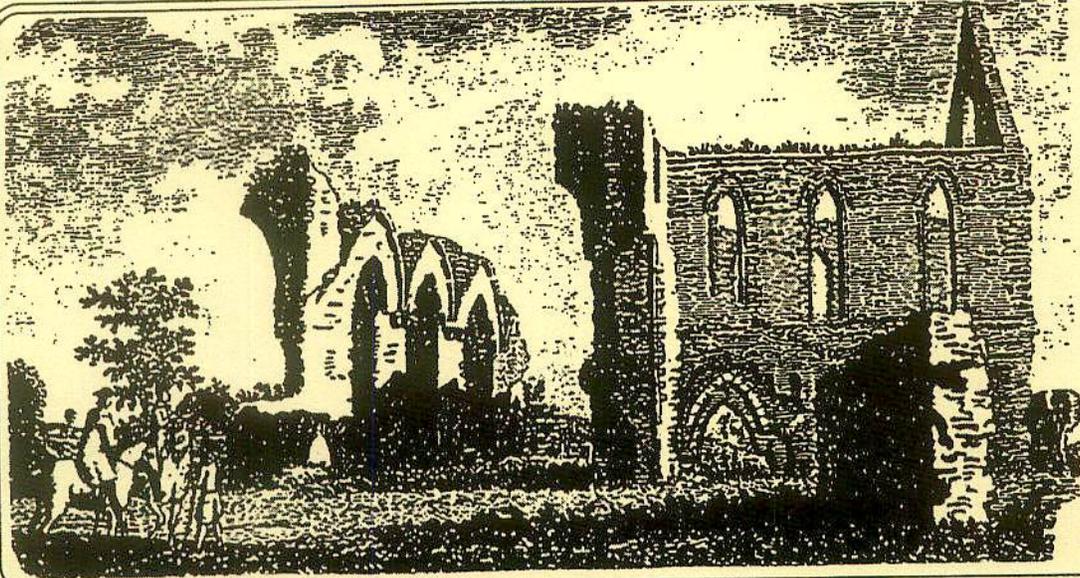


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NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 5 No. 156

Jan/Feb 2001



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Typed by Mrs Chris Parker

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Journal Volume 5 No 156

January/February 2001

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Cover illustration The Talbot Hotel at Ripley, as depicted by Jackie Barrass on a Woking Hospice Christmas Card, from an illustration in the Society's book, "Looking Back".

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

First of all, a Happy New Year to all our readers, and hopefully, it will not be as wet as the autumn of last year. As this Journal is being prepared in early December, it is still raining. Apparently, the year 2000 has had the wettest autumn for 300 years. Not surprisingly, there are comments on flooding in the Ripley and Send areas in this Journal. The last time that there was extensive flooding was in 1968, when Ripley was practically cut off from Send.

The view of the Talbot on the front page is shown not only because it is a pleasant local scene, but to remind whoever is responsible for the weather that cold snowy days are perhaps not so bad after all.

Although the Journal is looking forward, it would be remiss of me not to record my sincere thanks to Chris and Geoff Parker for the important part they play in typing and assisting with the production of this Journal. I should also like to thank the many and various contributors, whose support for the Journal, through their articles, is much appreciated by our readers.

ADVERTISING

On behalf of the Society, I thank once again the local businesses who have supported the Journal over the last year and continue to support it, through their advertising in the coming year. Thanks are also due to George Bleach, who has each year since January 1992 ensured that entries have been updated and fees paid, which help the Society to provide a local history journal at reasonable cost. Please support these local businesses whenever you can and refer to this publication whenever you are in touch with them.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

As mentioned in previous Journals, sadly, George Bleach is to retire as Membership Secretary, which also embraces the post of Journal Distributor as well as Advertising Executive. As Editor, I can honestly say that George will be sorely missed, and I hope someone will soon come forward and offer to take on one or all of these important functions.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The membership subscriptions are coming in at a very satisfactory rate and this is just a polite reminder for those of you who have yet to put pen to cheque to forward your subscription as soon as possible. As stated in the last issue, the subscription rate is £10 per couple and £8 for single membership, plus £2 if you live in an area outside Send and Ripley which requires postage. Please send your subscription to George Bleach, 2 Church Row, High Street, Ripley, Woking, GU23 6BG, and don't forget to include your name and address.

