

No. 264
January 2019

Send & Ripley History Society



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Clandon Park fire
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sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk

EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

I feel I can say that 2018 was a pretty good year for our society. The big news was that, after a great deal of work by Clare McCann, the Arts Council granted accreditation to our museum, recognising that we meet nationally-agreed standards intended to inspire confidence in both the public and funding bodies.

We have continued to retain existing members and add new ones, starting the year with 330 paid-up members and ending with 335. Clare put on a number of fascinating exhibitions in the museum and we had the usual good mix of talks and visits, closing the year with a well-attended Christmas social. Thanks go to Margaret Field for organising these events and the volunteers who help with the washing up, the raffles, the sound system and setting up and putting away the furniture. My thanks also to the committee, the museum stewards and to all of our volunteers, who give their time so generously; to John Creasey for generating so much advertising, and to my wife Ditz for the many hours she puts in helping with the layout, editing and photography for the journals.

On a rather less pleasing note it does look like we will be losing our storage space at the back of the Methodist chapel in the near future. If any of you know of any dry, secure storage (ideally free...) please let me know. Don't forget to pay your 2019 subscriptions, remember the AGM on February 19th and tell Clare or me if you feel you might be able to help by joining the committee.

Happy New Year!

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th February 2019.

Authors of illustrated articles should submit high resolution (300 DPI or higher) jpegs to the editor by email to ensure best reproduction in the journal, but no more than 10MB in any one email

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SEND AND RIPLEY 100 YEARS AGO

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 1919

JAN AND PHIL DAVIE

At the beginning of 1919 and after six months the Influenza outbreak (Spanish Flu) was at last diminishing and schools were allowed to reopen.

Also at the beginning of the year a crowded service of remembrance was held in St Mary's, Send, as a tribute to the 24 men known to have died during the war.

The singing of Miss Testar was particularly beautiful. Thanks were given to Mr Rawes, for collecting names and addresses of Send soldiers serving on the front line, and to Mrs Grant, who subsequently organised the sending of 177 Christmas parcels to them. Parcels contained shaving sticks, mirrors, soaps, draughts, playing cards, and wallets.

With peace established and demobilisation underway the various local societies and individuals who provided invaluable support to the military servicemen began to close their activities, eg Queen Mary's Needlework Guild.

Former prisoners of war continued to return home alongside some of those serving near to home, but their numbers were not given. Schedules for the return of those serving further afield were gradually becoming known.

A well-attended February meeting at Send Drill Hall considered the question of a War Memorial. Suggestions included a recreation ground, a monument or a suitable memento at the school. A German machine gun had already been allotted to the Village by Lord Ashcombe and was to be placed in the Send Institute, for the moment.

Early in 1919 the general election result was announced. The Guildford constituency, then including Send and Ripley, was won by the conservative candidate Mr Horne, with a majority of 8000. The conservatives were then part of the coalition, a continuation of the governing wartime alliance under prime minister David Lloyd George. The coalition won the election by a huge majority.

In mid-January Albert Smith and Jack Townsend, two young soldiers from Ripley, were charged with setting fire to a stack of wheat straw, a threshing machine

and a shed in a field at Newark Lane belonging to Heath Farm, Send. At Woking magistrates court police seargent Humphrys testified that, when questioned at Ripley police station, the perpetrators admitted to committing the offence after having had a lot of beer, and did not think they were doing anything wrong.

Later in January the *Surrey Advertiser* reported that Send and Ripley parish council discussed Guildford district council proposals to build 12 houses for rent in Newark Lane, Wentworth Road and Burnt Common. It was decided that the parish council would recommend the scheme be deferred on the grounds of cost and that the proposed locations were unsuitable for the parish [some things never change!].

The parish council also discussed a complaint from Ripley cricket club about the removal of posts and chains protecting the cricket pitch. However, they were in such a state of disrepair that the council felt it had little option but to remove them.

The council addressed signage relating to the sand pits and agreed to display 'Send and Ripley Enclosure Act 1803: This Sand Pit, 3 acres in extent, numbered 961 is the property of the parishioners of Send and Ripley that they may severally dig and take sand there to and for their own use and benefit and not for sale'.

Ripley and Send organisations continued to hold whist drives, concerts, and dances with money raised going towards an organ in Send's Cartbridge congregational schoolroom, hospitals and servicemen-related charities.

Finally, Miss Elizabeth Boyle of Send Manor married Captain Ernald Lane of Rochester at St Peter's Church, Eaton Square. A reception for 200 guests was held at 7 Eaton Place. The couple afterward left for Newtimber Place, Hanoch, with the property having been lent by Viscount Buxton.

ARMISTICE DAY 2018 – ST MARY MAGDALEN, RIPLEY

ALAN COOPER

Last year marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One and throughout the country remembrance celebrations took place. In Ripley, reverend Christopher Elson, vicar of St Mary Magdalen, organised a poignant display in the church commemorating the 28 soldiers, sailors and airmen from the village who gave their lives during this conflict. One of the ceramic poppies from the Tower of London installation of 2014 was also on display.

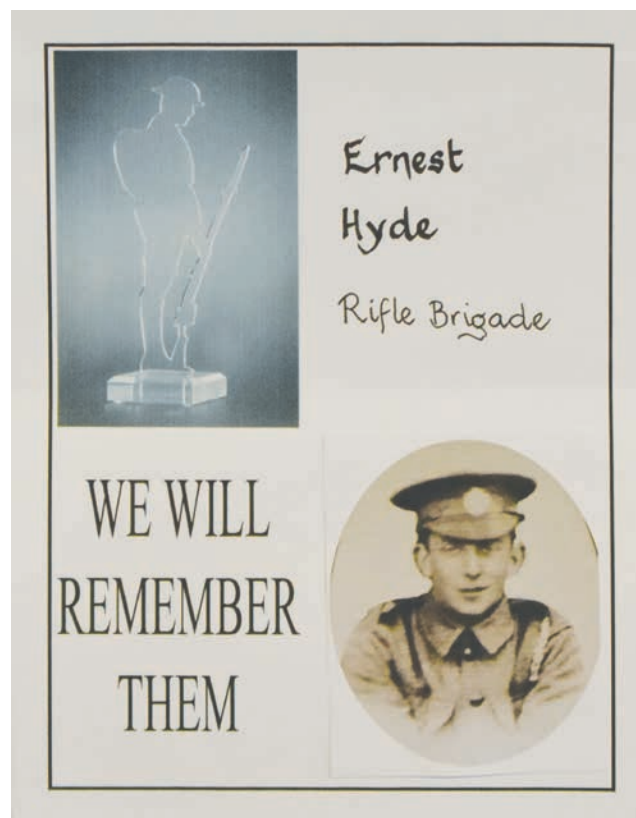
Prior to armistice day, different varieties of heritage fruit trees known to have been in existence during the war were planted in the area of land owned by Ripley parish council between the nature reserve opened June 23rd 2017 and Ripley churchyard. Each tree represents one of the 28 lives given and has a personalised plaque

placed nearby to preserve the memory of the fallen in perpetuity. After the 11:00 ceremony at the church war memorial, a dedication of the trees was performed by reverend Elson and followed by an open invitation to ‘help yourself’ to fruit when available, by Ripley parish council chair, Jennie Cliff. Local piper Grant Angus was present throughout the whole day, playing at the memorial at 06:00 followed by the 11:00 ceremony, dedication and finally the lighting of the beacon on the village green adjacent the pond at 19:00.

The beacon was originally constructed by local craftsman Paul Bateman to celebrate the Queen’s diamond jubilee in 2012. It was finally erected in this location on her 90th birthday in 2016, having been donated by the Ripley Bonfire Association.



The ceramic poppy from the Tower of London



Each individual who died was represented in this manner – this particular example being Ernest Hyde, who lived in Perseverance Cottages, Ripley



Rev Elson conducting the 11:00 ceremony accompanied by piper Grant Angus

It is believed that the site of the new orchard was where gardening skills were once taught in the village school. The project as a whole was funded by grants made available by Guildford borough council 'encouraged' by parish clerk Jim Morris.



