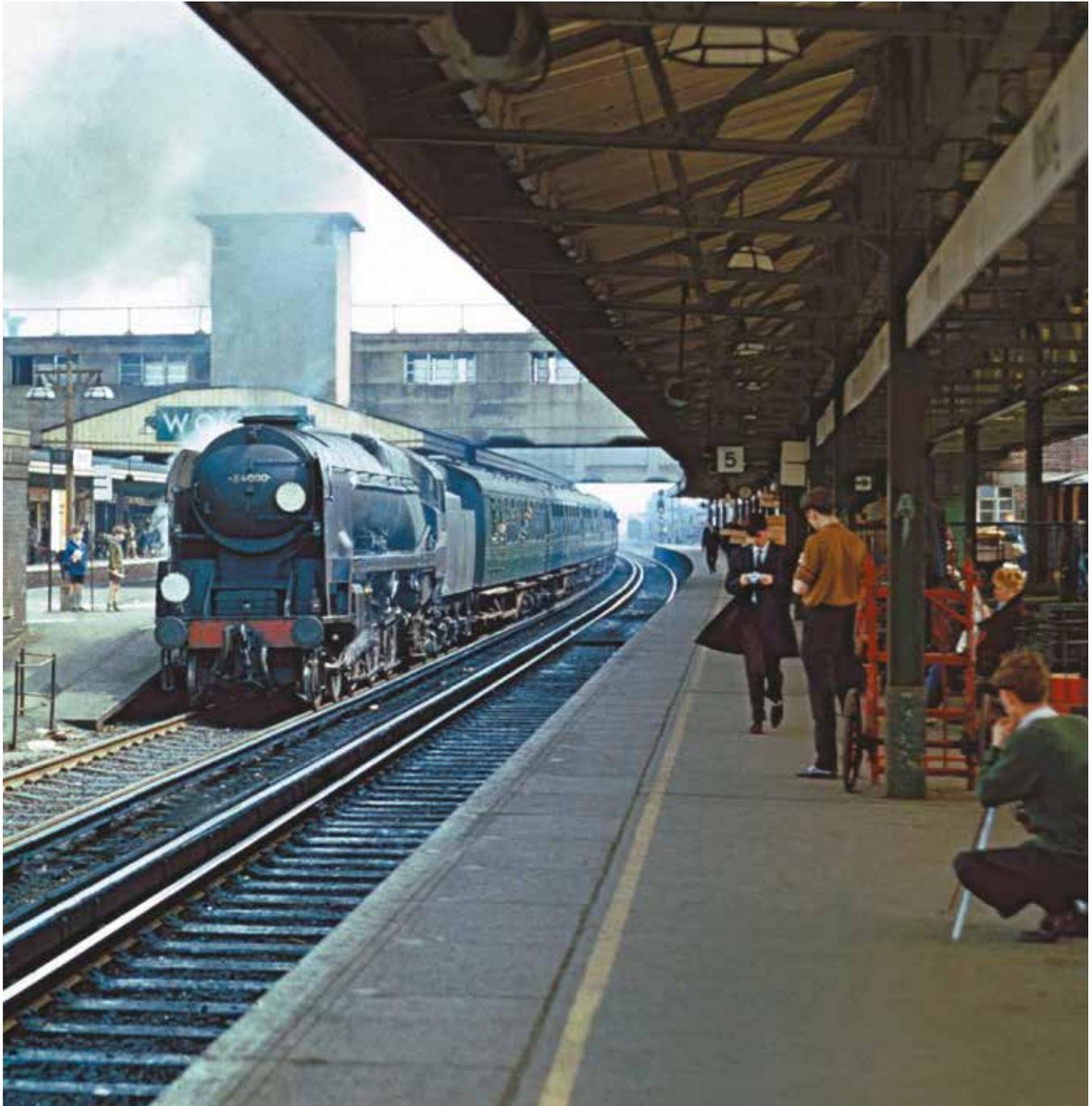


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January 2022

Send & Ripley History Society

WINNER OF THE 2021 BALH AWARD FOR BEST LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL



A HISTORY OF CPRE
IN SURREY

Page

3

RIPLEY'S CHRISTMAS
WINDOWS

Page

12

THE 1950S AND 60S
IN AND AROUND
GUILDFORD

Page

16

WORLD WAR ONE
SOLDIERS AT THE
HUT HOTEL, WISLEY

Page

20

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Woking station in the final
days of the era of steam
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CONTENTS | No. 282

Editorial <i>Cameron Brown</i>	2
A History of CPRE in Surrey <i>Cameron Brown</i>	3
Obituary - Peter Spindler, 1922-2021 <i>John Gilbert</i>	8
40 Years Ago <i>Cameron Brown</i>	10
Letters	11
Ripley's Christmas Windows <i>Ditz Brown</i>	12
The 1950s and 60s In and Around Guildford <i>Cameron Brown</i>	16
The White Hart, Ripley <i>Alan Cooper</i>	18
World War One Soldiers at the Hut Hotel, Wisley <i>Alan Cooper</i>	20
The Future of the Museum <i>Cameron Brown</i>	25
What Is It? <i>Alan Cooper</i>	26
Disposal of Books <i>Clare McCann</i>	27
New Books for the Museum Library <i>Cameron Brown</i>	28
Museum News and Forthcoming Events <i>Clare McCann</i>	30
SRHS Publications List	31

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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

Another year and Covid is still with us. Before becoming too gloomy about this I'd suggest you take a look at my New Year's editorial in J276: it clearly was an awful lot worse for most of us 12 months ago.

The redevelopment of the village hall has not gone well for us at all. We have incurred massive (for us) unexpected costs. I report on this more fully in The Future of the Museum on page 25. It is still very much up in the air – as, indeed is that of the village hall. At the moment we have no idea when the new main hall might be built but are fortunate to have found a very acceptable new venue for our talks at the Ripley Bowling Club in Rose Lane. It is a comfortable hall with plenty of parking so do come along and enjoy our programme of talks for the current year.

Dreda Todd has been our committee secretary since she took over from me soon after I succeeded Les Bowerman as chairman and has decided that it is now time to pass on the baton. Long-standing committee member and archivist Jan Davie is also stepping down after many years of involvement with the Society. On behalf of all of us I should like to thank both Dreda and Jan for their contributions. If any of our members would be interested in joining the committee please let me know.

Could I also please repeat my plea for help from any members who have skills in the area of PR and social media. We are on facebook and twitter but I'm afraid your committee all agree that we need some help to make full use of these platforms.

If you have not already done so please remember to pay your 2022 subscriptions.

Finally I am very sorry to have to report the deaths of these long-standing members: Irene Beach, Robert Donn, Graham Field and Peter Spindler.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th February 2022.

Authors of illustrated articles should submit high resolution (300 DPI or higher) jpgs to the editor by email to ensure best reproduction in the journal, but no more than 20MB in any one email