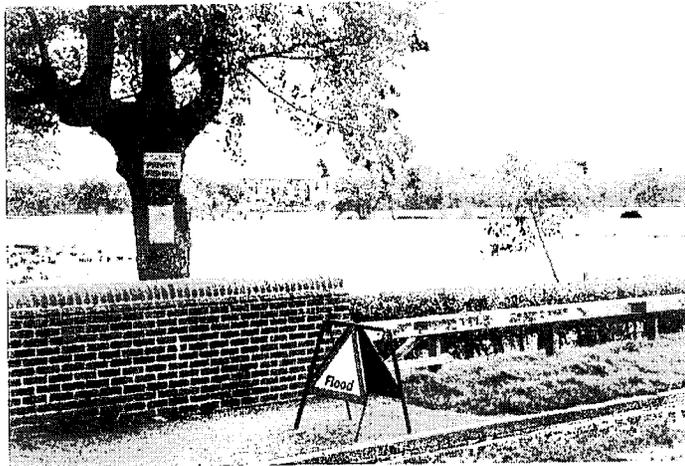
FLOODING

Of the two photographs by the author, one shows Newark Priory on an island, which indeed it is, as it is bounded by the Wey Navigation and the River Wey. The other shows the river flooding the field just below Pyrford Church. The flood sign in the first photo refers to the section of road next to the bridge and site of Newark Mill, much further along the road towards

Ripley.

The photo, taken just below Pyrford Church, looking towards Ripley, may be compared with the flooding shown on the 1925 postcard which appeared on the front page of the last issue of the Journal (No 155). The drainage improvements for the Bourne stream (see N/L 120/6 1995) have, it seems, been effective in preventing flooding of this part of the road, which, for centuries past, had been the ford from which Pyrford takes its name.

Not so fortunate were residents in Ripley High Street who, early last month, were flooded. The properties included Perseverance Cottages, the Manor House and the Anchor public house. As mentioned previously, this is a rare occurrence and may have been caused in this case as much by a blocked drain as the excessive rainfall.





RIPLEY VILLAGE POND. c1910.



RIPLEY VILLAGE POND. November 2000.

RIPLEY VILLAGE POND

By John Slatford

The former playground (nowadays the site of Ripley bonfire) on the Green, is best remembered by older residents as the village pond. It is certain that it came about as a result of sand and/or gravel extraction in the distant past. We have found no evidence of when this happened, but it would have been well before 1870, when the pond was clearly shown on the Ordnance Survey for that year.

After various drainage schemes in the late 1930s, and after the last war, the pond progressively dried up. Since then, although very boggy after heavy rain, there has not, in the recollections of some of our older residents, until recently been anything more severe than large puddles.

The year 2000 has been a different matter with the autumn said to be the wettest ever recorded. After the constant downpours, culminating in the storm of October 29/30 (which some of us will remember more than most!), the pond has reappeared, although perhaps not as deep as in years past. Even four weeks later, with the rain still falling every day, the pond water is showing no signs of draining away, so one must wonder about the prospects for the 2001 bonfire!

RIPLEY - CHARLES E SHAW

On the front cover of issue 135 of the Newsletter (as it then was), Ken Bourne, our Editor, showed in black and white a photograph of a water-colour painted by the artist, C E Shaw, in 1896. It was entitled "Ripley, Surrey", and showed, looking from West to East, the old school building and the church, and depicted a number of bicyclists. Of especial interest to local historians was the fact that it appears to show a long lost drainage ditch at the point where it enters a gully outside the school.

John Slatford accompanied the photograph with a commentary, in which he noted that Mr and Mrs Chris Smith, at Yew Tree House, have another example of Shaw's work, a pen-&-ink drawing of the Anchor, looking towards Guildford and dated 1897. John concludes by saying that it would be interesting to know if there are any other Ripley area paintings by Charles Shaw.

