

# Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

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The Ruins of  
Newark Priory  
West View

Journal Volume 6 No. 211

Mar/Apr 2010



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**Journal Volume 6 No. 211**

**Mar/Apr 2010**

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**Cover photo: c1930(?) Coach Outing to Goodwood from the Talbot, Ripley.** Photo supplied by Gitta Hampton. Location unknown. The whole Hampton family of parents and 13 children went annually by coach (with others) from the Talbot to Goodwood for the races. 4th from the right is Daniel Hampton of The Wilderness, Ockham. 9th from the left is Reg Hampton of Elm Corner, Ockham. **Any further information would be welcome.**

## Editorial

The editorial in the previous issue was largely about the snow. As we hopefully near the end of one of the longest and hardest winters of modern time, it seems appropriate to refer once again to the weather. In the editorial memory 1947 stands out as exceptionally severe, but diary entries suggest that it was very low temperatures and snow coupled with shortage of fuel in the post-war period and, of course, lack of central heating at that time in the average working class home which made that year so memorable. 1962/63 was perhaps the worst in living memory with freezing fog in November and exceptionally low temperatures right round to the middle of March. The reason that very severe winter is engraved so deeply on the editorial mind is partly because he was at that time commuting by pedal cycle from Jacobs Well near Guildford to Shepherds Bush. 2009/10, however, is a fairly close contender for the title of worst winter of recent times on account of the sheer amount of ‘fill-the-dike with black and white’ (as we used to say about February) over the period December to March and the sheer number of frosts, which are still occurring at the time of writing (8th March). Let us take cheer from the fact that 1947 was followed by a very fine summer. And we won’t even mention global warming, except to sympathise with the poor old polar bears.

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### **The Incomers - Sendholme and Boughton Hall**

*Bette Slatford and Jane Bartlett*

The coming of the railway to Woking in 1838 opened up Send to a new order of inhabitants – not any more the landed gentry, but industrialists and politicians choosing to have a country estate to bring up their family even if having a home in London.

The first of the new breed was the Hon. Francis Scott, the MP for Berwick, who built Sendhurst Grange and lived there from 1853 - 1882. Following him south were two closely knit



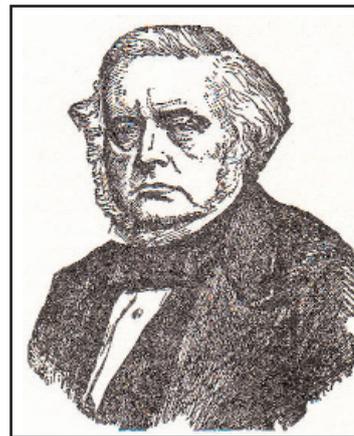
*The Paultons at Boughton Hall*

families, coming from the north, having an industrial background, Liberal in their political views, and also related to each other. These were the inhabitants of Boughton Hall and Sendholme.

Abraham Paulton from Bolton, and his wife Martha (nee Mellor from Manchester) leased Boughton Hall in 1870. He was a political journalist and was editor of the *Anti-Corn-Law League Journal*, and later the *Manchester Examiner* and *Times*. His father Walter had been a brewer. Here then is a descendent of trade moving into politics.

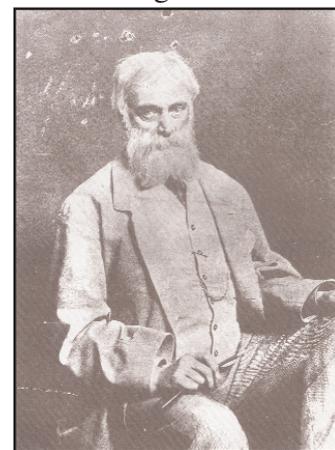
Alice Hargreaves (nee Mellor) was Martha Paulton’s older sister, so when William Hargreaves, like Abraham Paulton, moved south, it was logical to be near her sister, particularly as Martha was widowed in 1876. They had been living in Paddington from 1851-1871 as shown in the census returns. (Abraham Paulton too, had a Paddington home in 1861.) The Hargreaveses had a new home, Sendholme, built on Weston’s land in the Crickets Hill area between 1871-1875.

William Hargreaves, born in Burnley, Lancashire, was a magistrate. It is believed that his ancestor was James Hargreaves, the weaver, who first created the Spinning Jenny, one of the new inventions in the textile industry. So, in addition to the family connection, Paulton and Hargreaves were both of the new liberal-minded middle class. These were the men who, with commercial and industrial interests, supported free trade and the Anti-Corn-Law movement.



*John Bright*

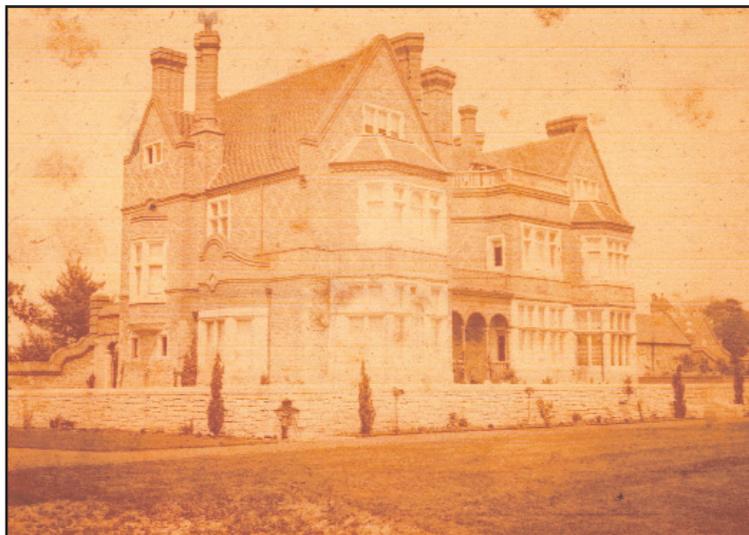
The Anti-Corn-Law League had been founded in Manchester in 1838. The movement hoped that if the punitive import tariffs were abolished, there would not only be cheaper food for the working classes but also an expanding market for their own manufactured goods. The prime movers of the reforms were Cobden and Bright. John Bright, a factory owner and the son of a cotton manufacturer, was an outstanding orator and toured the country attacking the privileged position of the landed gentry. Bright was president of the Board of Trade in 1868 and MP for Birmingham. He was a friend of William Hargreaves and sought his advice when asked to join Gladstone's cabinet. The Brights seem also to have been related by marriage to the Paultons and the Hargreaveses. Jacob Bright, John's brother, and his family were staying with the Paultons in their Paddington home on the night of the 1861 census. Jacob's wife's maiden name was Ursula Mellor.