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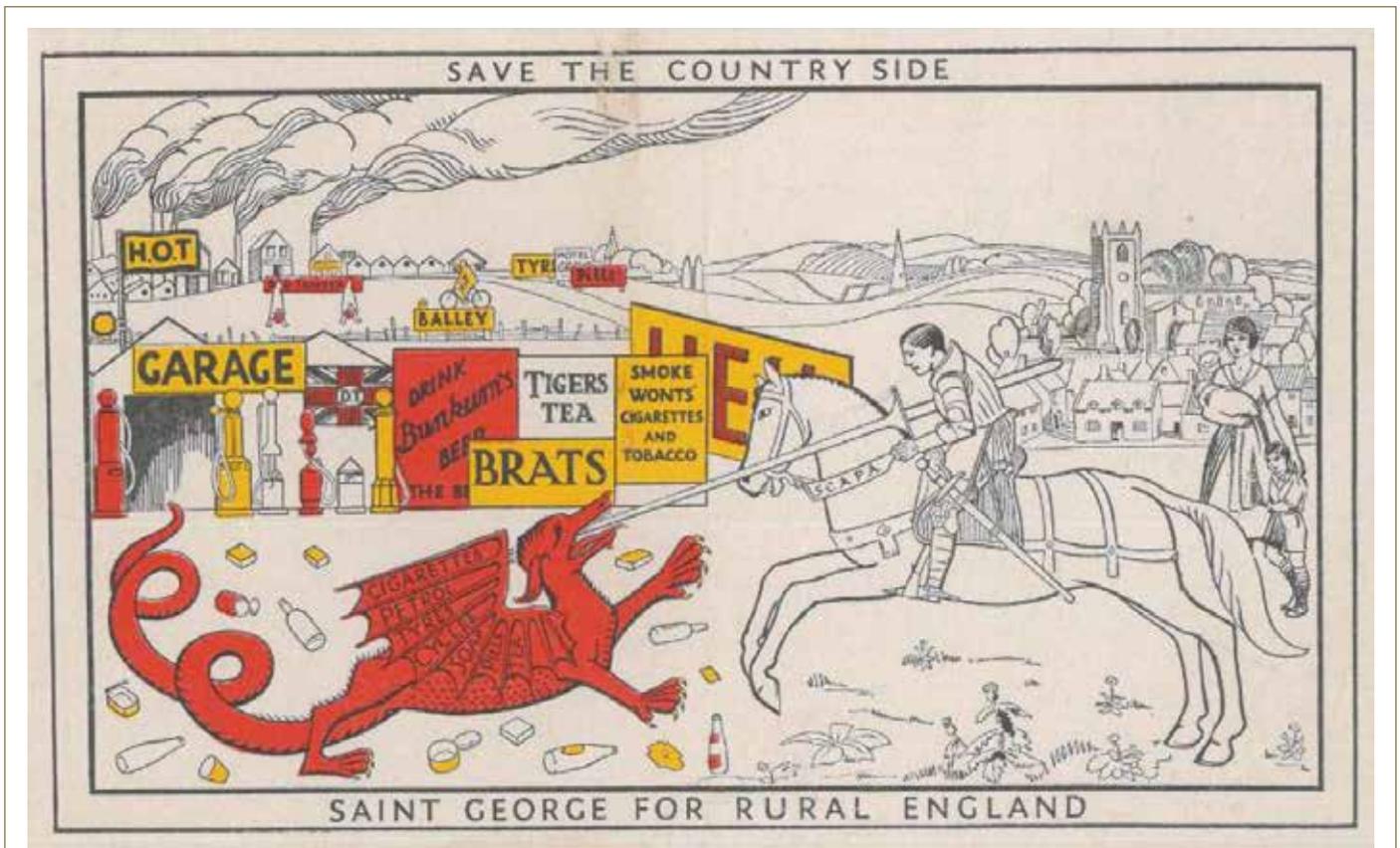
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A HISTORY OF CPRE IN SURREY

CAMERON BROWN



An early CPRE marketing poster

This is a précis of a talk given in November by Kristina Kenworthy, chair of CPRE Surrey, the local arm of the national campaigning charity now known as CPRE The Countryside Charity, together with some additional material supplied by Kristina.

Surrey's beautiful countryside represents everything that is best about rural England, despite being under so much pressure to urbanise. And of course, this pressure is not a new thing.

CPRE was established in 1926 as The Council for the Preservation of Rural England – meaning that in less than five years it will be celebrating its centenary. Over the years the charity exchanged 'Council' with 'Campaign' and 'Preservation' with 'Protection'. Today the Campaign to Protect Rural England is as a result of its most recent rebranding simply known as CPRE the Countryside Charity. CPRE Surrey is a relatively new branch, formed

in 1977 to amalgamate various groups active in Surrey since the early days of CPRE. By 1930 we had more affiliated groups in Surrey than any other county, most of which actually pre-dated the formation of CPRE itself and included groups from Oxted and Limpsfield, Dorking and Leith Hill, Shere, Tillingbourne, Leatherhead, and the Surrey Federation of Women's Institutes.

At the Council's very first public meeting Guy Dawber, the then president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, said, "We are inaugurating a movement which, we hope, will result in the preservation of rural England, the saving of that national treasure of beauty which means so much to all of us and which we see threatened with imminent destruction."

The unchecked threats of ribbon development along roads penetrating deep into the countryside, the factories and urban sprawl that spilled out onto land beyond the

traditional market towns and villages was due to a lack of planning control. Blots on the landscape, littered with billboards illustrated a disregard for the natural beauty of the countryside. Amongst the 22 founding constituent bodies were the National Trust, The Commons Preservation Society, The Town Planning Institute and the Society for Checking Abuses in Public Advertising. Neville Chamberlain, the then Minister of Health, strongly endorsed the importance of preserving rural amenities. Lord Crawford was CPRE's first President, had sponsored the Ancient Monuments Act of 1913 and was chair of the Fine Arts Commission. This consensus among the great and the good was echoed by *The Times* newspaper when it declared: 'The campaign for the preservation of the beauties of rural England is to be further assisted by the establishment of a central body which will be representative of the numerous societies at present at work, and form a propaganda organisation to coordinate the activities of all... England must grow and houses must increase. But it need not grow just anyhow, and the new houses need not be dumped down just anywhere.'

Since then CPRE's campaigning has been instrumental in the Town and Country Planning Acts, the establishment of Green Belts around our major cities, the designation and protection of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and increased public access. CPRE has worked closely with Parliament, county, district, town and parish councils for decades to improve how and where we build with respect for the countryside and the rural economy.

Looking at the very first annual report of the Surrey Society, the name chosen when the Surrey Amenity Council became an official branch of CPRE in 1988, we see many of the same concerns are reflected. Comments included:

The government was against more regulation and in favour of market forces.

Back-benchers were calling for restraint on growth in the south east and the channelling of growth into other regions needing employment.

Developers were going ahead with proposals which conflicted with government policy on Green Belt, ignoring ministerial warnings. Although Nicholas Ridley dismissed a shopping centre at Wraysbury, he called for development of green field land beyond the Green Belt, and a total of 600,000 homes in the south east within a decade.

Meanwhile, ministers hinted that more and more planning appeals were being allowed where Local Plans

didn't exist or were out of date. And the government remained critical of planning authorities who didn't process at least 80% of applications within eight weeks.

Finally, the report sounded the alarm on government plans to use the private sector to provide housing for rural needs, without controlling resale of the properties, knowing that this could reduce the amount of social and affordable homes in villages. A lot of that seems depressingly familiar!

But of course the pressure of the overheating south east economy goes back a lot further than 1988. William Cobbett, author of *Rural Rides* (first published 1822-26) was just one of a pantheon of great figures who helped to make Surrey the birthplace of the countryside conservation movement in England. He was a huge inspiration for CPRE's founder, the planner Patrick Abercrombie, who wrote the most comprehensive analysis of the state of the countryside since Cobbett's of a century earlier. Abercrombie clearly felt that he was documenting a rural England on the cusp of a change as monumental as the impact of enclosure and industrialisation had been on the countryside of the 1820s.

Other than the railway bridges, viaducts and mills – which have become part of our rural heritage – the changes wrought upon rural England by the industrial revolution were largely social, as people drifted to cities as a result of enclosure and mechanisation.

The newly rich 'stock-jobbers' – as Cobbett called them - moved in the opposite direction, buying up freshly enclosed and sold-off common land... a situation that is repeating itself now with the super-rich buying up land as an investment. Abercrombie was particularly struck by Cobbett's description of one newcomer's house sign - 'Paradise Place' - under which was written: 'spring guns and steel traps are set here'. Cobbett wrote that 'whenever any of them go to the country, they look upon it that they are to begin a sort of warfare against everything around them'. His understanding of the need to look after our rural workers chimes well with CPRE's recent campaigns to save rural affordable housing and save the social mix of our villages. He praised the contribution to village life of the beautiful and productive labourers' gardens which were 'such an honour to England', while expressing deep shame at the pay and conditions many of them experienced.

One of Cobbett's contemporaries, the philosopher John Stuart Mill, was another major influence on the fledgling countryside preservation movement. His time spent living in Mickleham had made him a convert to the pleasures of Surrey's scenery. In 1836, Stephenson's proposed London to Brighton railway threatened to, in Stuart Mill's words, 'annihilate the peculiar beauty of the vale of Norbury, at the foot of Box Hill'. He rigorously campaigned to defend what he called 'the peculiar beauty of a spot unrivalled in the world for the exquisiteness, combined with the accessibility, of its natural scenery'. He castigated Parliament for condoning 'this profuse expenditure of public money, without a thought for the character of the natural scenery which is threatened by destruction'. A sentiment which, again, we're still all too familiar with.

In his *Principles of Political Economy* of 1848, Stuart Mill argued that slowing down the relentless pursuit of financial gain didn't have to mean a 'stationary state of human improvement'. Indeed, he believed we would see 'mental, moral and social progress' if people focused on 'the art of living instead of the art of getting on'.

Unfortunately, as Mill recognised, the human instinct to conquer nature was incredibly powerful - having evolved from self-preservation - but would become, in time, 'an instinct to destroy for destruction's sake'. Stuart Mill was a founder and active member of the Commons Preservation Society, England's first national amenity society, founded in 1865 to defend the commons around London - the original Green Belt.



