

Send & Ripley History Society



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Cover image:
Ripley High St with the
NatWest in the foreground
and the White Hart still a pub

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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

I am very sorry to have to report the recent deaths of three of our members, Patrick Sheard, who was also a personal friend, Tony Medlen, a former committee member, and, most recently, founder member and former chairman, much-respected local historian Les Bowerman. Obituaries will follow in J274.

With no sign of larger social gatherings being permitted, because of the ongoing pandemic, it has been fascinating to see how ingenious some groups have become. Ockham bell-ringers, normally as many as 20 at a time, climb (or used to climb) the narrow staircase in the church and squeeze themselves into the small bell-ringing chamber. Rather than miss out on their passion they have created a virtual 'ringing room' on Zoom. The bells are shown on a diagram on-screen. Each one is allocated to one ringer and to ring the bell he (or she) presses the appropriate arrow on the keyboard. I too have been making music via the same app with my friends at the Anchor Folk Club, which normally meets every Thursday at the Blue Anchor, Byfleet. Performing to 30 disembodied faces on a computer screen is not quite like having an audience.

Meanwhile, as bell-ringers and folk singers have been indulging their harmless hobbies, the denizens of Ripley were disturbed on the evening of June 8th around 10pm by an explosion. The bomb squad had been called to the river Wey close to the New Inn after an explosive device was

pulled from the water. According to the police a member of the public who had been 'magnet fishing' had snared a wartime mine from the riverbed. A military explosive ordinance disposal team removed the object from the scene and carried out a controlled explosion on The Green.

Despite the gradual lifting of the more stringent lockdown rules it is clearly going to be some considerable time before social gatherings can take place in the way they did before. At the time of writing there are no current plans to re-open the village hall. This means of course that we are not yet able to consider a resumption of our own programme. We might possibly be able to open the museum for pre-booked visits by one or two people at a time, but this also requires careful planning. A great pity, but it's better to stay safe, which I hope you all will do.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th August 2020.

Authors of illustrated articles should submit high resolution (300 DPI or higher) jpgs 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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FORTY YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN

This article, on the loss of grocery shops in Send, is from Newsletter 33 of July/August 1980 and was written by Les Bowerman. The photos were not featured in the original article but were used in one on Alfred Balcombe, the Send grocer, in J269 of November 2019.

THE CLOSURE OF GROCERY SHOPS

The *Retail Grocery Business 1980*, published by the Institute of Grocery Distribution and reviewed in *The Times* on 26th June, gives statistics showing that the number of grocers' shops in Britain has halved in the past 20 years, and that the two largest chains, Tesco and Sainsbury, supply about a quarter of the grocery market. The trend has been very noticeable in Send, particularly recently.

The building attached to April Cottage at Send Marsh was built as a shop by local builder Mr Douglas Holdforth in 1921, replacing Collins' general shop, which had previously been in the eastern extension of Corner Cottage. Mrs Collins was rather genteel, having been a lady's maid. She always dressed in black. The front windows of the shop were bow-fronted like those on the Quality Street sweet tins. The replacement operated as a grocery shop, latterly by Mr Dave Balcombe until the early 1970s when it became an electrical shop. That shop closed in 1978 and since then it has been converted into a pleasant residence named 'Pip's Cottage'.

May's Stores at May's Corner opened as a sweet shop when built in the 1920s. It progressed to a general shop and was run by Miss Connie May for many years.

Our members, Mr & Mrs Hodgkins, were the last shopkeepers there until they retired earlier this year after running it for about ten years. They have since converted the shop into a comfortable dwelling-house.

Yet another grocer's shop to go this year is the Co-op, which closed on 10th May last. It had been in Send Road since the late Reuben Sale of Sale's Laundry in Wharf Lane sold the site to the Woking Co-operative Society

Ltd., also in the 1920s. After the Second World War a reorganisation of the chain resulted in it becoming a branch of the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society.

Three grocery shops remain in Send. Claddings Stores at Cartbridge was bought by Quilter Cave Ltd. approximately two years ago on the retirement of Mr Bert Lemon. The land on which the shop is built was enclosed from Send Heath in 1814. By the time of the 1861 census John Webb, aged 35, from High Wickham (sic), was living at Cartbridge as a master grocer. In the *Woking Year Book and Directory* for 1900 Messrs W. & J. Webb, bakers, are shown. The Webbs were prominent in village and church life until the outbreak of the last war.



Send Marsh Stores in the late 1930s

Shortly afterwards Arthur Webb retired and the shop became Gladdings Stores. On the retirement of Mr Elms some years later, Mr Lemon came from Shere and took over. He maintained it with an extensive delivery service around the district for several years. The number of cigarette advertisements at present in the window gives the misleading impression that it is now more of a tobacconist's than a grocer's shop.

One of the other surviving grocery shops is, of course, the Post Office in Send Road. This operated as Forrest Stores, owned by Mr Jimmy Lucas of Sandmore, Send Hill, and later as J. & K. Dedman for two generations. The Post Office was transferred there from cottages near the Old Keep House in Edwardian times. The third shop is also in Send Road, on the Parade which was built in the 1950s.

