

Miss Mrs L. Brown

N/L 54

SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

9th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held at 8 p.m. on

Tuesday, 21st February, 1984

at

THE RED CROSS CENTRE, SANDY LANE, SEND.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. a) Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting held on 15th February, 1983.  
b) Matters arising from the minutes.
3. Annual Reports:
  - a) Chairman.
  - b) Treasurer
  - c) Secretary
4. To consider a motion from the outgoing Committee that subscriptions for the year 1984/1985 be £2 for individuals and £3 for couples.
5. Election of Officers:
  - a) Chairman
  - b) Treasurer
  - c) Secretary
  - d) Committee of 12
6. Any other business.

-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-

INTERVAL FOR REFRESHMENTS

-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-

ILLUSTRATED TALK by JOHN SLATFORD on DATE BRICKS ON LOCAL BUILDINGS.

-X-

CORRECTIONS TO N/L No. 54

Will members please make the following amendments to Newsletter No. 54 which in most cases accompanies this Agenda:

Page 4 Lines 7-9 should read "It has an imposing Georgian brick facade with off-centre coach arch. The earliest part of the present building....."

Page 7 Lines 7-9 should read "... towed the sand away on skips up a ramp- whence it was tipped into the backs of lorries. On one occasion in the early days a gypsy came for a load with a horse-drawn cart and the force of the sand..."

Page/penultimate line: The names of the Vicars are "Rev. Headeach" & "Rev. Morgan Evan Thomas".

Page 9 Line 7 . The personal name is "Mr. Shill".

SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Chairman

Mr K. H. Bourne  
Heath Farm, Tannery Lane  
Send, Woking  
Phone: Guildford 223028

Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Mr L. G. Bowerman  
Manor House  
Send Marsh, Ripley  
Phone: Guildford 224876

Treasurer: Mrs Janet Hill, Asphodel, Milestone Close, Ripley - Gfd 224216

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Newsletter No. 54

January/February 1984

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday, 9 February ... Natural History Group meeting at 8 pm at Heath Farm, Tannery Lane, Send.
- Thursday, 16 February ... Buildings Group meeting at 8 pm at the Manor House, Send Marsh.
- Tuesday, 21 February ... AGM at 8 pm at Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, followed by an illustrated talk by John Slatford on date bricks on local buildings.
- Monday, 27 February ... Folk Memories Group meeting at 8 pm at Waggoners, Send Barns Lane, Send.
- Thursday, 15 March ... Buildings Group meeting at 8 pm at Muir House, Brooklyn Road, Woking.
- Thursday, 22 March ... Open evening at Ripley Village Hall, at 8 pm, when Mr M. Leishman will give an illustrated talk on the village named "The Bourne", near Farnham. This was the village of George Sturt, or Bourne, who wrote so evocatively about local people and village trades in earlier times. The expert illustrations will show such people and their environment.
- Tuesday, 17 April ... Open meeting at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, at 8 pm, when there will be an illustrated talk on an aspect of natural history.
- Thursday, 24 May ... An evening visit to view Ted Goldup's collection of historic farm machinery at Thatched House, Clandon Crossways, Burnt Common, followed by a barbecue.
- Thursday, 7 June ... Conducted tour around the ancient town of Leatherhead, finishing at the museum. Meet at 7.30 in the car park on the up side of Leatherhead Railway Station.

Closing Date: Material for the next issue of the Newsletter should be in the hands of the Editor by Monday, 5 March.

THE PUBLIC HOUSES OF GUILDFORD BY Mr MARK STURLEY

Open Meeting - 15/11/83

Guildford has always had more than its fair share of public houses. At one stage it had more than 150 and for a long time never less than 30 in the High Street alone. The audience was taken by Mr Sturley on an imaginary walk down the High Street, accompanied by a marvellous collection of old photographs and slides depicting many of these houses. Mr Sturley has inquired into the histories of at least 150 of them.

Guildford has always been a busy market town and fortunate to be situated on the main London to Winchester road. Winchester was the second capital of England in Tudor times and important personages would constantly be passing through, requiring fresh horses and accommodation. With the growth of the British navy at Portsmouth, the traffic increased even more and reached its peak in the 18th century. The great coaching inns provided luxurious accommodation for the wealthy, with superb banqueting and assembly rooms.

Guildford grew up around the High Street and in 1066 the population was 700 to 800. In Tudor times this had risen to 1500 and by the 18th century had reached 2500. By 1900 the population was 9000. In the 18th century the town was essentially the same as it had been in the 16th, i.e. it consisted of the High Street, with houses either side and gardens beyond. The development of North Street did not start until about 1739. Towards the end of the 18th century the coaching trade began to slump, although with the relaxation of the licensing laws in favour of ale rather than spirits, ale-houses or public houses began to mushroom. However, the 20th century saw vast increases in High Street ratable values, public houses and inns became no longer profitable, and were demolished to make way for road widening schemes and new shops.

