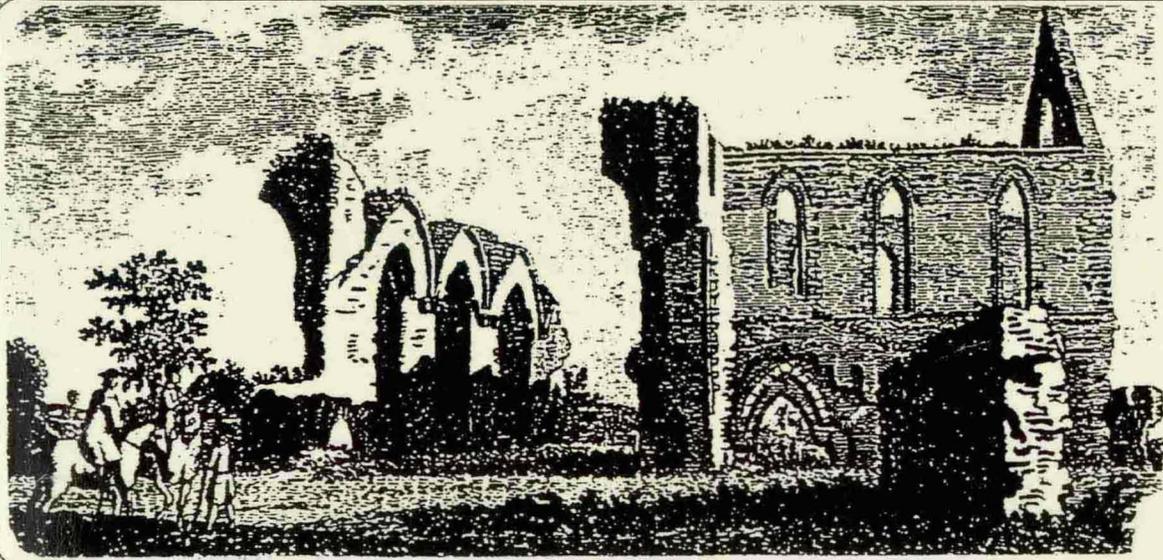


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# Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 296324



NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 6 No. 202

Sept/Oct 2008



Rose Lane, Ripley.

W.H.A.B.

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# Send & Ripley History Society

Established 1975 as Send History Society  
Registered Charity No 296324

**President: K H Bourne MSc**

**Chairman: Les Bowerman**

The Manor House, Send Marsh Green, Ripley, Woking GU23 6JS. Tel: 01483 224876  
Email: [les@sendmanor.com](mailto:les@sendmanor.com)

**Secretary: Marilyn Scott BA**

13 Beech Drive, Ripley, Woking GU23 6LG. Email: [marilyn.scott@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:marilyn.scott@tiscali.co.uk)

**Treasurer: Christina Sheard**

Old Manor Cottage, Send Marsh Green, Ripley, Woking GU23 6JP. Tel: 01483 224600

**Journal Editor: Ken Bourne**

Brunel House, 30 Brunel Way, Frome, BA11 2XU. Tel: 01373 455641  
Email: [kenbourne.novoloco@live.co.uk](mailto:kenbourne.novoloco@live.co.uk)

**Journal Distribution: Norman Carpenter**

Ufford, 106 Potters Lane, Send, Woking GU23 7AL. Tel: 01483 714634  
Email: [carpenter@uffordsend.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:carpenter@uffordsend.fsnet.co.uk)

**Acting Membership Secretary: Les Bowerman.**

**Web site management: Chris Brown**

Web site: [www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk](http://www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk)

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**Cover photo:** Post card of Ruth Hill in Rose Lane Ripley Surrey, posted 1914. The sign above the door of cottage states: 'Ernest Cox, Carrier - Ripley, Send Woking and Woking Station'. From Ken Bourne collection.

## **Editor's Comment**

Thanks to a splendid response to my appeal for more articles there is again plenty to read, mostly of local interest included in this autumn's issue of the Journal. Thank you to all who have contributed and my apologies to those authors whose articles have been held over to the next issue of the Journal.

It is a rare occasion to be able to refer to topics to be featured in a subsequent Journal, as usually these are unknown until the next issue is well under way. So perhaps for the first time I am able to mention now that the following articles will appear:

- 1) A report on the photographic display featuring defunct local industries, held at the August Farmers Market,
- 2) The results of the Artscape 2008 photographic competition, reported at the Sept. Farmers Market.
- 3) The discovery of another diary of the Surrey Historian, William Bray and its affect upon baseball and connection with Jane Austen.
- 4) 18<sup>th</sup> century Bishops Visitations in Surrey.

---

### **Ripley Vicarage: The End of an Era. John & Bette Slatford**

After over 125 years, Ripley Vicarage is no longer the vicar's residence and the house is now being sold. The Rev. Christopher Elson and his family have moved to a new residence on the village outskirts.

A history of the house was written in Newsletter No 64 (Sept/Oct 1985). For the benefit of those unable to read our original report, the site was originally part of the yard of the George Inn Farm (Cedar & Tudor House today). The land was bought in 1804 by John Dawes for £136 and he was responsible for building the house more or less exactly as we see it today. After he died in 1819, there were various owners up to 1852 when it was bought by Elizabeth Ann Sydenham, who named it Sydenham Lodge. After she died, it passed to her nephew Thomas Crawley Eager.

