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Send & Ripley History Society

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Cover image:
The masonry workshop at Clandon Park © National Trust Images / Andrew Shaylor

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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

Exciting news: the remains of a late Bronze Age or early Iron Age settlement of at least five roundhouses have been uncovered during the building works on the M25/A3 junction on the left hand side between Wisley and the Painshill exit. I have spoken briefly to the head of the archaeology team, who described the project as 'very complex'. The largest of the structures has a diameter of 10 metres. Each of them is defined by ring ditches which surround the individual roundhouses; they overlap each other, indicating that they were built at different times, but all around 3000 years ago. The project team have promised to keep us informed of any developments.

The public enquiry to determine the planning application for the proposed Taylor Wimpey new town on the former airfield in Ockham drew to a close on 20th December. Apparently at nine weeks this was one of the longest ever inquiries for this sort of development and the inspector described it as 'both unusual and controversial'. A decision is expected in April 2024.

It is that time of year again. If you have not yet paid your subscription for the year please do so soon. We think we offer good value to our members but your committee is very conscious of the cost of living pressures we are all feeling. We do not wish to lose members who might be struggling and would ask any of you in that position to give one of the committee members a call before letting your membership lapse.

Please put 13th March, our AGM, in your diaries. The agenda is enclosed with this Journal. Accounts for 2023 and the minutes of last year's meeting will be emailed to members closer to the date. If you are not on email and would like copies, there is anything you would like to add to the agenda or you'd be interested in joining the Society's committee do please contact any committee member in good time.

Finally, I am sorry to have to report the death of our former long-standing member Joan Roberts.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th February 2024.

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 20 MB in any one email

cmb@aappl.com

MILESTONE REACHED ON CLANDON PARK PROJECT

EMMA FIELDS

Dr Fields is Communications and Marketing Consultant at Clandon Park. This article is a follow-up to a talk on the Clandon Park restoration project given to members in November 2018 and written up in J 264 of January 2019.

Clandon Park has reached an important milestone on the journey to bring the post-fire house back to life. The National Trust project team is in active discussions with officers from Guildford Borough Council and Historic England about the consent requirements for the first of three major phases of essential works needed to conserve the house. Clandon Park remains a Grade I listed building in its post-fire form and much of the work will be like-for-like repairs using original materials and techniques.

These 'essential works', as the name suggests, are crucial to preserve the core brick and stone structure of the house and its elegant external facades and they will conserve much of the surviving historic building and make it physically sound for the future. They are required in all circumstances. Proposals and designs for the interior of the house, including walkways, rooflights and roof terrace, will be subject to separate listed-building and planning applications at a later date.

In terms of size and cost this initial stage will constitute one of the largest building conservation projects ever undertaken by the Trust and represent a substantial element of the Clandon project overall. It will take approximately two to three years to complete and is programmed to begin around February 2024. The design and specification of this stage of the project has been made possible by the painstaking research, survey works and trial conservation undertaken within the house over recent years. In the meantime important experimental work with stone and brickwork continues and will soon include the dismantling and repair of a large chimney stack. Other necessary preparatory tasks are under way or will follow soon, including decontamination of surfaces, asbestos surveying and removal, the stabilisation of plaster and stone floors, additional protection of the remaining historic structure and the scaffolding of the interior spaces.

The masonry 'workshop' at the top of the scaffold
© National Trust Images / Andrew Shaylor

The work will be undertaken in three stages that reflect the varying condition of different surviving parts of the house. The first part focuses on conservation and repair of brick and stonework at the centre of the house, where this is most structurally sound. Part of the stone balustrade on the roof will also be dismantled and reinstalled as a trial. All the stone balustrades will be repaired in the second section of work, which also includes conservation and repair of the three external staircases leading up into the house. Other repairs will include the chimneys, the west porch and further structural repairs to the inside and outside of the south and central areas of the house.

The third part will concentrate on the north end of the building where structural monitoring is in place to assess the extent and causes of movement and cracking at this end of the building, that has been revealed by the fire but which predates it. These structural investigations will conclude whilst the first two packages are being delivered, allowing the appropriate conservation and structural engineering solutions to be undertaken as part of this third and final element of the essential works.

If you'd like to follow progress with the conservation and construction project, you can visit the Clandon Park project webpage at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/clandonparkproject. The house will be open to visitors again in 2024 and details of the opening hours will be on our website in the new year. We'd love to see you or hear from you. Email clandonpark@nationaltrust.org.uk with your thoughts and questions.

MEMORIES OF ROSSLYN SCHOOL, RIPLEY

CLARE McCANN

I have been in correspondence with a visitor to the museum, Sarah Whindle, who had a query about her great-grandmother, Elizabeth Mary Gammon, once a pupil at Rosslyn School in Ripley. I had not heard of this school but the journals index threw up an article by Jane Bartlett. It turns out that in 1881 Ann Bartlett (no relation) and her mother, the widow of a master from Ryde House School, were running a day and boarding establishment called Rosslyn House, approximately where the Co-op is now situated.

The boys' house of Ryde House School, formerly Rosslyn School

Ryde House Girls' School, Ripley

Jane says we do not know whether or not it was a rival establishment. What is clear is that some time after 1887 the two joined forces and the boys of Ryde House School became based in this building and the girls moved to Newark Lane.

Sarah then sent me more information about her relatives. Her great-grandmother, Elizabeth Mary Gammon, was born on 14th March 1869 in Battersea. She was one of three children including William James Gammon, who was about a year younger than her. The family then moved

to Addlestone where her father worked as a bailiff at Chertsey county court.

In 1875 her mother, Francis Elizabeth Gammon, died and her father, William Gammon, placed Elizabeth and William into boarding schools at Ripley. The youngest of the three children, Amelia, remained at the family home in Addlestone. William Gammon remarried in 1880 and had a further seven children.

The 1881 census shows Elizabeth Mary Gammon as being a resident student at Rosslyn House School in Ripley High Street. She was one of about eight female boarders listed on the census. The headmistress was listed as being Ann Bartlett. Her mother (also called Ann – the widow of the previous schoolmaster, James Bartlett) also lived at the school, along with a cook and a housemaid (this confirms what Jane had put in her original article).

The same 1881 census shows William James Gammon as being a resident student at Ryde House School in Ripley, where the headmaster was Thomas Berridge. William was one of about 50 male pupils aged from six to sixteen years old listed as residing there. Assuming the census lists the properties in High Street in order, Ryde House was further along the road, beyond Fairfield House (the GP's surgery), the post office, the Half Moon and Elm Tree House, but before Ripley House and the Talbot.

After leaving school (age of leaving unknown) Elizabeth and William returned to their father's house on The Green, Weybridge. By then their father had remarried and for a time they lived with him, his second wife and their half brothers and sisters.

By the 1891 census, Elizabeth had moved to London and is listed as a boarder at Alma Street in Kentish Town where she worked as the housemaid. She was later joined there by her younger (full) sister, Amelia. She was married in 1897 to James William Diamond and they had five children.

Sarah adds: "One of those children, Jessie Diamond, wrote a journal of notes on her family history. Jessie Diamond was my great aunt (my mother's aunt). She passed on the journal to me before she died. Her opinion

Elizabeth and William Gammon

Elizabeth Mary Diamond

of her father, James William Diamond was not high – she described him as being good looking but conceited and they were married before either had met the other's family. He lied to Elizabeth, who was then 28, claiming he was the same age. It transpires that he was only 21 when they married. He was a porter at the Athenaeum, founded in 1824 – a private members' club in Pall Mall. He struggled, however, to keep jobs for any length of time and refused any manual work in which he would have got dirty. He failed to provide sufficiently for the family, as his daughter Jessie recalls, 'because he passed too many pubs on his way home'."

To supplement the family income, Elizabeth Mary Gammon took on various jobs, never earning more than 10 shillings a week. She was forced to sell what little jewellery she owned, which she had inherited from her late mother, to feed her family.

In later life, Elizabeth left her husband and moved in with her daughter Doris and her husband Charles Bricker, to help look after Doris' twins, who were born in 1932.

Charles and Doris lived in Hanworth, West London and apart from a two-year trip to America to visit her son, she never left her daughter's house until she died in 1953, aged 84.

Sarah knows less about Elizabeth's brother William after he left Ryde House School. He was born on 21st September 1870 and it appears that he emigrated in 1895 on the SS Berlin to New York, where he gained American citizenship on 23rd March 1909. He lived in New York and worked as a steward. In 1915 William returned to the UK to visit family on an American Line ship, the 'St Louis', from New York to Liverpool and returned to the USA but it is not known where or when he died.