*George Devey*

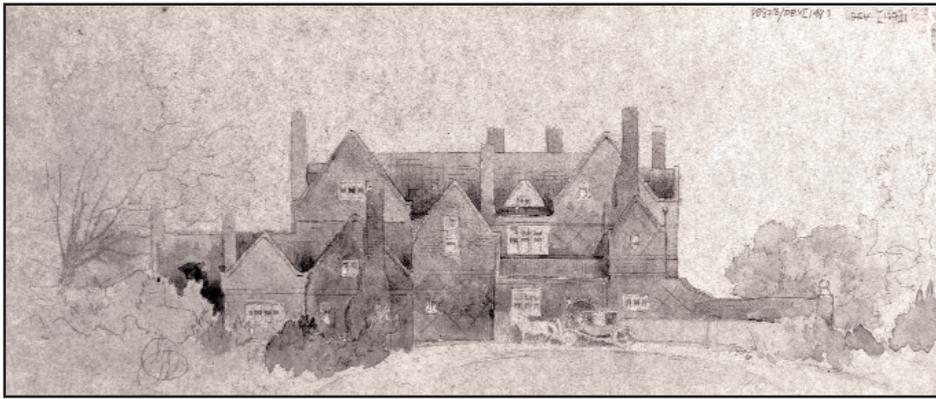
John Bright was witness to the marriage of the Hargreaveses' nineteen-year-old daughter, Mary Constance, to Joseph Leese in 1867. The marriage took place in the hall at Sendholme and was conducted by the Send vicar, Charles Tate. There is another pointer to William Hargreaves's liberal views on the memorial inscription in Send churchyard:- "A man of wide sympathies and most gentle life in principle, a republican striving always to promote the equal right of humans."

Joseph Francis Leese who married Mary Constance Hargreaves came from a similar background to the Hargreaveses and Paultons. He was born in Manchester, and in the 1861 Census, was described as a cotton spinner manufacturer and also a magistrate for the county of Lancashire. He moved south and lived in Sendholme with his mother-in-law Alice Hargreaves who had been widowed in 1876. He is now given in the 1881 census returns as a barrister, and later took silk. He was a Liberal MP for Accrington from 1892 until 1909 and was created a baronet in 1908. He lived in Sendholme in the 1880s with his eight children. His final few years he spent in Sutton Park Cottage and he was buried in Send.



*Sendholme (from RIBA collection)*

The architect for Sendholme was Devey. It was typical of his work as shown in the illustrations of Jill Allibone's book "George Devey, Architect 1820-1886." Nearly all his



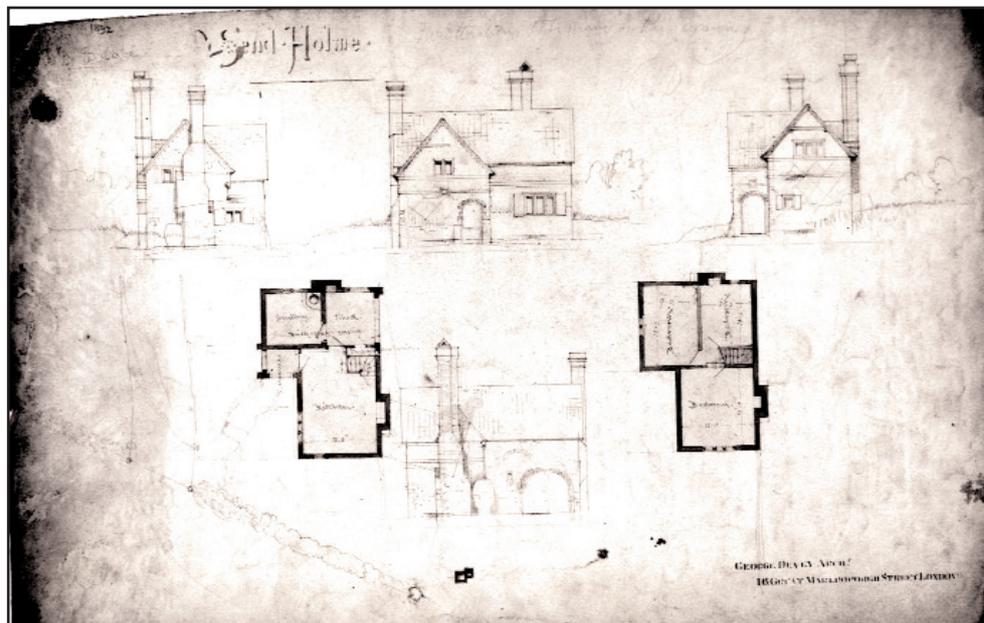
*Sendholme from an early watercolour by George Devey*

houses are multi-gabled and sandstone-based with diaper brickwork. There are often two-storey projecting bay windows with stone mullions and a veranda at first floor level. There were prominent chimneys in the Elizabethan

style, rather like Lutyens. (See also the account by the present owners Michael and Hilary Cowan in Journal Vol. 6 No. 190.)