An early map of 1823, covering the Guildford end of the Wey Navigation, shows many of the licensed premises in the High Street: viz the Ram, the Bell, the Three Pigeons, the Castle, the Rover, the George, the Bull's Head, the Red Lion, the Jolly Butcher, the Rose & Crown, the Angel, the Swan, the White Lion and the Half Moon. The sheep market was held in Guildford High Street on Saturdays and up to 30,000 sheep might be sold on a market day. This, no doubt, had a bearing on the number of public houses. The High Street was only 13 feet wide at Ram Corner until just before the first World War, so one imagines that traffic was badly held up on a Saturday. In common with most of the buildings in the High Street, many of the pubs have been refronted or demolished to make way for other buildings. The Half Moon was pulled down to make way for the building of Abbot's Hospital in the 17th century. Guildford in the 17th century was said to have the finest coaching inns in England. The large coaching inns were the Crown, the White Hart, the Lion, the Red Lion and the White Lion. The Crown was the oldest and was built in the 1480's. In the 16th century it was in danger of falling down. In the 18th it was refronted. The site is now occupied by the National Provincial Bank, which has retained the Crown, and this can be seen above the entrance.

Opposite the Crown was the White Hart, a magnificent inn with lovely dining room and assembly rooms, built in the early 17th century. It had a large jettied inn yard with its own "Tap". Tragically demolished in 1904, all that is left is the inn signboard, preserved in the Guildford Museum.

Guildford has always had a reputation for staging lively Parliamentary elections, and prior to the Reform Act of 1832, the White Hart was Tory

Headquarters and the Crown was the Whig Headquarters. Elections could last anything from 14 to 21 days. Bribery was wholesale and electors could go from one inn to the other in search of the largest bribe.

Guildford's largest coaching inn was the Red Lion, with stabling for over 300 horses and over 60 bedrooms. It stretched from High Street to North Street with gardens beyond. Charles II stayed there, as did Samuel Pepys when he was Secretary to the navy.

The Angel is the sole remaining coaching inn. It is old, but the records have been lost and not much is known about it. There is an early 14th century underground building beneath it mistakenly called The Crypt, and there is another on the other side of the High Street. Not much is known of the history of these underground buildings. The Swan Inn, built in the 14th century, renovated in the 16th, occupied the next site. Swan Lane is the inn yard of the Swan. Some of the Swan beer mugs are preserved in Guildford Museum.

One of the finest looking inns was the White Lion, built before the 16th century and refronted in the period 1890-1912. The site is now occupied by Woolworths and only the inn sign is left. Guildford Museum has some fine painted plasterwork from the 16th century, which was saved from this fine old inn. The Half Moon was next to the White Lion and was known to Jane Austen, who sketched the entrance porch. Many of these fine old inns had extremely beautiful lanterns over the main entrance. Sadly, most of these were broken up in the late 19th century.

In the 17th century the main road to Portsmouth went up the Mount, and extra horses were required to pull coaches up the hill. These could be hired from the Barley Mow at the bottom of the hill. Portsmouth would be a day to a day and a half's ride away and guides would be hired to take the coach over Hindhead.

Many other public houses were shown and described, but it would be appropriate to finish with the old timbered family home of George Abbot, the most famous son of Guildford, who rose to become Archbishop of Canterbury. It was near the old Friary Road bus station. After the Abbot family, it was converted into the Three Mariners, and stood until the middle of the 19th century.

Tony Medlen

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#### THE TALBOT HOTEL, RIPLEY

The village of Ripley grew up around a small crossroads on the ancient road from Kingston to Guildford after the monastic building of the church in about 1160 and the founding of Newark Priory just before 1200. The village thus catered principally for travellers, and visitors to the Priory. One of the earliest inns was the Talbot, which was already well established by the time the name appears in the Manorial Court Roll of 1580. Although the Priory had been dissolved 41 years before that, it is probable that the original Talbot started during the monastic period. It is believed that it may be mentioned in a document of 1453 which the Society has not yet traced.

The hotel name is most likely heraldic in origin, coming from one of the 15th-16th century Earls of Shrewsbury, whose family name was Talbot and who were prominent in Tudor times. A Talbot is a liver-and-white spotted hunting dog, taking its name from the family, which doubtless bred and

popularised the breed. There are occasional references to the Talbot as "The Dog", notably in a catalogue of licensed premises in Surrey in 1636 when the landlady was one Anne Stanton (Surrey Archaeological Collections No. 19).