It can be surmised that one of the causes of this decline in the number of village grocery shops is the increased affluence which has turned the country into a nation of private motor-car owners, whereby housewives are easily able to travel to the nearest town and transport large quantities of goods which they have been able to purchase at lower prices in supermarkets. The supermarkets are, of course, able to sell at lower prices because of the transformation in packaging and in bulk distribution. It is unfortunate and surely short-sighted that the superficial savings to be obtained from impersonal supermarket shopping have resulted in the loss of convenient and friendly village shops.



The former Send Grocery Stores

This second article from Les Bowerman was also first published in Newsletter 33.

REPORT ON THE FINDING OF A 17TH CENTURY TRADE TOKEN

A small metal disc found recently by the writer, whilst gardening at the rear of the Manor House, Send Marsh, has turned out to be a 17th century trade token. On the obverse side it carries the legend, 'Thomas Wilmot TA'. On the reverse side it reads, 'Neere Guildford', and has the figure of a man with a long staff in his hand and a bag slung from his shoulder.

The token is one of the series known as 'the Postman's token', although the issuer may have been a chapman or carrier. It is known that he was living in Shalford in 1655 and was buried there in 1687. One version of the token showed the figure wearing a very tall hat, and in another version he sports a low hat and a wig. The token recently unearthed is the tall hat variety. It is marginally smaller than the current half penny.

Detailed accounts of these tokens may be read in Volumes 10 (1) and 48 of the *Surrey Archaeological Collections* where pictures of this particular token, among others, are shown. The following brief summary is based on these accounts:-

Sovereigns had always considered it beneath them to issue coins in metal less valuable than silver, and as the value of silver increased, so the size of the unit of currency had decreased until it was impractical. The lack of a low-value coin had therefore been felt, particularly by poor people, for some considerable time before the royal prerogative ceased on the execution of Charles I in January, 1649. It was at that time and for that reason that towns and tradespeople began issuing their own tokens to fill the void. They were issued in great quantities all over the country, and a study of them



Top: The face of the token

Bottom: The back of the token

yields much historical information about local trades and tradespeople. The Commonwealth Government considered copper coinage but never issued it, and it was not until 1672 or 1674 (the two accounts differ on this date) that halfpennies and farthings of copper were first issued. The use of tokens was forbidden, but continued until 1679. Trade tokens are therefore dated to within a relatively short period of time. As a matter of interest, the first copper penny did not appear until over a century later in 1797.

Bearing in mind that, as related above, trade tokens belonged to the third quarter of the 17th century, it is

interesting to recall that, judging by its construction, the Manor House was built some twenty years either side of about 1670. It is surely not therefore too fanciful to wonder whether this token was dropped by a workman building the house, or whether a supplier of material was paid with this token, among others, or even whether perhaps Thomas Wilmot himself came with a missive of some kind (the first rates demand or its equivalent?), and gave one or more of his tokens as small change in payment of his dues; or thereagain it may have been dropped at any later date by a person who had it as a curio.

SEND'S CELEBRATING BLACKSMITH

DITZ BROWN

The surreylive.news website has grown out of a newsroom that has served the county for more than 150 years, as the *Surrey Advertiser* newspaper launched in 1864 and has remained the paper of record from its headquarters in Guildford. It is available free to readers both on the web and as an app.

On 8th May 2020, when the 75th anniversary of VE Day was celebrated, lockdown (due to the corona virus) did not stop Surrey residents from finding a way to celebrate and mark the occasion in a variety of ways. Surreylive included the following on its website on 10th May at 17.46:

'Even the blacksmith statue in Send is marking the 75th anniversary

Pat Clack, who lives in Send, said: "I knitted a V and an E for Victory in Europe Day and added a very small ... which is Morse code for the letter V. His hat says Navy, Army and RAF." Mrs Clack even made some red, white and blue bunting, which has been draped around the statue. The blacksmith statue can be found in Send Road, Send and has sported other outfits in the past to mark special occasions.'

Yes, our member Pat Clack had taken to her knitting needles again and decorated the blacksmith statue in Send with a hat, a scarf and some bunting for this celebration. As the article mentioned, it was not the first time that Pat had decorated Send's memorial to the local blacksmith. The very first time she mischievously interfered with his appearance was documented in J216 in which Les Bowerman wrote about the statue's 'metaphorical' unveiling on 9th December 2011. Pat had

given him 'hair' of snow and on another occasion she'd knitted him a football scarf in Send's football colours. This blacksmith had better watch out, as Pat told me that she has "just finished knitting a 'J' to get ready for VJ Day which is August 15th!". Victory Over Japan Day marks the end of World War II when, in 1945, Japan surrendered after six years of war.

The statue of the blacksmith stands opposite where the site of CH Sex & Sons had their forge and his anvil is the actual one they'd used.

Pat writes: "I can tell you that the statue is opposite the spot where Sex's forge was for many years. It was certainly there when we moved in, in 1928, and for many years after that I used to go down there with my mum to watch them shoe the horses and talk to the men and still remember some of their names - Muir, Bill Hands, three of the Sex family - Ron, Walter and Arthur - and their father, Clarrie. They also did small repairs - like mending mum's tin hot water bottle - and they made the iron gate which still stands at the entrance to my house."