Normally Devey worked with an original sketch or watercolour, then made a model, rather than a perspective drawing. He later made use of the newly discovered technique of photography. Amongst the collection of his plans and records kept in the R.I.B.A. library are early sketches and photos of the house and lodge. The work is recorded as a new house and lodge being built from 1871 to 1875.

Devey received £52 in fees in 1871 and £147 in 1877. The work was originally done for Captain and Mrs Hargreaves and the later additions for Sir Joseph Leese as his wife, Mary Constance, inherited the house when William Hargreaves died in 1874. The lodge bears the date of 1871. The veranda was added to the garden front in 1875.



*Design sketch by G. Devey for Sendholme Lodge (from RIBA collection)*

Devey also worked for Abraham Paulton at Boughton Hall, carrying out alterations and adding a third storey at the back in 1872 and 1875 (the side we now see from the road). Once more we see his typical gables, this time in the Dutch style he so often used. His commission was £110 in July 1872 and £66 in July 1875. (See also Journal 122 for Ken French's account.)



*Boughton Hall 2009 (SRHS)*

Sir Joseph Leese not only may have had alterations made to Sendholme, but he was also the instigator of its cricket pitch. Country house cricket was not a new activity. Edward Ryde of Poundfield House, Hoebridge, Woking, held cricket matches at his home from the 1870s. Ryde

had five sons who went to Westminster. On one occasion they invited a Westminster team, and presumably they had friends who would make up their home team. Entries in his diary in 1878 show there were matches on Mrs Hargreaves's ground, and throughout the 1880s he notes that they played or watched cricket on Mr Leese's ground. Joseph himself occasionally played for Lancashire between 1865-1877, and even for the Veterans versus M.C.C. in the centenary match at Lords in 1887. He laid his new pitch in Send between the house and Crickets' Hill Farm with a fine marl laid surface made by J.C. Hearne.



WINCHESTER XI, 1887.  
 W. H. Leese, V. T. Hill, T. B. Case, A. H. C. Barker, W. G. Clegg, J. H. Weatherly,  
 H. Gibson, Hon. F. J. N. Theiger, V. F. Leese, B. J. Byng Stephens,  
 H. B. Debenham

*WH Leese & VW Leese in Winchester XI*

Sir Joseph had six sons, who went to Winchester, all of whom played cricket. Five of them were members of the Lords XI at school. William, his eldest son, went on to play for Marylebone Cricket Club.

Arthur Henry Lancaster, a retired lead and silver merchant, who leased Sendholme from Mrs Hargreaves in 1899 and was there until 1927, was not able to produce his own team as he only had two daughters, Eveline and Elsie, but he kept on the cricket tradition by letting the Send Cricket Club play there, which they did until the end of the lease in 2000. It is good that the present owners, Michael and Hilary Cowan, invite touring clubs there to keep the cricket tradition going.

None of the descendants returned to the industrial roots of their parents. Abraham Paulton's son, James Mellor Paulton, became a Liberal M.P. and was private secretary to three



*Mr Lancaster and Send Cricket Club*

prime ministers. For a time he was secretary to Lord Onslow. (See also the account by Ken French in Journal 122). Sir Joseph Leese's sons also had professional careers. William, the eldest, was a solicitor, as was Cecil. Vernon became deputy surveyor of the New Forest. Perhaps the most outstanding was

his eldest grandson, Lieut. General Sir Oliver William Hargreaves Leese, the third baronet, who held high rank in both world wars. He was awarded the D.S.O. in 1916 and received his knighthood from George VI on the battlefield. He replaced

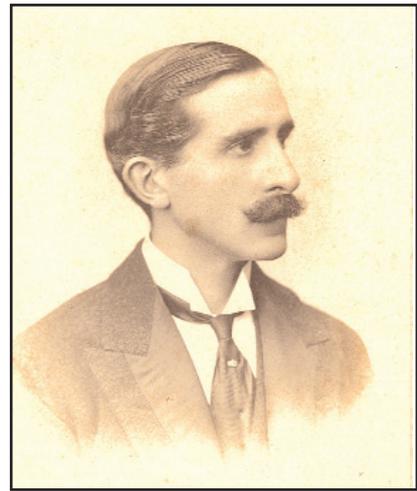
General Montgomery as commander of the 8th Army in 1943.

The descendants of the liberal-minded incomers to Send have come a long way from the cotton spinners of the north. Two of their houses, however, have had a change of use. Sendhurst Grange, after several changes such as a home

for disabled children, has now been extended and developed into three homes with a fourth built in the grounds. Boughton Hall on occasion housed prisoners-of-war, then acted as temporary council housing. It is now a residential care home. Sendholme, however, is still a family home.



*Lieutenant General Sir Oliver Leese  
(left)*



*James Mellor Paulton*

---

## **Boughton Hall - a Childhood Memory**

*Jane Bartlett*

The Stedman family with their three children, Shirley, Doreen and Roger, rented one room as their home in the Colliers` house, Blunt Cottage, in Polesden Lane. Mildred Stedman was a good manager and brought her children up strictly. After listening to a Woman`s Hour programme on the difficulty of bringing up children, she wrote to the BBC describing real difficulty. She was invited to read her letter on one of the later programmes (these were published in a booklet called “Difficult Children”). Although brought up strictly to be “seen but not heard”, the children found fun in their own way. Beyond the end of the Colliers` garden was where Norcon concrete pipes were being manufactured (Ted Stedman was working there at that time). The children spent hours playing hide-and-seek in the pipes which seemed to them like tunnels.

In 1946 Guildford Rural District Council offered them accommodation in Boughton Hall which the council had requisitioned during the war from the absent owner, Mr Grantham. At this time Shirley was eight, Doreen seven and Roger three. The Stedmans were delighted.