The beacon on the green

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POPPY

In the spring of 1915, shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was inspired by the sight of poppies growing in battle-scarred fields to write the now famous poem entitled 'In Flanders Fields'. After the war the poppy was adopted as a symbol of remembrance.

McCrae's poem then inspired an American academic, Moina Michael, to make and sell red silk poppies which were brought to England by a French woman, Anna Guérin. The (Royal) British Legion, formed in 1921, ordered 9 million of these poppies and sold them on November 11th that year. The poppies sold out almost immediately and that first ever 'Poppy Appeal' raised over £106,000, a considerable amount of money at that time. This was used to help WWI veterans with employment and housing.

The following year, Major George Howson MC asked Earl Haig (founder of the British Legion) if he could make the poppies for their next appeal. Howson decided to set up The Disabled Society with just six staff. Within ten years, the name had changed to The Poppy Factory and Howson was employing over 350 disabled veterans to make the poppies. The factory moved to Richmond in 1925 and in 1928 Howson founded the annual Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey.¹

In 2014, to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WWI, 888,246 ceramic red poppies were gradually planted in the moat at the Tower of London, the final ones being installed on November 11th. Each represented one British or colonial life lost and were designed by artist Paul Cummins. It is estimated that in excess of five million people visited the display.



The British Legion poppy factory, Richmond, Surrey – assembling poppies

¹ www.poppyfactory.org



Top: The British Legion poppy factory, Richmond, Surrey – wreath-making

Bottom: The British Legion poppy factory, Richmond, Surrey – veining poppy petals

'In Flanders Fields'

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the dead. Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Composed at the battlefield on 3rd May 1915 during the second battle of Ypres by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, born 30th November 1872 – Guelph, Canada and died 28th January 1918 – Boulogne-sur-Mer, France.

Poppy factory and contemporary photos c/o Alan Cooper collection.

Grateful thanks to Jennie Cliff for all parish and borough council information.

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THE ARMISTICE COMMEMORATIONS IN SEND 2018

CLARE McCANN



Volunteers at work on the poppy display (photo © Clare McCann)

In Send the history society participated in the commemorations in a modest way by contributing to the Poppy Project. The idea for this came from the village of Walsham le Willows in Suffolk where local people had knitted homemade poppies to adorn their church in 2017. The aim of the Send project was to make 2,500 poppies, but in the event over 6,000 poppies were made by residents young and old. The final display in Send was spectacular but the most important aspect of the project was the community spirit it engendered.

The history society also put on a small exhibition in the village telephone box, which is a display space open to community groups, using quotes from the time of the original armistice and WWI poetry.

The 21 wooden poppies, which had been made for the 2014 commemorations were 'freshened up' and 'planted' on the Rec by children from Send School. Each poppy represented a casualty and the children read out a short piece about each man.



Poppies on the tennis court fence (photo © Clare McCann)

CLANDON, THE FIRE AND THE FUTURE

A TALK BY PAUL COOK

CAMERON BROWN



The fire raging (courtesy *Country Life*)

Our November talk, entitled *Clandon After the Fire*, was given by Paul Cook of the National Trust. He was project director at Clandon following the 2015 fire, working there from 2016-2018.

Clandon Park was built for the politically ambitious Onslow family as a 'party house' in the Surrey countryside. The Onslows arrived in 1641 and replaced the original house in the 1720s with a stunning example of the then fashionable Palladian style. It was commissioned by Thomas, 2nd Baron Onslow (1679-1740). Clandon was designed by Giacomo Leoni and follows many of Palladio's rules and formulae. Leoni arrived in England aged 28; he'd just rebuilt Lyme Park and was invited to do the same at Clandon, demolishing the existing Tudor mansion. Proportions were of great importance to Palladio and he believed that the parts of a building should sit harmoniously together. At Clandon

these proportions are demonstrated by the 'Palladian rectangle', the house's length being twice the height and one and a half times the width.

The Onslow family descends from Arthur Onslow, 1st Baronet (1622-1688), who represented Bramber, Sussex and Guildford in the House of Commons. The Earldom was created in 1801 for George, 4th Baron Onslow, MP for Rye and Surrey and later Treasurer of the Household and Lord Lieutenant of Surrey. Almost all of his descendants were prominent conservative politicians, with the 6th Earl serving in the governments of Winston Churchill, Anthony Eden and Harold Macmillan. The 7th Earl was one of the 90 hereditary peers who remained in the House of Lords after the passing of the House of Lords Act 1999. Upon his death on 14th May 2011 he was succeeded by his son, the 8th Earl, who inherited Clandon Park.

Although Thomas, Baron Onslow commissioned the building, the money came from the family of his wife Elizabeth Knight, the daughter of John Knight, a merchant of Jamaica, and niece of Colonel Charles Knight, who owned slave plantations in St Thomas-in-the-East, Jamaica. Elizabeth was heir to both their fortunes, so it could be said that Clandon House was built from a slavery-derived fortune.

The Marble Hall was one of the most dramatic entrance halls in England and Leoni's masterpiece. Designed to impress, this gleaming white forty-foot cube was a jaw-dropping introduction for guests important enough to enter through the main doors.

This impressive space together with the saloon next door, offered guests an amazing area for dining and dancing, with glorious views of the garden and parkland beyond. An expanse of marble floor was surrounded by stately, columned walls with grand doors and, above it all, suspended from massive timbers and giant iron nails, was the extraordinarily elaborate stucco ceiling by master craftsmen from the Italian-Swiss border, and attributed to Guiseppe Artari.

Imitating royal palaces, the state bedroom was a high status room in 18th century aristocratic houses. The focus of the room was the bed itself. Rarely slept in, such grand beds were commissioned to mark a significant family event or in anticipation of a royal visit. The Clandon bed was made around 1710 and would have had pride of place in the original Tudor house.

One of the most admired rooms in the house, the Speaker's parlour, was a celebration of parliamentary achievement and this important family's pride in their ancestry. The Onslows are unique in having provided three Speakers for the House of Commons over the centuries, each presiding over House debates and maintaining order. These men were celebrated in the Speaker's parlour after 1801 when the new Earl



Aerial views showing the extent of the structural damage (photos NT)

redecorated the room to commemorate the Onslow earldom. It remained themed around the Speakers and much of their memorabilia could be seen here right up until the fire in 2015.

During the First World War the house was used as a military hospital with the Countess of Onslow in charge. The 4th Earl of Onslow's dressing room became an operating theatre and other ground floor rooms, including the Marble Hall, became wards for convalescing soldiers.

The house was given to the NT in 1956 with a collection of 18th century furniture and another of porcelain. This latter collection was however not truly connected to the house but had been donated by Hannah Gubbay, a member of the Sassoon family. Much of it was lost in the fire.



The salvage work begins (photo NT)

Through a somewhat complex arrangement Clandon Park was technically donated to the NT by Gwendolen Guinness, Countess of Iveagh, and the aunt of the 6th Earl. Lady Iveagh had a conventional aristocratic upbringing and married Rupert Guinness, from the famous and wealthy family of brewers, who joined the family firm, later becoming a politician. Rupert and Gwendolen shared an awareness of social deprivation and the couple were involved in providing social housing in impoverished areas of London through the Guinness Trust. Gwendolen Guinness became one of the first female MPs in the UK.

Soon after their marriage they bought land close by in Pyrford, which had once been the home of Gwendolen's ancestors, Denzil and Sarah Onslow. They commissioned architect Clyde Young to design them a house, Pyrford Place, which had views over Clandon Park, her childhood home. After the death of her mother in 1934, things at Clandon began to decline, hastened by the Second World War. It is said that in 1956 Gwendolen saw, in an antique shop in Guildford, a table for sale that she recognised as coming from the Marble Hall at Clandon Park. This galvanised her to save her family home, which she did by purchasing it from her nephew, the 6th Earl of Onslow, and presenting it, along with an endowment of Guinness Company shares, to the National Trust. At this time the house was in dire need of repair and a large amount of money was spent on a new roof, services and ridding the house of dry rot, but no money was left for redecoration.