Walking in the Surrey Hills

Richardson Evans was an Irish-born journalist who settled in Surrey, and is best known now for his work to save his beloved Wimbledon Common. He was also a great early benefactor of the National Trust, donating land at Toys Hill in Kent's North Downs. The bequest was particularly important as it came - in 1898 - at a time when the Trust's acquisitions of land were grinding to a halt. Its very future was in doubt, just three years after its creation. But Evans's example showed that they could be successful by promoting their idea that 'memorials should sometimes take the form of land commanding beautiful views, dedicated to the memory of the dead'. Without this new sense of direction, we cannot be certain that the Trust would have survived long enough to secure the likes of Polesden Lacey - donated in memory of the Scottish brewer William McEwan, while John Stuart Mill's beloved Box Hill has become a memorial to its own rescuer, Leopold Salomons.

The National Trust was a hugely important means of saving Surrey's, and the nation's, finest countryside. Richardson Evans was one of many people who became increasingly concerned that, in concentrating on our beauty spots, the ordinary countryside was somehow being devalued. There was a growing temptation among politicians and developers to believe that as long as the best bits were being looked after by the Trust, the rest of the countryside was fair game. *The Spectator* magazine summed up the honey-pot approach just a year after the Trust's creation, suggesting that 'the deserts of brick and stone may spread and increase' as long as the 'beautiful pieces of country were preserved in the nature of an oasis'.

This approach wasn't good enough for Evans. He arranged a conference in 1898, the same year as his donation to the Trust, on 'Arresting the wanton destruction of picturesque effect, and preventing encroachments on the playgrounds of the people'. He wanted to unite the various single-issue amenity societies concerned with commons, footpaths, ancient monuments, birds etc as one powerful body that could represent the whole countryside, and all its benefits. As well as continuing the Trust's role of preserving and maintaining beauty, Evans wanted his new body to assert policies to protect the simplicity, dignity and interest of all landscapes, and to create a political force to strive for the wellbeing of others 'that will be more than a match for the philistines!' The name he chose for this force was the 'Group for Concerted Action in Defence of the Picturesque and Romantic Elements in our National Life' - and we think Campaign to Protect Rural England is a mouthful!

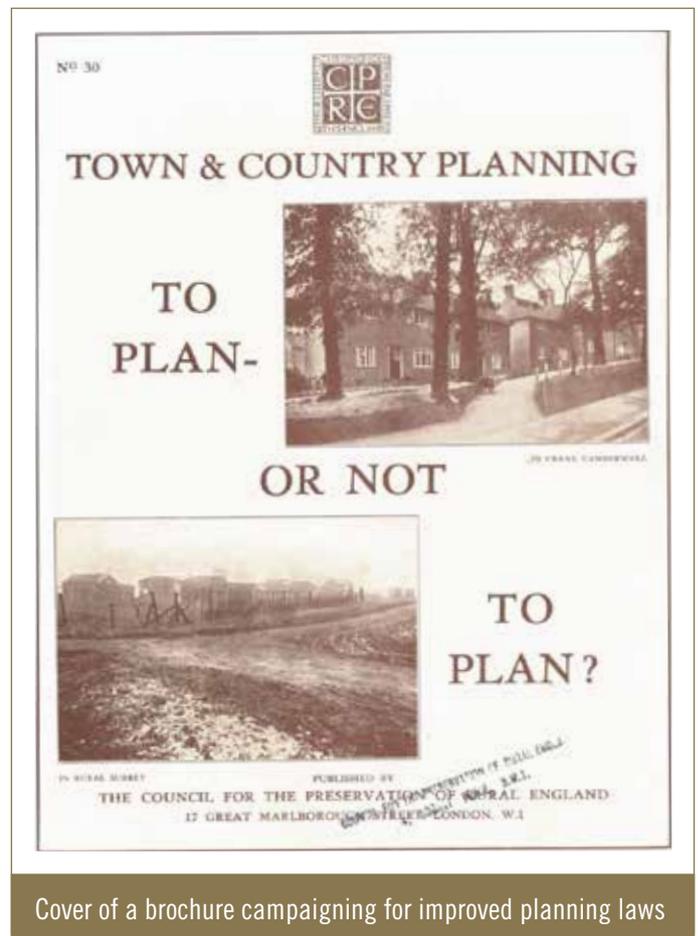
Needless to say, his group didn't take off. If it did, CPRE might never have happened. But Evans wasn't put off. He merely expanded the remit of the group he'd already set up in 1893 – the 'Society for Checking Abuses in Public Advertising' – so that it became a prototype for CPRE in campaigning to protect the countryside from all forms of disfigurement. Patrick Abercrombie even called SCAPA the first national society that 'sought to look after the country generally'; and they were hugely successful in their own right.

Their campaigning meant the Advertisements Regulation Act of 1907 was the first in the history of English law-making to legally establish the principle that the beauty of the landscape is a national asset, and this illustrates his enduring influence on CPRE.

Although Evans's idea of a coalition of rural groups didn't take off in 1898, the timing was perfect in 1926. The Great War had created a huge sense of pride in the countryside fuelled by a generation of nature writers and poets and of course we also had the drive for modern growth after 1918, with the need for development to catch up with technology, with homes fit for heroes, a new trunk roads network and the first electricity network.

A *Times* article of 1919, *Rebuilding the Countryside: Plans in a Typical Rural County*, captured the post-war zeal for development in describing Herefordshire county council as 'fully occupied with such topics as light railways, housing, good roads, drainage boards and the possibility of an extensive rural area being supplied with electric light and power'. In the same year, *The Times* warned that 'in our eagerness to create new wealth and provide new houses, there is a danger that we may sacrifice a rich inheritance of natural beauty'. It suggested that a national Advisory Committee was needed to relieve the burden of the National Trust and 'exercise a strict surveillance of all that is worthy of preservation in England'.

By the early twenties, there was a growing recognition that someone needed to look after the whole countryside, and that just as Evans had suggested – a coalition of existing amenity groups was the best way to do this. Although in 1898 the individual societies had not wanted to be absorbed into a joint committee, the publication of Abercrombie's manifesto in 1926 had a unifying effect. As well as pointing out the benefits of joint working,



Cover of a brochure campaigning for improved planning laws

Abercrombie's plans for town & country planning, national parks and green belts would help to give the Council for the Preservation of Rural England its own distinct identity, and meant that CPRE very soon became far more than an umbrella group. Although, for a while, we could have had a very different set of initials as other names were proposed: PANDORA (Preservation and National Development of Rural Amenities); RADA (Rural Amenities Development Association); and ASPIRE (Association of Societies for the Preservation and Improvement of Rural England).

These pivotal discussions over the creation of CPRE took place in Surrey (actually in a school in East Sheen which was still Surrey at the time). Sir Herbert Griffin ran CPRE for 39 years from 1926. In fact he probably only retired in 1965 because he was so upset at Barnes being moved from Surrey to Greater London! As well as remembering Griffin's largely unsung role in securing national parks and Green Belts, we must also remember another little-known CPRE founder with strong connections to Surrey, Vaughan Cornish. He could claim to have invented the idea of landscape character and gave CPRE's 1929 evidence to the National Parks Committee, claiming that these landscapes were essential for the

‘spiritual welfare’ of the nation. This is what he had to say about his beloved Surrey in his 1932 book for CPRE – *The Scenery of England*:

‘Settling in Camberley after twelve nomadic years spent largely in foreign travel, I found an unexpected compensation for regional variety of scene. As a traveller I had continually to visit new places, for the first rapture could not be recaptured; but living year in year out in the same countryside, I watched the ever-changing lights and shadows upon the everlasting hills, the constant background made it possible to follow the scenic rhythm of the year. The natural pageantry of this countryside has a rhythm of the hours as well as the seasons. And so with each morning comes a variation of the theme of natural beauty....’

Ralph (Rafe) Vaughan Williams celebrated Surrey’s countryside with music rather than prose. His compositions tried to get to the heart of the real country and not appear to indulge it as ‘passing fancy’. He soon began insatiably collecting old English folk songs, attracted by the prospect of spending time in Surrey’s country inns ‘in the rare company of minds imbued with that fine sense which comes from advancing years and a life-long communion with nature’.

I love his description of the *Bucolic Suite* as ‘not the pastoral music of silk-clad shepherds and shepherdesses, but rather of brawny clod-hoppers in corduroys’.

However, he did once confess in a letter: ‘Don’t think me degenerate in my likes but you know I always have preferred soft scenery to stern uncomfortable scenery. I know that shows a craven spirit but I can’t help it. My heart goes through the same manoeuvres as Wordsworth’s when he saw a rainbow when I see a low range of hills – I suppose this comes from being born in Surrey’.

Although people talk about Wordsworth’s Lake District as the cradle of the countryside preservation movement, I think this cast of characters shows that Surrey’s claim is so much stronger. While Wordsworth was being exercised by the odd railway, or quarry – inspiring some great poetry in the process – the people of Surrey faced – and continue to face – a constant battle against urban sprawl.