The VE-Day blacksmith

STREET NAMES OF BYFLEET AND WEST BYFLEET

DITZ BROWN

The following article was published in the *Woking History Journal* Volume 2, of Spring 1990.

The name ‘**Byfleet**’ comes from the old English ‘**Fleet**’, meaning ‘stream’ [it actually translates as ‘river’]. Byfleet therefore means, ‘by the stream’, or the River Wey. It was first recorded in 697 as ‘**Biflete**’. Later variations include **Bifleote**, 1062; **Biflet**, 1086; **Bifled**, 1200; **Byfleet**, 1270; **Byflete**, 1284; **Bieflete**, 1474; **Bifflett**, 1592.

Some of the places and roads of Byfleet record names that go back a long way in the area’s history.

Binfield was Bynfeld in 1548.

Bridge Farm was **Byffletebrugge** at the time of Edward III and called **Byfletbrig** in 1471. **Byfleet Park** (the grounds to the Manor House) was known as the **Parcum De Byflet** in 1255 and the **Park & Warren of Biflete** in 1337.

Foxlake Farm was known as **Foxlakes** in 1548 and means ‘Fox streamlet’ from the old English **Lacu** meaning stream [it actually means ‘lake’].

Green Lane is marked as **Green Lane Meadow** in the tithe award of 1843.

The road names of the Church Road Estate were taken from people or places connected with Byfleet’s past. They are:

Fullerton Road, Drive, Way and Close. Sir Thomas Fullerton completed the reconstruction of Byfleet Manor House, begun by Queen Anne in 1615.

Edward II Avenue. King Edward II acquired the Manor of Byfleet sometime between 1297 and 1315 from Chertsey Abbey, and granted it to Piers Gaveston.

Spence Avenue. Joseph Spence (1699-1768), Professor of Poetry at Oxford, was one time resident of the parish. His memorial can still be seen in the church.

Catherine Close. Catherine of Aragon was granted the Manor of Byfleet upon her divorce from Henry VIII.

Ulwyn Road. Ulwyn held the Manor of Byfleet at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086.

Cornwall Avenue. The manor of Byfleet was once part of the Duchy of Cornwall until 1533 when it was granted to Catherine of Aragon.

Godley Road. Byfleet was part of the ancient hundred of Godley, which was centred on Chertsey and included Horsell and Pyrford.

Manor Crescent. Refers to the Manor House nearby.

Gaveston Close. Piers Gaveston was granted the Manor of Byfleet by Edward II in 1315. **Brewery Lane, The Maltings,** and **Hopfield Avenue** record the brewery that was at one time in Brewery Lane.

Grassmere Way is built on the land of a house called Grassmere.

Clockhouse Close is on land once belonging to the Clockhouse.

Binfield Road and **Farm Close,** are built on the land of Binfield Farm.

Foxlake Road is on land belonging to Foxlake Farm.

Vanners Place is built on the site of a house called Vanners.

Royston Avenue and **Road** occupy the site of the Royston Place Hotel.

Lake Close is built on the land of Lake House.

Petersham Close and **Avenue,** lie on the land of a house called Petersham.

WEST BYFLEET

The village of West Byfleet was built on the common land of Byfleet after the railway station was opened in 1887. A few of the roads in the area record older features or place names.

Dartnell Park was built on land once known as Dartnell’s Wood.

Parvis Bridge was at one time recorded as Parishes Bridge.

Rosemount Avenue and **Parade** were built on the land of a house called Rosemount. **Lavender Road** records the growing of lavender for the essential oils distillery once operating from premises in Pyrford Road.

Sheerwater Road records the lake where the Sheerwater estate is now. It was first recorded in 1605 as ‘**Sheerwater**’ and probably comes from Old English word ‘**Scir**’ meaning ‘clear or bright’, so ‘**Sheerwater**’ means ‘clear water’.

The name was recorded in 1609 as ‘**Sherewater Lake**’, in 1765 as ‘**Shire Pond**’, in 1808 as ‘**Shire Water**’ and in 1816 as ‘**Sheer Water**’.

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AN APPEAL TO OUR MEMBERS

Inspired by this article and also by a book called *Wimbledon Village S.W.19 – A history told through its street names* (we used to live there before coming to Wisley) we thought that it would be a good idea if we could publish a new book about the history of our own area through street names. We would like to cover Send, Ripley and also Ockham and Wisley in this. Sadly we realize that we simply have not got the time to research and write it all ourselves and would therefore like to enlist the help of our members. Please tell us if

there is anybody who would like to take on this project. Alternatively we could split the work into different sections (we would cover Wisley ourselves) and make it a compilation of several people’s research.

The book would comprise four sections which should have a brief introduction about the history of Send, Ripley, Ockham and Wisley respectively, followed by an alphabetical list of the street names with their individual history.

Researching our street names would lead to deeper exploration of local history, therefore our book should not only list their origin but also comment on the histories beyond those names.

If you feel you might be able to help please email Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com or phone 07811 276386.