By kind invitation of the landlord, Mr Robinson, and the owners, J. & W. Nicholson & Co (Holdings) Ltd of Chigwell, nine members of the Buildings Group inspected the structure on 5 November. The Talbot is on the South side of Ripley High Street, towards the East or London end. It has an imposing Georgian ~~front facade~~ ~~of a fine coach arch~~. The earliest ~~part~~ of the present building was found to be on the West or Guildford side of the arch. This timber-framed build extends the whole depth of the hotel and consists of a 20' x 20' front section with a ridge parallel to the road and represented by the main lounge at ground floor level (behind the first two sets of windows to the West or right of the arch), together with a very long contemporary crosswing behind it and basically the same width, but 60' deep. The roof is in oak (some of it re-used) and has butted side purlins not-in-line, typical of the 17th century. It follows that there was an earlier building than the present one, probably on the same site. The two sections of the early part of the hotel from a long rectangle stretching back from the road and may have simply covered the whole of the original plot. It is also possible that the front section may have originally extended further either way. The early parts are basically of two storeys, plus an attic between tie beam and collar. What appear at the front to be second floor windows are dormers with a ridge board, built out later and incorporated into the facade. Rainwater from the front is taken out by way of a lead-lined gully through the roof to the back. What has been referred to above as the crosswing is interesting in that the builders gave it from the start attic windows on the long West side, not by adding expensive dormers, but by simply reducing the width of the building on that side, so that instead of the wallplates being at the ends of the tie beams, they come at the ends of the collars and take the place of the purlins, resulting in the eaves on that side being higher. Originally this high West wall was tile-hung (the battens are still there as are the upper windows). Before the 25" Ordnance Survey Map of 1870/71, a ground floor extension was built on the West wall for the kitchens and roofed by the simple expedient of extending the roof from second floor eaves level right across to cover the extension with a cat slide. Doubtless the tiles which were previously hung on the wall were used to cover this cat slide. This method of roofing resulted in an enormous void above the kitchen and the loss of the first and second floor windows on the West side.

At or not long after the time of the main build, the front of the building was extended Westwards beyond the main chimney. The second front lounge (behind the third to fifth sets of windows) represents this build.

The passing of a Turnpike Act in 1749, to amend the road from Kingston to Petersfield, led to great improvements in the road surface, resulting in fast stage coach traffic and doubtless increased trade and prosperity. Prior to that, a day was required to travel from Guildford to London, as noted in the County History of Manning & Bray. Certainly by 1769 the Talbot was a post office (not in the modern sense) and staging post, as the bill-heading published in SAC 35 shows. The charge at the Talbot for a fresh pair of horses to take the traveller to Kingston and back was 13/6d in 1763. Faded lettering relating to this type of use can still be discerned at the corner of the hotel on the Guildford side. It must have been about this time that the range of buildings on the London side of the arch was added and the facade built. They are shown on an Onslow Estate Map of 1777, but the present banqueting hall appears to be a rebuild subsequent to the 25" Ordnance Survey of 1870/71.

Gough's map of 1360 shows that this was then a (if not the) main road from London to Winchester and the West Country, but it was probably during Tudor times that it developed as the trunk road to Portsmouth as Henry VIII built up the Royal Navy, and he doubtless travelled through; we know for a fact that Samuel Pepys passed this way, as his diary for 1688 records him hiring one guide at Cobham and another to take him over Hindhead. Nelson likewise may have passed through Ripley, but no evidence has yet emerged to confirm the long-held belief that he would meet Lady Hamilton in the Talbot. Other well-known or notorious characters are said to have stopped at the hotel, but the Society prefers not to give credence to this in the absence of evidence. The census returns of 1851 and 1861 shows that the then landlord, George Metcalfe, combined his duties as an innkeeper with farming. In 1851 he had 300 acres, but only one boarder, a lady fund-holder from Norfolk. In 1861 he was down to 250 acres, but had 12 visitors; these included two East India merchants, Richard Cook-Coles & Frederic Hisbit-Lake, a ship broker, a foreign banker and four domestic servants.

The completion of the railway to Portsmouth in 1845 spelled the end of the coach trade. Indeed A. J. Munby, the Victorian diarist, records that it was down from 27 coaches a day through Cobham at its peak in the 1800's to one carter per week from London to Ripley in the 1860's. Munby himself stayed at the Talbot in 1863 and described it as "a fine old coaching Inn of forty years ago, still vigorous and reputable, though the road is deserted". G. C. Harper, in the 1895 edition of his book, "The Portsmouth Road", wrote "A few years ago ..... the Talbot was closed and given over to solitude and omice." Trade picked up with the development of the high bicycle in the 1870's and wheelmen came to Ripley in unbelievable numbers. The Talbot, the Anchor and the nearby Hautboy & Fiddle (as it then was) at Ockham all seemed equally popular at that time, and one writer in 1879 recorded in "Bicycling News" that Ripley could not accommodate him in Whit week, being full of "London men". The Talbot was the country HQ of the Civil Service Cycling Club at one stage. Following the cyclists from about the turn of the century, motorists helped to maintain the business, although a Return of Surrey Licensed Houses for 1904, filed in County Record Office, records that the Talbot still had stabling for 25 horses, more than any other premises in the area, but only ten bedrooms. The Talbot has been a subject for artists, and among those who have depicted it are Cecil Alldin and Frank Patterson, the cycling artist.