As one of Surrey’s own wordsmiths, Sheridan, put it so well in his famous quote of 1797, which was about Dorking but could still apply to the whole county today: ‘The nicest place, within a prudent distance of town, in England’. That quote sums up the problem we face in a nutshell. With its proximity to London, Surrey is still the most desirable place to live in the whole country. It is because of the efforts of our predecessors in the past

200 years, that Surrey remains so desirable and because millions of others feel the same way, that creates a problem for CPRE Surrey. Each new development that takes place to allow more people to experience Surrey’s quality of life slightly diminishes that quality of life. We really are at a tipping point now, because it will only take a few more years of urbanisation for us to lose the rural character that makes Surrey what it is.

In most counties in England, if you were to look for examples of places that had been saved by campaigners, you would find dozens of good examples dotted around the landscape. In Surrey it’s more a case of finding somewhere that hasn’t been saved by the campaigning of CPRE Surrey, Residents Associations, parish councils ... in the knowledge that Surrey, and our whole countryside, is part of our national heritage.

Nowadays we take it for granted that we’re stewards of the English countryside and have a moral duty to protect it, but that perception didn’t appear by magic – it was nurtured over two world wars by our artists and film makers, government propaganda and in no small part by the CPRE. Green Belts and AONBs had to be fought for yet, unfortunately, people are all too willing to build on these places if they can get away with it. Which is why CPRE Surrey has to maintain constant vigilance, and does a fantastic job at repelling the attacks but, ultimately, we shouldn’t have to keep fighting these battles over and over again. Ideas like Green Belts have stood the test of time and are more relevant now than ever. They need strengthening, so that local CPRE groups get more time to work at the other things they are so good at – enhancing the countryside through high-quality development on previously used brownfield sites, burying pylons, removing sign clutter, eradicating litter...

In 1958 the Surrey Hills were one of the first landscapes to be designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A review of the boundaries of the Surrey Hills AONB is currently taking place and CPRE will be working over the coming months with the team of consultants employed to carry out this invaluable exercise, in the hope of increasing the size of Surrey’s nationally protected landscape from a quarter to as much as a third or more of the county which will help ensure the long-term protection of this much cherished and visited landscape. Please have your say by visiting: <https://www.surrey-hills-aonb-boundary-review.org/>

If you are interested in volunteering with CPRE or learning more about the organisation please get in touch via: www.cpresurrey.org.uk

OBITUARY – PETER SPINDLER, 1922 – 2021

JOHN GILBERT



Peter Spindler at the January 1995 SRHS anniversary dinner at the Hautboy, Ockham. Note the spelling of 'Society'

Born in Reading in 1922, Peter was educated at Reading Grammar School, leaving in 1939. With the outbreak of war his father's work took the family to Wantage where Peter took employment in the surveyors department of Wantage Rural Council. In 1940 he joined the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV), a precursor to the Home Guard, and a year later volunteered for RAF aircrew. Following two gruelling years of training Peter was commissioned as a Flight Lieutenant and posted to RAF Snaith with 51 Squadron as a navigator on Halifax bombers. He flew his first mission on 22nd June 1943 and upon completion of his tour of duty was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Not content with one tour, he volunteered for a second, flying from RAF

North Killingholme with 550 Squadron on Lancaster bombers. With his second tour completed during 1945, he was awarded a bar to his Distinguished Flying Cross, finished operational flying, and became an instructor for the remainder of the war. After his gallant war service the pipe-smoking and dashing former RAF navigator worked in the banking and accounting sector, where his immaculate attention to detail was once again to serve him well.

Our long-standing History Society member Peter, aged 99 years, and formerly a resident of Papercourt Lane, Ripley, died 10th December 2021, having spent his final year at West Hall Care Home in West Byfleet. A widower for 51 years, he leaves a son, Nicholas.

Whereas others may have succumbed to the pressures of living alone, Peter still managed to live life to the full along with friends, neighbours and his fellow church-goers at St Nicholas' Church, Pyrford. Albeit nowhere near as exciting and dangerous as his war years, he was able to enjoy a life of quiet contentment with a passion for reading, keeping abreast of current affairs both locally and nationally as well as tending his beloved garden, not forgetting his unwavering faith.

I should like to add a personal anecdote: It wasn't long after my wife Fiona, and our two Westie dogs came to live in Papercourt Lane that we began to chat away merrily with our new-found neighbour Peter. At first, I had the distinct feeling that he was giving me the 'once-over', ensuring I was actually worthy of joining this tranquil and pleasant little spot of dear old Blighty. Once he had completed his undercover, stealth-like enquiries and on establishing that despite having just retired from the police, I was not a special advisor to MI5 or otherwise, but simply a local gardener, he asked me whether or not I would like to tend to his pride and joy. There followed many years of therapeutic toil and soothing tea breaks. Peter would prepare our refreshment, using a teapot of course and always supplying at least three biscuits and, around Christmas time, a glass of sherry!

Without fail, our congenial breaks from hedge trimming and mowing would be re-enacted at precisely the actual given time agreed beforehand - not a minute or so either way. He would then open his red accounting book and would often tell me that I had not changed my hourly rate for several years. Attention to detail to the fore once again. I recall daring to answer back on one light-hearted occasion when I foolishly replied, "You of all people, with your background, should know that you can't put an hourly rate on genius!" He gently smiled.

On a more serious topic, I will always recall one other occasion when we were discussing his dramatic war. Peter, like so many heroic veterans, simply didn't enjoy going into too much lurid detail and in truth, who could blame them? He did, however, say "John, I didn't have time you see. I was always working away and although sometimes flak would penetrate my cabin area causing smoke and setting fire to my maps, which was a nuisance, I didn't see much of the outside. I certainly never saw a German. It was utterly surreal, the following day, after our mission we would all go out to the pictures! It wasn't anything really; we were just doing our job."

Many thanks Peter, it was a pleasure.

[1] DFC and Bar photo c/o Alan J Thomas, director of <https://www.medalsofengland.com/>



Peter, January 1942 whilst undergoing training at Elementary Air Observers School, Eastbourne, aged 19



Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar [1]

40 YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN

This article by Les Bowerman appeared in Newsletter 42 of January 1982 under the title 'Change in the Parish – Part 2'. What he describes ranges beyond the strict boundaries of the parish of Send.

The article in Newsletter 33 commenting on the closure of some village shops of long standing in the 1960s and 1970s served as a reminder that this is not the only facet of parish life which has slowly and quietly undergone considerable change during that period.

Agriculture in the parish in the 20th century has never been solely in the hands of the working family farmers, known generally as yeomen.

Owing to its proximity to the capital in an area favoured as the residence of professional and business persons, some farmland has always been in the hands of farmers who looked on their farms as an amenity, and who did not derive their main income from them. However, from the 1960s to the late 1970s several hundred acres of farmland have passed into other hands for other uses. With the dispersal of the last remains of the large estates of the Earls of Lovelace and Onslow, a condition of potential fluidity was created. The deaths of the Durmans, father and son, at Bridgefoot and Ryde farm, the Hunt family at Holride, the Humphrey brothers at Grove Heath, WA Secrett at Heath Farm and WL Keene at Gosden Hill have contributed to a considerable acreage being put to other uses. The retirement of J Royle at Jury Farm (his hobby was schooling a couple of hunters each year and with one of these, Nickel Coin, he won the Grand National in 1953) of MR Claydon at Dedswell Manor in 1978 and of J Oliver at Send Court Farm in 1979 added to the considerable list with a total approaching 3,000 acres or perhaps in excess of it.

It may be of interest to consider a few of the outside pressures which have absorbed this land. A large proportion is in the hands of a titled international caterer and hotelier, a West End restaurateur, a broker at Lloyds and several other insurance and institutional concerns, investment companies and speculative developers.

The requirements of motorway construction and building in general have led to more mineral extraction and more land designated for mineral extraction, albeit a main condition of extraction being subsequent refilling and reversion to farmland.

From the affluent society have emerged many whose ambition and pleasure it is to own a children's pony or a light hack, and the parish seems at present congested by these establishments.

It is likely that the parish will experience further erosion of farmland in the future. A building boom will break out again some time and planning applications at present refused will be resubmitted.

It is pleasant to remember that in the midst of a not inconsiderable upheaval in this small piece of countryside in recent years, one yeoman farmer remains immovable. This is of course Mr David Gribble who has followed his grandfather, father and uncle at Papercourt, one of the ancient manors of the parish.'