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A PRISONER IN RIPLEY

CAMERON BROWN



Our print, from 1810

This print was discovered by the late Jane Bartlett when she and Clare McCann were working on the society's book *Ripley and Send, an Historical Pub Crawl* (published 1998 and revised with further illustrations in 2017). It is (or purports to be) drawn in Ripley, Surrey, and depicts a felon known as Fagan, accompanied – or guarded – by a group of soldiers. The manuscript text at the foot of the drawing reads: Fagan, drawn from life at Ripley in Surrey Sep' 29 1810 by Geo Shepherd. It is an interesting piece from the Napoleonic period and the location could perhaps be the Ship.

Our initial researches led us to a painter called George Shepherd (1784-1862) who is fairly well documented. He was born in Old Street, Finsbury, London, the son of George Shepherd, a watchcase maker and his wife, Nancy Hosmer. He spent much of his childhood living

in France, returning at the outbreak of war in 1793 and was a draughtsman and watercolorist at a time when this genre was not taken very seriously – the Royal Academy even refused to accept watercolours. In 1807 Shepherd, along with William Blake and others became one of the founder members of The New Society of Painters in Watercolours, now known as the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours (or 'RI'). After some years they succeeded in obtaining recognition for watercolour as a serious medium for painting.

He was primarily a topographical, landscape and architectural painter and had learnt his craft at Dr Cox Macro's sketching academy which appears to have been in Suffolk. At some stage Shepherd lived in Bedfordshire and is known to have travelled extensively in England and the Channel Islands. Perhaps he passed through Ripley on his way to or from Portsmouth?



The Congreve Arms, Aldermaston, painted by George Shepherd in 1819

I believe, however, that our sketcher was in fact a completely different artist. Note, that on the drawing he spells his name 'Shepherd' with an additional 'a'. There was indeed a George Shephard (1770-1842) who lived in Guildford and was a professional cricketer who made one appearance

in first-class cricket for Surrey. He was, more importantly, also an artist who specialised in country views. A little online research of auction results and art galleries shows that the two are frequently confused with one another.

The two pictures shown below, one of a place called Colesbourne and the other of Ockham look to me much closer in style to our print than those of Mr Shepherd without an 'a'. They both also have similar manuscript descriptions or titles written on the paintings.

There remains the mystery of who the hirsute Fagan in our print might have been. Not to be confused with Dickens's Fagin, our man's name was a not uncommon surname of Irish Catholics in that period. At the time our sketch was made, 1810, many working class Irish were conscripted into the English army. Could our man have been a deserter or been court-marshalled and sentenced to transportation, and seen here on his way to the docks?

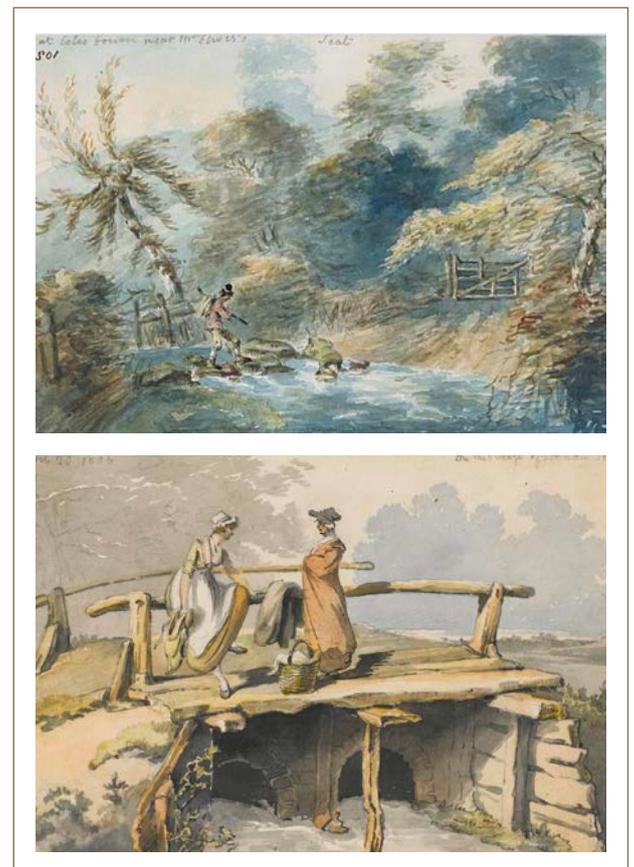
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Top: Colesbourne farm in pen and ink and watercolour (1801) inscribed 'At Colesbourne near Mr. Elwes's seat'
Bottom: A footbridge in Ockham (1806) inscribed 'April 20 1806 In the village of Ockham Surrey'

RIPLEY NATIONAL SCHOOL GROUP 1

MASTER AND PUPIL

ALAN COOPER

Send & Ripley History Society has been in existence for over 40 years now and discovering photos not already held in our archives is something of a rarity.

One such recent find is a photo of Ripley National School Group 1, taken circa 1892. The bearded man on the left of the picture is known to be the Master, Joseph Lewis. The pupil, back row, fifth from left is Hubert Harry Spooner, grandfather of Carolynne Hill (née Spooner), the owner of said photo.