I can now report that I have been able to buy another Charles E Shaw. In fact, it is a pen-&-ink drawing of the Anchor dated 1897, identical to the Smiths', but with a different dedication. I have also inspected a third copy belonging to some friends, to whom it was given by the Cyclists' Touring Club. Theirs has yet another dedication. Thus it is now clear that these are prints rather than original drawings. The three dedications are as follows:

The Smiths' copy - *To R. B. Wells, Esqre with the artists's compliments.*

The Bowerman copy - *To E H Gale Crowdy, Esqre with the artist's compliments.*

Mr and Mrs Squirrell's copy - *To G. Lacy Hillier, Esqre with the artists's compliments.*

So far nothing has been discovered of either Wells or Gale Crowdy. Neither appeared in the 1891 Census. However, it is well known among cycling historians that "Jarge" Lacy Hillier was a prominent cycling administrator who had been national champion at all distances in 1881. He died, still an active cyclist at age 84, in 1941. He had been a frequent visitor to Ripley and his signature appears in the Cyclists' Visitors Books of the 1880s and 1890s, which are still held at the Anchor. Presumably, Shaw would give or sell his prints to friends and acquaintances, or maybe he just sold them commercially.

So far as the pen-&-ink drawing itself is concerned, it does not contribute much to our knowledge of the local scene, unless my copy of this picture by the artist, together with the water-colour dated 1896, can be read as showing that the drainage ditch to the right of the picture was

in the course of being gulleied and filled in during 1896. Having said that, I must point out that there is no clear sign of the ditch in the earlier pen-&-ink sketch of the church and school which appears on the cover of our publication, "The Straight Furrow", by Fred Dixon.



More positively, Shaw's pen-&-ind drawing has a wealth of interest in the detail. There are no less than six very luxuriant window boxes at the upper windows of the Anchor, something which has only returned to fashion in the last few years. The lower windows have shutters. The walls of the Anchor still have the timber framing concealed by rendering. The Manor House opposite has ivy or some other creeper on the upper storey. There are as many lady cyclists in the scene as there are men, which is surprising. One of the ladies is cycling in Rational Costume, which Lady Harberton wore to the Hautboy at Ockham the following year to such far-reaching effect. The other seven have ankle-length dress. This proportion of one Rational to seven traditional is much what one would expect for 1897. Of the bicycles, it is interesting to see one old high Ordinary still in use, although most cyclists had gone on to safeties by 1891. There is a double-gent tandem with full chain-case. There is also, far right, what appears to be a double-ladies tandem. In the right foreground is a second pattern Crypto Bantam small-wheeled front driver. The second pattern was introduced in 1895.

A final puzzle remains. The handwriting on the water-colour appears to be in a different hand from that on the pen-&-ink prints. The water-colour is all block capitals and is signed "C. E. Shaw". The dedication and signature (Charles E. Shaw) of the prints are in cursive script. 1896 is in very upright digits. 1897 slopes forward. Even the word, "Ripley", which appears in block capitals on both the water-colour and the prints, is not identical on both, but one is encouraged to believe that both are, after all, written by the same hand because in both the letters lean slightly backwards.

SOCIETY SOCIAL EVENING, DECEMBER 14

About 28 members and their friends attended the social evening in the annex of Ripley Village Hall on December 14. This event had lapsed for a year or two and was reintroduced this year.

Les and Anne Bowerman, Christina Sheard, Tony and Patricia Medlen, Claire McCann and others had worked hard to set the scene which transformed the Ripley Annex into a welcoming, warmly lit, festive-looking room, reminiscent of past occasions, but set in a more intimate atmosphere.

The offer of hot punch, made and dispensed by Christina, and the sight of a wide variety of snacks, including mince pies, sausage rolls and smoked salmon sandwiches, did much to encourage a friendly and festive occasion. Patricia and Tony had set out a large number of raffle prizes, and as it subsequently turned out, most of those participating, with few exceptions, won a prize.

