

*Mrs Mrs L Bower, 12 WIL*

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OPEN MEETING - 20th SEPTEMBER

This meeting took the form of a series of short talks by members on objects of interest exhibited by them. The following are notes about some of the exhibits:-

Ockham Church - King Chapel

As members of the Send History Society had recently visited Ockham Church I thought perhaps the photographs taken by Lord Knebworth at the time the King family vault was opened might prove of interest.

For some time the Secretary of the Ockham History Society had been anxious to make an investigation of the vault, primarily for the purpose of trying to ascertain the whereabouts of the King family hatchments, and also some stained glass, which was understood to have existed in the Church.

Some three years ago she approached me with a view to obtaining the Earl of Lytton's permission to open the vault. This was granted with the proviso that his son, Lord Knebworth, I and my husband should be present together with the Secretary of the History Society, the Reverend Colin Still and a Churchwarden. We duly assembled at the Church (during daylight hours), the Secretary of the Society having thoughtfully provided a ladder for climbing down into the vault. The slab to the entrance was removed and Lord Knebworth was invited to be the first to enter, followed by my husband, the Reverend Still, and finally the intrepid Secretary; the rest of us peered through from above.

The vault was in great disorder, it appeared that formerly the coffins (which were lead lined) had been placed on wooden racks, these had rotted with the result that the coffins had fallen haphazardly on top of each other and were in a hopeless disarray; as far as possible it was ascertained there had been fifteen coffins, some possibly of children. Various embellishments had fallen off the coffins, these consisted of brass plates giving names and dates of those buried in the vault. Three were able to be photographed, namely Charlotte and Thomas King, d. 1829 and 1799 respectively, and William d. 1767. There was also a decorative metal enamel painted coronet on a plate surrounded with studs. The last burial to have taken place appeared to be that of Byron, Viscount Ockham, dated 1862, and this coffin was in a reasonable condition. Further photographs of the vault were taken with the lighting which was available and the vault was then closed.

Lady Byron's Writing Case

Those members of the Society who may have read books on Byron may be aware that the papers which were collected, both during his life and after, by his wife are known as the "Lovelace Collection of Papers". These were placed on deposit at the new Bodleian Library, Oxford, in recent years, and for some time the Chief Librarian was anxious that members of the Lytton family should visit Oxford and see where, and under what conditions, the Collection was kept and used.

In April 1978 Lord Knebworth, I and my husband visited the new part of the Library (the older part is mainly used for exhibitions), where we were duly "sworn in", signing a declaration not to "remove, mark, deface or injure any document etc. etc.," and issued with a Reader's Ticket. We were then taken to the underground complex where the papers are stored. The Collection is vast, passage upon passageway full from floor to ceiling with Byron papers,

it seemed never ending. It was then Lord Knebworth was asked if he wished to have returned to him any of the deed boxes, trunks and writing case which had held some of the enormous collection of papers. He asked my opinion and my reply was that "I thought it would be interesting to have Lady Byron's writing case to exhibit", especially in view of the fact that it contained the sandalwood blocks in which she had kept various letters.

The Writing Case is made of pigskin and weighs about 16 lbs. It must have been well used as Lady Byron wrote numerous letters during her lifetime in defence of her separation of her marriage to the poet, a good many contain details of her poor health, although with a diet of three mutton chops for breakfast, this was not surprising; although this may have assisted in the carrying about of the case!

#### Portrait - Ada, Countess of Lovelace

For some while I had been searching for a portrait of Ada Byron, as the only ones available were either a locket miniature showing her at about the age of 4 years, or a portrait done by Henry Phillips when she was dying of cancer; Henry Phillips was the son of Thomas Phillips, who had painted two famous portraits of her father, Lord Byron.

Early in 1977, whilst clearing some pictures from an attic of one of the Lytton family homes, the pastel drawing of Ada was found. It was a thrilling find, and having carefully cleaned the glass and frame of cobwebs and dirt of years, it is now brought out on show at various exhibitions. It is signed M. Carpenter, the eldest child of Dr. Lant Carpenter, described in the Dictionary of National Biography as "unitarian divine". Mary Carpenter was a philanthropist, she was a great friend of Lady Byron and Harriet Martineau, and was responsible for the establishment of various reformatory schools, principally that known as Red Lodge, Bristol, which had been purchased by Lady Byron and developed by Mary Carpenter in 1854.