I asked Sarah what brought her back here and it turns out that her parents (her mother Margaret being Charles and Doris's daughter) moved to the Woking area in 1971. Sarah and her husband have only moved to Send Hill this year, although they were married at St Mary's Church, Send and had their reception at the Talbot Hotel Ripley in 1990.

All photographs ©S&RHS

40 YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN

In the early days of our Society there were a number of specialist groups, reflecting the wide range of interests of our members. Forty years ago these comprised: Buildings, Folk Memories, Industrial History, Documents, Photographic, Archaeology and Natural History.

The following report by Ken Bourne on behalf of the Natural History Group appeared in Newsletter 54 of January 1984.

Reporting on wild flowers in winter may at first seem a bleak and unrewarding prospect, but if the sun shines it is well worth venturing out to explore the fields and hedgerows to see what is happening. Christmas morning was mild (12 degrees c) [1] and the sun occasionally broke through the heavy clouds, so a walk to Papercourt Pond (sometimes misleadingly called Manor Lake) along Tannery Lane, returning via Papercourt Lock and the towpath, back to Heath Farm, was embarked upon. In case nothing else should be found I looked first at the several cultivated plants in flower in my garden. There are a dozen or more plants that prefer the winter to bloom, and among my favourites are *viburnum bobnantense*, with its fragrant pink flowers, and the winter flowering witch hazel – *hamamelis mollis*, which as often as not flowers on Christmas day, the yellow straplike petals making a brilliant display. The particular favourite of my wife, Phyllis, is the *iris stylosa* (Mary Barnard), the flowers of which vary from pale to deep blue, three of the six petals bearing white stripes on either side of a green/gold centre line. Some of our members may recall these flowers were used as part of the table decorations arrangement by Iris Watts for the Christmas social. It blooms from mid-December until well into spring.

The walk to Papercourt Pond produced no surprises on the way, except to recall that in November each year flocks of Canada geese descend upon the fields on either side of Tannery Lane in their hundreds to glean the remains of barley seed and eat the vegetation, thus putting on fat for the winter. They have now departed, but on the pond were a number of wildfowl, including the huge lesser black-backed gull and its smaller cousins, the black-headed and common gulls. Duck were also present in the form of teal, coot and mallard. There were pochard too, characteristically floating away from the banks asleep (heads under wings) with one or two keeping watch. Along the banks goat willow was beginning to show its catkins and clumps of gorse higher up the bank were bearing yellow flowers. Returning home I noticed a white deadnettle in flower; this member of the mint family seems to flower at any time of the year.

[1] Interestingly, the temperature here on Christmas morning this year was also 12 °C but over 15 °C on Christmas Eve

NEW ACQUISITIONS

PHIL DAVIE

WE HAVE RECENTLY ADDED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO OUR COLLECTIONS:

1. A ceramic mug commemorating the 25th anniversary of Send Help (1997-2023) which was presented to all clients and volunteers

2. An illustrated article (from 2017) describing results from a two year project to renovate the interior of Ockham Mill

3. *A Pictorial Archive of The Rotary Club of Ripley and Send 1975-2023*, a booklet produced to mark the club's 2023 closure. Also donated were a copy of the club's final gala dinner programme and the club's fabric banner.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAMERON BROWN

We received responses to questions posed by Clare McCann in J293's articles on Send Rec (p 11) and the village hall fund-raising poster (p 29) from Alan Cooper, John Purser and Janet Tice. Janet and Alan also spoke with Lesley Powell whose family owned Wellers bakers (see below).

Send Road with the offending ditch to the left of the picture

THE BUS IN THE DITCH

Alan Cooper commented:

The bus has 'London Transport' written on the side. This evolved from the 'London General Omnibus Company' in 1933. Buses passing through Send had to negotiate low bridges in both Woking and Staines, so were single-deckers. In 1950 new Regent Low Height (RLH) double-decker buses were introduced, which were capable of passing beneath them.

The bus in the ditch is a type T. These were manufactured from 1929 until 1945 with many variations. The chassis was manufactured by Associated Equipment Company (AEC) coupled to a variety of power-trains – both petrol and diesel – of various sizes. Bodies were manufactured by at least eight different coachbuilders. To attempt to narrow it down further, the window configuration suggests the bus is a type 11T11 with bodywork by Weymann of Addlestone. They were all phased out of use by 1949/50.

So, the accident took place between 1933 & 1950, unless Short Type Lengthened (STL) double-deckers were deployed in this area before the RLH type. STLs were mostly seen in central London (red buses) but a few were briefly used in the country area (green buses), notably Dorking when the type T was being phased out of use, in which case it's between 1933 & 1948.

RLH33 bound for Staines in Ripley High Street during 1969. This bus replaced the single-decker pictured in the ditch in J293. Note: in the background, the showroom of J Gibbs Ltd, now replaced by the Co-op

THE FUNDRAISING FLYER FOR THE VICTORY HALL

John Purser wrote:

With rationing still in place, there was some cynical comment at the time – 'Victory over whom?'.

In response to Clare's request for photos of the cycle polo match advertised on the flyer he says:

Bec Cycle Club were one of several clubs, mainly in South London, who ran cycle polo teams. It was something of an inner city interest which never caught on with local clubs such as the Charlotteville (Les and Anne Bowerman's club).

Alan Cooper adds:

SS Smithers Cycle Repairs and Car Hire is one of the businesses shown on the fund-raising flyer. This business caused me headaches a few years ago when researching my family tree. In 1898 one of my maternal great-grandmother's brothers, William John Tyrrell, of Blue Ryde Cottage, Ockham, married Annie Smithers, of Slade Farm, Ockham – one of his neighbour's daughters, who had a brother named Sidney.

Was SS Smithers related to Annie? I had previously spoken to our member Audrey Smithers and she was sure that this Smithers was no relation of hers. It would appear he wasn't related to Audrey or Annie, as, by coincidence, there happened to be two Sidney Smithers living in Ockham at the same time, one at Church End and the other at Bridge End. Annie Smithers' brother Sidney was an agricultural labourer and later a road labourer and lived at Bridge End, Ockham.

Sidney Samuel Smithers was born in Chertsey, Surrey in 1894. His mother Alice Harriet Smithers was born in 1868 and died in Chertsey in 1910. Sidney married May Louise Smith, from Chobham, Surrey in 1929 and lived at Mount

An evidently relaxed Sidney and May – May with teapot and cosy in hand and Sid with cigarette in his, totally oblivious to his surroundings – a garage full of highly volatile and inflammable substances!

Located opposite the Half Moon, The Gables filling station, cycle and cycle accessories and attached cottage to the right. Reputed to have been one of the oldest cottages in the village before its demolition in 1972, it was believed to date from the 16th century. The garage finally closed in 2002 after a series of owners. The 'shop' advertises private car hire – Sidney had been a private chauffeur before taking on the business

Walter Bassett's hairdressing premises, in what is today Hartley Antiques (© S&RHS collection)

Pleasant, Elm Corner, Ockham until 1932. They next lived at Ashlea, Church End, Ockham from 1933-1944. During this period Sidney was employed by Ian Campbell, a wine shipper and agent living at Elm Grove, Ockham, as a private chauffeur. From 1945-1947 they were at 3, The Green, Ripley and it is assumed that this latest change of address coincided with the beginning of the SS Smithers business, which incorporated The Gables filling station and the building behind the roadside petrol pumps, opposite the Half Moon. The couple finally moved to Burrow Hill, Chobham where Sidney died on 14th January 1963 and May on 28th March 1983.

Until recently, the site was boarded and destined to become residential housing. It is currently a used car business.

Bassett's the hairdresser: Walter Bassett was born in 1886 in Saffron Walden, Essex, where he learnt his trade. He moved to Ripley circa 1930 with his shop initially being next to Weller's the baker, in what is today Hartley Antiques. He moved to Stamford House, on the 'post office triangle' (between the two 'branches' of Rose Lane and the High Street) some time before the outbreak of WWII and died in 1957.

In 2016, when interviewed for J248, our member Wilf McCoy remembered having his hair cut at Bassett's. "Bassett the barber only used hand clippers and dad would go on a Saturday. The queue was so large that he would be gone all morning. I always got my hair cut in Guildford but one day I was desperate and went to Bassett's. I was greeted with 'same as usual' - I had never been there before!"

Janet Tice confirmed much of what Alan has written:

I manage the Society's collection of photos and remembered the WJ Bassett name. I checked our database and found a photo of his shop when it used to be in what is now Hartley Antiques. This photo featured in Journal 120 in which Lesley Powell told Jane Bartlett (who then recorded local memories) about her grandfather's bread shop Wellers being in that building with Walter Bassett's establishment at the other end. Our records show that the

The building to the right of London House (now Café Beirut) on the 'Rose Lane island' was at one time Basset's then Sallies hairdresser's (© S&RHS collection)

photo was donated by Ivor Powell and he says that in the 1930s Mr Bassett moved to where Sallies hairdressers was, (next to what is now Café Beirut).