I fear we have to smile today to find Les referring obliquely to Lord Forte as 'a West End restaurateur'; the 'insurance broker' was Charles Hughesdon who owned Dunsborough Park on Ripley Green and four local farms with over 2,000 acres. My wife and I live in the farmhouse of one of them, Church Farm, Wisley (formerly Wisley Farm) 250 acres of whose former farmland now comprise The Wisley, one of the country's most expensive golf courses. I am certain that, were he still alive, Les would be saddened to see how accurate his forecast of future 'erosion' has turned out to be.

LETTERS

Anne Cornell writes: lovely to receive our copy of edition 281 - you have done The Rio proud, thank you so much. Unfortunately there is one little error - my fault totally.

The woman in the page 19 photo with John and Rowland is Anita French, who was our cook - see her again on page 20. Otherwise I hope members enjoy the read.



Kathie and Anita French in the kitchen



John Rowland and Anita French, ready for the Ripley Event fancy dress competition as Mr Toad, outside Rio Café

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RIPLEY'S CHRISTMAS WINDOWS

DITZ BROWN



Cedar House



Rose Lane entrance to Cedar House

The *Ripley Reporter* of 1st December 2021, a mail sent out by the Ripley parish council, featured the following article which inspired me to venture out and take some photographs. Unfortunately this had to be done on a dull day, otherwise too many reflections on the windows' glass would have distracted from Aga's paintings.

SEE THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE WINDOWS OF RIPLEY

Windows in the quaint village of Ripley in Surrey have been decorated with beautiful festive scenes in support of the reopening of a local school, closed in 2018.

The festive extravaganza, orchestrated by local resident, Jaimie Patrick-Abbot, and financially supported by the Ripley Business Association has seen the talented artist, Aga Skiba, commissioned to paint windows along the High



Richardsons



Café Beirut

Street. The result is a magical masterpiece that children and families will love to see.

Jaimie said: “I wanted to bring some extra magic and sparkle to this gorgeous village in which we live whilst at the same time, bringing businesses & community together to raise funds to re-open our local school.”

“This is the second year we’ve brought Aga to the village and working with her again has been a dream.”

Twelve businesses in the village are involved, with windows depicting scenes from a Dickensian Christmas, within each scene are hidden toy soldiers for local children to find; collecting the set allows them to enter a competition to win prizes in each of the cafés.



Thomas Ford & Sons



Ilsanto Hair Salon



Ground floor window of Thomas Ford & Sons



Ripley Curry Garden



The bay window at Pinnock's

The artist behind the displays, Aga Skiba, who has also painted windows for Harrods, Rolex & The Burlington Arcade said: “I absolutely love to bring joy to people with my displays, but it’s particularly satisfying to do so in such a delightful place and for such a worthy cause, joining together with so many local Ripley businesses to create a masterpiece worthy of a London High Street.”

The Friends of Ripley School along with the business association are seeking support to raise money to protect and re-open the village school which was abruptly closed in 2018 despite having 150 pupils amongst a growing local population. Catherine Leeson, of the Friends said: “The Friends of Ripley School are immensely grateful to the Ripley Business Association for supporting this campaign and for recognising the value of our village school site for the whole community.”

Ripley village is a beautiful place for families to live or visit and at Christmas they go to town with wonderful Christmas lights that line the High Street, a Christmas Fair and now these festive works of art.



Stag window at The Clock House



Small window at Cedar House

Local business owner Deborah Holden is particularly keen for people to come and enjoy the magic of Christmas amongst Ripley’s windows, adding: “I spent a magical evening watching Aga paint into the night; she has an incredible eye for style, scale and detail and her art is as exquisite from the inside as it is from the outside.

“Stop for a coffee in one of our fabulous shops, book a Michelin-starred lunch at The Clockhouse or The Anchor, or simply enjoy the walk along the High Street to see the beautiful Christmas windows & lights. Your children will love spotting the Nutcracker toy soldiers in every window and can enter a competition to win prizes.

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THE 1950S AND 60S IN AND AROUND GUILDFORD

CAMERON BROWN

On 13th October 2021 David Rose entertained us with an illustrated talk entitled 'Back to the 50s and 60s'.

After the hardships of the immediate postwar years, youth culture came to the fore in the 1950s with young people adopting their own personalities, especially in the way they dressed - differently from their parents. It was the era of the teddy boys, with Guildford's first ones being Nobby Clarke and John Woodhatch, the latter later becoming a prominent borough councillor and mayor. David showed a picture of the pair strolling down Guildford High Street in their drape coats.

The youth club scene in Guildford was particularly strong, with a good number of clubs across the town. Staging plays and shows was very popular, and boys and girls often stayed with their youth club until adulthood.

Guildford resurrected its town carnival in 1952 and it proved very popular. Crowds lined the High Street each September to see the carnival floats and marching bands pass, and the 1968 carnival included a group of real Canadian Mounties!

The 1950s also saw the craze of cycle speedway with teams being formed all over Britain. It was particularly popular



Canadian mounted police parade through Guildford, 1968



The Chobham Rockets speedway team

in both the Guildford and Woking districts. They included the Guildford Aces, Westway Bluebirds, Guildford Park Panthers, Chobham Rockets and Woodham Stars.

Young and old alike enjoyed nights out at the pub or the social club and David showed some rare photos of people having a good time, taken by Guildford photographer David Salmon.

1953 was the first time for the Queen's coronation to be shown on television and many street parties took place in Guildford. David said he has photos of many of these but has not come across any from the Woking area.

Building of the Guildford Cathedral was resumed by the mid 1950s and the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh paid a visit in 1957, returning for its consecration in 1961.

The Beatles made their one and only visit to Guildford on Friday, 21st June 1963, playing at the Guildford Odeon. The Rolling Stones performed regularly in the area before they were famous, and starred at Guildford Civic Hall in 1964.

David, who has always lived in Guildford, said his first visits to Woking were in about 1965 with his dad, to watch the express steam trains heading to and from the west of



The flooding in Guildford in 1968

England as they thundered through Woking railway station. He also witnessed one of the final steam train specials before steam was withdrawn on the Southern Region of British Railways. It was Sunday, 11th June 1967 when he watched it from Twin Bridges near Woking station.

We were then shown photos of Woking town centre taken in the mid-1960s, shortly before its first major redevelopment. Buildings featured included the Albion Hotel, the ABC cinema and the Atalanta Ballroom.

From Ripley, David featured photos of Hoggett's newsagents, the Three Frogs cafe and a series of pictures featuring a couple of fine vintage cars at Colborne's garage.

The winter of 1962-63 was a particularly harsh one. Snow fell on Boxing Day 1962 and the temperature mostly remained below freezing until March 1963. Photographs included the frozen River Wey Navigation in front of the Jolly Farmer pub in Guildford, and people ice skating on the flooded and frozen Shalford Meadows.

The talk concluded with a reminder of the infamous floods of September 1968, with views of Guildford town centre and Old Woking. It was said at the time that the floods were on a scale that only occurred 'once in 1,000 years'.

All pictures courtesy David Rose



The Albion Hotel, Woking



Woking station in the final days of the era of steam

THE WHITE HART, RIPLEY

ALAN COOPER



Group photograph taken outside the White Hart in Ripley circa 1976

The White Hart pub has been written about or gets a mention in at least 12 of our Journals (the index of all Journals is available on our website). It also has a chapter to itself in the SRHS book *Ripley and Send, an Historical Pub Crawl*. I have, however, come across an interesting group photograph which we have not featured before.

Ripley resident Mick Biard recently gave me a copy of this photograph, taken outside the White Hart around 1976. To date we have only managed to identify 13 of the 25 individuals. Although a relatively modern image, many of those featured are sadly no longer with us. I have spoken to several people who recognise the photo but none can recall why it was taken.

Those known to be in the photograph are:

Micky Setright, Gary Nunn, John Patrick, Peter Martin, Jimmy Belchamber, Derek Smith, Steve Pike, Julie Langley, Reg Gaines, Dave Roker, Dave Porter, Pat Webb and Lennie Thompson.

If you can help with naming anyone else in the picture and maybe give an explanation as to why it was taken, we would appreciate your making contact.

The White Hart started life in Footbridge House which was originally known as the Waterhouse, and moved further west along the High Street in the early 18th century.

To further complicate matters, it was to a building which was already a pub, called the Spread Eagle.