#### Chain Mail (approximate weight 40 lbs.)

The Arab Coat of Mail was discovered in an old cardboard box wrapped in newspaper. It has been examined by an expert and pronounced to be from the Middle East, possibly Arabia, and has received some modern repair work. The following details were obtained from Blunt family papers.

The Coat of Mail was given to Mr. Blunt by Sheikh Ibn Mershid of Sebaa, Amazeh in 1871, as a mark of his esteem of W. S. Blunt and his wife, Lady Anne Blunt. It had been handed down in the Sheikh's family from father to son and was a prized possession. The Sheikh's admiration for the Blunts came at a time when white people were not welcome in parts of Arabia. It shows much for the Blunts' willingness to adopt the ways and manners of that part of the world, for they always wore native dress, and whilst Mr. Blunt spoke Arabic in the idiom of the day and was able to make himself understood, Lady Anne's knowledge of Arabic was far more scholarly, and in later years she was recognised by universities the world over to be an authority on the subject.

P. Aldridge

#### Edison Bell Phonograph

The early history of the phonograph and the subsequent development of the sound recording industry is a story abounding with all the necessary ingredients of a good spy story.

The first phonograph, manufactured by Thomas Edison in 1878, was a primitive device intended for use as a business machine, and one listened to the recording, made on a wax cylinder, through a set of earphones. The first recordings lasted for about two minutes and were of very poor quality.

An improved version was invented by Bell and Tainter, who established the "Graphophone", and this led to intense rivalry between Edison and Bell which lasted for many years. Despite Edison's "conservative views" about the use of the instrument, it developed into a machine used for the amusement of the public and was to be seen on seaside piers and amusement arcades throughout America and Europe.

Later development led to the sophisticated machines of about 1918, as presented by Ron and Marjorie Sex. This represents the phonograph at its peak.

We should also remember the pioneering work of Emile Berliner, who after an extremely difficult struggle developed the horizontal disc recording, the ancestor of our modern long playing record. These early records were made of a zinc alloy. Later he was able to use a shellac base and produce the old 78 type records that we have all seen.

The story of the Phonograph, the Graphophone and the Gramophone, and the fortunes made and lost by their promoters, forms a rich source of study for anyone interested in the history of sound recording.

A. R. Medlen

Editorial Note: The above machine, with its wax cylinders, formerly the property of Tammy Dance, the village postman, has kindly been presented to the Society by Ron and Marjorie Sex so that it may remain in the village to be appreciated by members and other residents. A suitable plaque has been ordered for it by the President. See Newsletters 7/11 and 13/4 for previous references to the Phonograph and Mr. Dance.

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### SECRETARY'S REPORT

#### Membership

The following are welcomed as recently joined members of the Society:

Mr & Mrs S. Tudsbury-Turner, "Cheriton", Ockham Road North, West Horsley.  
Mr G. Mileham, 14 Honeypots Road, Westfield, Woking.

Total membership of the Society consists of 102 couples and 53 single members.

#### Society Property

Over the five years of its existence the Society has acquired a certain amount of property, e.g. the Ruston Hornsby Pumping Engine and the Edison Bell Phonograph mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, as well as a number of smaller items. In the absence of a central place to store and/or exhibit the property, it is looked after by different members of the Committee. In order to keep track of the property and to enable all members to have access to it, the Committee has decided that a Registrar of Society Property should be appointed, whose function it will be to keep an inventory of the property, indicating the date of acquisition, the source of the item, and the custodian for the time being.

It is intended that a copy of the inventory will be given to all members each year at the time of the Annual Meeting. The addresses at which the property is kept will not be published for security reasons. It is hoped that this system will encourage the donation to the Society of interesting items, particularly things with local history connections, whether they be old photographs or postcards, diaries, copies of deeds, locally used implements, larger items as mentioned above, or what have you. In this way it may be possible to build up a collection to form an eventual local museum, which was one of the original intentions when the Society was formed. Furthermore, the donors will have the satisfaction of knowing that anything they give will always be associated with their name and will be appreciated by members and other local residents.