Les Bowerman

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### MINERAL EXTRACTION

#### Part IV in a Series of Occasional Notes

Previous notes in this series appeared in Newsletters 28, 36 and 41, with supplementary notes in No. 43. We will now consider the Prews Farm, Papercourt Farm and Polesden Lane area. Unlike the Potters Lane area, which was all sand, this area is basically gravel, which had to be separated into sand and shingle.

In Part I we wrote inter alia about sand and gravel pits mentioned in the Tithe Apportionments of 1844 and concluded by saying that the Apportionments refer to "... a gravel pit on an 18 acre site near Prews Farm, but not yet identified by this writer." It has since been realised, thanks to the work on the Tithe Apportionments carried out by Bette and John Slatford, that this was on the West of the lane along which the boundary between Send and Ripley runs, shown as part of Tannery Lane on the OS maps and running from Papercourt Farm in the North to the junction with Polesden Lane in the South. It was the Eastern half of the site

described in some detail at Newsletter 49/4 (reference 035563). In 1844 it was owned by the 3rd Earl of Onslow and occupied by Robert Daws, farmer and brickmaker of Ripley Kilns. It was arable at that time and does not appear to have been excavated to any great extent until recent years. Our member, Fred Hookins, to whom I am indebted for much of the detail for these notes, recalls that up until about 1960 there was a depression extending for two to three acres at the Southern end of the site. This was referred to as the "old sand pit". The rest of the site was to his memory occupied by poultry houses well spaced out, part of the former British Poultry Development run by Gordon Stewart of "Send Manor". It is perhaps justifiable to hazard the guess that the two to three acre depression dates back to the time of Robert Daws' occupation. That is the only evidence of extraction in the parishes prior to 1930.

At Newsletter 41/3 it was recorded that in about 1930 Stephen Spooner began extracting at Polesden Lane. Harold Giles, Junior, recalls that it was in the corner between Polesden Lane and Tannery Lane, behind a copse of pines, where the washing machinery has been for a number of years. (037562). Mr Frank Perrier of Potters Lane was one who started the site. They used circular hand sieves, not even inclined riddles. In 1931 Hall & Co Ltd took over the site, their first in Send & Ripley. Since they, or rather their successors, Hall Aggregates Ltd, one of the Ready Mixed Concrete Ltd group of companies, are now major landowners in Send and Ripley, it may be appropriate to give a very brief summary of their history, which is recorded in "A Century and a Quarter" by C. Dobson, published in 1948.

In 1800 George Valentine Hall, then 15, left his home in Horsham and walked the 18 miles to Merstham. The Rev William Jolliffe found him a job in the Jolliffe family quarries, which then produced sandstone for building and chalk which was burnt for lime. The materials were transported by the Surrey Iron Railway, which was opened in 1803, with horse traction. By 1824 George Hall was able to lease the Merstham quarries. The rail trucks took minerals to Wandsworth and Croydon and returned with sea-borne coal, then a luxury fuel. By combining the trades of builder's merchant, which was active in the summer, with that of coal merchant, which was busier in the winter, George Hall was able to keep his men and horses fully employed all year. In 1845 he died and his sons continued the business. By 1898 there were seven depots, the Head Office being at Croydon, and the firm became Hall & Co (Croydon) Ltd. In 1918 Croydon was dropped from the name. In the aftermath of the First World War, business increased and the first petrol driven lorry was bought in 1920. By 1931 the company had 30 different pits and quarries.

When Halls' pit at Mitcham became worked out in 1933, Fred Hookins' father, also named Fred, who had been employed there, was drafted to Send & Ripley, and cycled the 21 miles each way from Mitcham until he obtained accommodation for his family at Kingfield. The distance would have been plenty even for a sporting cyclist (which he was not), but the hours worked - 7 am to 6 pm (8 pm sometimes in the summer) for a 6½ day week - made it a superhuman feat, possible only because his job, driving the mechanical digger, was relatively sedentary. Fred Hookins, Senior, worked for Halls from the day when he left school at 14 in 1921 until the day he died. The first job they gave him was stone breaking with a hammer. Soon after he started, parts of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery were uncovered (SAC 56). The boys working at the pit placed some of the skulls around the pit and lit candles in them to the terror of the gypsy-type night watchman, who allegedly fled the site never to return. It was already Hookins family tradition to work for Halls because both Fred Senior's father and grandfather had been similarly employed. In the latter's time at Mitcham they had one man at the pit face

with a shovel digging and throwing the material onto a hand-held sieve. The second man shook it into a wheelbarrow, which when full a third man ran up a plank to tip into a railway truck.