The big room to the right of the front door was divided into two with a chipboard partition. One was a bedroom and the other a very large room, which was almost empty as they had so little furniture. Above it, the large bedroom was also divided into two, with access through one part to reach the other. Along the dark panelled passage and out to the back they reached a kitchen which was probably once a pantry. There were cupboards all the way round - far more than they needed for their few possessions. One they had as their toy cupboard, and the empty work surface made “a good place to run round”, said Roger. They shared two bathrooms over the entrance with the other tenants. This was quite a luxury as in Blunt Cottage the children shared a tin tub on Friday nights. There were no downstairs toilets.

There were five other families housed there at that time as well as a Land Army girl in the attics. To the left of the front door where the dining room now is, were the Hampshires and their

daughter. Also downstairs were the Shorters with Valerie and John. At the back near the courtyard were the Farmers with Michael with one bedroom upstairs. The Upstones, and the Tunnells with Anne and Billy, had all their rooms upstairs. Shirley thought that, like themselves, they were all local families with children who, because of the shortage of housing, had nowhere to live.

The children thought the place idyllic. They were free to roam all over the house, up into the attics and out on to the roof (a perfect place from which to throw snowballs). The dark panelled passages had intriguing keyholes but no keys. They could roam the grounds up to Burnt Common. They picked primroses under the trees. They also discovered the old stable yard with its barn and stables with a hay loft. There was one shed (presumably the granary) sufficiently raised off the ground for them to crawl underneath into a dark rustling band of bamboos and through into a clump of fir trees where they made camps. Beyond this was the vegetable garden and orchard where Mr Stedman was able to grow vegetables for the family. There was the old gardener's cottage at the back of the stable yard which was tenanted.

The children were too young to know what rent they paid or what their father's wages were. Later on when Ted worked as a porter at Woking station he earned five pounds a week. They all went first to Ripley School and then to Send. Roger, while there, won the Elsie Lancaster memorial prize, The face of England, by H.E.Bates.

When alternative accommodation was found, the families were rehoused. In 1950 the Stedmans and the Upstones went to the Sandfields Estate, the Tunnells to Mays Corner and the Farmers to Wood Street. The Council gave up their occupation in 1957 and Mr Grantham, after compensation for dilapidation, sold the house to Mr Hersher.

Shirley said that the period at Boughton Hall, with the freedom to explore, the space and the beauty around them, was the happiest time of her life.

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## **Lance Corporal W H (Bill) Hack** **A Prisoner's Tale**

*Derek Hack*

My mother, Peggy Hack, never threw anything away. As a result I was left with all manner of photos and documents when she passed away in 2002. Among these were all of my father's letters he had sent to her during World War II. Some were from before he was shipped out and the rest were written when he was a Prisoner of War.



*Bill Hack ca 1940*

For quite a time I did not feel it was right to read somebody else's private letters, let alone my mother's and father's. However, a few years ago over the Christmas holidays I started to go through them, if only to find out what life was like as a POW. Dad was never one to talk about what had happened to him and I now regret not asking any questions. It seems obvious now but, when you are in your twenties, you just don't ask those things. I would urge anyone reading this, if you have a tale to tell, then tell it or at least write it down. The little children or grandchildren who seem uninterested now will sometime when they are older want to know what Mum and Dad or Nan and Grandad got up to. It's the only way family history is passed on.

However, back to my father. He was called up in June 1940 (we have his call-up papers) and was soon at Stoughton Barracks in Guildford to start his army life with the Queen's Royal Regiment. Being so close to home, he managed to get home a few times before he was sent around the country on manoeuvres. Indeed, one letter comes from an old mill in Lincolnshire where they had to spend the night whilst on the move. The last letter in this country comes from Kent, telling Mum not to worry as he is sure they won't be going overseas just yet – maybe just a move nearer to the coast. What a shock he must have had when in the blink of an eye he was on a boat and did not have a clue where he was going. They must have called into various ports on their way to the Middle East as we have a few letters sent when he had some shore leave. Where he was he could not say. He was looking forward to helping get the job done so that he could soon make the return journey. Most of his time ashore was spent in the local eating houses.

Dad wanted to know about his brother-in-law and what Home Guard he had joined – Ripley or Send – and also about his brother whose ship HMS Penelope had been in the papers. We have since found out that the ship Dad was on was the SS Christobal, an American ship that was used throughout the war for troop movements. It was cramped on board, with only two meals a day and nothing in between. The food, however, he said was very good. The ports they called in at were Freetown, Sierra Leone, with no shore time, and 14 days later Durban where everyone could go ashore. The final destination was Port Suez where they made their way to Khatatba camp which was situated 60 miles east of Cairo on the edge of the desert. Dad's letters from the camp always mentioned that the sand got into everything. He had to have all his hair cut off, although the only thing they had to do it with was nail scissors. His most prized possession was a tin opener, as they were given up to six cans of fruit a day, and without one you would have a problem. Water was in short supply, which he found hard. Being stuck in the desert surrounded by nothing but sand, he said that even a dog kennel would be a nice sight. He had worked at the Send Kennels (presumably with Gordon Stewart's Great Danes at Send Manor) before the war. Little did he know that soon he would be on the move towards the front line.

His capture is a bit confusing, as Dad had never gone into any detail about it, apart from saying how big the Italians that captured him were. I have since found that Dad's company was involved in the battle of Alar Hafia a few days before the main battle of El Alamein. They were sent out on the night of September 29th to capture some enemy positions. However, not one of them returned. Over 60% of them were killed or wounded and the rest were taken prisoner by the crack Italian paratroop division, the Folgore. So, although bad news for my father at the time, it could have been much worse. What he had seen and experienced that night we shall never know as he never talked about it in any detail.

It was some time later (December) that my mother received the Missing in Action letter. What must they have been thinking that Christmas? She had last heard from him in August – and then to receive that letter some four months later must have been soul destroying. However, thankfully in January came the news that he was safe and well as a POW in Italy at Transit Camp 85 near Taranto in the south of the country. So, good news in one respect, but it must have dawned on them that they would not see him again until the war was over. And when would that be?