The first reference to a Send and Ripley vicar living in the house is in the 1861 census when the Rev. Charles Tate was there with his family but it was some years later before it officially became Ripley Vicarage. Before the Rev. Tate came, the village doctor Abraham Crisp Gall had taken a 14-year lease on the house in 1850. Dr Gall's wife died there in 1855 leaving him with six very young children. Shortly afterwards he re-married to his deceased wife's sister Anna Pannell who was already living there with the family. After he died in 1859, his family moved to Elm Tree House, opposite The Talbot Hotel, where Anna Gall continued to run a "Seminary for Young Ladies". She had previously been a partner there with Clara Whitburn.

Presumably the Rev. Tate took up residence when the Gall family left but he did not stay long since he moved in 1864 to his newly built Vicarage (now called Cedar House) in Vicarage Lane in Send. The next known Church occupant was the Rev Henry Hooper who was appointed Curate of Ripley in 1869; he was living there in 1871 although it was still rented from Thomas Eager.

When Ripley and Send parishes were separated in 1878, Henry Hooper became the first vicar of Ripley. It was then decided that there should be a permanent Vicarage in Ripley and steps were taken to purchase the house already being used. A survey was carried out by the renowned surveyor, Edward Ryde, (his diary recorded sending his employee Cattlin) in 1879. Edward Ryde, a Woking man, is remembered by local historians for his diaries, which covered his lifetime's work, primarily for the South Eastern Railway Company but also for many other railway companies and for water and sewage undertakings. The diaries are held at the Surrey History Centre. He lived for many years at Poundfield House, now long gone, in Old Woking on the corner of the High Street and Old Woking Road. The purchase for £1200 of the Ripley house by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners from Thomas Crawley Eager was not completed until 1881. With Henry Hooper already living there, it would have been in that year that the house officially became Ripley Vicarage.

In our report of 1985, a general description of the house was given. With Chris Elson's impending departure, an opportunity arose for a more detailed inspection of the construction and the fixtures and fittings and a visit by some of our members took place on October 20<sup>th</sup> last year. When comparing the present building, virtually unaltered, with the plan produced for the Edward Ryde survey, it became apparent that his plan was in some respects drawn from memory! A number of details are quite different, for example, the alignment of the stable (now the garage) was shown as parallel with the side of the house whereas it is actually set at a sharp angle towards the garden of the next door Tudor House.

The house is of brick construction with 14inch solid walls and rendered all round the outside. The walls are extended above the roofline with a stone parapet. The roof is double piled with the front portion being a simple tiled ridge with chimneys at both ends. The rear portion, which is hipped at both ends, is of mansard construction, that is, with each side of the ridge having two angles. This was done to provide two attic rooms, which served as servant's quarters. These rooms originally had small dormer windows but now replaced by Velux type windows. The chimney serving the southeast corner of the house is strangely cantilevered around a small oddly shaped window in the east attic room.



**Ripley Vicarage**

There were originally four main rooms on the ground floor and on the first floor but with no toilet or bath facilities. Three outside WCs were added at a later date but these have all been replaced with internal facilities. The kitchen, scullery and like facilities, were built along the west side of the house. None of these now remain but we are told that they were not demolished until well after the end of the last war. There is now added a modern utility room. Each of the main rooms on each floor and the attic rooms had fireplaces on the end walls.

All of the windows at the front of the house are original as are most of those at the rear. The originals are of balanced sliding sash construction and all except one are double sliding. Each sash has six panels with extremely fine frames and glazing bars. From a repair or replacement point of view, these details would today be extremely difficult if not impossible to replicate. For ease of movement, the sashes are very finely balanced; so much so, that in recent years whenever any original glass is replaced with modern heavier gauge glass, extra weight has to be added to restore the balance.

Most of the original internal shutters are still in place and fully functional on the main windows and on the ground floor rear French doors. Some are full height and others are divided horizontally so that the bottom half can be used for privacy in the daytime. For closure there are large blacksmith-made latches provided with simple locking bars.

The front door surround has curved pilasters with square capitals supporting a curved arch with a central keystone. Within the arch is the original decorative fanlight.

The coach house to the rear and east of the house had stabling which remains with the original fittings and a hayloft above.

We are grateful to Chris and Caroline Elson for their forbearance in guiding us around and enabling us to study every aspect of the house before their departure.

---

### **SRHS Visit to Woking Palace** **Notes by Les Bowerman**

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May, one of the hottest days of a very poor summer, 30 members enjoyed a tour of the site of Woking Palace under the expert guidance of Phillip Arnold. A scheduled Ancient Monument, the site is now owned by Woking Borough Council and maintained by the Friends of Woking Palace, of whom Phillip is one. The site is tucked away beyond the end of Carters Lane, Old Woking, beside the River Wey, and there is no public access to it.