Mr Cook showed us a brief video of the fire and the associated immediate salvage activity. Over 700 items were rescued from the house whilst the fire still

burned and over subsequent months the debris was painstakingly sifted to identify any fragments or remains which might be used in the restoration of damaged artefacts. The salvage work alone took over 12 months and involved a large number of volunteers.

The immediate tasks included the weatherproofing of the remaining structure, and the scaffolding alone cost over £1million, with a temporary roof being erected by the end of 2015. The NT had to engage immediately with their insurers and with Historic England, to agree priorities and consider budgets.

The NT then had to decide how the house was to be restored. The fire had destroyed 85% or more of the internal fabric of the building, but what remained was sound. The choice was to preserve the remains as a ruin, to restore or reinstate the building to its 'original' state, or to 'reinvent' the building for the 21st century. The eventual decision was to be a mix of these approaches.

Clandon was already felt to be 'compromised': not at its best and with a poor visitor experience. It was struggling financially and not an ideal NT property. It was decided to restore the best parts of the house to their 18th century glory on the ground floor but mix this with new ideas for areas elsewhere.

The architectural practice Ptolemy Dean was appointed to produce a 'conservation statement' which concluded that the most important parts should be restored 'like for like' where the space was deemed 'significant' and where at least some features had survived the fire. It was also proposed that the kitchen be taken back to its original function and the basement restored. The rest should be 're-imagined'.

The plan was put out to tender to a number of architects and we were shown slides of their proposals. These are to be seen in more detail on the NT's website at: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/clandon-park>.

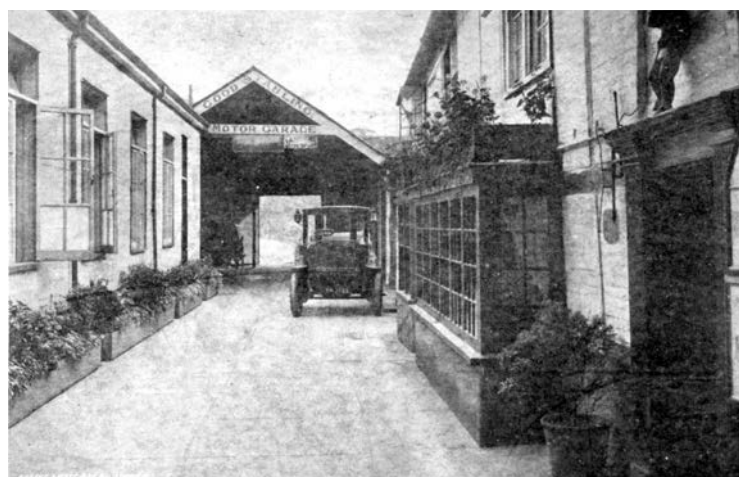
The competition was won by Allies & Morrison, an architecture and urban planning practice based in London and Cambridge. The work is expected to be completed by 2024/25, but the house and grounds have been re-opened to the public since 2017.

WHERE IS IT?

ALAN COOPER



Where and when was this photo taken, and do you recognise anyone in it?

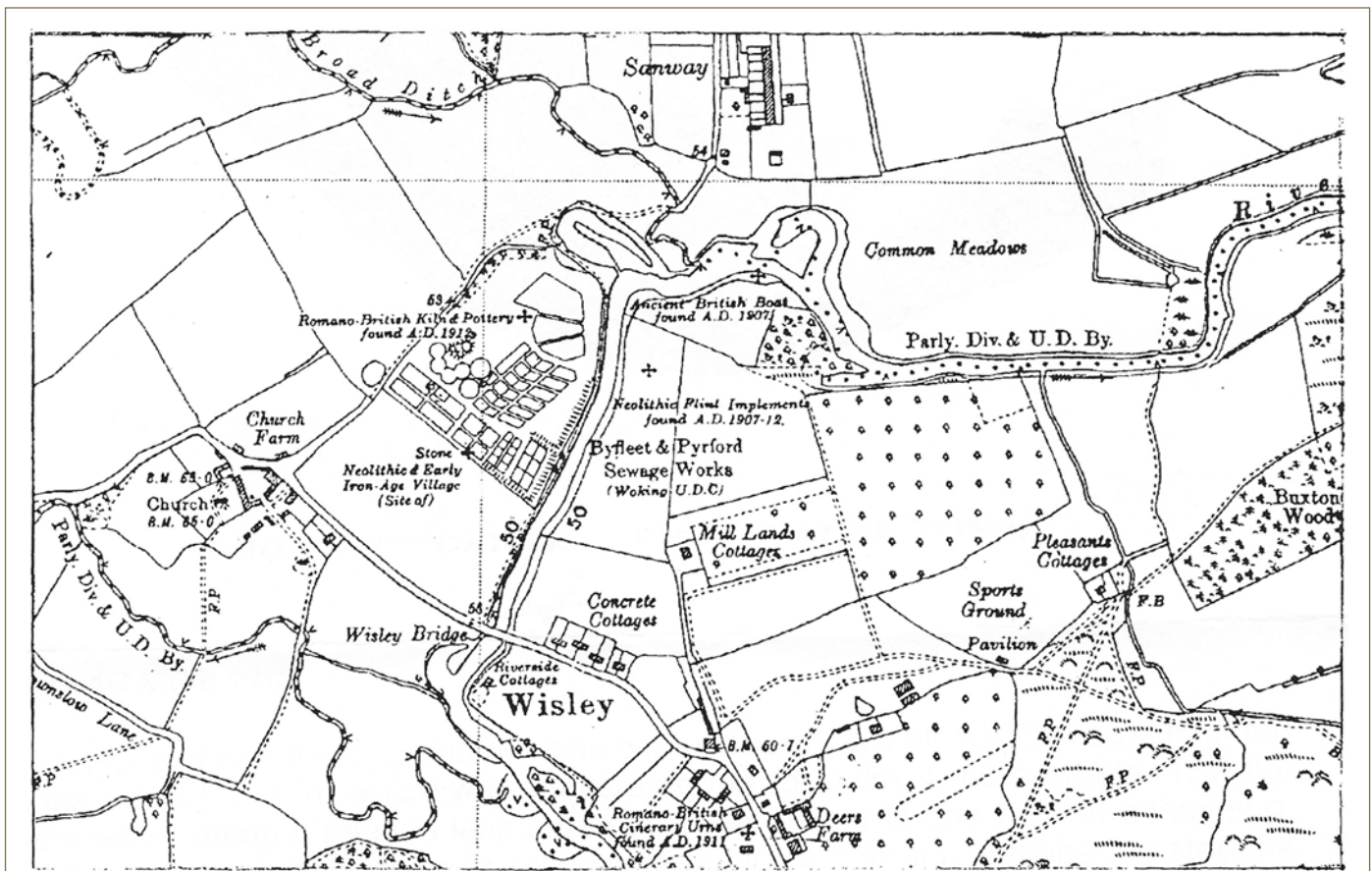


ANSWER TO J263 WHERE IS IT?

The picture in J263 was of the Talbot, around 1915 or a little later.

THE BROAD DITCH AT WISLEY

DITZ BROWN



Map showing the direction of the flow in the Broad Ditch (described on this map as *Parly. Div. & U.D. By* – ie: Parliamentary Division and Urban District Boundary)

At the south-western end of our property, Church Farm House in Wisley, there is a ditch which usually, but not always, carries water. It is part of what is unimaginatively called the 'Broad Ditch' on current maps. It is the reason for the curiously wriggly boundary between the boroughs of Guildford and Woking, which largely follows its course.

Observing the ditch was interesting as the water it carried tended not to appear to flow at all, its level seemed to just rise and fall. Looking for an explanation I came across several interesting findings. In her article for the Surrey Archeological Society (Bulletin 352) about the discovery of the Wisley dug-out boat, Mary Alexander had a map from the 1930s which, as well as recording the location of the archeological finds, also shows the Broad Ditch and, importantly, indicates the direction of its flow with

arrows. However, on occasions when one could discern a flow in our ditch, it appeared to travel in the opposite direction to the one shown on this map.