THE MASTER

Joseph Lewis was born in 1837 in Welshpool, Montgomeryshire, Wales as one of seven children born to Lewis Lewis.¹ He married Ann Eliza Rees in 1867 in Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, where they lived until late 1870 when they moved to Trecoed, Radnorshire, living at Pencerrig school where he was employed as a certified elementary schoolmaster. He held this position for the next 12 years, moving to Ripley in 1882 to become the Master. By now, their eight children were growing up and Joseph's wife Ann Eliza became an assistant teacher. Daughter Sarah became a monitor, then pupil teacher and daughter Kate a sewing mistress. The youngest, Mary would also become a certified elementary schoolmistress in the course of time.



Ripley National School Group 1, taken circa 1892

In these formative years of the Ripley schools, masters arrived and departed with great regularity. Both Joseph and his wife Ann Eliza were exceptions, serving the community for 11 years (1882-1893) during which time the family became very highly respected locally. Indeed, when their daughter Kate married in April 1892, the following gushing account of the wedding appeared in the *Surrey Advertiser and County Times* on Saturday, 30th April 1892:

WEDDING

‘On Saturday the wedding of Miss Kate Lewis, second daughter of Mr. Joseph Lewis, the respected schoolmaster of Ripley National Schools, and Mr. W. Isaacs, chief engineer of the SV Oeta, belonging to Messrs. Norwood and Co., London, was celebrated in the Parish Church by special license. The event was marked by an unusual demonstration of good feeling on the part of the inhabitants. The church was filled with friends and wellwishers, and, as the happy pair left the sacred edifice, hearty cheers and other expressions of good wishes for their future happiness were vociferously accorded them. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Daniel Williams, vicar of St. Harmon, Radnorshire, assisted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. Hooper. Miss M. Onslow presided at the organ. The breakfast was provided at the Talbot Hotel, the residence of the bride's sister,² and was presided over by the officiating clergymen. – The Rev. D. Williams, in proposing “The health of the bride,” whom he had known from her infancy, spoke of her happy and cheerful disposition, and of her sterling qualities. A large number of valuable presents were made to the bride and bridegroom, amongst them being a handsome combined needlework and writing case and purse of gold, given by the members of the Church congregation and the parents of the school children, as an acknowledgement of their appreciation of her services as assistant organist and sewing mistress. In the evening the bride and bridegroom left for Bath *en route* for a trip down the Mediterranean.’

This joyous wedding may have helped alleviate some of the pain caused by the death a few months earlier of Joseph's eldest son Walter at the early age of just 20 years old.

Relinquishing his position in 1893, he and Ann Eliza continued to live in the village but for the family recently showered with gifts by a dotting village community, life was about to take a tragic turn of events - again. Ann Eliza died on 5th January 1896 aged 51, son Joseph Ernest three days later on 8th January 1896 aged 19 and daughter Margaret Jane three months after that on 2nd April 1896 aged 17. It is quite feasible to attribute their deaths to the influenza epidemic of the year just ended, 1895. A sobering reminder to us all that epidemics/pandemics are nothing new.

Joseph continued to live in Ripley with 1897 and 1898 electoral role entries stating his address as 'The Green', Ripley.³ At this point in time, he simply vanishes from all records. Did he die or move away? Quite literally dozens of fruitless hours have been spent trying to solve this mystery. Maybe this information is out there somewhere, but inaccessible during current lockdown conditions.

The family misfortune of early deaths continued unabated. Son Percy left the village and by 1891 had found employment as an assistant book-keeper in Holborn, City of London, but died in 1899 in Hampstead, Middlesex aged 23. Daughter Mary fared little better, becoming an elementary school teacher in the 1900s in North Cray, Bromley, Kent and later in Bramley, Leeds, West Yorkshire where she died in 1914 aged 31.

CONDITIONS WITHIN THE SCHOOL

This disproportionate death rate within the family has to be expected to some extent when the social, sanitary and living conditions of the day are examined via the school log books.⁴

Sicknesses were alarmingly abundant at this time and records show the school being closed completely, often for three weeks at a time when a more virulent disease appeared, affecting both pupil and teacher alike. Measles regularly caused closure and diphtheria, scarlet fever, mumps, whooping cough and chickenpox were all recorded in a very short period of time.

Roads at the time were unsurfaced and became impassable after prolonged periods of bad weather. Attendance figures were often less than 30% of class totals when it rained, snowed or was cold. Floors had to be scrubbed on a regular basis. A typical log book entry, on 19th February 1900, states 'the main road was noted as being in a dreadful condition today following showery weather' with the average child attendance for the week being 65 but for that day only 22.