From about 1904 the White Hart was fully licensed and owned by Lascelles Tickner brewery. In 1926 it was sold to Friary Holdroyd and Healy and by the time it closed was under the ownership of Friary Meux. ^[1]

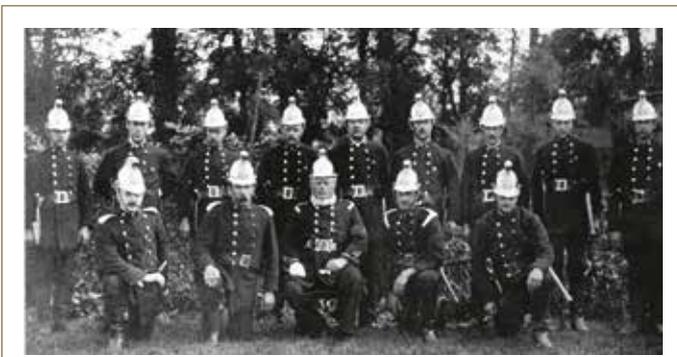
John Pullen, landlord from 1908 until 1919, was actively involved with village life and was also captain of the village fire brigade, whose headquarters were in Rose Lane and are used by the Scouts as their base to this day. He was also a member of the Ancient Order of Foresters, a friendly society formed in Yorkshire in 1834.



The White Hart in the early 20th century. John Pullen was landlord from 1908 until his death in 1919, aged 77. He originally hailed from Kirdford, West Sussex and can be seen leaning in the doorway to the right of the picture



The Ancient Order of Foresters outside the White Hart. We can but assume that this astute businessman provided refreshments for the Foresters both during and after their meetings



Ripley Fire Brigade with Captain John Pullen, seated, centre of front row



Top: Sage Antiques and Interiors
Bottom: The White Hart today – now residential

The opening of the new A3 in 1976 probably sounded the death knell for the White Hart as the by-pass reduced the traffic passing through Ripley and there were simply too many pubs. It had a brief spell as a bistro under the management of the landlord of the Ship, David Shuttle, but closed in 1988. It then became an interior design business trading as Sage Antiques and Interiors and in 2016 applications were made for change of use. It is now a residential property. Although the elevation at ground level has changed considerably, the upper storey is pretty much as it was over 100 years ago.

^[1] *The Breweries and Public Houses of Guildford – Part 2* by Mark Sturley

1976 photograph Mick Biard collection

1908-1919 and current photos Alan Cooper collection

Fire Brigade, Foresters, Sage Antiques and Interiors photos SRHS archives

WORLD WAR ONE SOLDIERS AT THE HUT HOTEL, WISLEY

ALAN COOPER



The Hut Hotel viewed from Cobham looking towards Ripley

A recent visit to a local postcard fair led to the purchase of an unidentifiable image described on the back as Wisley Lake, 6th September 1916. Fruitless hours were then spent searching through local newspapers of the day in question for further information. Intrigued, I showed it to fellow postcard enthusiast and Cobham resident Graham Johnson who immediately recognised it as being one of a number of similar cards in his collection featuring soldiers recuperating from their injuries during World War One on and around Wisley Lake and the Hut Hotel. ^[1] Every card was studiously annotated in the same hand and we initially believed these men were cared for at the Schiff Hospital for the Wounded in Cobham, it being known that Schiff patients regularly visited the Hut Hotel.

THE SCHIFF HOME - COBHAM

In 1903 Miss Etheldred Fraser-Tytler and others

began fund-raising to enable the purchase of a suitable property 'probably somewhere in Surrey' for conversion into a convalescent home for post-operative patients from London. By 1910, when between £30,000 and £40,000 had been raised, Ernest Frederick Schiff contributed £132,000 towards the project as a memorial to his brother Alfred. ^[2] This more than generous donation enabled the purchase of Knowle Hill Park on Fairmile Lane, Cobham. The property stood in grounds of some 48 acres and after a new wing had been constructed could accommodate 75 patients. The Schiff Home of Recovery, as it became known, opened in November 1910 and initially received patients from six London teaching hospitals. It provided accommodation for surgical patients recovering from accidents or operations, who were not well enough to return to their normal activities, but did not need much nursing care, thus freeing up acute beds in the general hospitals.

During WWI, Ernest placed 21 beds at the disposal of the War Office and it became a 'hospital for the wounded' – the first hospital outside London to receive wounded soldiers. The home was affiliated with the Horton War Hospital located in Epsom on 28th September 1915 and two further wards were added in 1918, creating an extra 40 beds. It was typical of many such properties throughout the country that were converted to care for the enormous number of wounded men being sent home on a daily basis throughout the war years.

The military section of the home closed on 2nd October 1919. [3] After many changes of management over the years it eventually closed in 1980 with the property being sold to the Wellcome Foundation. It is now the headquarters of Cargill, the international commodity traders. [4]

Ernest Schiff received a knighthood in 1911 but was profoundly affected by the unpleasant xenophobia created by the outbreak of WWI, despite the loyalty to his adopted country displayed over many years prior to this. [5] He died at home in London on 5th November 1918 aged 77 and was buried on Armistice Day, 11th November 1918 at Brookwood Cemetery.

When Graham kindly let me photograph his cards, a second date was spotted on some, 16th August 1916. This led to further investigation in the archives of the *Surrey Mirror and County Post*, this time with success as one of his cards was reproduced in that newspaper. It transpired that the men in all the photos were actually from the Hillfield Red Cross Hospital and the Ward Hospital – both located in Reigate.

An account of the activities of Wednesday 16th August, recorded in the *Surrey Mirror and County Post* week ending Friday 25th August 1916 under the heading 'Entertaining the Wounded' is reproduced here:

'At Reigate a most successful outing for wounded soldiers from the Hillfield and Ward Hospitals was kindly arranged by Mr. GR Burtenshaw and Mr. WH Muddle, to the Hut Hotel, Wisley, near Ripley, in motor cars and sidecars, on Wednesday, 16 August. A splendid tea was provided by Mr. H Pulling, the proprietor of the hotel, who also kindly placed at the disposal of the wounded Tommies the boats on the lake, which they all greatly appreciated. Those who kindly assisted in the outing were: - Reigate: Mrs. Davison, Messrs. Mellersh and Neale Ltd., Mr. GR Burtonshaw, Mr. WH Muddle, Mr. G Peskitt, Mr. W Harris, Mr. Pepper, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Watkins, Mr. Webb, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Bird, Mr. Richens, Mr. H Guy, Mr. R Stannard, Mr. G Faulkner, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Aris, Mr. Cook, Mr. Worley and Mr. Fowler. Redhill: Mr. Rigden, Mr. J Stoneman,



Noted verso: Awaiting the call for tea Hut Hotel 6 September 1916



Noted verso: Group outside of the Hut Hotel ready for the homeward journey 6 September 1916



Noted verso: At tea on the lawn. 56 wounded soldiers and friends. 95 in all Hut Hotel 6 September 1916



Noted verso: Watching balloon descend the other side of the lake Hut Hotel 6 September 1916



Noted verso: Enjoying the gramophone Hut Hotel 16 August 1916

Mr. Freeman, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Pilbeam, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Linguard. Mr H. Snook did good service with his camera on the journey and at the hotel. A few friends who were unable to attend subscribed to the teas. Letters were received by the organisers from the two hospitals expressing thanks to all concerned.

Arrangements are being made for another outing next Wednesday. Those who desire to take part in the run will assemble outside the Beeches Hospital, Wray Lane, Reigate, at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 30 August. Further information can be had from G Burtenshaw, The Hut, Reigate Heath, or EP Duplock, 15, High Street, Redhill.'

HILLFIELD RED CROSS HOSPITAL, RAGLAN ROAD, REIGATE, SURREY

The Hillfield Red Cross Hospital opened on 2nd November 1914 in a house lent by Mr Spencer Langston. It was designated a Class B hospital. Its first patients arrived from the Royal Herbert Hospital on 10th November 1914. The hospital had 50 beds and an operating theatre, and was staffed by a trained nurse who acted as Matron, and 40 members of the Surrey/50 and /58 Voluntary Aid Detachments. Miss Kitto's Relief Hospital served as an annexe. Entertainment for the



Noted verso: A few of the wounded taken after tea Hut Hotel 16 August 1916

patients was laid on by the local residents. During 1916 some 389 convalescent servicemen were admitted for general treatment and physiotherapy. On 1st July 1916 the Hospital became affiliated with the Horton (County of London) War Hospital in Epsom. As well as treating cases from overseas, the hospital was heavily used by local troops suffering from severe illness. It closed on 31st December 1918. The house was later demolished and the site is now occupied by a housing estate. Some of the old surrounding wall can still be seen. ^{[3], [4]}

At the outbreak of World War One the Ward Convalescent Home for Children in Reigate was transformed into a Class B military convalescent hospital by the Hon Mrs John Ward.

The Ward Hospital opened in October 1914 with 18 beds. The nursing staff comprised three Red Cross nurses. By November the hospital was caring for 16 wounded Belgian and British servicemen.

In December 1914 Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria visited, speaking to each of the men. The Wards accompanied the Royal party and each patient received the gift of a cigarette case or tobacco pouch with his name inscribed on it.