When Fred, Senior, came to Polesden Lane in 1933, it was to drive the multi-bucket mechanical excavator then in use; this scooped material both from the bank and from below the water level. The practice was to go down to the clay level. A locomotive on a railway track towed the sand away on skips up a ramp whence it was tipped into the back of lorries. On one occasion in the early days a gypsy came for a load with a horse-drawn cart and the force of the sand dropping from the skip lifted the horse clean off the ground. It is believed that this was the first pit in Send & Ripley where the material was not loaded by hand.

In the 1935-37 period the land based excavator was superseded by a multi-bucket floating dredger on two pontoons from Germany. Mr Hookins, Senior, was foreman on the dredger, which whilst on the water also washed, sieved and graded. The sand went down a chute on one side to one barge and the gravel down the other side to another barge. A motor tug then towed the barges to a crane where the material was unloaded into a first hopper, from where it was fed by conveyors to the main hoppers for loading into lorries. It is believed that this was the first time a floating dredger had been used in this country.

During World War II Hall & Co supplied and delivered 3200 cubic yards (approximately 4000 tons) of concrete every day for 150 days, under conditions of absolute secrecy, to build the "mulberry" harbours which made the successful invasion of Normandy by the Allies possible. It is likely that some of this came from Polesden Lane, but secrecy was such that the employees did not know.

In the late 1940's, Halls used a suction pump at the Polesden Lane pit. This sucked up sand and water and deposited it into barges, but did not grade. It was not very successful, as the gravel was too impacted.

In 1950 Fred himself began employment with Halls, the fourth generation of his family to do so. There was still a Valentine Hall on the Board at that time.

(To be continued)  
Les Bowerman

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#### THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL - 19/12/83

This annual event once again proved popular and was attended by 91 members. In addition to the excellent buffet accompanied by Alan Tinkler's special punch, the evening was further enlivened by a quiz on local buildings arranged by Bob Gale. Prizes were awarded to the winners of this local knowledge test, Ivy Sopp of Ripley and Marjorie Sex of Send. The Photographic Group had on display copies of old views of Send and Ripley, natural history, and examples of the work of documents preservation by the County Records Office. Once again the Society's exhibit at the Surrey Local History Symposium was on display for the benefit of members unable to visit Dorking in November. The subject of this exhibit was the National Schools of Send and Ripley.

The Society records its thanks to Sheila Brown for lending some of her research materials on the schools and to Mavis Lake for loan of pictorial material and for helping to produce the leaflet on the schools. John Slatford

organised a raffle with many excellent prizes contributed by members, the proceeds going towards Society funds. Many thanks to the Catering Committee, especially Iris Watts and Mavis Lake for providing the table decorations, and Phyllis Bourne, Rita Goldup, Bette Slatford, Gloria Henson, and Barbara Tinkler and many others.

Ken Bourne

Editorial Note: Thanks are also due in no small measure to Ken Bourne, who was deeply involved in the photographic display, the Symposium display, the schools leaflet, and the organisation of the social.

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#### NATURAL HISTORY

Reporting on wild flowers in winter at first may 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.) 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 tow-path, 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 var (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 arranged by Iris Watts for the Christmas Social.) It blooms from mid December 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.

Ken Bourne

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#### SOME PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS - by Margaret Bayliss

I was interested in the booklet, "Then and Now - a Victorian Walk around Ripley". Members may or may not know that we lived in Ripley from March 1928 to January 1935 in a bungalow then called Eveline Cot, but now known by some other name. Is it Thorpe Cottage? This was two houses on the Guildford side of Milestone Close.

The church was very Anglo Catholic at that time. The Vicar was the Reverend Headach. Later the Reverend Morgan Evan Jones came. Goodman's School attended in the mornings. Mr Phipps (robed) was the verger.

The organist was Sidney Green. The Wesleyan chapel was under the Woking based Reverend J. J. Johnson and was in the charge of a lay pastor named Tommy Tickle (I have reasons to remember him). Stewards were Mr Worsfold and Mr Goodin, who was gardener at Ripley Court. There was a Sunday School. The organist was Mr Noakes of Richard Green's shop. Mrs Noakes was a Sunday School teacher.

There was a shoe repairing shop near the Green run by Mr Stiell. This was at the end of Ripley, not far from the Ripley-Ockham bridge.

I attended a bonfire on Ripley Green when the Reverend Headach (robed) came and Mr Goodin, steward of Wesleyan, lit a banger behind him, much to the amusement of all, especially me! They burnt Guy Fawkes and rolled tar barrels.

Stephen Spooner was Dad's brother's father-in-law - the first baby to be baptised in St John's Church. He was verger at Send later, and planted the trees in Ripley High Street.

A very happy new year to all.

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#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF RYDE HOUSE, HIGH STREET, RIPLEY

Ryde House is an imposing Georgian building on the Northern side of the London end of Ripley High Street. Pevsner describes it as "delicate three bay late 18th century" and one of the "many minor attractions in Ripley". With the kind permission of the owners, Mr & Mrs Henderson, members of the Buildings Group have been able to (a) carry out a number of surveys of the property and (b) study a large number of related documents.