Some children from poorer backgrounds were malnourished and inadequately dressed having neither shoes nor coats and would regularly stay home when these conditions prevailed.⁵

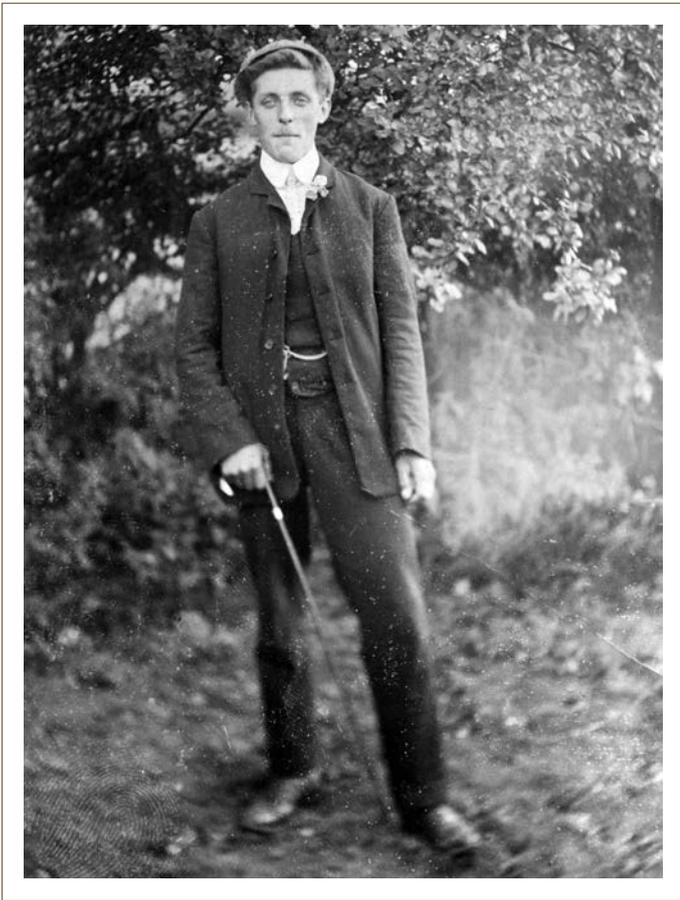
Equally, when the weather was fine, many stayed away to work in the fields, especially at harvest time. Absenteeism was also encountered for such celebrations as May-day and whenever a travelling circus stopped in the village. The school would quite often close early when teachers were sick and on many occasions pupil-teachers were left in charge. Indeed, it is a wonder any children ever completed their education to a satisfactory standard when all is considered.

THE PUPIL

The pupil, back row, fifth from left is Hubert Harry Spooner born 1884. Hubert would become instantly recognizable in the village as the chauffeur of Dr Pearse, immaculately dressed in his driver's uniform. Not unsurprisingly, he was quite ecstatic when the doctor sold his pony and trap and replaced it with a motor car – the first in the village.



Hubert Harry Spooner, chauffeur to Dr Pearse, wearing his 'all-weather' uniform



Hubert Harry Spooner, off duty

Army Form Z. 22.

STATEMENT AS TO DISABILITY.

(This form is not applicable to Officers and Soldiers in Hospital or on leave therefrom who will be brought before a Medical Board.)

On Demobilization every Officer and Soldier, whether remaining with the Colours or not, will be given an opportunity of filling in this Form. Should he not wish to put forward any claim in respect of a Disability due to Military Service he must sign the Statement hereunder to this effect, in the presence of an Officer of the Unit with which he is serving, who will witness the Signature. Whether a claim is made or not, this Form will be forwarded by the Unit Commander, in the case of every Officer, direct to the Secretary, War Office; and in the case of every Soldier, to the Record Office of his Unit.

Unit RASC. MT If the Officer or Soldier has previously been discharged from the Army, Royal Navy or the Royal Air Force, he will state:—

Regiment or Corps Driving School Winchester

Regtl. No. 183163 Rank A/Sgt (a) Former Regiments or Corps with Regimental Numbers:—

Surname SPOONER (b) Dates of discharge

Christian Name HUBERT (c) Causes of discharge

in full HARRY (d) Particulars of Pension or Gratuity received (if any):—

Permanent address ROSE LANE

RIPLY, SURREY

Age last birthday 36

First joined (Date) 2.6.16 at (Place) Stoughton

Medical Category or Grade in which joined B1

I do not claim to be suffering from a disability due to my military service.

Place of Examination _____ Signature of Officer or Soldier _____

Date _____ Signature of Officer witnessing _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY CLAIMANT

Before the claimant answers questions 1—8 the following should be read by, or to, him:—

"Your statement will be checked by Official Records. In answering question 2, any special matters which in your opinion caused or aggravated any unfitness from which you are suffering, must be clearly stated."

The claimant will answer the questions in his own words and after completing the form will sign it. The Officer will witness the signature. If the claimant cannot write, he will affix his mark, such act being witnessed.

1. (a) In what countries have you served during this war and for what periods? France. 20.7.16 X 20.8.17

(b) In what capacity? Field Ambulance Driver.

2. If you are suffering from any disease, wound or injury, state what it is, the date upon which it started, and what in your opinion was the cause of it.

(If more space is required a sheet of foolscap should be used and attached firmly to this form.) Aerial Bomb. wound Right forearm

3. Give the names of any Hospitals in which you have been treated for the above disabilities during this war. 53 General Hospital Boulogne
Lewisham Military Hospital
Ingram Road Via Norfolk, London
Hounslow Military Hospital

4. Did you suffer from the disease or injury mentioned in above answer to Question 2, or anything like it, before joining the Army? If so, give details and dates. No

5. Give the names and addresses, (if you know them) of any Hospitals you were in or Doctors who attended you before you joined the Army. F. E. Pearce Dr
Hight St
Ripley Surrey

6. Give the name of your National Health Approved Society and, if possible, your membership number. West Surrey Benefit Society
No. 200

THIS PORTION IS NOT TO BE COMPLETED IF A CLAIM IS NOT MADE.