The site was originally the manor house of the Royal Manor of Woking, which dates back to Norman times. The Tudor association began with Lady Margaret Beaufort who acquired it with her husband, Henry Stafford, in 1466. At the time it was described as substantial. Her son, Henry VII spent time there, signing the treaty of Woking in 1490. In 1503 Henry VII decided to transform the property into a royal palace. He died in 1509, and Henry VIII, who had spent part of his childhood there, extended and enlarged it in 1532 and 1542. In 1537 two new bowling alleys were built. By then the Palace was of considerable size and there were three separate bridges over the river. As is well known, Henry died in 1547, following which it was seldom visited by royalty, although Queen Elizabeth was there in 1569.



**The group in front of part of the Palace ruins. Centre in hat is guide Phillip Arnold**



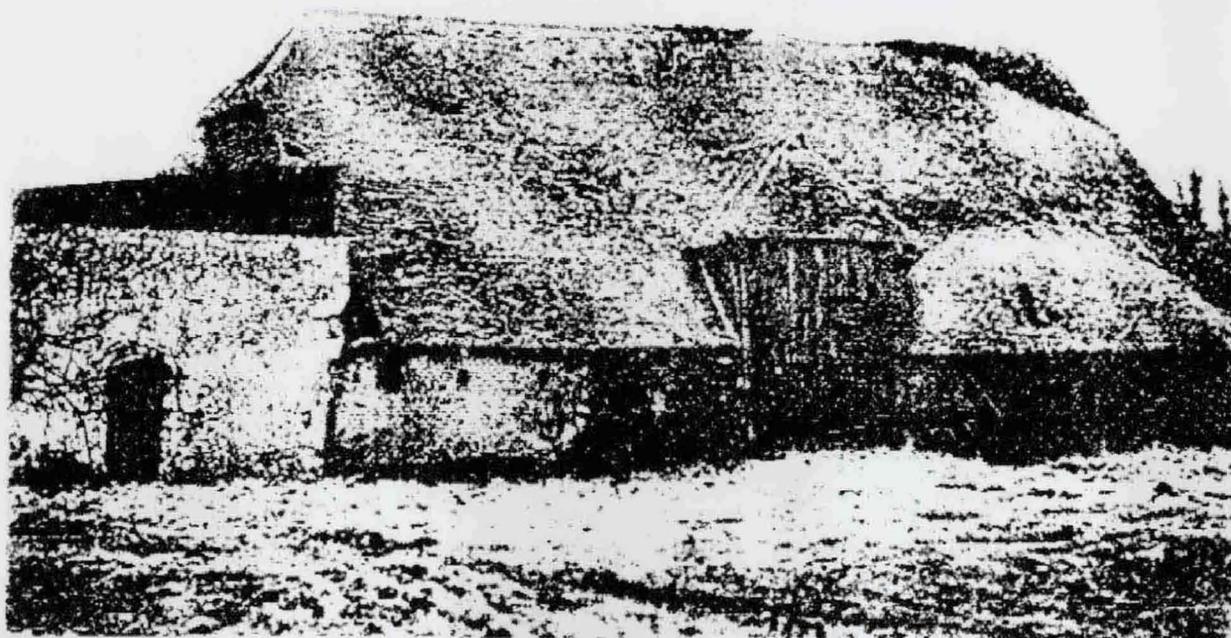
Photo by courtesy of Phillip Arnold

**On the left the remains of the Tudor brick wall of the barn (formally the King's Hall) and on the right the vaulted building with its modern protective roof. Speculation is that this vaulted building may have had the King's Chapel above it.**

Thereafter, the property went out of royal ownership and into decline, although Charles I went there in 1625 following an outbreak of the plague. Between then and 1634 it was abandoned. The site went through various hands to the Onslow family. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Guinness dairy farm occupied roughly what was originally Woking Park. Woking Borough Council bought it from Burhill Estates in 1988.

All that remains now are an ashlar and stone building 30 x 18ft with a barrel vault. Its original purpose is a matter of speculation. It originally had an upper floor. It stands adjacent to the remains of a barn made of Tudor bricks, originally the King's Hall. Also still clearly visible are parts of the double moat and two rectangular and one round fishpond.

**On the right is the interior of the barn photographed by Les Bowerman in 1948.**



**The barn intact as it was in 1948 photographed in black/white by Les Bowerman seen from opposite side to the group photo. The vaulted building on the left (on right in group photo) has not yet received its protective roof.**

The site of the Palace was the venue for the Society's first outing in 1975 when some 90 people attended according to the report at the time. That visit was written up in Newsletter 3 at page 3. Bound volumes are kept in the SRHS museum

The Society is extremely grateful to Phillip Arnold for his learned guidance. Much of the information in this report is from his official guide to the Palace, which is for sale at £2.50.

## Letters

Letter from **David Porter**: Guildford. – Re - **Kyra Somerfield/Send Marsh**.

I was delighted to read Kyra Somerfield's article 'Send Marsh Remembered' in Journal 201, to which I will add more memories in due course.

It is exactly 50 years ago - September 1958, when Kyra and I first met. I was then eight years old and one of 44 pupils of class 2 juniors at the old Send Primary School. We knew her then as Miss Grace our class teacher! The team spirit instilled in us at the old school is today very much alive thanks to the media of the S&RHS.

Letter from **Sid Stanley**: Ripley. – Re - **Vera Russell/Editor's comment on Mr Secrett** .