After a warm welcome by our Chairman, Les Bowerman, who explained that a number of our members would give readings connected with Christmas in some way or other, this was begun by Ken Bourne, the President. Ken gave a number of readings from the poetry of

Christina Rossetti, which included her famous carol, "In the Bleak Mid Winter". The traditional tune, well known by most of those present, by Gustave Holst, was compared with a modern variation by Harold Darke. Lyn Mileham commented that his mother had been a pupil in the early 20th century at St Paul's Girls' School, Hammersmith, where Holst was a teacher and the Musical Director.

Les Bowerman gave several readings during the evening, which included a late 19th century report of a Christmas dinner at the Anchor, celebrated by the bicycling fraternity, mein hosts being the Dibble family. Les also referred to an early 20th century account of Christmas in a workhouse - certainly austere, but remarkably, on the occasion recorded, a turkey dinner was served to the inmates. There followed a discussion and references to the Union Workhouse on the site of the former St Luke's Hospital in Guildford.

Claire McCann read a poem by American academic, Clement Clarke Moore, "A Visit from St Nicholas", better known by its first line, "The Night before Christmas", which was written in the early part of the 19th century. This poem is reputed to be the earliest account of Christmas involving St Nicholas (Santa Claus), the decoration of a Christmas Tree, the presentation of gifts, etc, and it set the image from which subsequent Christmases have evolved.

Desmond McCann recited from a recent book "Surrey Christmas", an interesting account of the making and subsequent cooking of many Christmas puddings, boiled in a "copper", which took up to three days. Due to the ingredients, which included brandy, sugar, much fruit and suet, the puddings had a long shelf life, although it was doubtful if this characteristic was ever needed. However, a tinned Christmas Pudding, provided as part of the supplies to Sir Robert Scott's Antarctic expedition over 90 years ago, was recently opened and found to be perfectly edible.

Tony Medlen quoted passages from Margaret Powell's evocative book of life "below stairs". One account of Christmas in a large house describes how the staff were given a Christmas Tree, bare of decorations, and how they subsequently lined up to receive their small gifts from their employers, which often was carried out either by the young sons or daughters of the household - a hard life, although many in service found the security of employment some compensation.

Lyn Mileham, who had celebrated his 85th birthday just over a week previously, gave an impromptu and detailed account of his experience as a young corporal in the Army at the beginning of the Second World War. At Christmastime the custom was to allow married men time off to join their families, while single men manned the camp, their leave being taken in the new year. Lyn and a number of his colleagues had, from time to time, explored the local villages and were befriended by the locals. Learning of their plight over Christmas, one villager offered to provide them with a Christmas Dinner by way of compensation. The day duly arrived, but it

was, however, their duty to attend the camp Christmas Dinner in the mess, being waited upon by NCOs and officers. After this was over at about 3 pm, Lyn and some half-dozen of his colleagues presented themselves to the kindly villager, having first refreshed themselves in a local pub, and then proceeded to eat a second Christmas Dinner. No doubt Lyn thought of this from time to time subsequently, having been captured by the Germans and been a prisoner of war for most of the duration of hostilities.

Our thanks go to everyone who made the evening so interesting with their readings and the discussions that followed, and also our thanks to Christina for her hard work and provision of the punch and soft drinks. Thanks also to Geoff Parker, Patricia Medlen, Anne Bowerman and Irene Bleach for the refreshments. All agreed it was a very pleasant evening and the reading/discussion format is a theme which could be repeated for future occasions.

Ken Bourne

OBITUARY - PETER RIXON

With reference to the obituary to Peter Rixon in the last issue of the Journal, the date of death should have read 22 August, not the 27th.

ALF DIBBLE AND DAUGHTERS

The two photographs relating to the Anchor in Ripley are published with acknowledgement to the Ripley Section of the Veteran-Cycle Club, which was given them by the Committee of the full Club. The VCC had in turn been given them by the attorney for an elderly honorary life member and past President of the Club, Marion James. Marion probably inherited the photographs from her late husband, Len James, who was a member of the Bath Road Club. It may be remembered from my earlier articles about cycling on the Ripley Road that the Bath Road Club, founded at the New Inn, Ham Common, in November 1886, raced on the Bath Road, but undertook much of their social riding on the Ripley Road, having the Anchor as their Headquarters for some time after Alf Dibble returned as landlord, shortly before World War I. The photograph entitled "Anchored" shows Alf Dibble looking proprietorial with his thumbs in the lapels of his waistcoat, accompanied by a gentleman identified on the back of the photo as Syd Wheeler. Syd, it transpires from copies of the *Bath Road Gazette*, was also a member of the Bath Road Club in the 1920s, but one who was reputed by his fellow members to live at the Anchor.