His first letter from Italy started "Dearest Peg, at last I have been given the chance to let you know I am safe and well. I hope you and Jennifer are fit and well. As you can see, I am a prisoner in Italy. I have missed your letters this last three months. Will you let Mum and Dad know?" The letter was dated 22-12-42 but did not arrive in Send until late January. The letters from then on were much the same. Indeed Dad did apologise a few times about the dullness of the letters. As he said, not a lot goes on in a POW camp as each day is much the same as the last. Whilst he was in Italy they amused themselves with football and boxing matches which kept mind and body active. He did manage to get a spell working on a winery outside the 'wire pen', as he

put it. By all accounts they all had a lovely suntan and were on good rations, so much so that he was putting on weight, being nearly 12 stones. They always looked forward to the Red Cross parcels and their cigarettes, and of course their letters from home. These were taking about 24 days to arrive at the camp and sometimes they could receive up to six in one go.

Each and every letter he sent home he was asking about his little daughter (my sister) and how she must be growing up fast, and how much he was missing both of them. Quite a few were about my grandfather's foot as it was stopping him from working (on Prews Farm in Tannery Lane). This is where my mother and sister were staying during the war years. What was wrong with the foot was never explained. As far as I can make out he was in Italy from November 1942 until September 1943.

Dad's last letter from Italy showed he had no idea he was about to be moved to Stalag IVC in what is now the Czech Republic. His first letter from there is dated October 1943. The one thing Dad did do was to date all his letters. Little would he have thought that some 66 years later it would help me piece together his movements during the war, and certainly would not have believed that I could use a TV screen and a thing called the World Wide Web to find answers to some of the questions we did not ask. One thing the move to the Czech camp did was to make the winters a whole lot colder than in Italy. He asked for some socks to be sent and was very happy when he got a new greatcoat from the Red Cross. Every one of his letters started the same and ended the same, with little bits of information in the middle.

The following is a full letter dated 21-11-43, about a month after he arrived at his new camp:

"Dearest Peg,

Hope you and Jennifer are fit and well. I am OK and feeling fit. Take care of yourself this winter. It is getting cold out this way but I have some warm Red Cross clothing and have just had a new great coat.

Will be glad when I get some mail from you. Did you get the second sum of money from the Paymaster? Let me know how you, Ern and Frank are going on (his brothers). Are you still going out to work? Tell Mum she will have to put the big feed back for a while. Give her my love.

I wrote to Mum (in Wharf Lane) last week. We are able to buy beer in the camp but I would prefer a pint at the Stars (the Seven Stars in Newark Lane). My mate is still with me. Have a good time at Xmas, darling. My thoughts will be with you. Remember me to all our friends.

Don't worry. I am top hole. Give Jennifer lots of love and kisses from Daddy. Cheerio, darling. Write as often as you can. You are always in my thoughts.

All my love.

Your loving husband, Bill."

Most of the letters are like this, asking how



*Peggy, daughter Jennifer, Bill Hack ca 1940*

things are at home and telling them not to worry about him. Whilst in Stalag IVC he got a job as a bricklayer, although he did say that he was up at 4.30 in the morning to start work at 6 o'clock. What he was building he did not say, but bearing in mind that all letters were checked and have the 'Passed' stamp on them, not much information was ever going to come back to my mother. He was also working in the mines in the area, plastering the walls with lime plaster. Indeed, one story he told was how one of the prison guards told him to be careful because he was working without a shirt on as it was so hot down the mine, and the lime plaster would leave nasty burns if you got too much of it on bare skin.

He was very pleased to be able to use a comb again as, since first being in Egypt, he had always had his head shaved for one reason or another. At last he could keep his hair. They also managed to see some films in the camp, German ones at least. I have since found out that they had a wireless so they managed to keep tabs on what was happening elsewhere in the war. The most prized things in the camp were fags and chocolate, although if somebody was short then they used to share round what they had. He was always saying what a great time he and my mother would have when it was all over, and asking if the people in Prews Cottages were looking after the garden as it would make it easier for him when he got home and they could get back down there together.

His last letters were dated January '45. They knew what was happening and hopefully the war was entering its last phase, but how long it would take was anybody's guess. The reason Mum received no more letters must have been due to the Allies closing in on Germany, giving them much more to think about than sending prisoners' letters off. Indeed the guards were changed at the camp to older men with anybody fit being sent to the front. The actual liberation of the camp was something Dad never mentioned at all. However, I have found out that in fact the gates were opened by the Germans, due to the Russians being very close, and the last thing the guards wanted was to be captured by them. So, along with the prisoners they all made their way towards the American lines. They did not know how far these were, but after a day or so they finally made it.

This all happened about the beginning of May. Where Dad flew back from we don't know, but towards the end of the month my mother and sister received the telegram they had longed for, simply saying "Arrived safely. See you soon, Bill". It was soon followed by the official letter telling them the same news. He had been two years and 363 days overseas, and as such was due 36 days leave. In all it was over three years since he had seen my mother and sister. When he had left, his daughter was 3 years old and when he came back she was 6. Did she even recognise him after all that time? Mum told me that the first time they caught sight of Dad was as he walked across the old footpath opposite the tannery on his way back to Prews Farm. What must that have been like? (Another question unasked!)

We may not have known a lot about the thoughts and encounters of Mum and Dad, but through Mum keeping all the letters (110 of them) and all other documents, and most of all thanks to the internet, I have managed to put this piece together. There are still things I would like to know, so it will not stop just yet.

Dad always wanted to get the three years back, so he always hoped he could have a good few years in retirement to make up for those lost years. This he managed up to the age of 72, until his untimely passing in 1986. Oh, how I wish I had asked those questions.