By the end of March 1915 all the beds were occupied. On 28th September the hospital became affiliated with the Horton (County of London) War Hospital and closed on 15th January 1919.

In the early 1960s the property was demolished and its site redeveloped. It now contains Hartlington Close, a gated residential estate. ^{[3], [4]}

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Born in Preston Candover, Hampshire, in 1872, Henry Joseph Snook is recorded in the 1901 census as living at 7, Glovers Road, Reigate, Surrey with his wife Ellen (née Stannard), whom he married in 1899 and baby daughter Alice.

The multi-talented Snook's occupation is given as as 'Laundry carman, photographer, picture frame maker and preacher'!

We believe he placed the notes on the rear of the cards as they represented his 'proof set' from which he would have offered copies for sale to anyone interested. He was the proud owner of a motor bike and sidecar 'combo' and died in Reigate in 1934.



Noted verso: Wounded soldiers on the lake Hut Hotel 6 September 1916



Noted verso: Some of the wounded going for a row on the lake in front of the Hut Hotel 16 August 1916



Noted verso: Wounded soldiers on the lake in front of the Hut Hotel 16 August 1916



Noted verso: My Motor Bike and Sidecar outside of the Hut Hotel 16 August 1916

THE HUT HOTEL PROPRIETOR

Henry Pulling was born in North Chapel, West Sussex in 1856 and in 1891 is recorded as being a licensed victualler running an un-named public house in High Street, Reigate, with his wife Sophia Elizabeth (née Thatcher) whom he married in 1883. In 1901 they are recorded as being fishmongers at 42, High Street, Reigate. Reverting to life as publicans, they became manager and manageress of the Hut in 1905. Sophia died in 1908 and daughter Bessie Louise took the position of manageress. Henry remained as manager until his death in 1928. Both are buried at All Saints' Church, Ockham.

Grateful thanks to Graham Johnson for allowing this amazing collection of cards to be photographed and reproduced here and without whose assistance, this article would not have been possible.



Noted verso: Preparing for home Hut Hotel 16 August 1916

- [1] A familiar landmark, the Hut Hotel was demolished in the 1970s when the A3 was widened at that point
- [2] Ernest and Alfred made their fortune in the 1870s on the London Stock Exchange, running the well-known firm of Messrs AG Schiff and Co
- [3] The Wartime Memories Project (wartimememoriesproject.com)
- [4] *Lost Hospitals of London*
- [5] Ernest Schiff was of Austrian descent but was naturalised as British in 1875

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THE FUTURE OF THE MUSEUM

CAMERON BROWN

The old Ripley village hall has been demolished, to be replaced by two buildings in new locations on the site. The smaller of these is close to completion; at present there is no firm timetable for the new main hall. The electricity supply for the museum used to come from the old village hall but we were told a few months ago that this will not be possible in the future and that we would have to pay £8,000 for a new power supply (over half our reserves).

At this point we convened a committee meeting to discuss the strategic options for the Society for the coming decades. We are used to having our museum but should we consider abandoning the physical building, and preserve our collections and research material digitally and dispose of the physical material – perhaps give it to the Surrey History Centre – and just accept that times are changing?

It might be a reflection of the average age of your committee that there was a unanimous feeling that we should try our best to preserve the building on its current site if possible.

We agreed that we should nonetheless consider how to evolve our digital offering – for which we probably need the help of a younger generation.

Because the landscaping around the new small hall was to take place in January the former Village Hall Trust (now called Ripley Village Hall – so RVH) needed to put the trench in for cabling very soon or face substantially higher costs. RVH informed us that because of their own ongoing fund-raising, they were unable to help with our costs. We were told that if we did not accept the quote more or less immediately and pay a 50% deposit, the price would be increased to around £12,000.

Our problem was that expenditure at this level should be authorised by our members but we would not have enough time over the Christmas period to arrange an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) soon enough to meet RVH's timetable. Very fortunately one of our members, who wishes to remain anonymous, offered to underwrite the whole of the £8,000 should the expenditure not be approved by members at the EGM. We therefore accepted the quote, paid the deposit and

RVH kindly offered to provide a water supply at no additional cost once the new main hall is built.

When the Society was given the building which became our museum by the National Westminster Bank in 1989, ownership of the property was handed over to the charity owning the village hall because it was being sited on their land. The Society paid the costs of moving the building from its former location and for its re-siting near the hall.

Since the opening of the museum we have had a written agreement in place that allows us to stay there at a peppercorn rent (ie effectively rent-free) for as long as we wish, paying only for the repairing and insuring of the building as well as our share of the electricity used. However, this one-page document does not constitute a formal lease, which we will need if we are to have access to grants for our planned renovation of the museum and for the possible construction of a store room. Draft lease documentation is now with our solicitors and we hope that agreement can be reached soon with RVH.

At the EGM on 12th January 2022 it was explained to members, ahead of their vote, that in theory they could be agreeing to fund the electrics and find it was all for nothing if a lease could not be agreed. We did however add that we are very hopeful that agreement will be reached. The 48 members who attended and 35 of the 37 who sent in postal votes were in favour, with two abstentions and no votes against, therefore the expenditure has been agreed to.

Our next task is to negotiate a long term lease to guarantee our future security of tenure, following which we will review the refurbishment plans and consider fundraising options.



The new small hall nearing completion © Ditz

WHAT IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

A STRANGE LOOKING IMPLEMENT. WHAT PROFESSION WOULD USE SUCH A THING?



WE ASKED IN J281 WHAT THIS OBJECT WAS



The mystery object was a 'finger' from a finger bar mower. The only person who identified this was Steve Hewlett.



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THE CLOCK HOUSE



A finger bar mower

DISPOSAL OF BOOKS

CLARE McCANN

In order to make a little room in the museum library for the collection of Surrey Archaeological reports we have received from the Bowermans, I am proposing we get rid of various books to do with the two world wars – none of them local. If anyone would like to have them and perhaps give the Society a donation or offer to e-bay them for the Society then please let me or Cameron know.

THE BOOKS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

History of the 20th Century, three volumes (paperback), by Martin Gilbert

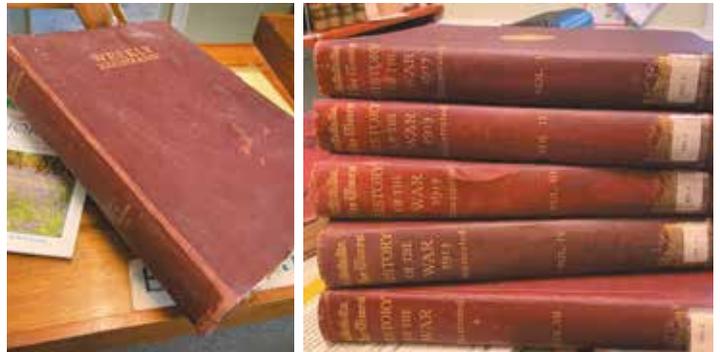
The Story of the War, three volumes published by *The Daily Telegraph*

The Times History of the War, five volumes (1-4 and 7)

The Great War, ed HW Wilson, one large volume in poor state

The War in Pictures, Odhams Press, six volumes (WW2)

Weekly Illustrated, one volume July – December 1935



Top, left to right: *Weekly Illustrated*, *The Times History of the War*.
Bottom, left to right: *History of the 20th Century*, *The Great War*, *The War in Pictures*, *The Story of the War*

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NEW BOOKS FOR THE MUSEUM LIBRARY

CAMERON BROWN

We see copies of all new publications by the Surrey Archaeological Society and many are in the museum library. A recent addition is *Folklore of Surrey* by Matthew Alexander, published 2021. It is a fascinating study covering the area of the county as it was between 1889 when a large swathe of urbanised north-eastern Surrey was removed by the establishment of London County Council, and 1965 when Croydon and an area to the southwest were removed by the creation of Greater London.

Within these boundaries the author looks at traditions dating back, in some cases, many centuries. Another scholarly read from the Surrey Archaeological Society, but entertaining too.

THERE ARE SEVERAL ITEMS REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO OUR AREA:

The writer AJ Munby, who lived at Wheelers Farm, Pyrford, reports that Ripley was looked down upon by the villagers of Old Woking. He recorded in his diary in 1863: 'Lane tells me that the Surrey folks of Ripley are more primitive than many in far off countries. They keep up much of the old merriment and village customs. He ascribed this to the fact that they were isolated, six miles from the railway and with only a weekly carrier's cart to connect them with London. This is rather doubtful, for Ripley is one of the least isolated of Surrey villages ... less than 6 miles from Woking station, and standing on the busy London to Portsmouth road.'