Bernard Titcombe backed this up in his article in Journal 177 on Ripley in the 1950s. He said "the old post office and general store faced the High Street on the Rose Lane 'island', also the barber's shop run by Mr Basset." So I checked in the 1939 trade register which listed him as Walter J Bassett and his wife as Ellen. It states that he was at Stamford House, which is where Sallies hairdressers was.

Janet also recalled the Wilf McCoy memories in Journal 248, mentioned by Alan:

> John Purser remembers Basset's: WJ 'Bertie' Bassett had a hairdresser's next to the International Stores. He may well have lived above the shop as his wife delivered cups of tea to him. These were stored in a 'warming cabinet' in the shop. Whether the modest heat was meant to sterilise against cross-infection from the brush and comb, I know not. I do know that my normally placid father reminded Bertie that he'd come for a haircut and not to watch him drink tea.

The next hairdresser I can remember was at the other end of the village, in what may have been Surey's fish shop and subsequently fish and chip fryers. That was between the Half Moon and what is now the Dive Centre.

Finally, member Vernon Wood rang Clare to say that he got his hair cut at Basset's in the 1940s and the barber would put a piece of wood across the chair for small children to use. Clare remembers the hairdresser in Dorking doing the same when she was a child.

THE CANBERRA CRASH

John Purser also commented on this article by Alan Cooper:

> I can remember this. I was taken to see it, after school, still partially blocking the A3. As a result my dad, Philip Purser, manager of J Gibbs Ltd, was asked to organise the creation of a 'boggy patch' at the very end of the runway, in case this happened again. I'm fairly sure he asked a local farmer with a deep plough to chew up the surface of that slope. But I don't remember another incident. Maybe attention was paid to making the brakes work?

Alan Cooper adds:

Interesting; our member Steve Hewlett who worked for, amongst others, John Maiklam (local landowner and JP), also went with several other Ockham residents to view its removal. He recalls helping to create the boggy patch, presumably on the orders of John Maiklam. Apparently, its purpose was twofold, as it was also being created as a firebreak. Some locals were paranoid about the jet aircraft setting fire to hedges and bushes in that area on take-off.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY?

Member Vernon Wood wrote about the photograph on p25 of J293. Amongst the guests at Mr Goldstone's 65th birthday celebration Clare McCann had identified Joan Mussell. Vernon believes this was actually Joan's sister, Jill.

Unless otherwise credited, photos c/o Alan Cooper collection

GEORGIAN SEND AND RIPLEY

CLARE McCANN

Recently we added a book to the library about bishops' 'visitations' to the parish in Georgian times; these were visits by the archdeacon or the bishop and were originally administrative occasions at which local clergy or church wardens were asked to report on their parish. They make for rather dry reading but do add something to our knowledge of the area. Rather than write a stand-alone article I decided to set it in context using the material I put together for the fairly recent Georgian exhibition, some of which will have inevitably appeared in earlier journals.

GEORGIAN SEND AND RIPLEY 1714-1830

'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times' – so wrote Charles Dickens in his famous novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*, set in Georgian London and Paris – a succinct analysis of the era. When we think of Georgian England today, an image comes to mind of elegance of design, splendid clothes, delicate furniture and the backdrop of country houses set in exquisite landscapes. This side of Georgian society undoubtedly existed but was only one aspect. It was also a time of unrest and war. The historian JH Plumb [1] says 'perhaps the most obvious but least recognized feature of English life in the eighteenth century was its love of aggression' adding 'no nation rioted more easily or savagely – from 1714-1830 angry mobs were as prevalent as disease'. Rioting was not confined to working men but even broke out in grand schools such as Winchester and Harrow. The future Duke of Wellington was removed from the school after a large-scale riot. There were riots in Surrey though there are no records of any in Send or Ripley. War or the threat thereof did affect the locality but more of that anon.

The Georgian period was significant for a number of positive changes in the social life of the common people of England. One of the biggest changes was in the field of agriculture, and our community was largely agrarian. George III was an agriculture enthusiast and believed that the path to progress for a country was carved out of its agricultural practices. Due to his efforts, he even got the nickname 'Farmer George' during his reign, a period that marks the second agricultural revolution in England.

Before the 18th century, agricultural practices were traditional. The seeds were sown by hand and weeded by hand. Most of the farmers owned livestock, but many animals were slaughtered before winter because of the shortage of food for both cattle, the farmers and their families. The first major step that was taken during this time was to cultivate the lands throughout the year as opposed to letting the land lie fallow. The practice of growing turnips was adopted by many farmers because it not only helped them to increase their production but also provided fodder for their livestock.

Amendments in the process of land ownership were also made during the Georgian era. This included the enclosure of some farmland. Larger farms meant they could manage their crops more productively. There was a better understanding of manuring and feeding crops and new, more efficient types of plough were introduced. Generally people were better fed and the population increased. However, towards the end of the Georgian period things changed for the worse and there was a lot of rural unemployment. Many blamed this on the new machinery which led to the so-called 'swing riots' (see Journal 216 p8).

Entertainments were equally violent - cockfighting as well as bear- and bull-baiting were popular as was prize fighting. Killing animals for sport was commonplace. Betting, sometimes for high stakes, was intertwined with sport. Horse racing and cricket grew steadily in popularity and this was true of our locality.

Records show that cricket was being played in Ripley from the first half of the 18th century –making it one of the very earliest clubs in the world. For example, in 1747 'A great match at cricket for 50 guineas-a-side is made by the noblemen and gentlemen in the Artillery Ground with the return match to be played on Ripley Green the Thursday following' [2]. Cricket attracted a lot of betting on the outcome of games.

There is an extract of a letter from Godalming dated 1767 that appeared in the *Whitehall Evening Post*: 'The game of cricket is very much followed in this part, there being scarce a week but there is a considerable match about this town and Guildford. One such match was played at a little village

Lumpy Stevens, the greatest bowler of his day © The Roger Mann Collection

called Bramley, four miles hence between the best gamesters of Ripley and Bramley. The honour of winning was the lot of the Bramley lads... another match is pending between the same parties and is to be determined on Ripley Green'.

The most famous bowler of the day was Edward 'Lumpy' Stevens, born in1732 in the parish of Send (which then included Ripley). He was an English professional cricketer who played first-class cricket from circa 1756 to 1789 and was universally known by his nickname, 'Lumpy', in contemporary scorecards and reports. Stevens was a gardener by trade and his bowling prowess earned him a job on the Walton-on-Thames estate of the Earl of Tankerville, a noted patron of the game. Stevens probably began playing in great matches around the mid-1750s at a time when bowlers still bowled (or 'trundled') the ball all along the ground, as in crown green bowls. It is not known if Stevens was the first to 'give the ball air' but he was certainly around when that particular revolution occurred, probably before 1770. What is known is that Stevens was the bowler who made the most careful study of flight and worked out all the implications of variations in pace, length and direction and became a master of his craft.

John Arlott, the famous cricket commentator recalled: 'Once, in 1775 when Lumpy (Stevens) was playing for five of All England against five of Hambledon he was bowling when John Small came in last man for Hambledon with 14 runs wanted to win. Small got the runs, but three times balls from Lumpy passed through the gap in the wicket. Even his opponents thought it was not quite fair…. So, because Lumpy was beaten by that 2-ft by 1-ft hollow wicket eventually after a lot of argument in 1779 the number of stumps for the game of cricket was changed to three, they were made higher and brought close together so that the ball couldn't pass between them - in other words, the wicket as we know it today'.

The earliest record of thoroughbred races taking place locally was on Merrow Downs. In the *London Gazette* of February 1701, a three-day meeting was advertised from Thursday 1st to Saturday, 3rd May 1701. While cricket endured, the popularity of racing seems to have waned somewhat. It probably kept going at Merrow because of the Queen's Plate race, the last of which was held in 1870. The grandstand, a wooden structure, was pulled down earlier in 1854 and burned outside Holy Trinity Church

Merrow Down Racecourse – 1812 Ordnance Survey Map

in Guildford at one of the 5th November Guy Fawkes celebrations, which regularly turned into riots.

As has been mentioned, the Georgian era was a time of war and one of the most notable wars had an impact on Send in particular. The Seven Years War 1756 -1763 could be said to be the first true world war when interconnected conflict was taking place in Europe, North America and India. The principal combatants were the British and the French.