#### Place Names

In the previous edition of the Newsletter concern was expressed at the changing of local place names. Since then a name board has been noticed proclaiming the existence of "White Place Vineyard" at Heath Barns where the large wooden barn stood, near May's Corner, until it was burned down on 3rd June 1977. Heath Barns has been a local place name since before 1631 (Onslow Papers), and one would have thought it would be a happy marriage of old and modern if this field, which is to be used for the cultivation of the noble grape, could have been designated Heath Barns Vineyard, or some such name, if a change is necessary. There is a similar name board in Tannery Lane.

#### Forthcoming Events

Saturday, 1st December ... Surrey Local History Symposium, at Dorking Halls, commencing at 10.30 a.m. Subject, "Surrey Rivers & Waterways". There will be a display by this Society. Tickets available, priced 75p through our Secretary, or £1 at the door.

Sunday, 2nd December ... Buildings Group visit to Worplesdon to view the interesting architecture there. Meet at 2 p.m. at Send Barns. All members of the Society welcome.

Thursday, 6th December ... Social evening, commencing at 7.30 p.m. (not 8 p.m. as previously stated), at the Church Room, Send Road. Tickets priced £1.50 from members of the Committee or Newsletter distributors. It is hoped that the photographic competition entries will be on display, among other things.

Thursday, 17th January ... Open meeting at 8 p.m., at the Church Room, Send Road, when our member, Bob Claydon, will talk about horses, harness, waggons, ploughing, etc.

Thursday, 21st February ... Annual General Meeting at the Church Room, at 8 p.m., followed by a display of slides by the Photographic Group.

Thursday, 17th April ... Open meeting. Speaker to be announced.

Thursday, 19th June ... Open meeting when, subject to confirmation, the Viscountess Hanworth, F.S.A., and Vice President of the Surrey Archaeological Society, will speak on Roman Villas in Surrey.

CLOSING DATE - The closing date for the submission of material for the next edition of the Newsletter will be Monday, 7th January.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 5th Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 21st February, in the Church Room, Send Road, Send. All items for inclusion on the Agenda should be received by the Secretary, Les Bowerman, The Manor House, Send Marsh, before Thursday, 24th January. All such items should be in writing.

Les Bowerman

It is regretted that due to lack of space in this Newsletter, several items, including Part 2 of the article on Mineral Extraction, are being held over to the next edition.

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THE OLD WORKSHOP AT WORSFOLD GATES

The workshop at Worsfold Gates is timber framed, with a cladding of tarred weatherboard, and lit in the traditional manner with long wooden mullions closely spaced from eaves to sill, and glazed with overlapping panes resembling transparent tile hanging. The total appearance of the building, sited beside the Navigation and the towpath, is attractive in every way.

The method of timber construction of this building and the type of roof are of the late 17th century, and it is reasonable to suppose this building to be the original shop used for the construction of lock gates from the time of the cutting of the Navigation in 1653. The dimensions of the building provide an area of working floor adequate for the construction of a lock gate while lying on its side, with sufficient working space to move round freely, and a substantial carpenter's or wright's bench with vices and tool racks along one side. The open hearth is probably contemporary, and apart from providing a degree of comfort for work, kept the large black cauldron of pitch warm and in a liquid state. The pitch was used in sealing and caulking the joints in the timber gates to render them waterproof.

Until recently, persons privileged to step inside this shop saw English carpentry practised on English oak with a sureness and skill that can have changed little in three centuries.

Jim Oliver

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VISIT TO THE CHURCH OF St. MARY, RIPLEY

On Sunday, 21st October, a party of about 30 from the Society paid a long overdue visit to the Church of St. Mary, Ripley. The visit was kindly arranged by our member, Gerald Hill, who is one of the Churchwardens, and Jim Oliver, our President, gave a learned commentary on the various points of interest.

Only the chancel is ancient, having been constructed about 1160. The nave was constructed by Ferrey in 1846 and the south aisle by Jackson in 1869. It is unlikely that there was ever an ancient nave to match the late Norman chancel.

The chancel, built of the local pudding-stone, with plain Norman buttresses, is of outstanding interest, for it contains 12th century work of a quality which is unmatched by anything nearer than Iffley in Oxfordshire. There is a complicated vault-pier with triple shafts on either side of the chancel dividing it into two bays, with single shafts in each corner. The shafts have capitals with an involved scallop design and bases with angle-spurs like claws. These piers, of chalk clunch, were clearly intended to

carry a stone vault (perhaps like that at Compton), but it is unlikely the vault was ever built. The best feature of the church, and of the topmost quality, is the stringcourse of highly-valued Caen stone which is carried round the interior of the chancel. The stone is intricately carved into a beautiful design of flower shapes inside a banded diamond pattern. There are two original Norman windows on the north side of the chancel with rounded heads and internal nookshafts. In the east wall there is a 13th century triple lancet window; in the south wall there are two lancets of similar age. These probably replace earlier Norman windows.