## The Society's 35th Anniversary Dinner

*Sheila Brown*

On 29th January 46 members celebrated the 35th Anniversary of the Society with a special dinner at the Ripley Village Hall. The hall was decorated with balloons and bunting, and the tables looked most attractive with flowers and sparkling glasses and cutlery. This was the work of Clare McCann, Anne Bowerman, Andy Jones and Christina Sheard who had set up the hall earlier in the day. Display boards had been put up showing various aspects of Send and Ripley life over the years, and the many activities in which the Society had been involved. The display attracted the attention of members as they waited for the evening to begin.

Les Bowerman opened the evening with a welcome to members followed by an appreciation for those who had worked during the afternoon to make this possible. An excellent meal was prepared and served by outside caterers, Meg Bowers and her team. Members brought their own wine.

A toast was made by Marilyn Scott, Director of the Woking Lightbox, who is also one of our members and indeed a former Treasurer and Secretary. Marilyn complimented the Society for continuing for so many years. President-nominate John Slatford spoke warmly of the Society going from strength to strength. He also gave praise to his late wife, Bette, for all the research that she had helped to carry out from the earliest days of the Society right up to her recent death.

The Society's Chairman, Les Bowerman, spoke of the progress of the Society over the years and drew attention to the founder members of the Society, some seven of whom were present at the occasion. Les gave a special toast to them as they stood up to be identified. He reminded members of what was happening in the world in 1975 and pointed out some changes which had taken place in Send & Ripley since then, drawing attention to the fact that Ripley Village Hall shared its birth year with the Society.

A birthday cake, made and iced by Anne, had been decorated by Clare with the Society's Newark Priory logo. We all enjoyed a slice of this excellent cake with our coffee, accompanied by a slide show and commentary given by Les, showing many of the old buildings in Send and Ripley.

The evening was enjoyed by all. Members old and new chatted happily together during the meal and were all surprised when it was time to leave. There was a raffle with a single prize of a large bottle of champagne. The winner



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was very excited as she said it was the first time she had won any prize, so she went home extra happy!

Thanks are due to all who made the evening a very special occasion.

The Dinner was well reported on the front page of the 5th February issue of the Woking Review. The accompanying photograph, reproduced here, shows left to right Andy Jones, Anne Bowerman, Les Bowerman, John Slatford and Clare McCann.

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## **The 35th Annual General Meeting**

*summarised by the Editor*

The 35th Annual General Meeting was held on 17th February at Ripley Village Hall Annexe, attended by 40 members. There were 14 apologies for absence. The minutes of the 2009 meeting were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

**Secretary's Report:** Gary Griffiths observed that, having been appointed only in October, he was unable to comment on the year past. He was pleased to be present, to be part of the Committee and he looked forward to working with the Society.

**Treasurer's Report:** Christina Sheard circulated the Annual Financial Report and the Accounts which had been examined by the Society's consulting accountant, Desmond McCann. The members were advised that Desmond had an indirect interest in that his wife, Clare, is a member of the Committee, but nobody objected. It was pointed out that the accounts showed an excess of £248 of income over expenditure. 206 copies of the new book, Memories of War, had been sold up to the end of the year. Total income from sales of publications was £2293. At 59, more copies of the Walk about Ripley Village had been sold than any other of the 12 books published by the Society except for Memories of War. A Gift Aid refund of £500 had been received from the Inland Revenue. Subscriptions amounted to £2527. £812 had been spent on the final stage of putting all the Society's photos and slides onto computer. The accounts were accepted without dissent.

**Chairman's Report:** Les Bowerman read a lengthy report which showed that the Society had had a busy and successful year, notwithstanding that a number of members had sadly died during the year. Membership last year had amounted to 320. Les expressed his thanks to Sally and Andy Jones for taking on the post of Membership Secretary and to Gary for agreeing to become Secretary. Les thanked all who had given their services over the past year, including David Porter and Alan Baker who, by declining to stand for re-election after a number of years service, had effectively retired. Les said that new Committee members were urgently required. He stressed that he had taken over as Editor following the death of Ken Bourne after so many years only as a temporary measure. The Society does need a new Editor who can see the job through for some years. Nearly 150 artefacts have been received during the year for the museum, for which Committee had worked towards accreditation status. Mavis Davies was thanked for her work as librarian, Chris Brown for acting as webmaster, Les Brown for various computer help and Jane Bartlett for looking after the photographic archive. Others who were thanked were Clare for putting on two museum exhibitions and a barbecue and for producing the new book Memories of War, the museum stewards, John Slatford for masterminding book sales, Anne Bowerman for programme planning, and Norman Carpenter for Journal distribution.

**Annual Subscriptions:** The meeting agreed unanimously to accept the Committee's proposal to increase subscriptions to £12 for individuals and £14 for double membership with effect from 1st January 2011 to take account of actual and anticipated inflation.

**Election of Officers:** John Slatford was unanimously elected as President in view of his massive contribution to the progress of the Society in so many ways over the past 35 years. The election also reflects appreciation over a similar amount of work done by his late wife, Bette. John continues to take a very active part in the Society's affairs. Gary's mid-term appointment as Secretary was confirmed by formal election to the position. Re-election of Les to Chairman, Clare to Vice-Chairman, Christina to Treasurer, and Anne, Peter Croucher, Andy Jones and Bob Stonard as Committee members was unanimous.

After the formal business and refreshments organised by Anne, Andy spoke about his wife, Sally's, beautiful and imaginative rag-work. Peter spoke about and showed some of his extensive collection of early radios. Les described some of the artefacts deposited during the year, most notably a number of items relating to Dunsborough House during its ownership by Florence Desmond and her husband Charles Hughesden. He also showed recently acquired 1950s original pen-and-ink drawings of the Old Vicarage, Send, and of Goodgrove in Send Marsh Road by noted local artist Marguerite Howarth.

I am grateful to Gary for prompt production of the draft minutes which have enabled me to write this summary..

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## In Camera - 2

*David Porter*

Back to the old Send School for the second photograph in this series. On page 99 of Sheila Brown's delightful book, *Two Surrey Village Schools*, there is a hand-drawn sketch by the late Peter Rixon recording the fact that the boys' and girls' playgrounds had different surfaces. The following photograph, loaned by Audrey Smithers, clearly shows the difference.