In 1759, to counteract a possible large-scale attack from across the channel, a number of battalions were strategically deployed in various parts of the country. Ironically the commander-in-chief of the British Army for

Lord Ligonier by Joshua Reynolds © The Tate

most of this time was the French-born Jean- Louis Ligonier or 'Ligoneer' as he was known to his contemporaries. It was he who established the camp occupying an extensive part of Send Heath.

Ligonier personally reconnoitred Send from his home in Cobham. If there was an invasion, the soldiers at Send were to join up with four battalions of guards from London. On the 17th of June in 1759, Ligonier received authority to proceed with his plan and went personally to lay out the camp at Send. Parish register entries of army marriages begin on the 5th of September. In August Ligonier fell ill but was well enough by the end of September to review the troops at Send before they went into winter quarters. The French invasion force was eventually ready to set sail in October but was destroyed by Admiral Hawke. The troops at Send Heath were not therefore called upon for action.

While it was known that there was an army camp in Send its exact whereabouts was uncertain until the 1980s when the Society established that the site of the Send Army Camp could be examined in a leather-bound book in the British Library which included colour plans of army camps between 1756 and 1771. They were all drawn by, or under the direction of Captain, later General George Morrison, who had a distinguished career as a military engineer and surveyor. The plan, reproduced from the manuscript with the permission of the British Library, shows clearly that the camp was located on the same site in successive years. The regimental details given for the four years in the associated table match exactly those given in the various camp entries for marriages and baptisms in the Send Parish Registers.

The plan is finely drawn but it is apparent that the surveyor only had a limited knowledge of the area. He was, it would seem, conversant with Old Woking and the road to Guildford, ie Potters Lane, as these parts of the plan are very accurate; much else seems to use a certain amount of artistic licence.

The camp itself was formally laid out in lines for the different regiments. There were four lines in 1759 but only three in each of the other years. In the first year the camp was approximately 700 yards long and 300 yards in depth and, assuming that the Cartbridge end of the camp was near to the present-day Heath Drive, it would have extended along Send Road as far as Wharf Lane (articles in journals 9/7, 11/2 and 76/6).

Despite its inaccuracies the plan gives a clear idea of the extent of Send Heath before the Enclosure Awards of the early 19th century. The only part of the Heath that corresponds to the present day is Potters Lane.

Army Camp (public domain)

Each July from 1759 to 1762 some 3000 soldiers arrived at 'Sandheath' camp to live in tents until the October when they moved to their various winter quarters. The regiments concerned and the places of origin of the soldiers show clearly that it was part of the regular army which encamped there and not the local militia. Letters show that during 1759 some 500 French prisoners were also 'received' at Send Heath en route from Chatham to Winchester. A battalion of the 5th regiment escorted these prisoners, a colourful event for a small village such as Send at the time. It can also be stressed that we should regard the camp as having brought fame and some importance to the village – the father of General Wolfe (of Quebec fame) being Colonel of one of the regiments and General Cornwallis having reviewed the troops here. Maybe it was only chance that dictated that Send retained the status of a sleepy village

rather than developing into a permanent military town like Aldershot.

Even so, while the camp was there, the sheer number of soldiers must have been quite an upheaval for a small farming community such as Send. In the summer of 1759 the population of Send and Ripley still stood at less than 1000 people. A family of husband, wife and two children would depend for its existence on obtaining farm work from the local landowner. A farm worker would earn about 40p a week to support his family. It is a reflection on the times that the ordinary soldier received some 30p a week and his Colonel about £8.50.

At the camp mixed quarters were not accepted at that time and the women and children known as camp followers would set up their camps nearby. In 1759 Thomas Buckeridge was the vicar at St Mary the Virgin, Send and he solemnised the soldiers' marriages. The regimental chaplains officiated at the marriages of 1760 and 1761. Assuming that, say, one in ten soldiers was married, then some 300 wives and perhaps 100 children were camped on Send Heath. Presumably they would want to be near to water and wood so the proximity of the Wey might have been attractive for their quarters. It seems reasonable to surmise that the locals, or at least the majority of them, breathed a sigh of relief when they all departed.

I think it is worth going into more detail here about Jean-Louis Ligonier, the commander-in-chief of the British army, not least because he ultimately became Earl Ligonier of Ripley. He was born in the French town of Castres, in the South of France, in the year 1680. The family were well-to-do minor nobility and were converted to Protestantism during the Reformation. Jean-Louis was christened in France by a Calvinist minister but was to die 90 years later an English earl and field marshal.

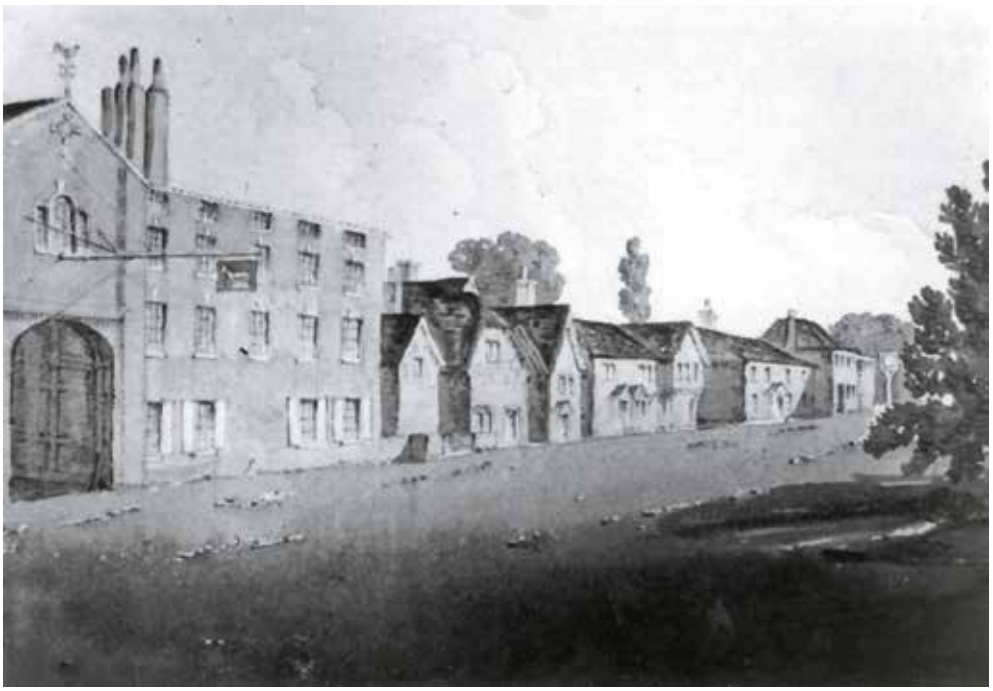
On 18th October 1685 when Jean-Louis was not quite five years old, Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes by which Henry of Navarre had guaranteed social and religious independence to the Huguenots. An exodus started at once. It has been calculated that about 600,000 Huguenots left, taking with them their irreplaceable qualities of thrift and craftsmanship. About 70,000 came to England, including several close relations of Jean-Louis. He probably arrived in England in 1698.

He had a long and distinguished career in the British army and was appointed commander-in-chief in 1758. During the Seven Years' War he also served as master-general of the ordnance, effectively acting as minister

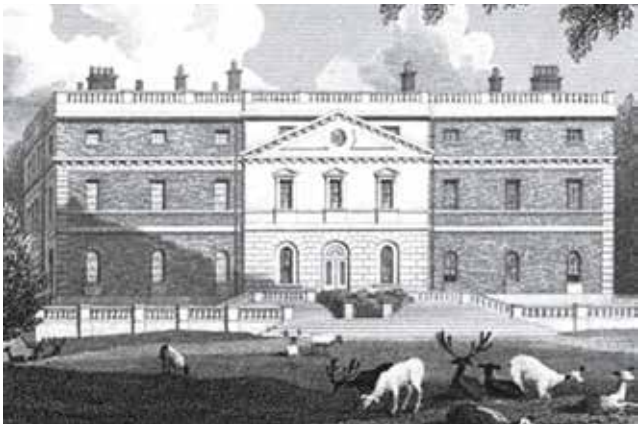
Lord Ligonier's tomb in Westminster Abbey (public domain)

of war for the Pitt–Newcastle ministry. He retired from active duty in 1763, died at his home at Cobham Park on 28th April 1770 and is buried at St Andrews, Cobham. There is also a memorial to him in Westminster Abbey. It seems unclear why he took the title of Earl Ligonier of Ripley (rather than Cobham) but perhaps it was because one Richard Temple, a Whig politician, had taken the title Viscount Cobham in 1718.