I was reading your comments on Secrett's Market Garden (Journal 210). I think that your placing of the Reservoir near Send Barns Farm is incorrect. It was (is) situated on the stream that entered Secrett's fields after passing under Send Marsh Road heading towards Prews Farm in Tannery Lane.

The reservoir was dug 100-150 (yds) upstream of Prews Farm with the pump house close by. Send Barns Farm is about a mile upstream of the reservoir and close to Send Barns Lane.



You are correct in saying the Reservoir is nearer Prews Farm but as this part of the 1975 OS map shows, it is almost equidistant between Tannery Lane and Send Marsh Road. I incorrectly stated Send Barns Farm when I meant Heath Barns Farm in Send Marsh Road. Perhaps because it is no longer a farm the latter is not named on this map. Now cottages, they are situated at the southern end of the footpath from Heath Farm at a bend on Send Marsh Road. Send Barns Farm is in fact at Woodhill, near the junction to Send Barns Lane and as you say a good mile away. Thanks for bringing this to my attention. Editor.

## Florence Desmond Janet Hilderley

Many people living in Ripley still recall the entertainer, Florence Desmond, scarf on head, going down the High Street, with a cheery wave and often a word. She was the lady of the manor who lived at Dunsborough Park and one of the greatest entertainers of the twentieth century.

In fact Florence Desmond was born in an Islington back street on 31st May 1905 to George Dawson, bookmaker, and his wife Ada. They christened their baby Florence Elizabeth Dawson and called her Florrie. She became known to the world as Florence Desmond.

The woman who brought the baby into the world was Annie Ware, a cook who had come to live with the Dawsons after escaping from a cruel mistress "until I find another place", which she never did. Childless, Annie became Florrie's beloved 'Nannie', introducing her to 'Sunny Sads' (Sadlers Wells) at the end of the road. But it was her father who took Florrie into the great world. Sometimes on a Sunday morning he would call out "Going up West, Florrie". When he had finished his cobbling business he showed his daughter the sights - St Paul's, the City's winding alleys, and the Docks, where ships sailed into port carrying exotic cargoes, the smell of spices gathering on the air.

The few times that George Dawson relaxed, he read mind-improving literature. As a young man he saved his money to take step-dancing lessons. Often, in flickering gas lights, Florrie and her father rose, stepped into a tap dancing routine, entertaining the startled company - who thought they had come to partake of high tea only.

Florrie really wanted to sell programmes at the local cinema. She could then see her heroes over and over again - for free. But a friend had greater ambitions. Nora joined the chorus of a pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*. She taught Florrie to kick her skirt over her head. With her friend's help, Florrie joined the chorus as well, earning 5/- (25P) a week - all found.

Suddenly, the dame left the show, "Try *Little Granny*". the chorus mistress suggested'. At 10 years old Florrie Dawson became Florence Desmond, with star potential. For many years afterward life consisted of provincial tours and lodgings in second-rate theatrical boarding houses - with the loo at the bottom of a muddy garden.

Living away from home, Florence became worried when her father was diagnosed with a brain tumour. One day, arriving home from Monmouth, Nannie met her at the door. "You're mother has taken to her bed". She knew then that her father was dead. Florence sold the cobbler's shop and took responsibility for her family - she was just nineteen years old.

Florence felt now it was the time to escape from the provincial touring companies. Much against her pride, she joined the chorus line of the cabaret at the Piccadilly Hotel, signing a short-term contract. The great producer, C B Cochrane, came to view the show. He wanted to engage the whole line but only Miss Desmond was free. Cochrane wrote of the audition... "Off went the little girl, with a swagger of the shoulders, into a few steps...I said to my stage manager, "That girl's got style!"!



abundance of birds and dragonflies, more than 700 species of invertebrates – including 37 rare ones – and more than 230 species of plants including the scarce marsh dock and marestail.

The five BP office staff from Hayes were called in to help rescue the valuable reed-bed habitat that was under threat from willow, which is gradually drying it out and killing the reeds. After an introduction to the site, tools talk and demonstration they set about clearing the willow saplings.”

---

### SRHS Visit to Henley on Thames Report by Les Bowerman

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, when some 15 members visited Henley, was almost the last day of summer weather-wise. On arrival most enjoyed a leisurely coffee whilst sitting out in the sun in the market place adjacent to the Town Hall shown right. It gave an opportunity to absorb the general atmosphere of Henley before dividing into two groups under the expert guidance of Ann Cottingham and Roger Kendal, leading members of the Henley Archaeological & Historical Group.



Henley, a name of late Saxon derivation, does not appear in the Domesday Survey, although an arch of the old bridge over the Thames, discovered in 1984, dates to about the 1170s. Another arch, at the western end of the bridge, is now part of the cellars of the Angel on the Bridge pub. The town itself may thus have been created in the reign of Henry I (1100-1135). A document shows that the parish church of St Mary the Virgin was already in existence in 1204 and its position indicates that it was built before the first bridge. The earliest Corporation Seal is dated 1306.

The initial growth of the town was due to its position beside the river where goods could be unloaded, later due to the bridge across the river taking traffic from east to west, and later still to the opening in 1857 of a branch line of the old Great Western Railway to Henley from Twyford.

The two groups were shown a wealth of old houses, some timber-framed ones dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Most had, of course, been much altered. There are elegant Georgian houses, and many substantial former inns, which are now used for other purposes, not to mention Brakspear's former brewery.