Writing in 1901, P. M. Johnston expressed the view that ancient chancel recesses might be found behind wall-plastering done in 1845. Johnston had the pleasure of proving himself right, for in 1934, when directing repair work, he uncovered four such recesses. That in the north wall is thought to have been for an Easter Sepulchre. The recess in the centre of the east wall with grooves for a door probably contained a holy relic of some kind. The recess beside it was clearly a piscina, and the fourth one in the south wall may have been an aumbry, (a cupboard or recess for holding the sacred vessels for Mass).

There are no records to show why work of such high quality should be found in a little wayside chapel which was not even a parish church until 1878. Why, then, should this chancel be (as Johnston put it) both earlier and more ornate than anything in the mother church of Send?

The earliest known reference is in the charter executed some time between 1171 and 1191 by which Ruald de Calna and his wife, Beatrice de Sandes, granted the church of Send and the oratory of Ripley, among other property, for the construction of a church in a place called Aldebury, which subsequently became known as de Novo Loco and then Newark. Edward VI's Chantry Commissioners state that the Chapel, "one mile from the Parish Church, was builded long tyme paste for an hospitale and sythen that tyme altered".

That is all there is to base speculation upon. Could a band of Augustinian canons from the mother abbey at Dorchester-upon-Thames have set up a small wayside hospice or hospital at what was to become Ripley? With assistance from Ruald and Beatrice, could they have embarked in about 1160 upon construction of a high quality centre for themselves, and then when their benefactors so impressed by their good works (or anxious to do the best for their own souls in the future) endowed them in about 1190 with considerable property, did they abandon their earlier grand ideas at Ripley (just finishing the building well enough to serve as a hospice), and move to Newark to build the Priory?

The afternoon was concluded with a brief look at the old National School with separate entrances (now blocked up) for boys and girls, built in 1846 to the design of Henry Woodyer.

In compiling these notes detail has been drawn from Johnston's notes on Ripley Church in Surrey Archaeological Collections, volume 16, from Capt. Pearce's notes accompanying his report on the excavation of the Priory in S.A.C. 40, from Pevsner's Surrey volume, and from R. N. Bloxam's booklet on the "Church and Parish of Ripley". The assistance of our President is also acknowledged.