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Army form Z.22. – Statement as to Disability

Army Form B. 103. **Casualty Form—Active Service.**

Regiment or Corps ARMY SERVICE CORPS Regimental Number 183163

Rank Private Surname Spooner Christian Name Hubert Harry

Religion B of E Age on Enlistment 32 years 2 months

Enlisted (a) 13.11.15 Terms of Service (a) Dotw Service reckons from (a) 13.11.15

Date of promotion to present rank _____ Date of appointment to lance rank 12.11.16

Extended 4 3/4 months Re-engaged in Qualification (b) Substantive or Corps Trade and Rate _____

Signature of Officer in Charge _____

| Date | From whom received | Report | Place of Casualty | Date of Casualty | Remarks |
|----------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------|
| 22.8.18 | By, Bottingham, B2. | 11th Div, Sup. Col. | Southampton | 14/7/16 | |
| | | | Roten | 18/7/16 | |
| 14.11.16 | By, F. A. | By, 35 Fd. Amb. | | 20.7.16 | 22.7.16 |
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Hubert and wife Lily (née Brewer) whom he married in 1909

He was discharged with a 25% disability to the right forearm but agreed to defer demobilisation until 28th September 1919, transferring to the reserve 4th Mechanical Transport Depot, Anglian Brigade driving school (Winchester) as an instructor with the rank of acting sergeant.

On asking my good friend and very knowledgeable SRHS member Bill Langley about the car pictured, his response was as follows: "Interesting. The car, I think, is a 1905 four-cylinder 14 HP Vauxhall, made by the Vauxhall and West Hydraulic Engineering Co Ltd In Luton. If you look at the bonnet you will see large hollow fluted corners where the sides meet the top. This feature was used by Vauxhall for many years, even when taken over by an American company. The body could have been made by a local carriage maker. By the way, the lamps for your car could have been made by Bleriot: he who flew the Channel. It was his company that made many of the lamps used at that time".

Hubert Spooner died in 1960, his cremated remains being interred in the family grave in St Mary Magdalen churchyard, Ripley. The family home in Rose Lane was demolished two years later.

Original photos c/o Carolynne Hill (née Spooner) collection
Army forms c/o British Army Service Records 1914-1920



4, Rose Lane, the Spooner family home. This, and other adjacent properties were demolished in 1962. Note the full-height doors through which livestock, carts etc once passed

- 1 Confusing choice of Christian name I thought. However, searching through records I quickly discovered that the choice of Lewis Lewis was quite a common occurrence in Victorian Britain
- 2 Eldest daughter Jane was married to Thomas Nunns, the hotel-keeper of the Talbot at the time of the wedding
- 3 The 1891 census return gives the family address as 'The Green' Ripley. This was a generic address for a number of properties located thereabouts and as such the exact location remains unknown
- 4 The Ripley village school log books covering a wide range of years are held by Send & Ripley History Society
- 5 Local memories tell us that barefoot children were still observed attending Ripley school as late as the 1930s
- 6 RASC MT: Royal Army Service Corps Motorised Transport
- 7 The Derby Scheme, introduced by Earl Derby, the Director General of Recruiting, was devised to ascertain whether the volume of men required could be met by volunteers alone, or if conscription was necessary

RIPLEY CHURCH AND NATIONAL SCHOOL – MAUCHLINE WARE

ALAN COOPER

A chance meeting with a friend at the Surrey Postcard Club members talk in Guildford just before lockdown provided me with the opportunity to purchase from him a charming example of Mauchline Ware. This piece, with the outer case constructed of sycamore wood depicts Ripley Church and National School circa 1890 and is in the form of a photograph album.

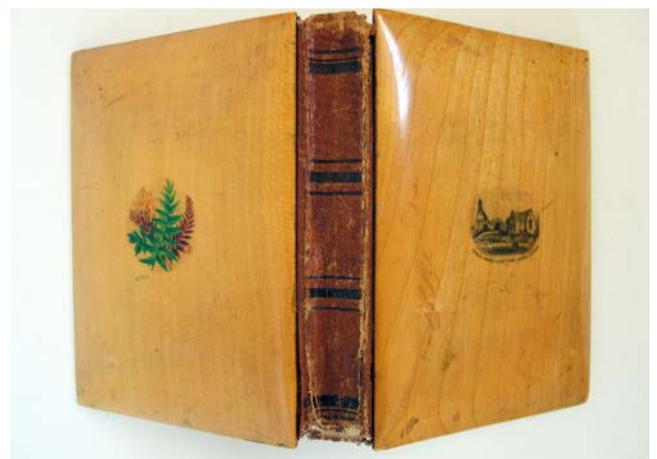
Scottish souvenir wood ware is known as Mauchline (pronounced Moch'lin) Ware as the vast majority of these very high-quality items bearing pictures were made in the Ayrshire town of Mauchline. They were designed to appeal to 19th century tourists and ended up in destinations as far apart as South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and South America – and, of course, England.