Lunch was enjoyed outside at the Riverside Café attached to the River & Rowing museum within sight of the sculptures of Redgrave and Pinsent. The museum traces the history of the river at Henley from both an industrial and sporting point of view. A portion of the museum is given over to a display based upon Kenneth Grahame's book *Wind in the Willows*.

**West Surrey Family History Society Open Day,  
Woking Leisure Centre, Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Once again our Society is having a stall at this event where we will be having our Parish Records available to answer questions from visitors seeking help with their family history.

In previous years our presence has been very successful with many enquiries and much interest shown. We are very dependent upon help from our members to run the stall during the day. If there is anyone who might be interested and would have an hour or two to spare on that day, I would be very pleased to hear from them. My phone number is: 01483 222107. John Slatford.

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**Ruth Hill of Rose Lane, Ripley  
John Slatford**

In this day and age, text messages and e-mails are the normal means for short and instant communications. 100 years ago, it was the picture postcard that was the cheap and quick (by comparison with today) way of sending brief messages. Photographic postcards of local views were prolific and Ripley was no exception. Our chairman Les Bowerman has a large collection and there are many in the Society's photographic archive. A series of cards depicting different views of Rose Lane in Ripley is of particular interest. We believe there could have been nine cards in total (numbered WHA 1 to 9). The photographs seem to have all been taken on the same day because they all feature the same young lady wearing the same outfit. We also know that they were taken some time after 1911 since one of the views is of the Fire Brigade Station newly built in that year.

The young lady in the photographs was Ruth Hill. Her family kept a shop, which was part of and in front of the house in Rose Lane now known as No 19. More recently this shop, since demolished, was known as Dowells. The census returns show that Ruth was born in Ripley in 1898 and was the granddaughter of Alfred Hill who lived in Rose Lane and was described as a shoemaker. In June this year an item came up for sale on eBay, which the Society has purchased; it is a postcard with a photograph depicting the Rose Lane shop of A Hill and signed by him on the back with the year 1909. A teenage girl and a woman aged about 40 are standing in the shop doorway. Is the young girl Ruth Hill? The postcard has prompted further research into this family and how the shoemaker Alfred Hill came to be a shopkeeper. Kelly's Directories mention, in the years between 1894 and 1924, a draper and outfitter named Alfred Hill in Ripley. These two Alfreds have to be the same, since, from the 1901 census, there was only one Alfred Hill living in Rose Lane in Ripley.



**Ruth Hill – enlarged from Rose  
Cottage photo.**

Desmond has been attracting a great deal of attention recently in her efforts to raise money for the Betatron Cancer Appeal Trust". By December 1965 she met the revised target of £185,000.

During the eighties Florence's health began failing. She died in January 1993.

She wrote in her autobiography: "Sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes humiliating, sometimes exciting and inspiring - that's show business. Its very uncertainty is probably one of the reasons why we show-people find it so fascinating and wholly absorbing."

Postscript: The Betatron story is told in the current exhibition of 'Guildford during the 1960s in the Guildford Museum exhibition. The machine can be seen in the Science Museum.

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We are grateful to Janet Hilderley for the above excerpt from her book *Florence Desmond* which is due to be published in the autumn. See also Buildings Group survey of Dunsborough House, N/L 69 and Florence Desmond's obituary, N/L 108. - Editor.

It is interesting that Janet mentions Gracie Fields, because Gracie also had a Send/Ripley connection. She began her singing career as a protégée of Gordon Stewart of Send Manor and often sang in one of the show buildings on the estate. - Les Bowerman, on proof reading

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### **An appeal for help**

Volunteers urgently wanted who are willing to go on the rota as **museum stewards**, either for Saturday mornings - probably once about every 6 months, or for Sundays - half a day when the monthly antiques market takes place in the Village Hall (it can happily be combined with a visit to the market). We also need volunteers to staff the Society's stall at the monthly **Farmers' Market** on Ripley Green. As with the museum, the duty comes up only once every so many months. Stewards can decide for themselves not to operate if the weather is inclement. Contact Les Bowerman 01483 224876.

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### **Papercourt Wildlife Notes by Les Bowerman**

In the early years of the Society there was an active natural history group, which has never been formally disbanded, so no excuse is needed for giving occasional nature notes.

The Surrey Wildlife Trust quarterly magazine "Nature", Issue No 140 for Spring 2008, carries a couple of paragraphs which may be of interest to members. The paragraphs read as follows:

"Wielding loppers and bow-saws, volunteers from BP (British Petroleum PLC, an official business supporter of SWT) fought back invading scrub at Papercourt Marshes last November.

The site, originally a sand/gravel works, was restored into a complex of reed beds, open water and sandy grassland and is now managed by SWT on behalf of the owners, Cemex. It now teems with wildlife, forming part of the larger Papercourt side of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and supports an

Stardom for Florence beckoned. She became Mr Cochran's favourite young lady. She filmed with Gracie Fields, and worked with most stars of the time. She performed at the Palladium and before royalty, making films in America.