It would be interesting to know why the boys' side of the railings (acquired by SRHS in 2008/9) had a tarmac surface whereas the girls' side, where the group is standing, was still bare earth. It would also be interesting to know why most of the pupils were dressed up. Audrey and Pat Clack have identified the girl seated to the far left as Mary Berry (married



*Group Photograph taken in school playground*

name unknown), the second from the right as Rosemary Cheeseman (married name unknown), and the boy sitting down as probably Paul Richardson. Can anyone identify any of the others? ■

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## OBITUARIES

### Bette Slatford



As noted briefly in the previous Journal, Bette Slatford died on 8th January. At the funeral service on 21st January conducted at Send Church by the Rev. Tony Shutt there were tributes from the family point of view by her son, Andrew, and from the History Society by Les Bowerman. Another appreciation appeared in the Spring 2010 issue, No. 69, of Ripley & Send Matters. It is, nonetheless, only right that a fuller eulogy is recorded for posterity in this Journal, which Bette did so much to enhance with her contributions over so many years.

1929 was the year of the Wall Street crash, which started the Great Depression. Because of that it is likely that her parents, already with four small sons, may have suffered their own depression when twin girls, Bette and Nance, arrived that year, to be followed quickly by a fifth boy. Tragically, Bette and Nance lost three of their elder brothers in quick succession in their early years, followed by the death of their mother when they were only 11. Such a sequence may have broken weaker spirits, but it seemed only to have toughened Bette who was the last survivor of the seven siblings when she died at the age of 80 from lung disease.

Bette and John met and married in the 1950s when they were working for the same company in South Wales. They had their first home near Newport, where their four children, Andrew, Jane, Stewart and Lisa were born. The family moved in 1968 to Send where they lived for 20 years in Kevan Drive. In 1988, as “empty-nesters” (to use Andrew’s words), John and Bette moved to St George’s Farmhouse in Ripley High Street where she was to live for the remainder of her life. Apart from the family and local history, Bette took a great practical interest in gardening and pottery.

Although Bette had been seen little in the History Society in recent years, she was in fact one of its major figures from the beginning 35 years ago. She and John were two of the group of 26 who met at Ken & Phyllis Bourne’s Heath Farm in Tannery Lane, Send, on 28th January, 1975, to agree to form the then Send History Society. As nobody would volunteer for the first Committee (some thing never change!), the whole 26 were declared to be Committee. Bette remained on it for 19 years before retiring to spend more time with her books and records – to research local history rather than to organise it. Whilst on Committee Bette sparred many a round with the then Chairman, the late Ken Bourne, who, to give credit where it is due, never once lost his cool.

Putting her view forcefully on Committee was by no means all Bette did for the Society. She was the leading light in the first fund-raising event when £50.50 was made from a Bring and Buy Sale in her own garden in 1978, the proceeds going towards the removal and restoration of a Royal Horticultural Society pumping engine which stood in the path of the M25. In 1980 she was the prime mover when £880 was made at an autumn bazaar in the Send Red Cross Hall to help fund the Society’s first publication, the Send Church guide, still in print thirty years later. She was

the inspiration for the second book, *Then & Now*, now in its third reprint, cajoling people to produce material for it. Similarly in 1992, when Ripley PC Chairman, the late Graham Jowett, was wondering what to do with the redundant National Westminster bank building, it was Bette who suggested that it could be the museum the Society had always wanted.

The Society has an almost complete 400-year run of Ripley and Send Manorial Rolls, which it has paid to have translated and transcribed. Even so, it takes a very determined mind to tease out the histories of individual houses and families, but Bette was equal to the task. She was equally at home with the long sequence of parish registers back to the 17th century, the 19th century enclosure awards and Tithes Apportionments and the seven census returns from 1841 to 1901, not to mention even more esoteric sources such as Land Tax and Hearth Tax lists.

Obscure learning is of little use unless it can be put over in an interesting and entertaining way. Bette managed that very well, publishing in the *Journal* over the course of the years some 42 articles on a variety of subjects, some in her own name but most written jointly with John. Her topics ranged from the discovery of the 'Frame Plot' where sections of mediaeval timber-framed houses were pre-fabricated in the centre of Ripley, to the location of the original 16th century almshouse, numerous histories of early houses, shoeing a dead horse in Ripley, and the May family of May's Corner, to her final magnum opus on Sendholme and Boughton Hall published posthumously elsewhere in this issue.

Bette's forthright views and her robust determination in putting them over did not endear her to everyone but, if one responded in kind, you would quickly become mutually respecting friends. As was said in one of the tributes in Send church, Bette's contribution to the Society is immeasurable, and her death is a huge loss to the Society. Condolences are extended to John, the four children and their spouses/partners, and the six grandchildren.

Assistance from John and Andrew Slatford in compiling the early part of this obituary is acknowledged and much appreciated. ■

## **Ruth Mary Dawson, née Ansell**

*Ken Dawson and Les Bowerman*



Mary was born in Woking but, when she was a few months old, she and her parents moved to Send Hill. A pupil of Send school and then Woking Grammar school, she followed a career in nursing, care of children and, later, care of the elderly. Among other voluntary work, Mary was secretary of the Woking Hard of Hearing group until it was disbanded.

Mary, her mother and husband Ken joined Send History Society at its first meeting and remained with it until her death on 27th December, aged 81 years. Following cremation, her ashes were brought back to her beloved Send Hill home.