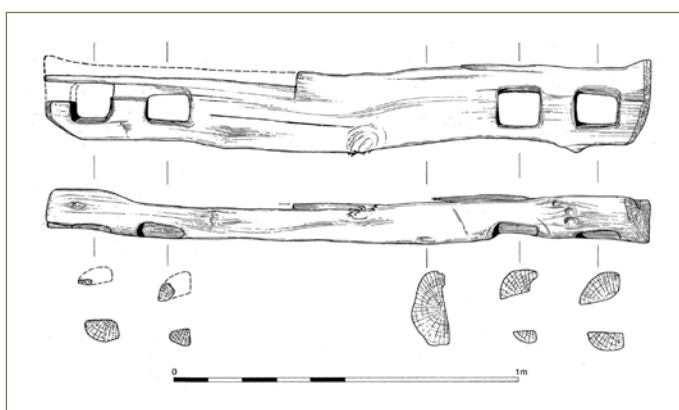
Intrigued, I started to keep a close eye on this ditch and one day its hardly visible flow was reversed. What was going on?

David Williams wrote in a fascinating article held in the Surrey Archeological Collections¹ that 'The Broad Ditch at Wisley appears to have been a former channel of the river Wey which, it has been suggested (O'Connell 1982), may have been diverted on to its present course in the medieval period to facilitate the operation of a mill.'

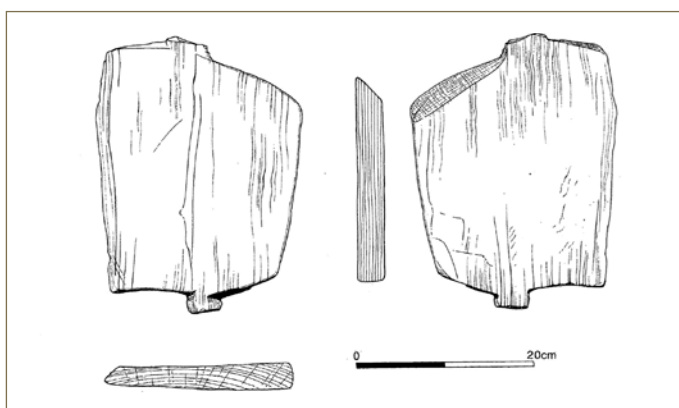
It further turned out that the Broad Ditch also has a very important historical function: it allows the river Wey's flood waters to travel from the main river to the flood plain and, when the river drops, for the water to recede to the river.

¹ For further details of David Williams' article see http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-379-1/dissemination/pdf/vol_88/surreyac088_333-336_williams.pdf

In the summer of 1987 the Byfleet Foul Sewer Scheme was under construction from Wisley sewage works to Parvis Road and was being monitored by local historian Ann Watson. When excavations of the trench reached a point just south of the Broad Ditch to the north-west of Wisley Village near Byfleet, several timbers were dislodged. Comparing these recovered timbers with similar examples found in Berkshire (at Anslow's Cottage, Burghfield) it was presumed that they were the lower part of a barrage, perhaps a vertical sluice gate, to control the flow of water as part of a system of water meadows.

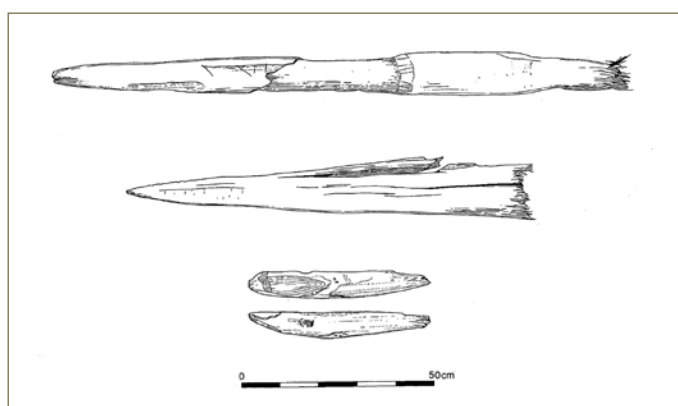


Late Saxon pierced wooden beam from the Broad Ditch, Wisley

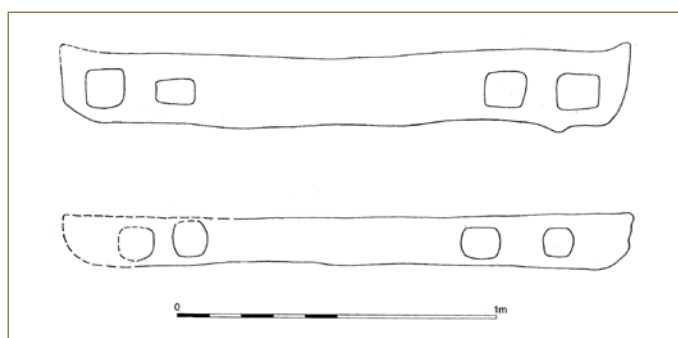


Board-like object from the Broad Ditch, Wisley

As these oak timbers did not contain sufficiently large numbers of rings for dendrochronological dating they were submitted to the Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit at Oxford University which provided a date of AD 670-1010. This means that our ditch was part of the management of water meadows going all the way back to late Saxon times.



Pointed stakes from the Broad Ditch, Wisley



Comparison of Wisley timbers (top) and Burghfield (bottom)

Wisley Church (dated 1150) and adjacent Church Farm House (dated 1575), sit on slightly raised ground compared to their surrounding area - in fact we become more or less inhabitants of a small island when the waters around us rise. A recent flood risk assessment states: 'Although the property is within the local flood plain area it can be seen that the church and farmhouse are only at risk from extreme flooding from the Wey, as they are built on a slightly higher area of land. We have no knowledge of the house or church ever having suffered from flooding.' People in medieval times obviously knew exactly where to build.

Without this control of the river Wey's floodwaters it would not have been possible to farm the surrounding land which would have become unhealthy and gone to waste. Clearing work of the Broad Ditch, the small ditches leading into it and those next to Wisley Lane continued while Church Farm was still one of the tenanted farms latterly belonging to Charles



The water meadows opposite Church Farm House, Wisley, onto which the river Wey's flood waters dispersed until a few years ago (photo © Ditz)

Hughesdon who lived at Dunsborough Park, Ripley. Pyrford resident Ernie Elliot has invaluable first-hand knowledge of this, having worked the land himself for more than sixty years. Unfortunately, once the Wisley property was split up and sold off in the late 1970s, the ditches gradually silted up. Several years ago it was still possible to observe the water meadows turning into a lake one day only for the water to disappear again the next.

Nowadays blocked ditches and culverts impede the flow of the water, causing spectacular floods.

Last winter the banks of the Broad Ditch at Church Farm House were not visible any more, causing the surrounding area, including our small copse, to be submerged for several weeks on end whilst the flood plain on the other side of Wisley Lane showed no surface water whatsoever. We lost many trees, even old willows and alders which can normally cope perfectly well when their roots are under water for short periods at a time, but even they cannot survive when they are covered by water for such an extended length of time - they get deprived of oxygen and quite simply drown.

The situation is rapidly deteriorating and it can only be hoped that the Environment Agency will finally act to spur SCC and GBC as well as the relevant land-owners into action to clear the Broad Ditch, its tributaries and all the silted up ditches and culverts before ever more trees get lost and Wisley Lane sustains damage and becomes unsafe.



Wisley Lane under water (photo © Cameron Brown)

A TALE OF TWO NECKLACES

DITZ BROWN



Pat and Ditz's necklaces (photo © Ditz)

When our member Pat Clack came to one of the SRHS lectures she was wearing a necklace made out of cut crystal beads which appeared to be identical to one I knew I had safely tucked away at home. Mine was bought a few decades previously at an antiques fair, most likely in Wimbledon, where we lived before settling in Wisley. Pat and I decided that, at the following meeting, we should both bring our necklaces along to compare them. Apart from mine being shorter, they looked like they were made out of the same crystal beads. I knew absolutely nothing about my necklace, hadn't a clue about its provenance. Pat, however, knew exactly where hers came from.