Needing a rest, Florence travelled to Paris to undertake some shopping therapy and then on to Le Touquet. At a party organised by the Duke of Furness she met his pilot, ace-flyer Tom Campbell-Black. They married on Saturday 30th March 1935 at St James's, Piccadilly. A few months later Tom flew to Liverpool for a promotional flight. Although a brilliant pilot, he did not notice another plane coming in flying low. It sliced through the cockpit of Tom's plane. They rushed him to Garston Hospital but he was dead on arrival.

Florence sold their home and moved in with Beryl Markham. Herself an ace pilot brought up in Kenya, beautiful and utterly promiscuous, one time Tom's lover and long time lover of the then Duke of Gloucester. It was well known that Queen Mary never wanted to hear the name Kenya ever again.

Six months later Florence received a phone call. It was from another pilot, Charles Hughesdon. "Beryl wonders if you would care to join us?" She went to Hungaria, Lower Regent Street, and met the 'beautiful young man' and danced with him longer than politeness demanded. They married on 23rd September 1937.

Charles joined an aviation insurance business. In his autobiography, *Flying Made It Happen*, he tells of his remarkable business success. When the Second World War arrived Charles joined the RAF and Florence joined ENSA. During this marriage Florence experienced two miscarriages and considered adopting a baby. She made an exploratory visit to an adoption agency, returning to London with a gurgling seven month old Michael ... "who will dance if held."

Noel Coward had advised Florence to "specialise, Dessy!" She took his advice, becoming the greatest impressionist of her day. But by 1953 she felt it was time to retire. With a new Queen and a new age, even her impressions seemed dated.

Over the years Florence and Charles had many houses but no roots. In 1948 they bought Dunsborough Park, Ripley. While the purchase was going through, Florence worked in America. When she returned to England, it was to Dunsborough that she came.

In retirement Dunsborough was Florence's main source of inspiration. Her interests were wide: horse racing and breeding, the Conservative party, interior decoration, ceramics, antiques, gardening, farming, growing fruit and vegetables in the market garden and sending the produce to West End venues.

Local affairs also interested Florence. She attended St John the Baptist Church, West Byfleet. The author remembers Miss Desmond judging the best ballerina competition, and finding something positive to say to every little girl. She always attended Guy Fawkes Night, on one occasion throwing her private plane on to the bonfire, and serving the stirrup cup to the Chiddingfold Farmers Hunt with great aplomb.

The gardens of Dunsborough were and are open several times a year in aid of cancer appeals. *Surrey Today* wrote in August 1964 "Miss Florence



Charles, Florence and David at Dunsborough

An auction sale catalogue in 1952 (of this more later) refers to a conveyance dated 12<sup>th</sup> August 1887 between John Harrison Price and Alfred Hill, which was the basis of the title of the property, which became Hill's shop. John Harrison Price was the nephew of Mrs Sarah Marshall and after she died in 1883, he inherited Ripley Court and most of the houses and property in Rose Lane, which were owned by the Harrison/Marshall family through most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He probably never lived at Ripley Court but soon set about selling the various Rose Lane properties. After he died in 1893, Ripley Court itself was sold to Robert May Pearce who founded Ripley Court School. The sale to Alfred Hill comprised the two adjoining cottages, the present day Vintage Cottage and, most likely, only the rear portion of the present day No 19. There is no evidence but it is thought that Alfred Hill would have been responsible for building the late Victorian brick extension with the shop in front.

Alfred Hill was born c1839 and came from Oakham in Rutland. His wife Jane was born c1840 in Woking. They seem to have been members of the Strict Baptist Ebenezer Chapel in Newark Lane since both are buried in the small adjacent graveyard – Jane in 1924 aged 84 and Alfred in 1929 aged 90. Their son Albert, who was Ruth's father and who died in 1899 aged 28 when she was only one year old, is also recorded there.

The shop front in 1909, as well as the name A Hill, showed that Boots, Furniture, Drapery, Clothing, etc. were sold. Many years later, probably after he died and when Ruth (and her mother?) had taken over, the shop became a grocery store and it is Hill's Grocery that is remembered today. Gerald Chandler remembers the shop at one time as Hill & Gillespie; he worked there as a teenage errand boy. The ownership of *Hill's General Stores* and the *Cottage Adjoining* (as described in the auction catalogue) is not known after the death of Alfred Hill but it is possible that the properties remained with his family. On 5<sup>th</sup> November 1952, *By Order of the Trustees*, they were sold by auction at The Anchor Hotel. The auction catalogue stated that the Stores were let to Miss Ruth Hill for seven years from 29<sup>th</sup> September 1950 at £40 per annum. The Cottage (now Vintage Cottage) was let to Mr R Townson at nine shillings and ten and a half pence (49p) per week. A manuscript note on the catalogue copy states that they were bought by Miss Hill on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1952 for £1000.

Ruth Hill never married and although she was a familiar figure in the village, little is otherwise known about her. However, she is recorded in the Parish Register, at the age of 57, as having been baptised on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1955 at Ripley Church. The record states: 'Adult (baptism), Ruth Lydia daughter of Albert (deceased) and Sarah (deceased) Hill, Rose Lane, Ripley, shop proprietress'. Her death is recorded in Brighton in 1963 at the age of 65. Her successors at the shop were Mr and Mrs Dowell and their son Alan.