The Secretary

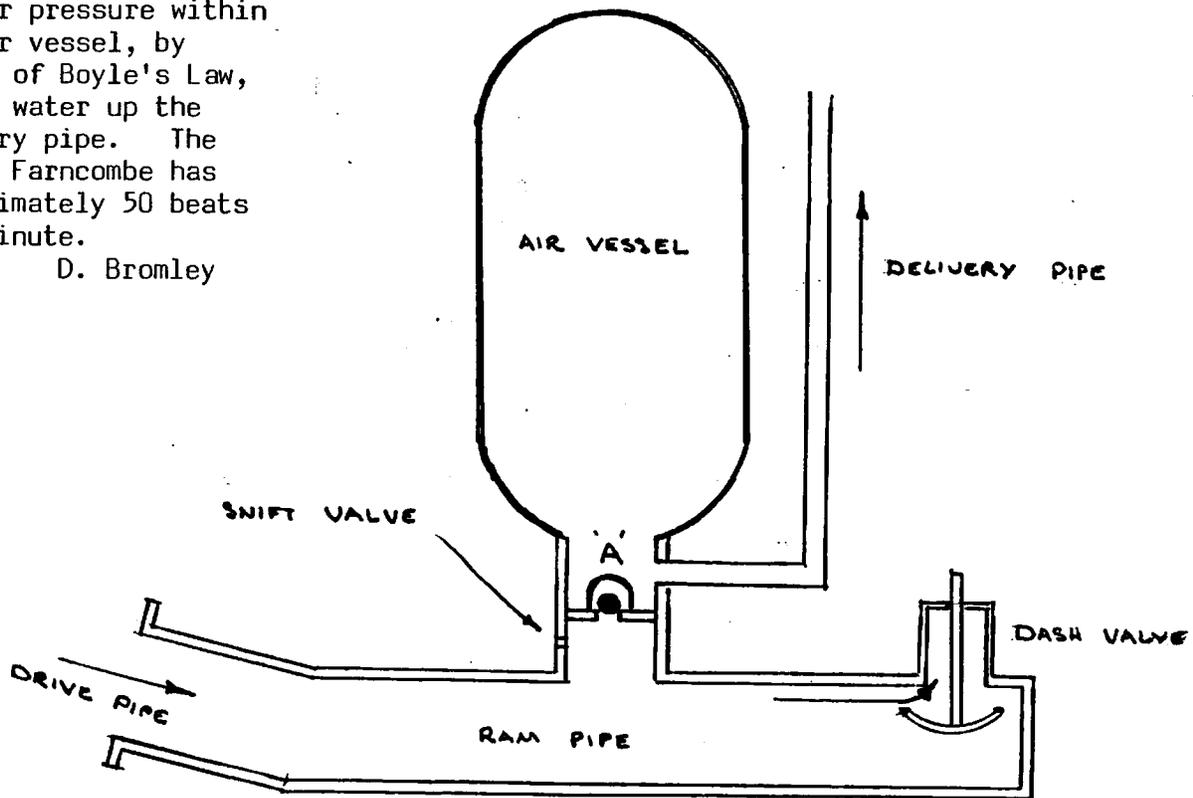
HYDRAULIC RAM AT FARNCOMBE

The nearest thing to perpetual motion? The History Society Building Group thought so when they inspected this type of water pump at Farncombe on Sunday, 30th September. It is certainly the simplest and least expensive means of raising water since a Hydraulic Ram requires no outside source of power and works day and night without attention.

The Ram at Farncombe raises water from a fresh water spring opposite the Ram cider house up some hundreds of feet on the hill above to provide water for Catteshall Farm.

The sketch below explains the principle of operation. The water source to be pumped is directed with a fall of maybe 10 feet into the drive pipe of the ram. This water, as long as the dash valve is open, passes straight through the ram and out through the dash valve. The water passing down the drive pipe builds up pressure, and the dash valve suddenly closes causing a sudden check and a build up in pressure. This water under pressure finds its way through valve "A" into the air vessel and is pushed up the delivery pipe and compressing the air within the air vessel. Water being a great solvent of air, the air in the air vessel has to be re-charged. This is effected by a snift valve, which intermingles air with the water as it rushes into the air vessel. The pressure on the dash valve being relieved, it falls open under its own weight and the valve on the air vessel closes. The air pressure within the air vessel, by reason of Boyle's Law, forces water up the delivery pipe. The ram at Farncombe has approximately 50 beats perm minute.

D. Bromley



NEWS OF THE RUSTON HORNSBY PUMPING ENGINE

Unfortunately the pump is still as yet not restored, but this has not stopped the engine from being shown off doing some useful work. I have not had my own transport this year to take it to the Shows, but the Ben Turner Social Club have come to the rescue on five occasions and taken it for us, as they have been going to some of the same Shows as the Australian Axe-men.

The B.T.S. Club have been making their display up of various woodworking machinery this summer, starting with a Steam Engine driving a Rack Saw Bench cutting

the tree trunks into slab wood, with a smaller saw bench then cutting it into fence posts and rails, and cutting up the off cuts into logs.

When the wood gets to the log stage is where our engine came into use, it was found to be the best engine to drive the heavy log splitting press. The knives on one side of the press cut the logs in half, which were then used to fire the steam engine; while another set of knives on the other side split the logs into fire lighting wood. They also had several other small machines doing a variety of jobs with wood.

If you happen to have been to one of the following shows, you might have seen it there: Surrey County Show at Guildford, Lambeth Country Show in London, Mole Valley Holiday Show at Leatherhead, Knowl Hill Ralley, Wargrave, and the Woodlarks Ploughing Match at Seale. A much travelled stationary engine I feel.

Ted Goldup

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### PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The photography competition held on Thursday, 15 November, proved an encouraging experiment, and if members are interested, perhaps we could hold another one in 1980.

The subjects chosen were very varied and will make a splendid start for an album. The winners were chosen from pictures showing scenes which will be of historic interest about a quarter of a century hence. For example, where the landscape will change, if only for the fact that trees may be left for another 25 years' growth.