So what of other changes in the two villages and surrounding area? It was a time of a distinctive 'look'. Georgian architecture is the name given to the set of architectural styles current between 1714 and 1830, the period spanning the reigns of England's first four King Georges. The great Georgian cities of the British Isles were Edinburgh, Bath, pre-independence Dublin, London and, to a lesser extent, York and Bristol. The Georgian style is highly variable but marked by symmetry and proportion based on the classical architecture of Greece and Rome, as revived in the Renaissance. The new style was also found on smaller and more modest



The Talbot (© S&RHS)



Clandon Park (public domain)

buildings, replacing English vernacular architecture for almost all new middle-class homes and public buildings by the end of the period.

Regularity of house-fronts along a street was a desirable feature of Georgian town planning but for those unable to build a new house, a Georgian facade could be added to an existing older structure as was the case with The Georgian House in Ripley, a timber-framed building 'converted' to an elegant 'Georgian' property almost 200 years after it was first built, likewise the Talbot Inn. Even Send Grove, which featured in recent journals, seems to have been a remodelling of an earlier house rather than the new-build we had assumed. William Evelyn, the owner from 1760, brought some Georgian style to the property and the grounds, no doubt influenced by his illustrious grandfather, John Evelyn of Wotton.

The Georgian fashion reached Ripley rather later than the villages closer to London as prosperity followed the improvement of the road surfaces, attracting the middle classes to build their new homes and settle ever further from London and road improvements only reached Ripley in the mid-1700s.

The most significant local building of the Georgian period was undoubtedly Clandon Park (devastated by fire in 2015). The estate was purchased in 1641 from Sir Richard Weston of nearby Sutton Place by Sir Richard Onslow, MP for Surrey. The house was built, or perhaps thoroughly rebuilt, in about 1730-33 (the latter date is on rainwater heads) by Thomas, 2nd Baron Onslow to the design of the Venetian architect Giacomo Leoni. It was a rectangular building of red brick and stone dressings. Clandon House interiors, completed in the 1740s, included the two-storey marble hall, containing marble chimney pieces by the sculptor John Michael Rysbrack and a rococo plasterwork ceiling by Italian-Swiss artists Giuseppe Artari and Bagutti. Clandon Park was landscaped by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in 1776-81, replacing a French garden and transforming part of a disused canal into an ornamental lake.

It is undeniable that much of the wealth of the Georgian era was derived from Britain's ever-expanding empire and in particular the profits from slavery and Clandon was no exception. Elizabeth Knight inherited her wealth from Charles Knight, her uncle. Charles was a slave trader and owner of a plantation called Whitehall, in St Thomas-in-the-East, Jamaica and the enslaved workers who worked there, producing sugar and rum, all of which Elizabeth inherited. Her husband, Thomas Onslow, was the founder of a marine insurance company that dealt with slave ships.

However, it is important to say that many members of the Onslow family also distinguished themselves in public service. For example, on 23rd January 1728, Arthur Onslow was unanimously elected Speaker of the House of Commons, a post which had been held by his uncle Sir Richard Onslow, Bt and his ancestor Richard Onslow. He would be unanimously re-elected Speaker in 1735, 1741, 1747 and 1754, setting a record for length of service in that office of 33 years. It is also thanks to the Onslow family that the remnants of Newark Priory were preserved.

One interesting aside to the slavery issue was a local find, the cufflink shown here, which was discovered near Send Church. Sadly we don't know who the owner might have been but the image is based on a range of anti-slavery medallions, crockery and bronze figurines that were made, notably with the support of the potter Josiah Wedgwood, whose medallions featured a slave with the simple but effective question: 'Am I not a man and a brother?' Maybe there was an anti-slavery group in Send.

Another aspect of Georgian Ripley was the thriving coach trade. Roads in England had been laid down by the Romans but, after their departure circa 400AD, they gradually fell into disrepair. People travelled a lot less and avoided travelling in bad weather. Goods were often transported by river or sea. For example, in 1811 Mrs Dashwood (in *Sense and Sensibility*) sent her household possessions from Sussex to Devon by sea.

Anti-slavery cufflink (© S&RHS)

In the 17th century the surface of the trunk road was so bad that a whole day had to be allowed for vehicles to travel from Guildford to London. This led to the passing in 1749 of a Turnpike Act. Introduced in 1649 to authorise local trusts to levy tolls on road traffic and to use that income to repair and improve the road. They could also purchase property to widen or divert existing roads. The trusts were not-for-profit and maximum tolls were set.

A turnpike (toll road) was authorised for the Portsmouth Road in Ripley via the 1749 Act. The road improvements

A stage coach of the period (public domain)

Richard Weston of Sutton Place, instigator of the Wey Navigation (public domain)

financed by the tolls were so effective that stage coaches became able to travel the 70 miles from Portsmouth to London in nine hours.

The Victorian diarist AJ Munby noted that by the 1820s there were 27 coaches a day through Cobham, most doubtless continuing on through Ripley. Some would have been mail coaches, because from the late Georgian period Ripley was the post town from which mail was delivered over a wide area, with coaches stopping at the Talbot to change horses and pick up and drop off mail. There was a toll-gate near Send Dip and apparently the toll-gate cottage near the Jovial Sailor was there until about 1910.

There were, no doubt, many important travellers on the coaches through Ripley as it was a key route from London to Portsmouth. Our late chairman, Les Bowerman, always took issue with a connection between the Talbot and Admiral Lord Nelson as we have no actual proof of his stopping there but it seems highly likely he did. During the Napoleonic wars at the beginning of the nineteenth century there would have been a huge movement of men and equipment coming and going to the Continent and it seems inconceivable that the road through Ripley did not see a lot of activity.

One assumes it was a different story in Send which would have experienced much less coach traffic. The Guildford Road in Send was what is now Potters Lane and Send Road, as we know it today, was less important until the advent of the railway in Woking in Victorian times. No doubt there were horse-drawn vehicles going along this route but Send was nothing like as important as Ripley.

However, what did go through Send was the Wey Navigation, which predates the Georgian period. The original impetus for the navigation came from Sir Richard Weston of Sutton Place, who had travelled on the Continent in the first half of the 17th century looking for ways of improving his crops. In Holland he saw how flooding the fields in spring was used to protect them from frost.

But he also recognised the Wey's potential as a waterway and in 1651 an Act of Parliament was passed in the name of the Corporation of Guildford allowing the construction of the navigation with the first stretch being completed in the 1650s. In 1760 a further Act authorised the extension of the navigation a further four miles upstream to Godalming.

In the early days the principal freights were timber and agricultural produce, which was taken to London. Corn was brought back to the many mills on the river (maybe as many as 50 at their height) as well as general merchandise for Guildford and Godalming. Because of the bad state of the roads, the river was easier to use and, in the case of the gunpowder from the Chilworth mills, much safer. The barges were pulled by horses along the towpath and one strong horse could apparently pull up to 60 tons.

Finally – on to the information thrown up by the new addition to the library, *Parson and Parish in Eighteenth-century Surrey; replies to Bishops' Visitations volume 34*. There are three visitations in this period and each of them has an entry for Send or Send and Ripley.

I have not included all of the responses verbatim but thought that the selection below casts a few interesting

reflections on the makeup of the parish, the slightly complex setup between Send (the mother church) and the chapel at Ripley as well as the interest in Catholics and Dissenters in the parish.

The entry for Send in 1725 gives John Robinson as vicar (1701-1736) and there are a dozen responses from him, covering a variety of items such as area of the parish, population etc.

The Reverend Robinson estimates *'The number of souls, according to the best information I suppose them to be nigh 400.'*

Marriages etc: *'I take the number of marriages to be about 8 or 9; births 18 or 20; burials 16 or upwards in this parish one year with another.'*

Patron: *'The patron of this vicarage is the Right Honourable Thomas Onslow.'*

Chapels: *'We have in our parish a chapel at Ripley thought to be independent upon the mother church supplyd by The Vicar of Send and maintained and supported by inhabitants of that tything who have the right of nomination upon each vacancy. Here is besides the vicar a curate also.'*

Papists: *'As to the papists in this parish, there are two, both in the state of widowhood and in circumstances to all appearances but mean.'*

Dissenters: *'We have no meetings of protestant dissenters nor do I know even have any one protestant dissenter in the parish at this time.'*

Gentry etc: *'Persons of quality in this parish, we have none except the Right Honourable Lady Mary Irwin; as to gentleman but few, the main of our people being yeoman and farmers.'*

Schools: *'As the schools endowed in this parish we have none; a writing school and some petty schools we have where the master is found diligent and the dames (for anything I know) mindful of their duty.'*

Charities: *'For publick charities we have these following; 1. that of Henry Smith esquire £8pa and no more. 2. that of Sarah Hales gentlewoman 20s pa appropriated to so many poor widows yearly. 3. that of Madam Ann Haynes of £300 to be laid out in purchasing freehold lands when opportunity may serve. The produce of all which charities we yearly apply to the uses for which they were designed. Two or three parish houses indeed we have where we place some of our declining poor but hospitals none.'*

Post town: *'Whenever your lordship honours me with a line up on any single occasion please to have it directed to me and to be left at the posthouse in Ripley, that being our next post town. And as I can but admire your Lordship's unusual condescension in allowing us the freedom of communicating our concerns immediately to yourself so shall I gratefully make use of all that wellcome freedom when occasion offers.'* (original spelling)

His last response is clearly designed to ingratiate and I wonder if anyone knows who the Rt Honourable Mary Irwin was.