During this research some confusion arose over whether the girl in the postcards was Ruth Hill. This was the result of studying the local memory records collected over the years by Jane Bartlett. One of these was Rose (or Rosa) Bird who was interviewed in 1992. This lady was one of the Townsend family who lived in one of the pair of clapboard houses in Rose Lane that stood next to the British Legion and were demolished to make way for the road into White Hart Court. She was born there in 1899. In her talk with Jane Bartlett, she referred to the Rose Lane postcard showing the entrance to Chapel Farm and reproduced on page 42 of our book *Then and Now*. From Jane's notes, she said that she was in this photograph - the girl with the bicycle. After comparing different cards in the series, we concluded that although both girls were in the photographs, it was Ruth Hill who was the one with the white dress and dark belt and neckerchief.

My thanks are due to my wife Bette for her research, Jane Bartlett, Fiona and Alastair MacMillan (for the auction catalogue), Joan and Gerald Chandler and John Hutson.

## The Family of Alfred Hil

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Alfred Hill</b></p> <p>Born: 1839, Oakham Rutland</p> <p>Died: 1929, Ripley Aged 84</p>	=	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jane ?</b></p> <p>Born: 1840, Woking</p> <p>Died: 1924, Ripley Aged 90</p>
---	---	--

			1896							
<b>Mary J.</b>	<b>William</b>	<b>Emily</b>	<b>Albert</b>	=	<b>Sarah ?</b>	<b>Lydia</b>	<b>Sarah</b>	<b>Samuel</b>	<b>Esther</b>	<b>Alfred E</b>
b: 1861	b: 1865	b: 1870	b: 1871		b: 1872	b: 1872	b: 1874	b: 1876	b: 1878	b: 1880
			d: 1899							
			Ripley							
			Aged: 28							
			<b>Ruth Lydia Hill</b>							
			Born: 1898, Ripley							
			Died: 1963, Brighton							
			Aged: 65							



**Alfred Hill's Shop in Rose Lane in 1909**



Ruth Hill with young boy at entrance to Chapel Farm Ripley



Ruth Hill and Fire Station Ripley



**Ruth Hill in front of Rose Cottage, Rose Lane Ripley.**



**Rose Lane Ripley**  
Ruth Hill is the larger figure in white standing in the middle of the road far left.

## Have you read?

Mavis Davies

Just recently I saw a programme on TV about the diarist A.J. Munby and his long-standing affair and eventual marriage to a servant girl named Harriet Cullwick. He never acknowledged her as his wife, but she did eventually come to live in his house under the guise of housekeeper. It was a most interesting programme, which encouraged me to dip into a biography of him - *Munby, man of two worlds* by Derek Hudson published in 1972.

He visited Ripley frequently, and walked about the neighbourhood, especially visiting Wheeler's Farm in Pyrford where he formed an attachment to Sarah Wheeler.

In 1878 he took a lease on Wheeler's Farm. He spent more and more time in Pyrford and was eventually buried in the Pyrford Church of St Nicholas. Send and Ripley History Society published - *A Victorian Walk About Ripley*, with extracts from his diaries detailing his walks around Ripley, with an update on how they would appear today. This has now had a limited reprint, and is available in the Museum. It also contains an excellent short biography of Munby and Hannah by John Slatford, but if you would like to know more, *Munby, man of two worlds* it is also available in the Museum library usually at classification 920MUN, but the moment it is on display in one of the glass cases.

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## Bristol Beaufighter crash at Prews Farm

Can you help?

Clare McCann



There was an incident, noted in the publication *Surrey at War*, and remembered by Sid Stanley that occurred on October 12<sup>th</sup> 1940 about which we would welcome any memories. Apparently a Bristol Beaufighter (similar to the above photo) of 219 squadron, RAF Redhill crashed at Prews Farm having got lost and run short of fuel. The crew baled out safely but if anyone took a photo or perhaps had contact with the crew or could add to the story then we would love to hear from you. Clare McCann 01483 728546

## **Another Send Centenarian**

**Notes by Les Bowerman**

In Journal 182 (May/June 2005) I noted that three Send residents had reached the venerable age of 100 since the Society was formed in 1975 and we can now have pleasure in recording that a fourth has reached this still rare milestone.

Hearty congratulations then to Elsie Robinson who reached her century on 16<sup>th</sup> August. As reported in the *Surrey Advertiser* of 29<sup>th</sup> August beside a delightful colour photograph, Elsie is still in remarkably good health and her son, Brian (a member of the Society), observed that she still has a sense of humour. As an instance of that she reportedly said "I got a card from the Queen, but I didn't get a cheque with it. I would have liked a cheque."

Elsie married in 1935 and had two children. She moved to Send in 1980. Sadly, her husband, Frederick, died in 1998, three years after their diamond wedding. She has 12 great-grandchildren. Long may her good health continue.

As noted at 182/7 the other Send centenarians have been Eveline Lancaster in 1976, Ethel Tice in 1981 and Dorrie Challen in 2005. Curiously, no centenarians have been reported from Ripley over this 33 year period, although as far back as the 1700s Ripley was renowned for its healthfulness

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## **Roy Doe 1942-2008**

**An appreciation by David Porter**

Roy Doe was born at Old Woking in 1942, the eldest son of Alf and Lilian Doe. They lived in a cottage at the junction of Old Woking High Street and Broadmead Road. (*Further information about this dwelling is eagerly sought by the family and David Porter*). Roy's younger brother Roland was born in February 1950 and by this time the family lived at number 1, Boughton Hall Cottages in Send.