The photo entitled "We Are Seven" shows seven of Alf Dibble's nine daughters, the youngest two, Evelyn and Joan, being missing. Joan is one of our members, living at White Hart Court, and she has kindly identified to Jane Bartlett the seven sisters shown. They are, from left to right back row: Harriet, Maud, Anne and Gertie, and from left to right front row: Marylee, Loris and May.

Joan tells us that the photograph was taken in front of the summer-house in the garden of the Anchor. The garden is now the car park. Not being in the photo, Joan does not recall the circumstances in which it was taken, or the year, or indeed why she and Evelyn did not appear.

Seeing this photograph, it is clear that drinking beer and engaging in "spelling bees", as they did, were not the sole reasons the Bath Road Club members found the Anchor such a magnet, although there is little in the way of romance in the pages of the *Bath Road Gazette*, which reads more like P G Wodehouse than Barbara Cartland.

Les Bowerman



A REPORT ON SURREY LOCAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

By Claire McCann

Held on 28 October at Chertsey, the topic of this year's symposium was music. The first speaker was Graham Muncy, Senior Librarian of the Performing Arts Library in Dorking. He spoke on Surrey composers, 2 Weddings, 2 Funerals and 2 Arrests, illustrating his subject with recorded musical excerpts.

His talk was dominated by Surrey's most distinguished composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, whose formative years were spent at Leith Hill Place. He was also an editor, teacher, folk song collector and, in 1904, the co-founder of the Leith Hill Festival. He remained Principal Conductor of the festival until 1953 and Guest Conductor until his death in 1958. He believed in grass roots music and would cycle round the villages, rehearsing local choirs.

Another composer mentioned was John Marsh (1752 - 1828), born in Dorking and, despite being described as a dilettante, managed to compose 40 symphonies. The speaker then rattled through a number of other names before coming to his first wedding. This was the wedding of Charles Villiers Stanford, Dublin born, based in Cambridge, and well known for his ecclesiastical music. His parents did not approve of his choice of wife and he ended up getting married in Ockley, in the presence, amongst others, of his one time pupil, Vaughan Williams. The next wedding also involved a friend of Vaughan Williams, Gerald Finsey, who was known as a fine setter of lyrics. This Wedding took place at Dorking Registry Office with Vaughan Williams as a witness.

The two funerals were curious in that neither man chose Surrey as a place of burial. The first, Peter Warlock, a rather wild character, died in mysterious circumstances in London and was buried on 20 December 1930 in Godalming (not his home town), possibly to minimise controversy. The mourners included Arthur Bliss and Constance Lambert. Warlock was a friend of Delius and had written a biography of him. He was the other Surrey corpse. He died in 1935 in France. Unable to be buried in the grounds of his rented home, he had requested that he be buried in an English country churchyard. After a temporary burial, his body was returned to England and it arrived at midnight in Limpsfield Churchyard. Sir Thomas Beecham, who gave the oration, was himself later buried in the same churchyard.

Mr Muncy concluded his talk with his two arrests. The first was that of Ethel Smythe, who grew up in Frimley and then moved to Hook Heath, Woking. Despite difficulties for a woman becoming a professional composer in Victorian times, she wrote several significant works. She was an avid supporter of the WSPU, the women's suffrage movement. For them she wrote "March of the Women", and went to prison for two months in 1912 for putting a brick through the window of a Cabinet Minister. The second arrest was that of Michael Tippett, a pacifist and sometime Communist, who worked as a Classics Teacher in Oxted. His refusal to do any kind of war work led to three months in Wormwood Scrubs, despite an intervention by, yes, you've guessed it, Vaughan Williams.

