took a look at a number of bottles which Ditz and I had brought along. These comprised a small selection from what we had found in what seems to have been a 19th C bottle-dump at Church Farm, Wisley, where we live.

A couple of years ago we were excavating the foundations for a barn/storeroom when one of the builders called for his son to stop the digger as he had noticed what appeared to be a number of bottles a couple of feet below the surface. We had warned him to stop if he found anything vaguely interesting-looking.



© Ditz

As well as a gigantic horseshoe and lots of bits of china we dug out 20 or 30 bottles, some but not all broken. There were beer and porter, wine and medicine bottles of various ages. David Rose commented that in value terms they are more recycling than eBay – but they are fun to have and who knows what we will unearth one day.

NISSEN HUTS

Anne Bowerman

At J231, page 6, Pat Clack asked if anyone else (apart from Tony Friend - see 230/9) remembered the Nissen huts erected during WW2 where Heath Drive now is. Non-member, Bev Jackman, who lived for very many years in Send and is now at Ripley, has asked me to say that she remembers them as her family, the Carswells, lived at No. 1 Nissen Hut from 1945 after the Canadians had moved out. She well remembers the Friends who moved into No 2 a couple of years later. There were only two of these huts which were in the grounds of Heath House. The huts had two bedrooms and a passage that led to the bathroom. Around the corner was a kitchen and big living room. It was entered through the corridor with the bathroom on the right. The huts were nearer the back of Heath House near a big beech tree. It wasn't very visible from the road and was just off the circular drive, which may account for why Pat didn't know they were there, or she may have been away during the war.

Bev has a photograph of herself sitting on a bank beside the hut, but at the time of speaking she had mislaid it.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The opening times of our museum are on the next page. The current exhibition, 'From Seeds to Secretts', is devoted to Send and Ripley market gardens and is full of information. Just a reminder again that the dates of **our evening meetings** have been changed to **Tuesdays** so that we now have the use of the larger Village Hall and its facilities. The talks begin at **8 o'clock**.

- Sat. 9 Nov.** Surrey Local History Symposium in Leatherhead.
- Sat. 16 Nov.** SRHS has a book stall at the Old Hall/Boughton Hall Christmas Fair from 10.30am to 12.30pm so come and support us and also buy a few Christmas presents.
- Tue. 19 Nov.** An illustrated talk on '750 Years – Holy Trinity Church, Guildford' by Dr. Mary Alexander.
- Tue. 17 Dec.** Christmas Social – Music and Feasting. £5 per person.
- Tue. 21 Jan.** A selection of short films presented by Terence Patrick. Come and enjoy an ice cream!
- Tue. 18 Feb.** AGM. Wine and cheese will be served. Talks by members.

If you have any queries about the programme, please ring me, Anne Bowerman, on 01483 224876 for further information.

Journal Contributions: Closing date for the next issue is **17 December 2013**.

Will authors of illustrated articles please submit **original photographic prints** if at all possible to ensure reasonably good reproduction in the Journal.

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HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

'Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life' (Reprinted 1998 and 2006)	£10.00
'Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send'	£1.25
'Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley'	(Reprinted 2004&7) £4.00
'The Straight Furrow', by Fred Dixon	£1.50
'Ripley and Send – Looking Back'	(Reprinted 2007) £9.00
'A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey'	(Reprinted 2005) £2.00
'Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey'	(Reprinted 2012) £4.00
'The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey'	(Reprinted 2005) £4.00
'Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures'	£6.00
'Two Surrey Village Schools - The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools'	£10.00
'The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey'	£5.00
'Memories of War'	£8.00
'Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford'	£2.50
'Memories of War' and Map of Bomb Sites	£10.00
'Send and Ripley Walks'	£5.00

All the publications are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of 'Ripley & Send Then & Now', 'Two Surrey Village Schools' and 'Memories of War' can also be obtained from Send Post Office. All publications are available via the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk



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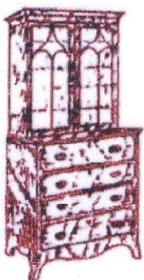
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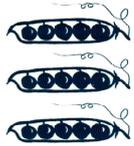
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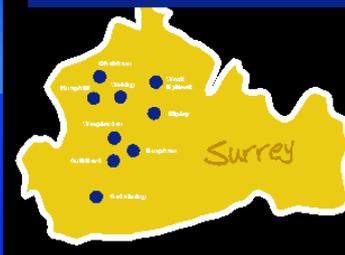


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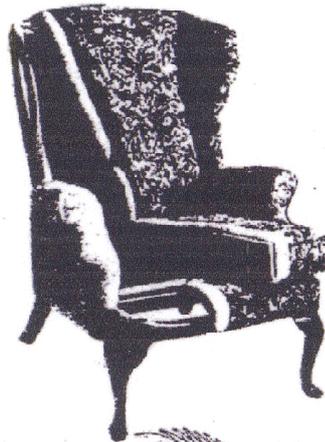
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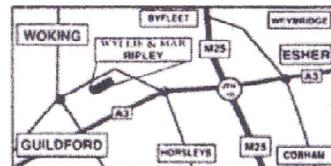
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