Pat writes: 'Before the second world war the manor called Crichel House in Moor Crichel, near Witchampton in Dorset, was commandeered. It belonged to Lieutenant and Mrs Marten. He went to serve overseas whilst his wife went to live in a smaller property with her children. Crichel House had become a girls' school. My auntie Bessie [Young] and I had enlisted in the WAAF, but when we were about to be demobbed, she obtained the job of a housekeeper there.'

Aunt Bessie tells us in her book *Bessie Remembers*:

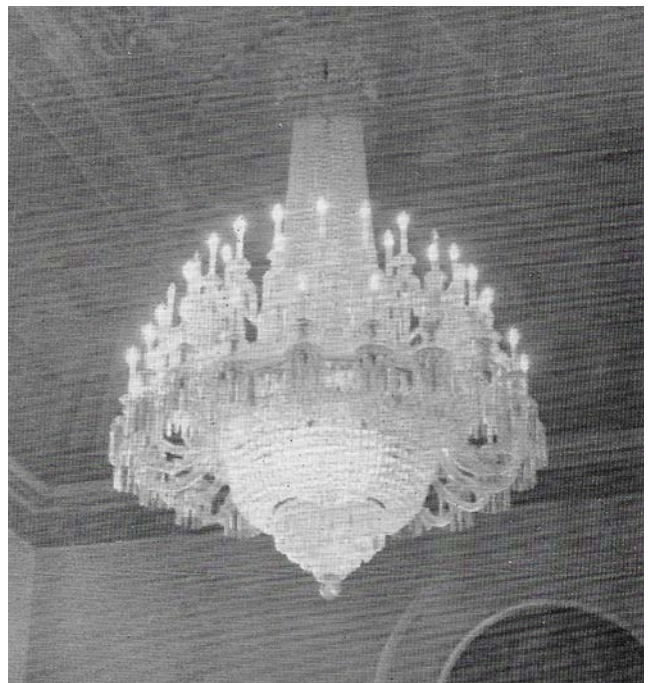
'I was demobbed in September and spent a while at home before I went to Crichel House which was to be opened as a new public school for girls, to be known as Cranborne Chase School. I was to be the pioneer

housekeeper; the house had been shut up for some time and had to be cleaned from attics to cellar.'

Village ladies were glad of the work, helped with this enormous job, and Pat went to lend a helping hand as well. She writes:

'I went down to help prepare the school – I washed china, painted bedsteads etc and a lot of the furniture was put into storage, including a large chandelier from the ballroom. This was taken apart, piece by piece - lots of crystal beads. When the school moved on, some years later, the chandelier was put together again but aunt Bessie, the housekeeper, 'acquired' several of the beads. These she had put together and gave me the necklace. It was quite heavy, and one day it broke and the beads were put away. Some years later my daughter took them all to be re-strung and now I wear it again on special occasions.'

If enough other SRHS ladies own crystal bead necklaces we might be able to turn them into a chandelier for our museum!



This chandelier, photographed for the Cranborne Chase School magazine *The Odyssey* in 1951, might well be the very one that Pat's necklace came from

THE STRACHEY WILLING BADGE

DR SIMON MASLIN AND DR KIRSTY BENNETT
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY CAMERON BROWN



Presentation of the badge to the High Sheriff of Surrey. L-r Mike Page, Mrs Glover, High Sheriff of Surrey J Glover, Dr Simon Maslin, Tony Howe, Andrew Jones, Dr Kirsty Bennett (photo © Andrew Stuart)

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is run by the British Museum and Amgueddfa Cymru (National Museum of Wales) to encourage the recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales. Every year many thousands of such finds are discovered, some by metal detector users, others by people whilst out walking, gardening or going about their daily work. They are recorded by the PAS and help advance knowledge of the history and archaeology of England and Wales.

Committee member Andrew Jones wrote in J254/11 about the find of a particularly interesting medal or token which he took to the PAS expert at the Surrey History Centre. The story below is the result of that visit, and

was written by Dr Simon Maslin, Portable Antiquities Scheme, and Dr Kirsty Bennett, Surrey Heritage (part of Surrey County Council).

The Portable Antiquities Scheme doesn't often record items from the last century, except when they turn out to be something quite special, or have considerable historic interest. One such item from Surrey which was recorded recently is a rare example of an object which tells a story of the patriotic fervour and intense social pressures experienced on the home front during the early days of World War One. This find is a copper alloy badge found by a detectorist [Andrew Jones] at Send, near Woking, of a type that was commissioned by John St Loe Strachey (1860-1927), High Sheriff of

Surrey in 1914, to support and encourage local men who wanted to join up. The badge shows a rose surrounded by the legend SURREY 1914 and a paraphrased biblical quote on the theme of service and sacrifice taken from the book of Judges, verse 2: **WHEN THE PEOPLE WILLINGLY OFFERED THEMSELVES.**

The badge, which became known as the Strachey Willing Badge, was designed by the artist Henry Strachey, brother of John St Loe Strachey, and reproduced by Messrs Elkington, silversmiths, of 22 Regent Street, London. The function of this badge was publicised by Strachey in an article published in the Surrey Press and the Spectator magazine on 26th September 1914.

In the article he talked about the badge offering ‘proof of service proffered to the state’ for those who tried to enlist in the early months of the war, but who were turned down on the grounds of poor health or for not making the recruitment grade in terms of height or physical fitness. Strachey stated that the badge was intended to be worn by those individuals to mark their desire to serve and to encourage them to continue to train and to ultimately try to enlist again at a later date should regulations change. The need for such a badge becomes clear when the intense climate of social pressure placed upon those pilloried as cowards for not being in uniform is remembered. Against this background, this object represents a story of a well-meaning attempt by a local dignitary to protect local men from the ‘white feathers’ and shame dealt out to those of enlistment age who remained behind in Surrey. It also tells the wider tale of the jingoism and enthusiasm for enlistment which gripped the nation in the autumn of 1914, before the horrors of the Western Front and the return of broken survivors from the trenches changed the tone of the war.

The badge pre-dates by some two years the introduction by the British government of the Silver War Badge, which was distributed to troops of the United Kingdom and British Empire for the same reason. Indeed, it was the announcement of the introduction of the national scheme that led Strachey to cease issuing his own badge at the end of 1915. In a letter to the Surrey and Hants News of 31st December 1915, Strachey wrote that ‘In

taking leave of the wearers of my badge, may I remind them once more that the acceptance of the badge was a pledge of honour to offer themselves again for service should a further opportunity occur’ and that ‘I have been deeply touched by the letters I have received from men genuinely moved at receiving some recognition, however small, of their patriotism’. Although Strachey issued some 4,500 of these badges, only two surviving examples are currently known to Surrey Heritage.

The Strachey family was heavily involved in Surrey’s war effort. As well as being High Sheriff of the County, Strachey served on the Surrey Territorial Force Association. Following the outbreak of war, he and his wife Amy turned over their house at Newlands Corner to the Red Cross so that it could be used as a hospital for wounded servicemen. The Red Cross’s records note that Strachey was the ‘Donor of House and its upkeep. Provided all Transport, Lighting & Heating...undertook all repairs & made good all deficiencies in funds’. Amy Strachey worked throughout the war as a nurse and commandant of the hospital then in her home. The Stracheys’ daughter Annabel married the architect Bertram Clough Williams-Ellis CBE MC (1883-1978). Williams-Ellis, who served with the army during WWI, designed the memorial to the 25 Surrey Red Cross volunteers who were either killed or who died in the course of their wartime duty. The memorial can still be seen at Farnham Road Hospital, Guildford.

Andrew Jones, the finder of the Strachey Willing badge, has generously agreed to lodge this very significant and poignant find with Surrey History Centre, to which it was presented on Saturday 10th November, the day prior to the centenary of the Armistice. It was received by John St Loe Strachey’s descendent in the role of High Sheriff of Surrey, Jim Glover, who accepted it on behalf of Surrey Heritage.