The visitation of 1764 lists Send and Ripley as one entity. The vicar is now Llewelyn-Davies (1763-91). The questions from the bishop are somewhat different and the vicar's answers very short.

On the state of the church he answers: *'The church is now repairing; the chapel is in good order. And there are all things necessary for divine service and for the Holy Sacrament.'*

Terrier: (A land terrier was a record system for an institution's land and property holdings. It differs from a land register in that it is maintained for the organisation's own needs and may not be publicly accessible.) *'We have no terrier of the glebe; but there is a note of the pensions belonging to the parish set up in the church and chapel.'*

Churchyard: *'The churchyard is sufficiently fenced and decently kept as to encroachments upon it, there is some doubt.'* Not the most convincing of answers.

Interestingly he says he has no curacy unlike the previous vicar.

With regard to the parsonage he states *'The vicarage house, barn at cetera much out of repair due to the neglect of the last incumbent.'*

Dissenters: *'There are some dissenters but there is no meeting house or other place for divine worship.'* There was no question regarding Catholics as a separate category.

The final visitation covered is that of 1788. The vicar was still Llewelyn-

Davies and the questions are similar to the 1725 format. He estimates the population at about 800 souls: men women and children.

One assumes this covers Send and Ripley and it is hard to make a comparison with 1725 as this may just have been Send. However, the population did rise during the eighteenth century.

The patron was still Lord Onslow and St Mary's is still described as a chapel in the hamlet of Ripley. There follows a long and complicated description of the way the land and patronage has operated. He says that, prior to 1731, Lord Montague was impropriator (a person to whom a benefice is granted as their property). He was a descendant of Sir Anthony Browne, who had been given the land at the time of the Dissolution. In due course Lord Montague sold most of his property to Lord Onslow and the payments made by him were for serving the chapel: *'Annually £6; in lieu of six loads of wood £4 and a free gift of £1.18 shillings'*. There is then a lengthy description of the arrangements since Lord Onslow's time as impropriator.

Dissenters are listed as: *'One papist only, an old woman. There is no protestant meeting-house in the parish unless two or three persons commonly called Methodist may be deemed such'.* (Methodism was growing during the second half of the eighteenth century).

Schools: *'There is no endowed School of the parish. John Crowder instructs about 40 boys in English, writing and arithmetic. Three or four women also may have about 15 children respectively under their care'.* Once again the role of women with regard to education gets a very casual mention – see the 1725 visitation.

Charities: *'There is no hospital or endowed charitable institution in the parish. The fixed donations for the benefit of the poor are specified in the enclosed copy of the return to the late parliamentary enquiry on this subject.'*

It then lists the charities but in addition to the ones mentioned before it gives details of £200 left by Mrs Leggatt, a small amount from William Boughton and an unknown donor who gave a cottage near the church which was exchanged with Major-General Evelyn (of Send Grove) for a cottage called Three Fords.

Even though this book is a little on the dry side it does fill in gaps about life in that period. For example, it reminds us that school was not yet compulsory and the provision for the poor quite variable.

Last year we had scans made of the court rolls but have not yet really explored them as a resource. From these we may have follow up material to add but hopefully this has given a taster of a period of history that is, wrongly in my opinion, written off as slightly dull, perhaps because, unlike the French, we managed to avoid a revolution.

[1] J H Plumb, *The First Four Georges*

[2] *Fresh Light on 18th Century Cricket* by GB Buckley

OBITUARY - MICHAEL COWAN, 1952-2023

Michael Cowan at Grange Park Opera

Society member Michael Cowan of Sendholme sadly died in October after battling bravely with illness for some time.

Michael John Julian Cowan was born in1952 in Hillingdon, west London, where his father was works manager of the family's colour and dyestuffs firm Cowan Brothers in Stratford, east London, which in WWII produced grey paint for Royal Navy ships.

Michael was the youngest of three and did not have an easy childhood as his father died when Michael was three, leaving the family penniless. His mother sold their house and moved the family to Midhurst, West Sussex. She remarried but money was still tight.

Michael suffered hearing problems from catching measles aged eight months but his deafness was not picked up until he was in primary school, when a teacher complained about "that naughty boy who never comes when called". Despite repeated surgery he always had to lip-read. He attended Midhurst Grammar School and went on to study engineering at Churchill College, Cambridge. After graduating he won a traineeship with the merchant bank NM Rothschild.

A successful City career followed, leading him to co-found a fund-management business in 1994, Silchester International, with his friend Stephen Butt and others.

His flourishing investment business gave him the wherewithal to become a generous philanthropist. He gave £5million to build Cowan Court, a new student block at his former college. Despite his hearing problems he gave generously to local music charities –principally the Yehudi Menuhin School and Grange Park Opera, where his memorial service was held. Michael and his wife, Hilary, took a keen interest in local events and supported them in a variety of ways.

Michael restored a proper grass pitch on the cricket ground at Sendholme and, while it was most often used by the Concorde Cricket Club, he also made it available for charity events.

Michael and Hilary also made Sendholme available for the scouts and cubs to hold a sunrise camp event to celebrate their centenary. On one occasion they held a History Society social at the house where Michael showed off the bomb shelter in the grounds (built by a former owner). They were always willing to 'lend' their field for parking for the History Society BBQ and frequently Michael mowed it himself - even after a hard week in London. Sadly he was not well enough to come to this year's BBQ.

Michael married Hilary in 1981 and she survives him together with their three children and their grandchildren.

WHERE IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

THIS JOURNAL'S MYSTERY LOCATION IS REALY A CRY FOR HELP.

THIS PHOTO, FROM A RECENTLY-ACQUIRED ACCUMULATION OF LOCAL IMAGES, IS… WHERE?

I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW AND NEITHER DOES ANYBODY I'VE ASKED!

WE ASKED IN JOURNAL 293 WHERE THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN AND WHAT THE STRANGE LITTLE BUILDING TO THE LEFT OF THE IMAGE WAS.

This photo, taken from the river bridge as you approach Old Woking from Send and the Broadmeads, shows Old Woking Church.

The 'hut' is problematical as nobody can give a definitive use for it. It looks like a boathouse but appears too small for one.

A recently-made acquaintance, Pete, suggests:

"A very good question, for many years I assumed it was a boathouse but later thoughts are different. Unfortunately I am no longer a resident (I was a Trustee of Friends of Woking Palace) and never seem to get to Woking when the History Centre is open, to check my theories.

The area where the shed is located is marked on the tithe map as 190, but no building is shown. As you probably know Hart's the butchers had a shop etc where the village sign now stands on the roundabout and I read somewhere that they had land in the village as well. My current conjecture is that the plot 190 was used by the Harts as a holding pen and the shed might have been their abattoir with a handy run off to the river for washing down?"

Although very feasible, what would appear to dispel this theory is the photo that appears in Iain Wakeford's book *Bygone Woking* which shows the (long-demolished) wooden road bridge with the same (or a similar) hut hard up against the road edge.

Perhaps some of our members can come up with their own theories?

Correctly identified by: Michael Giles, Audrey Smithers and Peter Smithers.

WHAT IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

THESE TWO 'HAMMERS' HAD A VERY SPECIFIC PURPOSE – BUT WHAT? IF YOU NEED A CLUE: EACH 'HAMMER' IS NAMED.

WE ASKED IN J293 WHAT THIS STRANGE LOOKING OBJECT WAS.

This is a wooden tap used to draw ginger beer from a stoneware flagon and our example is shown fitted to a flagon belonging to Purnell & Co, Guildford.

Note the seemingly hefty five shilling (25p today) deposit to (hopefully) ensure its safe return, which explains why so few exist in collections today.

Correctly identified by: Ian Bull, Michael Giles, Steve Hewlett, John Purser, Audrey Smithers and Peter Smithers.