We know from the Court Baron of 1669 that a Henry Harrison originally built a cottage on this site by encroaching on Ripley Green. He was ordered by the court to pull it down and restore the site. He obviously took no notice because the following year he was fined by the court and again told to pull his cottage down. It was, in fact, over one hundred years before this happened, long after the Harrison family left it. John Tice of Woking, having bought the cottage in 1774, had it pulled down and built the house which stands today. He did not live long to enjoy it, since his death was recorded in 1780. The house remains virtually unaltered, although substantial additions were made during the 19th century. This report deals primarily with the 18th century build.

The basic layout is that of a double-fronted double-pile plan, that is two rooms at the front and two at the back, providing four principal rooms on each floor. Two substantial external chimneys, which remain on each of the end walls, served fireplaces in each of these rooms, although not all of them exist today. At the rear of the house is a central dog leg staircase leading to the upper floor, and beneath steps lead down to a cellar, which extends beneath the whole of the rear half of the house.

Construction is of brick throughout, the wall thickness being  $13\frac{1}{2}$ ". The front is mainly grey brick with contrasting red corner brickwork and red rubbed brick lintels over the windows. The remaining walls are all of red brick. On the front and end walls the brickwork extends above the roofline to a stone-capped parapet.

The tiled roof is double pitched and hipped at both ends. Of high quality construction, it is entirely in soft wood with the central valley

supported on a single beam. The latter, which is about 12" square, spans the entire width of the house, which is 32' 9". The position of the roof structure is unusual in that it is raised above the ceiling joists to the extent of six courses of brickwork. The rafters are half-lapped at the apex, without a ridgeboard, and the hip rafters are secured at wall plate level by means of dragon ties across the corners.

An interesting feature of the house is that there are no load bearing walls internally. Only the shell is of brick, with all partition walls being constructed of timber studding faced with lath and plaster. In contrast to Hartley Antiques on the opposite side of the High Street, the windows are set deep in the wall apertures, ie with reveals. The frames were originally all of the sliding sash type and many are still in position. These have the upper sash fixed, with only the lower half sliding up to open. This was the form of the early sash windows, which were imported from the Low Countries from the beginning of the 18th century. Certain of the windows in the end walls, which are approximately half the size of those at the front and at the rear, are bricked up. Close examination showed that this had been done after the house was built, presumably as a result of the window taxes. The classical front porch is surmounted by a pediment and is supported on either side by a Doric style wooden column.

It was noted that three fire marks remain fixed to the outside walls. One high up at the rear of the house could not be identified, but at the front there is one placed by the Phoenix and another placed by the Sun Insurance Company. The latter carries the number 74870, which may be identifiable. The various additions to the house are mainly on the North and East sides. From the documentary evidence it is believed that the first of these took place around 1830, when the present kitchen area, with bedrooms and attic above, were added. The position where the original roof was extended over this area is evident, since the later work incorporates a ridgeboard, a practice introduced around 1800.

Further research will be necessary to complete the history of Ryde House. Already ownership and occupation during the 18th century and much of the 19th century is known from documents, but the early history of Ryde House School and 20th century ownership is less well known. The school, which became an important feature of Ripley in the early part of this century, started here around 1860 and later moved to the site where Gibbs' agricultural business now operates.

John Slatford

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Nos. 5, 7 AND 9 ROSE LANE, RIPLEY

Rose Lane (formerly Pook Lane) has been a thoroughfare from early days, leading from the priory at Newark to West Horsley and beyond. The earliest surviving timber-framed house in the village, Vintage Cottage (15th century), faces this street on the East or London side.

Between Vintage Cottage and the Portsmouth Road to the North, the street's frontage was eventually completely built up with several cottages having acquired Georgian period fronts. In the 1960's all the cottages between No. 5 Rambler Cottage and the bakery on the corner were condemned and demolished, making way for a pedestrian access to White Hart Meadow and a hut for the clinic.

In December 1983 the Buildings Group, at the invitation of the owners, visited the three cottages having the Georgian fronts. No. 5, Rambler Cottage, is owned by Mrs Powell, No. 7 by Miss Hamilton, and No. 9 by Miss Onslow.