For further information about PAS see <https://finds.org.uk/> and for more general information about Surrey in WWI <https://www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk>

SOCIAL STIGMA AND ALIENATION

ALAN COOPER

The Alan Turing talk given by Paul Backhouse on 16th October to SRHS proved very popular with over 77 members and guests in attendance. Paul touched on the very different attitudes we hold today regarding Alan Turing's homosexual tendencies and the appalling treatment to which he was subjected. It made me pause for thought about another social stigma which affected many in previous generations, my own family included - that of illegitimate birth, perceived to be so terrible 100 years ago, but commonplace today.

Edith Tyrrell was born in 1915 in the tiny hamlet of Martyrs Green, Ockham. She was the youngest of six children born to Alfred and Beatrice Tyrrell. When she became pregnant, the 'shame' this brought upon her family was such, that in 1940 she went to stay with her brother Frederick, who lived in Cuckfield, Sussex, to give birth to son William. Martyrs Green consisted of just a small handful of cottages, being part of the Lovelace estate. This somewhat remote location almost certainly protected the poor women to some extent from the vicious wagging tongues of the immediate neighbours. However, when she became pregnant again (with son Robin, born 1942) brother Frederick was away on war service with the Coldstream Guards (he was killed at Monte Cassino, Italy, on 25th September 1943 aged 35) and Edith no longer had a bolt-hole to run to.

What happened next is unclear, but the two boys were taken from her and sent to St Mary's School, Parrock Road, Gravesend, Kent – run by Dr Barnardo's. The nightmare for the boys escalated and, not only separated from their mother, this split was made permanent when, on 28th January 1953, they boarded the *New Australia* of the Shaw Savill & Albion Line at Southampton bound for Fremantle, Western Australia, where they both still live today.

As for Edith, she moved to Weston-Super-Mare in Somerset where, unable to come to terms with the events surrounding the loss of her

sons and the lack of sympathy she received, she took her own life in 1966.

My maternal grandmother, Alice Charman (died 1999) was Edith's cousin. She spoke to me in my youth about her relatives at great length, propagating my interest in genealogy and local history, but not once did she ever mention Edith.

Barnardo's was one of many children's charities that sent some children to start a new life in Australia or Canada from the late 19th century to the 1960s. This was a popular choice, supported by the British government, who believed that the children would benefit from opportunities they wouldn't have in the UK.

We now know that, however well-intentioned, it was a deeply misguided policy. The last Barnardo's child to be migrated was in 1967, to Australia. In 2010 the British government formally apologised for the UK's role in sending more than 130,000 child migrants to former colonies.¹

Form 100 (1914)

P. 100
5

Name of Ship SS Australia

Date of Departure 19th January

1915

Steamship Line White Star & Liners Co., Ltd.

5.

Where Bound Australia

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF Southampton

1	2	3	4	5. AGE OF PASSENGERS.						6	7	8. Country of last Permanent Residence.				9			
				Adults of 12 years and upwards		Children between 2 and 11		Infants				British	Ireland	Denmark	Foreign Countries				
				Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female										
Crew or Ticket Number.	Port at which passengers have contracted to land.	NAMES OF PASSENGERS.	CLASS	AGE OF PASSENGERS.						Last address in the United Kingdom.	Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passengers.	Country of last Permanent Residence.				Country of intended Future Permanent Residence.			
000001	Fremantle	EDITH Tyrrell Edward	First			9				28, North, National Park Rd., Gravesend Kent	Labourer	1				Australia			
000002	*	EDITH Tyrrell William G.	*			10				*	*	1				*			
000003	*	EDITH Tyrrell William G.	*			13				*	*	1				*			
000004	*	EDITH Tyrrell Michael J.	*			12				*	*	1				*			
000005	*	EDITH Tyrrell David E.	*			8				28, North, National Park Rd., Gravesend Kent	Labourer		1			*			
000006	*	EDITH Tyrrell John J.	*			8				28, North, National Park Rd., Gravesend Kent	Labourer		1			*			
000007	*	EDITH Tyrrell William J.	*			5				*	*		1			*			
000008	*	EDITH Tyrrell Patrick	*			9				*	*		1			*			
000009	*	EDITH Tyrrell Thomas	*			7				*	*		1			*			
000010	*	EDITH Tyrrell Patrick J.	*			11				*	*		1			*			
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Just a cursory check of the passenger list tells the appalling tale of the bigger picture of the forced mass migration of these vulnerable children: St Mary's sent William, Robin and 14 others of a similar age. St Joseph's Home, Termonbacca, Londonderry, also sent 16.

Father Hudson's Home, Coleshill, Birmingham, sent nine and a further 11 came from various other such establishments countrywide. This represented just one ship-load of humanity – many of whom were destined to suffer what we now understand to have been a future far worse than that provided by any prison sentence that could have been imposed at that time upon criminals.

Whilst searching through the Ripley parish burial records I came across the following grim entry (see opposite). Was this a terrible, drastic attempt to cover up an illegitimate birth? We will never know.

Page 38

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Ripley</i> in the				
County of <i>Surrey</i> in the Year One thousand				
<i>nineteen</i> hundred and <i>ten</i> & <i>Eleven</i>				
Name	Abode	When Buried	Age	By whom the Ceremony was Performed
<i>Infant female child found drowned</i>		<i>20 Dec 1910</i>	<i>a few hours</i>	<i>Cecil Martin Vicar</i>
<i>Herbert Wm Brown</i>	<i>Ripley</i>	<i>24 Dec 1910</i>	<i>56 years</i>	<i>Cecil Martin Vicar</i>

Ripley parish burial records for 20th December 1910 recording an unknown infant girl found drowned, a few hours old



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Tel: 01483 210 222

Tel: 01483 449 554

Tel: 01276 858 363

Tel: 01372 454 777

THE WATSON FAMILY OF SUSSEX FARM

ALAN COOPER



The Watson family at Sussex Farm Cottages – 1910

Top row, l-r: Andrew – b.1897, Robert John – b.1889, Mary – b.1893, Thomas – b.1891, Emma – b.1895

Middle row, l-r: Annie – b.1900, Thomas Snr – b.1864, Margaret Kerr – b.1905, Agnes – b.1869, George William – b.1903

Front row, l-r: Olive Rose – b.1907, Allan – b.1910

Not in photo – Agnes Janet (1888 - 1907)

Thomas Watson was born in 1864 in Cathcart, Renfrewshire, Scotland, the sixth of eight children and subsequently worked there as an agricultural labourer.¹ During the 1880s he moved to Ripley and in 1887 married Agnes Child Nicholls, born in Ripley in 1869. Her mother, Mary Ann Nicholls, married in 1873 leaving Agnes to be raised by her grandparents John and Sarah Nicholls, who ran the Cricketers beerhouse in Ripley. Initially Thomas and Agnes lived next door at Rawridge Cottage.

They moved to Sussex Farm, Send, sometime between 1901 and 1911 and produced 11 children. John Nicholls died in 1886 and Sarah moved to Grove Heath, taking in two lodgers and her brother to make ends meet. Clearly unsuccessful, by 1901 she was claiming parish relief and living with Thomas, Agnes and their family.