Mary was not an active member of the Society in the sense of attending meetings and visits, but she contributed a number of articles to the *Newsletter/Journal*. Her first, when the Society had an active Natural History Group, was in 1976 at *Newsletter* 11/12, and was on bird-watching in Wales. In 1991 at 100/10 Mary wrote very interestingly about her memories as a resident of Send Hill from 1929. And finally, together with Ken, she provided an evocative and well-illustrated account by her aunt when in her nineties of camping with her family as a child pre-WW1 at Newark "Abbey". This article appeared in 2002 in *Journal* 163. ■

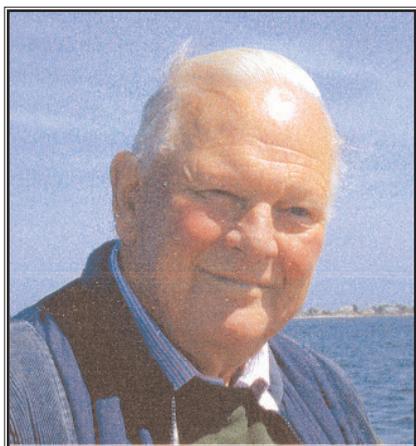
## Alan Baker

The death of Alan Baker of Clova Cottage, Rose Lane, on 22nd February at the advanced age of 92 is reported with sadness. Alan had been a member since 1983 and was a valued member of the Committee for 17 years until the AGM this year. A motoring journalist by profession, he wrote a number of articles for the Journal beginning in 1993, mainly on such topics as Colborne Garages, Methold Engineering and Connaught Engineering. The funeral is due to take place at 2pm on Tuesday 23rd March at Guildford Crematorium. ■

## John Dabbs - 31 Jan 1936 – 26 Jan 2010

*Brenda Dabbs*

*As we in the History Society knew little of John's life and interests, Brenda was invited to write a few lines, as is the practice with some newspapers. John & Brenda had lived at Manor Road, Send Marsh, and been members of the Society for many years.*



John enjoyed a lifetime of motor racing from Formula 1 to Historic. He was educated at Haileybury, apprenticed to Frazer Nash, and a Centurion tank instructor on National Service at Catterick. He worked for John Tojeiro and later for a spell at FVRDE (Fighting Vehicles Research & Development) at Chobham, testing army vehicles (as a civil servant to pay our first mortgage!). John built the well-known Lotus Buick for Dizzy Addicott and worked for Jack Brabham and Ken Tyrrell GP, and also prepared race cars for Bobby Bell at Bell & Colvill. He also found time for a few international rallies over the years.

What John most enjoyed was the last twenty years preparing historic racing cars for Nick Mason of Pink Floyd, and he was very proud of his BRDC (British Racing Drivers Club) membership from 1992.

John was a devoted and always cheerful family man and Ace Grandpa to his four grandsons. Although not an active History Society member, he had the highest regard for Les Bowerman's incredible collection of historic cycles from wooden-wheeled 'boneshakers' and high-wheeled 'Ordinaries' onwards. ■



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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The exhibition at the museum at the time of writing (8th March) is on the history of medicine with the accent on local practices and is called “What the Doctor Ordered”. It is hoped shortly to have a new exhibition entitled “Football – The Beautiful Game”.

**Wednesday 17th March** – At 8 pm in Ripley Village Hall Annexe “Guildford, the Golden Ford”, an illustrated talk by Eric Morgan. **NB. Not as stated in the previous Journal**

**Friday 23rd April** – Terence Patrick will present Circle Eight’s film “Grandad’s Guildford” in the main Village Hall in Ripley at 8 pm. **NB. The date was incorrect in the previous Journal and in earlier editions of the folded yellow brochure “Programme of Events”**

**Tuesday, 11th May** - Afternoon outing to Butser Ancient Farm Site at Chalton, Hampshire. Tea and biscuits available afterwards. Names to me please by the end of April with £2.50 per person for the guide as I need to notify the numbers in advance and pay for the guide. There is also a £5 entry fee per person to be paid on arrival.

**Tuesday 8th June** – Evening outing to the Abbots Hospital, Guildford, for a Guided Tour. Meet at 7 pm at the Hospital in the High Street opposite Holy Trinity Church.

**Thursday 8th July** – All-day outing to Midhurst for conducted tours of the old town and the ruins of Cowdray House. Further details in the next issue of the Journal.

**Latecomers to functions in the main Village Hall  
now need to ring the new bell to gain admittance.**

For further details of any of our events, please ring me, Anne Bowerman, Programme Secretary.  
Tel: 01483 224876

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**Journal Contributions:** Closing date for the next issue is Saturday 1st May

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



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**HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS**

‘Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life’ (Reprinted 1998 and 2006)	£10.00
‘Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send’	£1.25
‘Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley’	(Reprinted 2004&7) £4.00
‘The Straight Furrow’, by Fred Dixon	£1.50
‘Ripley and Send – Looking Back’	(Reprinted 2007) £9.00
‘A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey’	(Reprinted 2005) £2.00
‘Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey’	£3.00
‘The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey’	(Reprinted 2005) £4.00
‘Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures’	£6.00
‘Two Surrey Village Schools - The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools’	£10.00
‘The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey’	£5.00
‘Memories of War’	£8.00

**All the publications are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of ‘Ripley & Send Then & Now’, ‘Two Surrey Village Schools’ and ‘Memories of War’ can also be obtained from Send Post Office. All publications are available via the Society’s website [www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk](http://www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk)**



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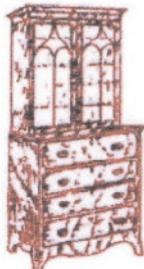
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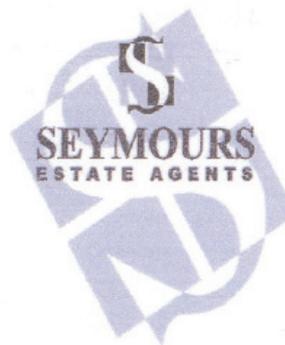
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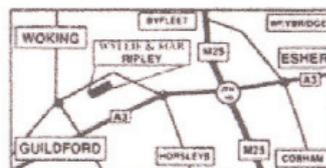
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