To give an idea of what we were wanting, I have chosen a few pictures to explain why they were not selected as prize winners:-

Sand dunes on Send Hill - a beautiful picture, but no buildings or trees to distinguish it from the banks of the Nile.

The violin maker - a marvellous character study, excellent detail of the graining in the instrument, but inclusion of the tools of the trade would have dated the picture more accurately.

Laundry footpath - picture too small for the amount of detail therein, but an interesting "scene" nevertheless.

Towpath toward Cartbridge - a useful picture, but if the photographer had been nearer the bridge and road, more detail would have been achieved.

Children fishing at Worsfold Gates - a charming scene, but the gates were not clearly visible.

There were many more to be highly commended and it was extremely difficult to choose. However the prizes were awarded as follows:-

#### Class 1 (Adults)

Walsham Lock	by Iris & Bernard Watts	1st Prize
The Manor House 1976	by Mr W. H. Gatfield	2nd Prize

#### Class 2 (Under 13 Years)

Cricketts Hill before sand extraction	by Peter Todd	1st Prize
Send Church and Cemetery	by Guy Bowerman	2nd Prize

The entries, plus exhibition pictures, will be on show again at the social evening and buffet on December 6th in the Church Room.

Mary Dawson

ELFRIDA, COUNTESS OF WHARNCLIFFE

On Saturday, November 10th, 1979, some copies of the national press contained the obituary of Elfrida, Countess of Wharncliffe, who has died at the age of 81. This lady was the wife of the grandson of that Lady Wharncliffe who resided at Woodhill, and who has been the subject of previous notes in the Newsletter. She continued the brilliant, original, and sometimes eccentric mode of life of her own and her husband's ancestors.

The following short obituary from the Daily Telegraph may be worth quoting in full.

"Elfrida, Countess of Wharncliffe and widow of the 3rd Earl, who has died aged 81, was a qualified engineer who ran her own munitions factory on the family estate during the 1939-45 War, turning out precision instruments for the RAF. She patented about 25 inventions.

"One of her inventions, christened Elfin, was a portable apparatus for extracting gas from coal, and turning it into crude oil. She tested the invention in an opencast seam on the estate, digging a 12ft tunnel herself with one assistant when she was in her 60's. Her father, the 7th Earl Fitzwilliam, was himself a noted engineer.

"Lady Maud Lillian Elfrida Mary Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, married the then Viscount Carlton in 1918. He succeeded to the Earldom in 1926, and died in 1953. From 1930 Lady Wharncliffe was Master of the Ecclesfield Beagles."

Jim Oliver

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"ANTIQUITIES AND CONSERVATION AREAS OF SURREY"

The first "Schedule of Antiquities in the County of Surrey" was published in 1913 by P. M. Johnston and others for the Surrey Archaeological Society. The Editor's note stated that it was intended to be "an analysis of the state of knowledge up to date with regard to extant Antiquities in Surrey". The entry for Send consisted of the Church of St. Mary and Newark Priory. The following then appears: "Houses. Manor House. Orig. early 16th cent., remodelled in 1757: stables of c. 1600, good cut brickwork. Early Remains. Probable Roman villa under lawn of Manor House. Paddle of ancient canoe found in a meadow." Lest any readers should be tempted to set about the said lawn with spades, it should be hastily stated that poor old P. M. J., who was usually so meticulous, unfortunately seems to have mixed up his notes for Send with those for Stoke d'Abernon, because references to Manor House and Roman villa for that village appear in almost identical wording. The details clearly related to Stoke d'Abernon and we shall never know what P. M. J. really intended to say for Send, although the reference to the paddle does relate to Send.

Tucked into the leaves of the present writer's copy of the above Schedule is a printed report of a Special Congress of Archaeological Societies in union with the Society of Antiquaries of London held on July 22nd 1912. The meeting had been called at the suggestion of a Joint Committee of the Houses of Parliament upon the Ancient Monuments Preservation Bill then before Parliament in order to discuss certain points in the Bill. P. M. Johnston played a leading part in the discussion. The Bill was duly passed and the legislation is now known as the Ancient Monuments Acts 1913 to 1953.

Other legislation culminating in Section 54 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, requires the Secretary of State for the Environment to

prepare statutory lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. These lists are available for inspection at County Hall or local council offices.