Dating from the late 16th/early 17th century and now a single dwelling, Sussex Farm has already been examined in SRHS J244/7. At the time this photograph

¹ Whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com – Most of us will have an ancestor who worked as an agricultural labourer at some point. In fact, the 1851 census records 1,460,896 people working as an “ag lab” – more than in any other field of employment. Only in 1871 did domestic service take the top spot

was taken (1910) the building consisted of a pair of farmworkers' cottages. It is impossible to tell exactly where the picture was taken as the property was extended to the right in the 1930s whilst under the ownership of Peter & Heather Lyne. Peter was a journalist and the London correspondent of *The Christian Science Monitor*, an American newspaper. It was further extended to the rear in the 1960s. We can reasonably assume the two cottages became one when the 1930s extension was built. It was given Grade 2 listed status in 1985.²

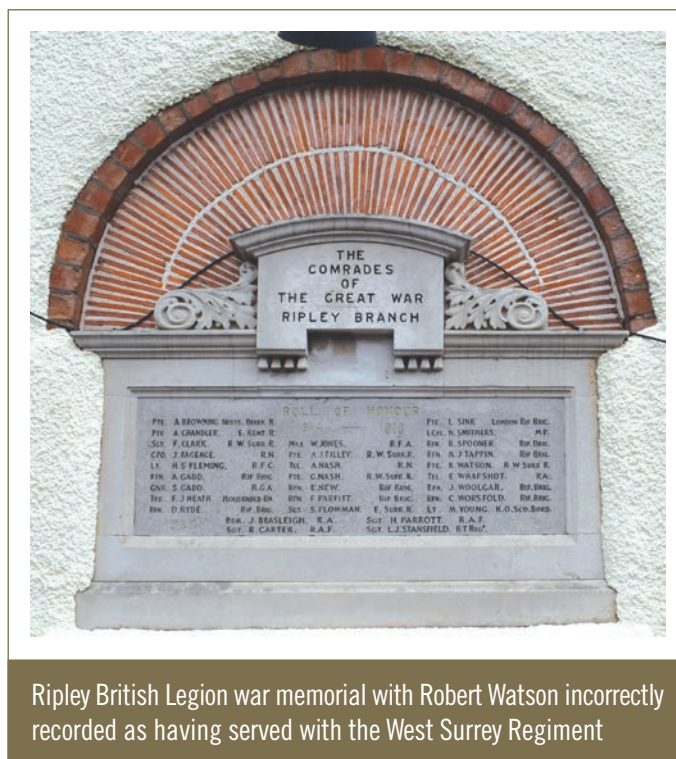
War memorials often contain conflicting information, Ripley's being one such example.³ We can now add the case of Robert John Watson, the second-born child in the picture above. SRHS were contacted recently by Surrey Infantry Museum manager Stephen Johnson whilst preparing an exhibition relating to Send and Ripley during WWI.

He discovered that, although the plaque outside the British Legion in Ripley states that Robert Watson served with the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, he could find no evidence of this in his records. SRHS member Janet Tice quickly informed him that he served and died with the 17th battalion, Middlesex Regiment. How the memorial was incorrectly inscribed remains unknown but certainly the Ripley memorial is not unique and errors and omissions are frequently discovered.

Daughter Annie, the seventh-born (in 1900) married Herbert Sink in 1921 and had two children, Audrey (1922) and Rhona (1924). Herbert's great grandfather Sink also lived at Sussex Farm around 1840.

² Historic England

³ SRHS J261/16



Ripley British Legion war memorial with Robert Watson incorrectly recorded as having served with the West Surrey Regiment

We are very grateful to Audrey Woodhams (née Sink) aged 96, for her memories and photo of her family and to Pat White (née Woodhams), Audrey's daughter, for collating this information and to Audrey Smithers (Pat's friend) for making all this possible.

REQUEST FROM ALAN COOPER

We need more photographs like this. As a society, our membership is slowly growing but we desperately need photographs and memories to create interesting articles to satisfy our readers and ensure that this growth-rate continues. Just one photograph like this can be developed into an article, so if you have anything, however mundane you might feel it is, please contact me. (01483 440087 – leave a message on the answerphone and I'll get back to you). I can visit you and photograph there and then any photos or artefacts of interest. If you feel so inclined I can record any memories you may have and, rest assured, I am friendly, clean, house-trained and always carry a pair of slippers in the car!

Photos courtesy Alan Cooper

DR. RALLI ALFRED FRANK CREET MRCS, LRCP

JOHN SLATFORD

Older Society members in Ripley may remember Dr Creet who was the village GP before and during the last war. Having qualified at University College and St Thomas's in London in 1931, he came to Ripley in 1933. Initially he was in partnership with Dr Frederick Pearse, the long standing Ripley GP until his death in 1936.

Shortly before he came to Ripley he was married to Norene WM Peters in Kensington. Their Ripley home and his surgery were at Malabar House on the High Street. This is the house that became White Hammer, the home of the Dallas-Smith family, and is now called Fieri Facias House, the location of the solicitors Anna Arthur & Associates. Dr Creet's surgery was located at the back of the house. His partner, Dr Pearse, was located next door at the now Georgian House, but then known as The Lindens. Dr Creet was also a house surgeon and ophthalmic house surgeon at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, then located on the Farnham Road in Guildford.

Apart from the calls of his medical practice, he served as a councillor on both Ripley Parish Council and the then Guildford Rural District Council. In the village he was also associated with the Cricket Club, the Football Club, the British Legion, the Green Committee and the ARP, where he was chief warden. He was a very busy man! As a freemason, he held office in the Royal Alfred Lodge.

There were two children in Dr Creet's marriage. The daughter, Sonia Ann, was christened on 1st June 1935 and her brother, Peter John Ralli, was christened on 8th December 1937. Dr Creet died very suddenly on 14th April 1945 at the age of 37. To date, I have been unable to determine the circumstances of his death.

Dr Creet has been said to have been involved in a car accident shortly before his death. Before that time, he seems to have gained a reputation as an erratic and

possibly dangerous motorist. There is a newspaper cutting reporting his appearance before Guildford magistrates charged with 'driving a car without due care and attention'.

He was motoring up Farnham Road intending to turn right into the hospital when he collided with one of three cyclists coming down the hill and was found guilty and fined £15 with £3.3s costs. The cyclist John Peter Davis, from Romford, was detained in the hospital for 3½ weeks! After the hearing, Supt Steeds listed Dr Creet's previous convictions. There had been two cases of failing to conform to traffic signals and three of excessive speed.

His funeral was held on 17th April at St Mary's in Ripley and was attended by a very large number of mourners, both Ripley people and professional associates in the Guildford area. He is buried in Ripley churchyard. In 1988 a group of Society members spent many months on a project to clear the very overgrown churchyard and to record every possible memorial inscription on the headstones. I well remember finding Dr Creet's grave in the churchyard at that time. On it was a large tree which had been blown down during the 1987 storm leaving a large hole in the grave underneath it which, nowadays, is very overgrown and impossible to see.

Most of this research has been carried out at the Surrey History Centre by our member Mary Trevill and churchwarden Monica Pashley following an enquiry to the church from Paul Lucas who lives in Denmark and is a nephew of Dr Creet.

LETTERS



This photo was posted on our facebook page by Janet Mcdougall-Gudbjartson, who lives in Canada. She asks whether anyone recognises the people in the photo, or knows what the occasion was.

The man in the centre is her grandfather, Bill Challen, who ran Send Garage. The Challens lived in the house next to the garage, on Send Road.

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AN INCIDENT IN RIPLEY

MR BLAXLAND, SCHOOLMASTER

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY CLARE McCANN



Following the recent closure of Ripley School we received a number of items, including a hand-written tale about an incident in Ripley around 1915. The paper bears the name of Mr Blaxland, who was the headmaster at that time. We do not know who the soldier referred to might have been. The photograph shown here is from our collection and features a donkey cart which is probably similar to the one referred to in the article. In our catalogue the picture is entitled *Scrounger and the Donkey* and the lady is called Sally Edgell.

During the Great War 1914-18 a hero from Ripley and still living there was doing 'his bit' at the Dardenelles and when passing through some trenches to the forward line casually picked up an old newspaper thrown away by a Britisher. Just imagine his surprise when the first item of news that caught his eye was about his old village far, far away. The column

was headed "Schoolmaster, bees and donkey". It so happened that the master of the Ripley School was very interested in bees and endeavoured to get other folk to keep them for the sake of the very nutritious food they produced. A well-known cleric in a neighbouring village was also interested and was anxious to obtain a stock of the schoolmaster's bees which seemed immune from a dreaded bee disease which had caused much havoc among the hives about that time - the year 1915.