Roy was educated at the old Send Primary School on Send Hill and then at St Bede's in Bush Lane where he became 'head boy' when William Short was headmaster. He left school at 15 years and became interested in radio communication and electronics, which subsequently developed as a lifelong career. By about 1960 he and his father had built an additional shed in their back garden. This was always known simply as 'The Shack'. Roy had become by this time well established as an amateur radio ham with his own call sign G3PJX. From the roof of the Shack a very tall aerial mast was erected, its wires stretched to a large tree bordering Secrett's field near the stream bridge in Send Marsh Road, then back to another large tree in the back of a field behind Goodgrove on the opposite side! From his transmitter Roy's voice could be heard in many countries around the world. Roy's name was added to H M Government's emergency list of amateur radio operators during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Roy married Miss Mavis Page of Dorking in August 1963 and the Shack was vacated. The couple moved to Bracknell, and Cove near Farnborough, before finally settling at Dorking. It was here that Roy died on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

On behalf of all those who knew him we offer our sincere condolences coupled with Roland and Hilary (brother and sister in law), to his wife Mavis and their four children, Nigel, Nicole, Claudette and Carl.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

There is a **new exhibition in the Museum on Finds from the Mesolithic Age in Send and Ripley** prepared by Bob Stonard and Clare McCann. When visiting the Museum, you will also have the opportunity to look at our local history and reference books as well as borrowing books from the library. Current and past issues of the Society's Journal are also available and there is a selection of second-hand books for sale. The Museum is open on **Saturday mornings from 10.00 until 12.30 pm** and for two hours on the third Sunday of the month to coincide with the Antiques Fair.

The following meetings will be held in Ripley Village Hall Annexe, starting at 8 pm:-

**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October** – An illustrated talk about **Shalford** by Margaret Dierden.

**Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November** – “**The Guildford Guy Riots**”, an illustrated talk by Gavin Morgan.

**Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December** - **The Christmas Social** with entertainment by Sandra and Eric Morgan. This meeting is for members only.

### Other events

**Sat 25th October.** - **Surrey Local History Symposium at Chertsey Hall, Chertsey.**  
10.00 am to 5.30 pm. The theme is **Surrey & the First World War**. Charges: £10 if booked in advance or £12 for entry on the door. Will anyone wishing to attend what is always a very interesting day, please let me know before 13th October. Les Bowerman.

**Sat 1st November** - **West Surrey Family History Society Open Day**, at the Woking Leisure Centre. Come and visit the Society's stand and many of the other societies from Surrey and further afield. See also page 12 if you wish to help and for additional information.

**Saturday, 22nd November** - **Boughton Hall Annual Christmas Fair.** from 10.30am. If anyone would like to volunteer to help man the SRHS stall at this event, please let me know and I will put you on the rota. Anne Bowerman.

You may also be interested to know that Marion May will be holding an exhibition in the Guildford House Gallery called “**Flowers in Fashion** - Floral Frocks 1840 to 1950”. The exhibition will be from the **10<sup>th</sup> January to February, 21<sup>st</sup>. 2009**. The Gallery is not open on Mondays. Opening hours are from 10.00 to 12.00 and 2.00 to 4.45pm.

For further details of any of the above events, please ring me, Anne Bowerman, on 01483 224876.



## SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

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**Also open on 3rd Sunday of each month,**  
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Other times for school groups and small  
parties by arrangement

Contact Les Bowerman on 01483-224876 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 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

All the publications are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of 'Ripley & Send Then and Now' and 'Two Surrey Village Schools' can also be obtained from Send Post Office.

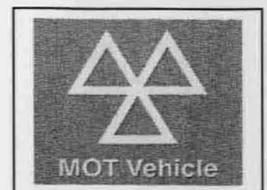


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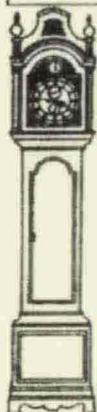
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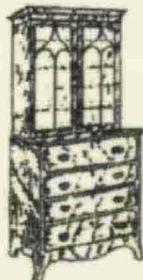
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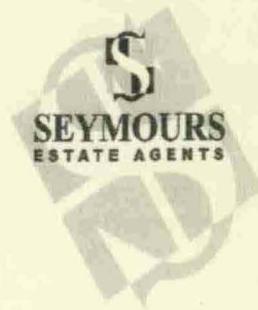
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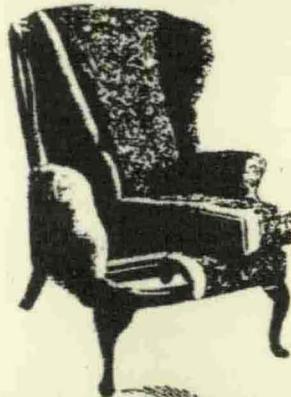
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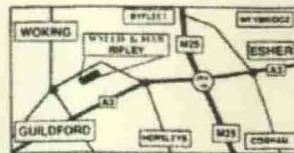
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