The lineal successor to Johnston's Schedule of Antiquities is the "List of Antiquities and Conservation Areas in the Administrative County of Surrey", published by the Surrey County Council Town and Country Planning Committee, of which the latest edition, the 6th, appeared in 1976 (including details of Conservation Areas for the first time). The Antiquities included are ancient Monuments, buildings statutorily listed, ecclesiastical buildings (exempt from statutory listing), buildings of local architectural or historic interest, and some without any notation.

The entry for Send in the 1976 edition consists of some 28 items, ranging from the moated site (Ancient Monument) and the Church to the Saddlers Arms. Unfortunately, the same gremlin which accompanied Johnston when he came to Send was still alive and kicking in 1976, resulting in a number of errors of description. These were pointed out to the Planning Committee by this Society and most of them were corrected in Addenda & Corrigenda No. 2 of March 1977. Further technical information brought to the attention of the Planning Committee either by the Society directly, or through the indirect agency of individual members, has resulted in amendment of the detail of a further three entries and the upgrading of two, viz. Goodgrove, now statutorily listed and given an attribution of mid 16 c. and later in place of early 19 c.; Dedswell Manor Farm Cottages upgraded and amended to 15 c. and earlier from 16 c. and early 17 c.; and Homewood Farmhouse (actually Ripley) corrected to 16 c.-17 c. from 14 c.-16 c.

As a result of an inspection by the Society's Buildings Group, Hillside Farm is due to be amended to 18 c. from 16-17 c. Continuing inspections should result in further detail being added to some of the sketchier entries.

When the Buildings Group has inspected as many as possible of the 28 Send entries, together with any interesting unlisted buildings, it will be able to turn its attention to the 78 entries for Ripley!

Les Bowerman

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#### BUILDINGS GROUP VISIT TO TWO BARNS NEAR GODALMING

The Group met at the Manor House on 30th September and drove in convoy to Godalming to view two barns.

The first barn, nestling among the hills in the grounds of Ladywell Convent, was Ashtead Farm Barn, constructed of the local Bargate stone. This is a very rare barn of a kind seen mostly in the Midlands and North and known as a Bank barn. As yet no others have been identified in Surrey.

The building is on a sloping site, and is composed of four divisions. On the left of the barn is a store for sheaves of grain brought in at harvest. The second section of this floor is for threshing with the usual plan of a full waggon entrance door at one end and a small waggon door at the other for the unloaded waggons.

I found, and I'm sure the rest of the party will agree, the other two sections exceptionally interesting. Each section was on a lower level, so that the barn as a whole was on three levels. The third section is where the straw was thrown after threshing and has a door at one end. The fourth section was where the fattening cattle were kept in winter, being fed on the

straw thrown to them from section 3. The fourth section has two doors and ventilation slits in the walls.

As can be imagined, with the uneaten straw plus dung, the level of the 4th section rose steadily, until by spring it was level with section three. By this time the well compounded mass made excellent compost for the surrounding farmland, and the then fattened cattle could be led out of the side door of section 3.

Most of us think of split level as being a new idea, but as is usually the case, this very good idea is a traditional one. We learnt that this barn is early 18th century.

The Group then drove to Catteshall where we viewed a very different barn, framed completely with high quality re-used mediaeval timbers. These timbers were very large and one suspects that they may have come from a manor, possibly not far away, as transport could have been a problem.

The example of timber framed construction in this barn was excellent, dating between mid 18th century and early 19th century. An interesting feature was the tank in the roof, which is served by the hydraulic ram described on page 8 of this Newsletter.

Both barns are well worth a visit, if any who didn't come have another opportunity.

Gloria Henson

WILKINS GROUP VISIT TO THE BARN AT CATTESHALL

The group met at the Manor House on 15th September and drove in convoy to Catteshall to view two barns.

The first barn, situated among the hills in the grounds of Catteshall Manor, was a large barn built, according to the local Gazette, about 1750. This is a very fine example of a kind of barn which in the Midlands and North is known as a 'Barn' and has not elsewhere been identified in any way.

The building is on a sloping site, and is composed of four divisions. On the left of the barn is a store for sheaves of grain, known as a 'barn'. The second section of this barn is for crushing with the usual plan of a mill wagon and a small wagon door at the other end of the barn.

I found that the barn was built on a lower level than the other two barns. The third section is a store for straw and a door at one end. The straw was thrown after threshing and was kept in winter, being led on the section where the fattened cattle were kept in winter.