The said beekeeper duly shut in his bees overnight and obtained from the local postman the loan of his donkey and cart to convey the hive of bees to the neighbouring village in the morning. The stage was all set and the hive duly fixed in the donkey cart just outside the school gardens next to the police station. Just as he was about to drive off he was hailed by some villagers who delayed him at some length on some local business matters.

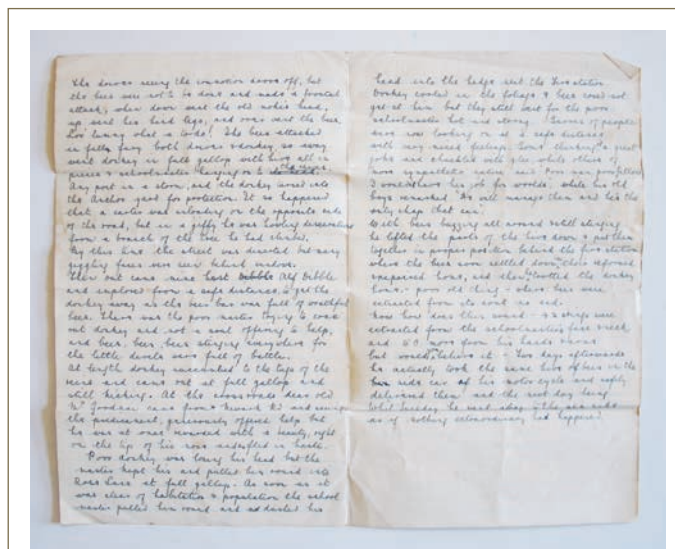
In the meantime the bees from the other hives had winded the hive in the cart and started buzzing around, eventually finding the donkey's ears and nose. The poor old moke twinkled its ears and shook its old head which annoyed the bees who at once took up the challenge and attacked in force. The driver seeing the commotion drove off but the bees were not to be done and made a frontal attack, when down went the old moke's head and up went his hind legs, and over went the bees. Lor' lummy what a to-do! The bees attacked in full fury both driver and donkey, so away went the donkey in full gallop with hive all in pieces and schoolmaster hanging onto the reins.

Any port in a storm and the donkey turned into the Anchor yard for protection. It so happened that a carter was unloading on the opposite side of the road, but in a jiffy he was howling desecrations from a branch of the tree he had climbed. By this time the street was deserted but many giggling faces were seen behind windows.

Then out came mine host Alf Dibble and implored from a safe distance, to get the donkey away as the beer bar was full of wrathful bees. There was the poor master trying to coax out the donkey and not a soul offering to help, and bees, bees, bees stinging everywhere for the little devils were full of battle.

At length donkey succumbed to the tug of the reins, and came out at full gallop and still kicking. At the crossroads dear old Mr Goodman came from Newark Road and seeing the predicament, generously offered to help, but he was at once rewarded with a beauty right on the tip of his nose and so fled in haste.

Poor donkey was losing his head but the master kept his and pulled him round into Rose Lane at full gallop. As soon as it was clear of habitation and population the



Mr Blaxland's manuscript (photo by Ditz)

schoolmaster pulled him round and dashed his head into the hedge next to the fire station. Donkey cooled in the foliage and bees could not get at him but they still went for the poor schoolmaster hot and strong. Scores of people were now looking on at a safe distance with very mixed feelings. Some thinking it a great joke and chuckled with glee, while others of a more sympathetic nature said "Poor man, poor fellow. I wouldn't have his job for worlds." While his old boys remarked, "He will manage them and he's the only chap that can."

With bees buzzing all around and still stinging he lifted the parts of the hive down and put them together in proper position behind the fire station where the bees soon settled down in their reformed and repaired home, and then he trotted the donkey home – poor old thing – where bees were extracted from its coat no end.

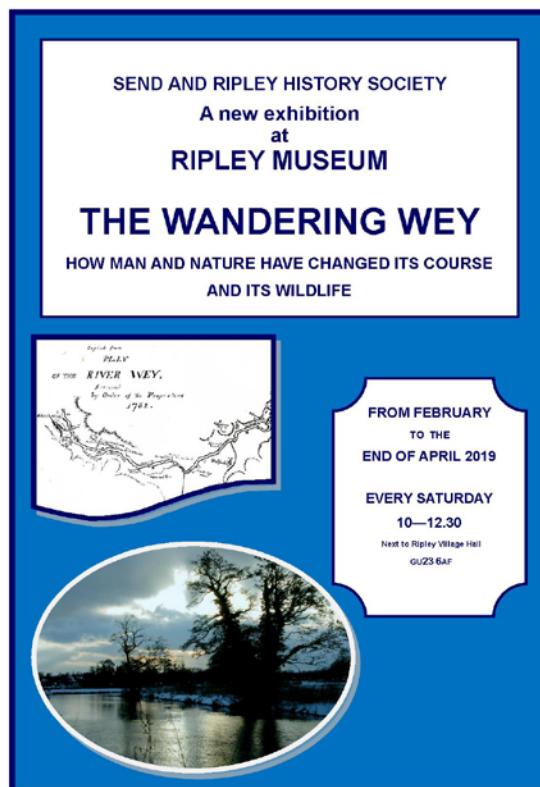
Now how does this sound – 42 stings were extracted from the school master's face and neck and 50 more from his hands and arms but would you believe it – two days afterwards he actually took the same hive of bees in the sidecar of his motorcycle and safely delivered them and the next day being Whit Tuesday he went away to the seaside as if nothing extraordinary had happened.

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CLARE McCANN

The excellent First World War exhibition is drawing to a close and once again I would like to thank the Surrey Infantry Museum for mounting it for us and adding to the research about the local men who served and gave their lives.

Now, as they say, for something completely different. The new exhibition is entitled **THE WANDERING WEY - HOW MAN AND NATURE HAVE CHANGED ITS COURSE AND ITS WILDLIFE**. Although it will consider the impact of the Weston family in the building of the Wey Navigation, this exhibition hopes to look more at the natural pressures on the course of the river and the changes in flora and fauna. We hope you will all come along, if only to admire the taxidermy of our member (and principle curator of this exhibition), Helena Finden-Browne. We will also be including a few of the photos submitted to our photo competition and we hope to exhibit more later in the year.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Doors open for all evening talks at 7.30pm for an 8pm start at the Ripley Village Hall. Tea/coffee available.

DATES	EVENTS
Tuesday 19th February	AGM – members only - followed by Sian Walters talk: The National Gallery
Tuesday 12th March	Julian Pooley of the Surrey History Centre, talk: Gertrude Jekyll
Tuesday 16th April	David Taylor talk: Ockham Park
Tuesday 14th May at 2pm	Trip to Munstead Wood, Godalming, a Gertrude Jekyll garden
June date and time TBC	Guided tour of Blackheath (Surrey) with Sara Sullivan
Friday 5th July, evening	Members' barbeque at Cricketshill House, Send
Tuesday 17th September	TBA
October date and time TBC	Trip to Abbot's Hospital and Guildford House gallery, Guildford
Tuesday 19th November	Terry Patrick and Circle 8 Films: <i>Tunnel under Hindhead</i> and <i>Out of the Blue</i>
Tuesday 10th December	Christmas Social - members only

Further details can be obtained from Margaret Field 01483 223387.

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS



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Other times for school groups and small parties by arrangement

Contact Clare McCann on 01483 728546 if you require further information or wish to help in the museum

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life	Reprinted 1998/2006	£10.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.25
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£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	Reprinted 2012	£4.00
The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£4.00
Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures	New Edition 2017	£8.00
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
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£10.00
Send and Ripley Walks (revised edition)		£7.50
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£8.00
Special Offer: Purchase Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£10.00

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



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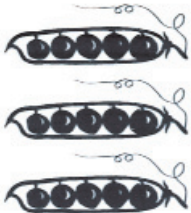
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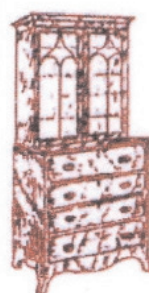
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