Following the lunch break, Dr David Robinson, Surrey County Archivist, gave a talk on church music in Surrey. Originally, this was probably simple chanting, or in larger churches, music sung by chantry singers. Inventories of Henry VI's reign indicate there were organs in some of the larger churches, but these seem to have fallen out of favour in the 16th century, and the suppression of the chantries in 1547 meant the chantry singers would have lost their role. For the next two centuries, music consisted of English words being set to Plain Song and metrical psalms, a Continental form, being adapted by men like Thomas Wyatt and the Earl of Surrey. In the 18th century, many churches had church bands: flutes, violins, pitch pipes, etc. Contemporary reports indicate that these were of very variable quality, and as the 19th century progressed, more and more churches acquired organs, often funded by local subscriptions. Initially most organists were women, but later men predominated. They were often the focus of

local musical life. Some taught, some ran music shops, organised choral societies and wrote hymn books. Mrs Boughton of Send ordered six copies of Lemare's Hymn Book for local children. Hymns Ancient and Modern later supplanted local hymn books, only challenged in 1904 by Ralph Vaughan Williams' English Hymnal. The names of some of the hymn tunes reflect his Surrey background: Capel, Forest Green and Horsham. Dr Robinson ended his talk at this point, feeling that the Victorian legacy lasted well into the 20th century.

Dr Robinson was followed by Major Richard Powell, speaking on Surrey regiments and their music. He first explained that Surrey regiments included the TA (Territorial Army) - once the Surrey Yeomanry, and the Princess of Wales Regiment (previous incarnations include the Queen's Royal Regiment, the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and the Queen's Regiment). He then went on to explain the five disciplines of military music: trumpets, drum & fife, bugles, pipers and military bands. He illustrated, with recordings, the use of drums and bugles for rallying the troops and signalling on the battlefield. He told us that music has only been used for getting the troops to march in step since Napoleonic times. He then played excerpts from marches associated with Surrey regiments: "The Huntingdonshire March", "Lass of Gowrie", "Scipio", and from 1837-81 the 2nd Battalion used a version of "God Save the Queen". They were ordered to stop using this, as they had not sought permission. They were so miffed that for a while they refused to have a march and were known as the Silent Second.

After tea, Jennifer Waugh and Robert Simonson, from the Surrey History Centre, Woking, talked about Lucy Broadwood and her diaries. She was a descendant of the man who invented the modern piano, but her own claim to fame was as a collector of folk songs. She lived near Capel from 1858 until 1929. As a singer, pianist and artist, she mixed in county society, and was friendly with Vaughan Williams, Percy Grainger and Cecil Sharp. With them she reinvigorated the English Folk Song Society. Collecting songs, transcribing and making early recordings, she also accompanied Vaughan Williams when he gave lectures on the subject. She published a book of English country songs, which followed a family tradition, as, many years before, her uncle, the Reverend John Broadwood, had made a collection of folk songs. Their talk, also with recorded examples, ended a very enjoyable and interesting day.

OBITUARY - KENNETH GRAVETT

An Appreciation in *Surrey History*

Further to the obituary which appeared in No 150 of the Journal for January/February 2000, written by our Chairman, Les Bowerman, an account has appeared in *Surrey History* Volume VI No 2 of Kenneth Gravett's association with the Surrey Local History Council. This account, by David Robinson, County Archivist, outlines Ken's association as a founder member of Surrey Local History Council in 1965 and his role as Chairman from 1972 until his death in November 1999.

A copy of *Surrey History* is available for perusal in the Museum.

MUSEUM - EXHIBITION

Scouts and Cubs, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows!

The above title almost says it all, but to find out more about this new exhibition, set up by Claire McCann and other members of the Society, do go along to the Museum any Saturday morning, between 10 am and 12.30 pm.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 25 January 2001 - 8 pm, Ripley Village Hall

An illustrated talk on Natural History by Ron Croucher.

Thursday, 22 February 2001 - 8 pm, Ripley Village Hall

History Society Annual General Meeting, followed by an evening of memories of winters past in Send and Ripley.