ANOTHER TALE GOES:

Around 1900 a Ripley blacksmith laid a horse down on The Green to shoe it. The horse died of heart failure, unnoticed by the farrier, and having finished the job he flapped his apron to make it get up. This episode was seized on as proof of foolishness. For some time after this it was a standing joke with Old Woking people to make the motion of shaking a smith's apron on meeting a Ripley man, and Ripley was described as 'the place they shoe dead horses'.

AND YET ANOTHER:

Once a man trimming trees sawed off the branch on which he was sitting and fell into the Basingstoke Canal. On hearing about this a girl from Old Woking commented "I expect that was a Ripley man." He was.

MAYFORD (OLD WOKING) GETS A MENTION:

Whilst adultery might seem to be contrary to the morals of village society and could be punished, there is also evidence that casual affairs and wife-swapping were once accepted practices. Until around 1830 a group of villagers would meet at a pub in Mayford to exchange wives for the coming week. Victorian morality was, however, replacing Regency debauchery and the clergy put a stop to it.

THERE ARE MANY MYTHS CONCERNING SECRET TUNNELS AND BURIED TREASURE IN VARIOUS PARTS OF SURREY:

One of the earliest of the tunnel tales, where a monastery was said to be connected by an underground passage to a nearby nunnery, no doubt for salacious purposes, involved Newark Priory.

In 1718 it was noted in *The Natural History and Antiquities of Surrey* by J Aubrey, that a tunnel existed from Newark Priory, connecting with a (fictional) nunnery at Ockham: 'Ockham Mill is in Ockham Court, where the inhabitants have a tradition that there was formerly a nunnery ... What propagated the current opinion here was that, as the clerk told me, his father remembered to have gone into a vault at Newark Abbey, which, say the people, went under the river to a nunnery there, by which the poor deluded people would insinuate male [sic] practices between the monks and nuns, a common slander thrown upon the religious at the time of the reformation.' It should be pointed out that there were, in fact, no nunneries in Surrey at all.

Well into modern times another tale was told of a tunnel that ran from Newark Priory to Guildford 'which passes under the river five times'. As in so many of these stories, this tunnel was said to have been blocked up for safety reasons. Perhaps it is needless to point out that the archaeological dig at the site in 1928 discovered no such tunnel.

Our second new accession is a facsimile reprint of *A Glossary of Surrey Words* by Granville Leveson Gower. Gower first published his study for the English Dialect Society in 1893; this volume is a supplement containing additional material. In his introduction the author explains: 'I do not pretend to say that these words are peculiar to Surrey and are not in use in the adjoining counties of Kent and Sussex, or elsewhere; all I say is that they are the vernacular idiom of Surrey and are to be heard in the conversations of everyday life... I have tried to put down everything that is not in Standard English.'

Of course the use of standard English has become much more widespread over the century since this work was compiled, due to a combination of free education for all and the now ubiquitous influence of radio and television.

Regional accents have survived to a certain extent but genuine local dialect usage is now quite unusual.

I recognise only one of the long list of local pronunciations listed by Gower – but perhaps some of you whose families have lived here much longer than I will recall some of them?

THEY INCLUDE:

A or *e* before double *l* is pronounced as *o*; eg *foller* for fallow, *yoller* for yellow

E before *ck* or *ct* becomes *a*; eg *wrack*, *neglact*, *taxt* for wreck, neglect, text

Double *e* becomes *i* in such words as sheep, which is pronounced *ship*

I becomes *e* in such words as *pet* for pit, *kell* for kiln and double *ee* in the plural, eg *meece* for mice

Oi becomes *i* in such words as boil and spoil; eg *bill*, *spill*

The plurals of words ending in *st* are formed by adding *es* to the singular; eg *frostes*, *nestes*, *postes*

A final *sp* is always transposed, as in *hapses*, *wapses* for hasps, wasps

He goes on to list a number of what he describes as common mispronunciations, including: *batcheldor* (bachelor), *chimley* or *chimbley* (chimney), *curosity* and *curous* (curiosity, curious), *gownd* (gown), *musheroons* (mushrooms), *quid* (cud), *refuge* (refuse), *sarment* (sermon), *spartacles* (spectacles), *taters* (potatoes), *farmint* (vermin)

Many of the examples of 'non-standard' usage would not raise an eyebrow today and would be thought of as perfectly acceptable - if perhaps informal - usage.

Ain't for is not

Along with in place of with

Axe for ask [I thought this was a fairly recently-evolved dialect usage]

Bad for badly

Call for reason, as in *no call to say that*

Clean for altogether, or completely, as in *he got clean away*

'em for them

Give or *gave out* for fail/failed as in *after a few minutes his legs gave out* [Gower calls this a 'true Americanism']

Lonesome for lonely

Muck for mess or litter

Now and again for now and then

Peaky for unwell

Plenty for quite, as in *plenty big enough*

Us for we, as in *It wasn't us that did it*

Gower concluded his introduction by saying: "These words are happily still current in the rural districts, though their area becomes daily more circumscribed, and they may be destined to a lingering or speedy extinction."

Our library books are kept in the museum and can all be borrowed by members.

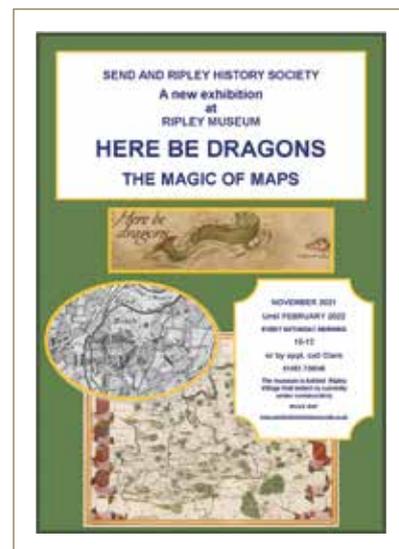
MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN

The most important museum news concerns the future of the building. An Extraordinary General Meeting of members was held on 12th January to decide whether or not to spend a significant portion of our reserves on a new electricity supply to the museum - see page 25.

The ongoing exhibition –‘Here Be Dragons’– looks at all aspects of maps but with a local perspective. We have several from the 18th century which demonstrate the importance of Ripley as a route from London to Guildford and beyond. There is plenty for younger visitors too: bring your children and grandchildren along to hunt for the dragons and to hold a real mammoth's tooth.

Please note the museum will continue to open only from 10-12 while the building work carries on. Incidentally, I am still happy to open by arrangement at times other than Saturdays. Just ring Clare at 01483 728546 or contact me at cricketshill@hotmail.com



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at Ripley Bowling Club in Rose Lane, GU23 6NE. Doors open for all evening talks at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Tea/coffee and wine available. NB - payment by cash only.

DATES - 2022	EVENTS
Wednesday 9th February	Mel Rees talk: <i>History of Hogs Back Brewery</i>
Wednesday 9th March	AGM plus Phil Davie talk: <i>History of St Luke's Hospital</i>
Wednesday 13th April	Mike Page talk: <i>Tudor Gentleman of Surrey – Sir William More of Loseley</i>
May	Trip to Loseley (date TBC)
June	Trip to Hogs Back Brewery (date TBC)
July/August	BBQ (date TBC)
Wednesday 14th September	James Dickinson talk: <i>Margaret Beaufort</i>
Wednesday 12th October	Margaret Taylor talk: <i>Update on Clandon Refurbishment</i>
Wednesday 9th November	Roger Heard talk: <i>History of Denis Brothers</i>
Wednesday 14th December	Christmas Social (members only)

Further details can be obtained from Helena Finden-Browne helena_findenbrowne@compuserve.com

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS



OPEN: SATURDAY MORNINGS 10.00 – 12.00

We can arrange to open at other times by appointment.

Note that currently there is pedestrian access only.

Please contact Clare McCann on 01483 728546 or cricketshill@hotmail.com for further information or if you wish to help in the museum.

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

History Colouring Book (price includes felt tips and a carrier bag)		£5.00
Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life	Reprinted 1998/2006	£10.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.00
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£2.50
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	£2.50
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	New Edition 2017	£5.00
Two Surrey Village Schools – The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools		£10.00
The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey		£2.00
Memories of War		£5.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£6.50
Send and Ripley Walks (revised edition)		£7.50
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£5.00
Special Offer: Purchase Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£5.50
Heroes All		£20.00

All the publications are available from the museum on Saturday mornings, from Pinnocks Coffee House, Ripley, or via the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk or email angie77@live.co.uk



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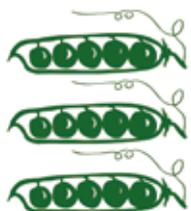
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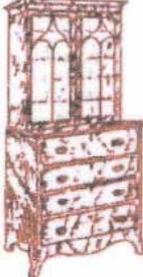
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