N.B. Both John Purser and Ian Bull noticed that the tap photo was inverted – well spotted!

A POSSIBLE KILN FOR MAKING INLAID TILES AT NEWARK PRIORY

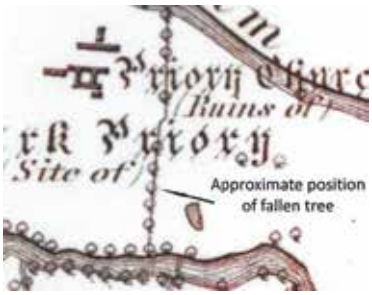
JEANETTE HICKS & JUDIE ENGLISH

A longer version of this article was published in *Surrey's Past 493* in February 2023 and appears here by kind permission of the Surrey Archeological Society

Inlaid tiles excavated by Captain Pearce. The tile at the bottom right is a waster which is indicative of tile production. The black lines are each 5cm long. Photographed by kind permission of Dr Mary Alexander

Almost 100 years ago, in 1928, fragments of two tiles stuck together by vitrified glaze were recovered by a diver from the river Wey at Newark Priory. These were among a number of inlaid tiles found during excavations by Captain CMH Pearce[1], a member of the Surrey Archeological Society. They were deposited in Guildford museum and photographs of these tiles are shown in the S&RHS publication *Newark Priory, Ripley's Romantic Ruin*.

During more recent work on the site, primarily by Jeanette Hicks, we were told that further tiles had been found close by in the roots of a tree felled by gales. We were unable either to track these down or to find any more but it seems unlikely that waste tiles would have been transported any distance, and thus there may have been a kiln in the immediate vicinity [2]



Location of fallen tree where further tiles were reputedly found

Production of inlaid tiles would have necessitated access to both white and red-firing clays; these could have come from deposits of the Lambeth Group [3] and London clay, with outcrops found some 6km and 2km south of Newark, respectively.

There are two references to a marl pit - which in the medieval period was more generally a term for a clay pit - belonging to Newark Priory in records pertaining to Chertsey Abbey.

In the first, Chertsey Abbey appears to have granted Newark a licence to access their marl pit in 1262, as Brother Richard, Prior of Newark, says:

"Know all of you that we claim nor ever will claim no right or claim to pass through the land of the Abbot

and Convent of Chertsey which is called Hachesham to our marl pit (*marlarium*) in East Clandon except of the special licence of the said Abbott and Convent granted to us of their grace from the Translation of the Blessed Thomas Martyr in the fourth year of the reign of King Henry son of King John (1220) until the Feast of the Blessed Apostles Simon and Jude (28th October) at the end of the said year" [4].

In 1348 Newark still held the marl pit since Chertsey Abbey was recorded as holding a parcel of land 'lying in the field called Middle next the marl pit of the Prior of Newark in East Clandene' [5]. Despite extensive research it has not proved possible to definitely locate the positions of the marl pit or Middle Field in the modern landscape.

Two ponds have, however, been located as possible sites for the marl pit, one on London clay just off the Ripley Road, East Clandon (grid reference TQ 057 532) and the other on clays of the Lambeth Group (Reading Formation), not far away at Sawpit Lane, East Clandon (TQ 063 520. The manor of East Clandon was held by Chertsey Abbey before 1086 and they continued to hold it until 1537; any access to either of the potential sites would have necessitated passing through their land.

The pond on the white-firing clay is within the medieval park of Hatchlands and it is tempting (if risky) to link the name Hachesham either with Hatchlands itself or another gate into the park. Such a linkage would suggest that this was the *marlarium* belonging to the Prior of Newark.

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[1] Author of *An account of the buildings of Newark Priory, with a note on its founders' family* (Surrey Archeological Society, 1932)

[2] This possibility was referred to by Les Bowerman in his editorial in S&RHS J217 of March 2011

[3] The Lambeth Group is a set of geological rock strata in the London and Hampshire basins of southern England. It comprises a mix of gravels, sands, silts and clays deposited between 56 and 55 million years ago

[4] Surrey Record Society 1958, 873

[5] Surrey Record Society 1958, 872

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GROVE FAMILY

ALAN COOPER

In Send the Grove family is synonymous with the river Wey and in particular Triggs Lock, Worsfold Gates and the adjacent boathouse where, from 1856 to 1966, four generations of the extended family dedicated more than 300 man-years to serving both the river and its immediate community in the guise of engineers, foremen, carpenters, general maintenance- and construction workers, lock keepers and boat house proprietors.

William Grove was born in Old Woking in 1825. In 1856 he moved to Send, becoming the Triggs lock keeper as well as a blacksmith and would continue in those roles for the next 59 years until his death in 1915. His son Walter, a master carpenter, worked at nearby Worsfold Gates for 45 years from 1885 until his death in 1930.

Walter's son, Norman, was also a master carpenter at Worsfold Gates from 1930 until 1966. His brother, Ewart, ran the boathouse next door, whilst brother Alec was also a carpenter. Peter Grove, Alec's son, now lives in Pennsylvania, USA, having emigrated in his early 20s. He contacted us recently offering a 130-page memoir charting his youthful upbringing in Send in the 1940s and 50s.

I am currently editing this document and illustrating it with photos provided by both Peter and from the Society's own archives. Once completed, Cameron will 'weave his magic' and our intention is to provide Peter with the finished article fit for publication should he wish to do so. Meanwhile we propose to feature the completed project in the 'members only' section of our website and provide a series of extracts in future journals.

Depending on the amount of online interest shown and its reception from our members, we could in time add it to our selection of books for sale to both members and public alike. It is a gripping coming-of-age mixture of humour, pathos and the naivety of youth giving way to manhood recalling Laurie Lee's *Cider with Rosie*.

GHOSTS ALONG THE WEY- A RURAL CHILDHOOD IN SEND – PART I

PETER GROVE

Peter as a young boy – Send school days

MY ENTRY INTO THE WORLD

I was born and named Peter Adrian Grove after Peter, Dad's sister May's son, who died tragically on a Japanese prisoner of war ship sunk by an allied torpedo. I was born in Send in the county of Surrey in a bungalow called Copsley on Potters Lane, or Guildford Road as it was then called. As you head up from Cartbridge towards Crickets Hill, Copsley is the first bungalow on the right after Pembroke House and the bungalow nestles up against the woods, which really were woods then: big pines, yews, a larch, a cedar and a linden.

I was born on 1st June 1943. It was a Tuesday. I don't know what time of the day it was. Cousin Ian said he and his mum came down to see me the first day, that I was all wrinkled, dark and funny-looking.

29 platoon (E 2), E Company, 3rd Battalion Surrey Home Guard (aka Send Home Guard) outside the Drill Hall (today called the Lancaster Hall). Pte Alec Grove (Peter's father) is middle row, standing second in from the right. Lieutenant Dolbear is centre front row, fifth from left. Cpl "Where is Roosher" Wapshot is front row, first left

"Are they going to keep that?" he asked.

"Think so," they said.

FATHER'S MEMORIES

Dad had been fortunate. He'd missed being called up for the First World War by a hair's breadth: he was hardly a month into his seventeenth year when Armistice was signed.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, he was thirty-eight, had partially ruptured his stomach lining and his work on the Wey Navigation was considered essential to the national interest. But as the Second War progressed, he joined the Home Guard. This made quite an impression on Dad, and he'd often relate stories from those days. I remember his descriptions of some of those he served with. I remember how he said they'd go off for training weekends. He remembered the awful power of firing a machine gun. You gripped two handles, he said, and gently pressed your thumbs on the central button. "My pretty boy!" He remembered learning how to make a field oven from a biscuit tin and how to pick up the dough of a doughnut in such a way that when you dropped it into the boiling oil, the jam didn't leak out.

For a time they didn't have real weapons but when they eventually did, Lieutenant 'Dick' Dolbear, their commanding officer, lectured them most seriously about how a soldier must always guard his rifle, never letting it out of his sight. And so it was on that very first overnight exercise they quietly took that gentleman's gun, kept it hidden for a bit and watched with amusement the stark, grim looks as he silently searched for it.

I remember Dad citing one of his more rustic comrades – Wapshot I think his name was – who, during a lecture, asked of his commanding officer, "Well, where is Roosher, Sir?"

MEMORIES OF THE WAR

My only memory of the war – if that's even possible – was of my sister Sheila and me sitting under the cross-

stayed, oak dining-room table eating chocolate after an air-raid warning. Mum and Dad were standing over by the wall to the right of the chimney breast, one of the safer locations should the roof collapse. Our roof didn't, but the ceiling in the dining room had several huge cracks in it that Dad ascribed to earlier bomb blasts.