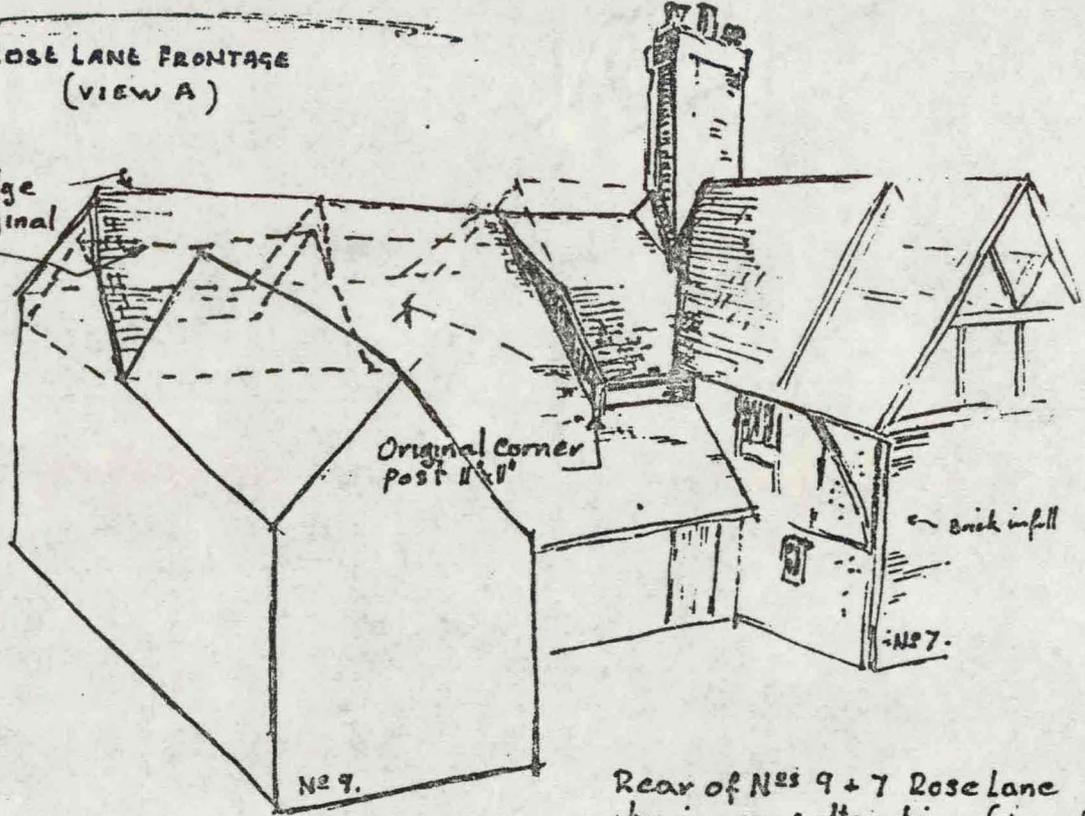
Rose Lane - Ripley, Sy.  
 Nos 5, 7, 9.  
 Send + Ripley Hist. Soc.



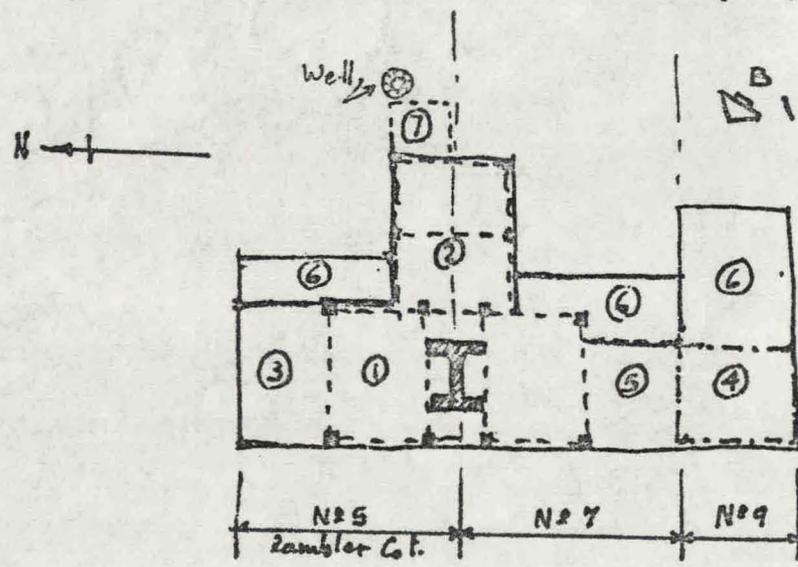
W.B.

ROSE LANE FRONTAGE  
 (VIEW A)

Raised ridge  
 Line of original  
 ridge



Rear of Nos 9 + 7 Rose Lane  
 showing roof alterations (view B)



- Key diagram  
 (not to scale).
- ① Original frame
  - ② Rear (East) frame.
  - ③ North bay added to No 5.
  - ④ Front part of No 9.
  - ⑤ Infill. 11' deep.
  - ⑥ Later extensions.
  - ⑦ Small extension (dewitched)

A

After inspection of the cottages, and studying the deeds of Nos. 5 and 7 kindly made available, and discussions drawing on the memories of village residents, the Group has attempted to piece together an outline of the changes and developments that this row of cottages has undergone over the centuries. Much documentary information remains to be unearthed, and this could modify what follows.

The East or garden side of these cottages reveals complex roof slopes and exposed timber framing, suggesting origins much earlier than the 18th century fronts.