Thursday, 8 March 2001 - 8 pm, Send Church Room

A Talk on Bell-Ringing by Sally Morgan.

VACANCY FOR SECRETARY

Audrey Sykes, who has for the past 12 years performed the job of Secretary with devotion and great humour, now finds that, due to her change of circumstances, it is time to retire from this role. She is very willing to assist her successor, if necessary, and we hope that there is someone who would be interested in taking on this very important job in the Society. It can be as little as simply taking the minutes of meetings, approximately six per year, and producing agendas for meetings, or additionally, dealing with all correspondence and assisting with programme organising. Anyone interested, please contact Audrey Sykes or our Chairman, Les Bowerman.

Journal Contributions

The closing date for contributions for the next edition of the Journal is Friday, 9 February.

NEW EXHIBIT



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AND

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GUIDES

BROWNIES AND

RAINBOWS

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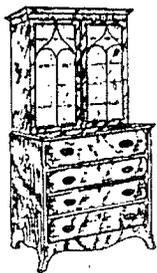
Other times for school groups and small parties
by arrangement.

*Please contact George or Irene Bleach on 01483 222233 if
you require information or wish to help in the museum.*

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

"Ripley & Send Then and Now, the Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life"	£10 Reprint 1998
"Guide to Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Send"	£1.25
"Then and Now, A Victorian Walk around Ripley"	Reference copy only
"The Straight Furrow", by Fred Dixon	£1.50
"Ripley and Send - Looking Back"	£4.95
"A Walk about Ripley Village in Surrey"	£2.00
"Newark Mill, Ripley, Surrey"	£2.95
"The Hamlet of Grove Heath, Ripley, Surrey"	£4.00
"Ripley and Send - an Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures"	£6.00

The reference copy is available at the Museum. All the others are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of "Ripley & Send Then and Now" is additionally available at Send Post Office.



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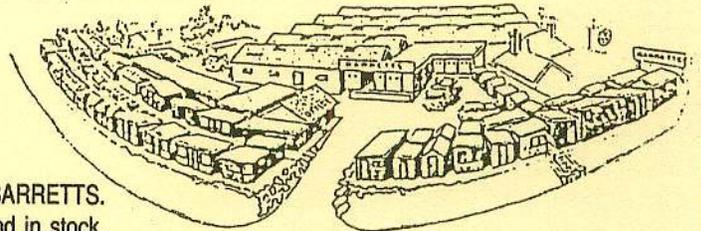
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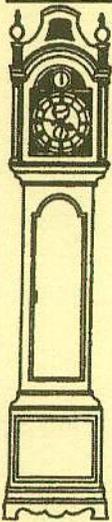


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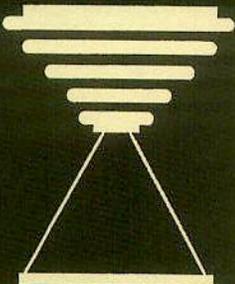
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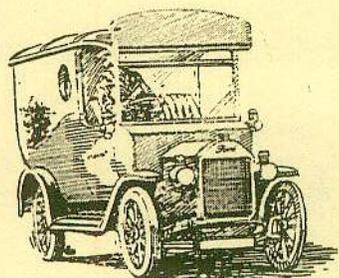
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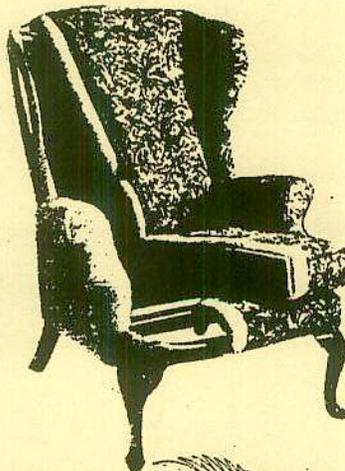
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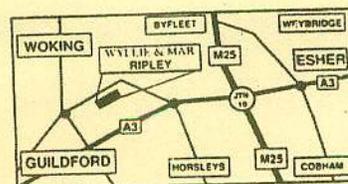
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