A doodlebug did hit a tree to the left of Send Barns Lane as you head up to Burnt Common. That hit would have been fine but for a man who happened to be passing by on a bike. He was killed instantly. Another flying bomb landed on a house just over those same crossroads, this time wiping out the entire Privett family as they sat around the table eating dinner.

The four Bingham sisters, my aunts, were in Elmsleigh Cottage on Send Barns Lane when they heard (and one of them saw) that first, Send Hill doodle bug coming. Aunt Flo, with her head out the window half-way down the stairs took one look at it and screamed, "Oh my Gawd! We're gawn!" but it went a few hundred yards further and hit the tree…

PEMBROKE HOUSE

When I was two or three Mum would take me down to Pembroke House next door where she cleaned house for Mr (later Lord) and Mrs (Lady) Studholme. I was very young. I slept a lot. The arrangement preferred by Mrs Studholme, who knew everybody's 'station' in life, was for me to be kept not in the house where I might cry and be a nuisance but in the stable down by the river. Yes, there was a horse in there - Maureen Sale's horse, called Tinker. He was in one stall and I was in another. I even remember being told that in those very early times I was bedded down for my morning nap in a deep manger. In those old stables was the glorious smell of hay, tar, ivy and the general old, dry, dust smell of barns and I'm sure that smell is there to this day…

VICKIE AND MAUREEN SALE

It was, I believe, Vickie Sale, the cook housekeeper, (Maureen's mother), whose apartment – tacked onto the back of the big house – was closest to the stable, who made working at Pembroke House bearable for Mum.

The single most negative aspect of working there was Mrs Studholme herself. A New Zealander, she had fierce, birdlike eyes and a rather superior manner. She embraced being a lady, but she overstepped the mark at times and on one occasion Sir John Studholme let us know where he stood as far as her attitude was concerned. I speak of the day he stopped his car, came down and knocked on our back door, shook my hand warmly, asked how things were. He asked after my sister Sheila long emigrated to New Zealand. He then said that he wished to apologize for his wife's comments the day before. She had stopped the car on that occasion to complain that I had too severely trimmed the bramble bushes that encroached from their property onto ours. This meant that now, as she drove to church, Dad's underwear on our washing line was fully visible. This apparently was just too offensive. Sir John had been in the car with her at that time but apparently had no idea that she was pulling up to make such a complaint. But here he was the next day asking my forgiveness and understanding of his wife's behavior. "By all means," he said, "feel free to cut as much as you think necessary".

It seemed to me that there was something rather naughty, impish and French about Vickie Sale. She was spirited, outspoken, fun and flirty and she had a yappy Pekinese dog called Shah Shah that completed her image. Shah Shah would yap a lot. Mum later got a Pekinese dog that we named Chang. It was a stupid, worthless creature that one could not possibly love. It would sneeze in your face perpetually, no doubt because its inbred nose was troubling it. Eventually it had to be put down because of a kind of mange or skin disease caused, the vet said, by too much boiled horse meat instead of a balanced diet. That horse meat would smell horrible. Oh God, and those 'pipes' in that disgusting meat. Mrs Ingram up the road next to the Morris family also owned a Pekinese called Pan Yan. I even think the Morrises had one. It was a fashion in those days.

Vickie's husband, Maureen's father, lived by himself in what used to be a pub called Uncle Tom's Cabin, a round-fronted cottage about 100 yards up Send Road on the right above Gladding's, Webb's, Elm's or Lemon's store by Cartbridge.

Uncle Tom's Cabin today

Though I didn't know Mr Sale I understood that he was a very quiet, rather ordinary man. Maureen was very close to him and would visit him often, but he was terribly mismatched with his fun-loving, vivacious and flirty Vickie. I also remember being a little in awe of Vickie's gold-capped teeth flashing so brightly as she laughed.

One day on a New Market [1] card evening in Vickie's apartment above the garage at Pembroke House, she brought out a plate of French confitures or candy all wrapped in the most showy and squeakiest of cellophane. There were only six of them but with their huge ballerina-like wrapping they overflowed the plate. I ate one and thought it tasted perfectly horrible. How French, I thought. How disgusting, how perfectly awful, all show and no substance. But what would I know? I was only a working-class boy from an English village with little preparation for such gourmet confections.

Vickie's male companion was Geoffrey Mellows, himself a fun-loving fellow. He was thin, elegant, charming, with a toothy Terry-Thomas smile, receding hairline and a fine nose. He was somehow special. Fashionably dressed but above all smooth – and friendly. He was never snidely superior. He loved to dance, play whist, poker and New Market. He lived in St Johns, just west of Woking. To me he summed up elegance and was just the perfect companion for Vickie.

I had no idea – being so young – what Maureen felt about her mother and Geoffrey being a couple. But I'm sure she understood. Maureen had nothing of her mother's sharp, toothy features – or anything of her manner. To me Maureen was a mythological creature.

Although nine years older than I, she was my first love and was nothing less than beautiful. Maureen was serene and elegant. She was my sister's friend. She was fair beyond description. She was the princess of all the stories I ever knew.

From our dining-room window we could look through a gap in the trees across the shady driveway and over a five-barred gate and see Maureen exercising Tinker in the little meadow.

One day while they were yet young teenagers, I watched Maureen and my sister, skirts tucked into their underwear, doing handstands on that five-barred gate. Even at the young age of six or seven or so I remember being tremendously moved by the sight of Maureen doing that. She became my fairy-tale princess, my ideal, my most graceful lady that I would fight and die for. She was, as I say, practically ten years older that I. Years later, and to my complete dismay, it came to my attention that she had actually married somebody else! That took a lot of digestion. I was quite heartsick…

TO BE CONTINUED.

Uncle Tom's Cabin photo c/o Send & Ripley History Society archives

All other photos c/o Peter Grove collection

[1] He is almost certainly referring to Newmarket, an English card game for any number of players involving more chance than skill, which emerged in the 1880s

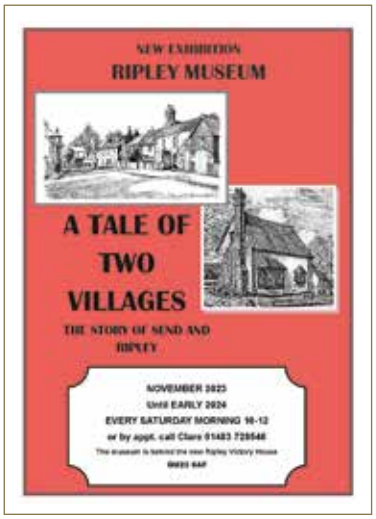
MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN

Due to Christmas and the curator's foot operation 'A Tale of Two Villages' will probably continue until mid-February. I am sorry to be vague but the exhibition about Frank Brown, the artist, is deserving of a lot of work. From his Scottish home in Bute he has been sending me an amazing number of images as well as interesting commentaries and local memories. I have explained to him that we have a little museum and not a Tardis but am determined to do his work justice and therefore any New Year resolutions will have to make way for trying to put together a memorable exhibition. If anyone would like to help please let me know.

Frank clearly has a wide range of interests and these are reflected in his paintings. I am including an example of his work, 'My Sweet George', to whet your appetite for more of his work.

Clare 01483 728546 or cricketshill@hotmail.com



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Ripley Bowling Club in Rose Lane, GU23 6NE. Doors open for all evening talks at 7.30pm for an 8.00 start. Tea/coffee and wine available. NB – payment by cash only.

DATES - 2024	EVENTS
Wednesday 14th February	Valentine Surprise Evening with Quiz
Wednesday 13th March	AGM. Members only. PLEASE NOTE 7.30 START TIME. Cheese and wine followed by new videos
Wednesday 10th April	Film by Circle 8: *The Pilgrims' Way*
Tuesday 21st May	14:00 Outing to Horsley Towers
Tuesday 11th June	Outing to High Clandon Vineyard
July	Members only BBQ TBA
Wednesday 11th September	An illustrated talk: *Tillingbourne Tales*
Wednesday 9th October	Kathy Atherton talk: *Literary Mole Valley*
Wednesday 13th November	Talk by Nick Bale: *William Harvey – The Ladieswear Specialist*
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas Social. MEMBERS ONLY

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

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS

THE MUSEUM IS BEHIND VICTORY HOUSE AND TO THE RIGHT OF THE NEW VILLAGE HALL WHICH IS CURRENTLY NEARING COMPLETION

OPEN: SATURDAY MORNINGS 10.00 – 12.00

We can arrange to open at other times by appointment

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 Pinnock's Coffee House, Ripley, or via the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk or email srhistorysociety@gmail.com