From the timber framing still to be seen in the present cottages, it would seem that these have grown around an original house having a 30' frontage and a depth of 15', formed of a 6' wide chimney bay in the middle and 12' wide bays on either side, marked (1) on the diagram. The position of this central bay is marked by the chimney stack built within it and which can be seen between No. 5 and No. 7. The roof of this original structure had queen post trusses at the ends and apparent crown posts on either side of the central bay; it was generally of heavy construction. The "crown posts" had no braces and no collar purlin. The weathered corner post, now inside the kitchen of No. 7, measures 11" x 11". It is evident from mortice slots that at least one of the intermediate posts is a beam re-used as a post. The absence of soot encrustation, the timber sizes and construction detail (through side purlins and post and span walling) combine to suggest a frame of re-used timber, re-fabricated in the late 16th or early 17th century. The timber may have come from an earlier house on the site.

The original building seems to have been divided into two homes soon after construction, with the addition of a two or more bay wing projecting at the rear (2); and by dividing it across the middle, with a staircase rising in No. 5 against the division wall and a similar stair backing it in No. 7. No. 5 was subsequently extended to the North by one bay (3), probably in the 17th century (this could have been a separate tenement), and a cat slide roofed extension at the rear followed later. A small low two-storey extension (7) was also built to replace, in part, the missing end bay of the framed extension. This was demolished in the 1960's, although the foundations remain, bounding what is now a small courtyard. This small extension had its own stairway and may also have been a separate tenement.

Following the fashion of the 18th century, a brick front was added and a symmetry forced on the doors and windows which bore no relation to the structure behind.

No. 7, the South half of the original structure, was also extended, but to the South, by filling the gap (4) between the original framed South wall and the framed front part of No. 9. This infill (5) on two floors was only 11' deep.

In the 18th century No. 7 and No. 9 also had new brick fronts, but had the front slope of their roofs raised some three feet to give better light and head room to their upstairs rooms. The old ridge line of No. 7 was lowered to conform to the new ridge line of No. 9. The resultant level ridges and high eaves conceal some ingenious carpentry work within the roof spaces, and it says much for the adaptability of the original timber-framed method of construction that it permitted this drastic surgery.

On the East side the alterations did not work out so well, due to the different depths of the various parts, thus the roof of the original building and a foot or more of the 11" x 11" corner post stand above the newer slopes surrounding it.

We have heard that in the 19th century No. 7 became the "George Tap" after the closure of the George Inn, and later No. 7 and No. 9 were the Honeysuckle Tea Rooms and Sweet Shop. The smell of beer persisted until recent times.

In the garden of Rambler Cottage (No. 5) is a well, now filled and covered with an old millstone. This is probably the well referred to in the Court Rolls, where five tenants shared the cost of upkeep of the bucket and ropes. At the turn of the century Rambler Cottage had a dairy at the rear, and outbuildings in the present garden. The cows were brought directly in from White Hart Meadow (Cobham Field) for milking.

John Bartlett

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### SECRETARY'S REPORT

#### Membership

The following new members are welcomed:

Mr & Mrs D. FitzPatrick, Five Trees, Field Way, Burnt Common.  
Mr & Mrs P. Crane, Pembroke, Tuckey Grove, Send Marsh.  
Mr C. Howkins, 70 Grange Road, Newhaw.

Total membership consists of 104 double and 70 single subscriptions.

The attention of members is drawn to the fact that subscriptions are due on 1 February. Members paying before the Annual General Meeting do so at the existing rate of £1.50 for individuals and £2 for couples. It is not, at the time of writing, known whether there will be an increase.

Building Reports: It has been suggested that a heavy diet of technical building reports in the Newsletter can become a little monotonous. In future, therefore, it is intended that these reports shall be lightened before they appear in the Newsletter, so that they have fewer technical details but more general or social information. Technical reports will continue to be prepared for future reference and held by Tony Medlen as recorder for the Buildings Group. Any members who would like to read them should contact Tony at Muir House, Brooklyn Road, Woking (Woking 60021). It is proposed to provide owners with both reports.

Folk Memories Group: A meeting has been arranged for anybody interested in the work of this new Group. It will be held on Monday, 27 February, at 8 pm, at the home of Barbara & Alan Tinkler, Waggoners, Send Barns Lane, Send. It is hoped that officers will be appointed and activities planned.

Natural History Group: Plans are afoot to revive this Group, which has great potentialities. The Chairman, Ken Bourne, accordingly invites all interested members to a meeting at Heath Farm, Tannery Lane, at 8 pm on Thursday, 9 February, when, as with the Folk Memories Group, it is intended that officers be appointed and activities planned.

Annual General Meeting: An agenda for the AGM, to be held at 8 pm on Tuesday, 21 February, in the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, is enclosed. Members are asked to make every effort to attend. John Slatford's novel slide show of date bricks on local buildings sounds intriguing.