The first designs originated in the late 18th century as snuff-boxes and production continued unabated for 160 years. With the decline in taking snuff and the popularity of smoking, the industry slimmed from around 60 Scottish manufacturers to just three, being John Davidson & Sons, Wilson & Amphlet and W&A Smith, all of whom relocated to Birmingham, England, in the 1850s.

By the 1880s the industry was dead in the water and when the import of cheap, inferior quality German copies flooded the market, the final nail in the coffin was hammered home. W&A Smith took over their competitors, Wilson & Amphlet, in 1884 and Davidsons ceased trading in 1889. A new firm, Mackenzie & Meikle started in Lanark, Scotland, but closed in 1906. As the Edwardian era drew to a close, only W&A Smith remained in business, operating with a skeleton staff of about 25, compared to over 400 in its heyday and finally ceasing trading in 1939 with the outbreak of World War II.¹

Photographs © Ditz

¹ www.futuremuseum.co.uk (South West Scotland)



Top: Depiction of Ripley Church and National School on front cover
Middle: Interior of the photo album
Bottom: The album, of sycamore wood with a leather spine

LETTERS

WE RECEIVED AN ENQUIRY VIA OUR WEBSITE FROM MR RAJ RANA:

I wonder if you can help me. In late November 1952 my late father, Mohan Rana, arrived in the UK and was residing in Ripley. He died in 1985. I was going through his papers and noticed that he lived at the Bright Spot Café, Ripley, Surrey; that is all I have to go on. I travelled to Ripley yesterday to see if I could find it, 35 years after he died. I drove around and asked some elderly residents; I was told that if I enquired with you I may get pointed in the right direction. I do understand that businesses change ownership but if you have any information that can help me with the history of the building or the establishment I would be eternally grateful.'

Clare McCann immediately found a reference in the late Jane Bartlett's (as yet) unpublished collection of local memories: the Bright Spot was once the name of the Green Lantern café - now the Ripley Curry Garden. The building originally housed the Westminster Bank. In his book *Winter Walks* published 1950 SPB Mais wrote 'Ripley. To my surprise I found the little flint parish church locked, but consoled myself with an excellent tea at the Bright Spot where I was given two eggs and home made cake'.

We have photos of it as the Green Lantern but not as the Bright Spot. Can any of our readers help?

We forwarded this information to Mr Rana who replied: 'I returned to Ripley and talked to the son of the owner of the Curry Garden who informed me that when his father bought the property in the 1980s it was a café but he didn't know whether it was the Bright Spot café.' He went on to say 'I want your help again please. During February and March 1952 my late dad stayed at the Clavadale House or Hotel in Guildford. I have looked on the internet and there is no mention of it.'

Our photo-archivist Janet Tice discovered that the Clavadel [sic] Hotel had been on the corner of Epsom Rd and Pit Farm Rd, Guildford and was demolished in 2012. We were able to direct Mr Rana to a *Guildford Dragon* article with more information (see <https://www.guildford-dragon.com/2013/01/04/brookings-architectural-rescue-the-clavadel-hotel/>)



The Green Lantern, both pictures taken in the mid 1960s

JOHN CREASEY WRITES:

Clare McCann asked in her article *Catholics in Send* J272 p14, what had happened to the church of St William of York in Send, which closed in 2011. The church is being converted into a house but they seem to keep running into problems with the result that the conversion has been going on for nine years.

The presbytery, which has been sold separately, had a dining room in the garden, not attached to the house. This has now been knocked down and they are in the process of building an extension. However, this has stopped for the time being, apparently over problems with the planning consent.

BURPHAM – A GATEWAY TO GUILDFORD

MOIRA MACQUAIDE HALL

In March of this year Moira gave us a fascinating talk about Burpham. The following is a précis of that talk. For those of our members wishing to read more, Moira's book *Burpham, A Gateway to Guildford* is available from [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) or direct from Moira (details at the end of this article).

What is Burpham? Is it a village, a suburb or what? One thousand years ago it was a Tything – a group of about ten households. For hundreds of years Burpham consisted of small groups of cottages, houses and farms along part of the London Road and Burpham Lane, with a mill by the river. For most of that time there was no church, no school, no village green, but for many years there were one or two public houses. As it grew it became a hamlet, then a village. A hamlet is defined by the *Oxford English Dictionary* as 'a small settlement, generally smaller than a village and usually without a church' whereas a village is defined as 'a group of houses and associated buildings, larger than a hamlet and smaller than a town, situated in a rural area'.

In 1986 the BBC launched an ambitious project to record a snapshot of everyday life across the UK, called *Domesday Reloaded*. As part of this there appeared a new definition of a village, 'to be a village a settlement must have: a church; a village hall or community centre; a school; some shops (including a post office); a village green; allotments; places to work; a public house; houses (including private, council/private rented); and a parish council'.

By having a church (1859), then shops (1905), a school (1908), a village hall (1922) and the playing fields (1956) – which could be viewed as the village green – it seems that Burpham eventually changed its status from hamlet to village. After becoming part of Guildford Borough in 1933, it is now more a suburb than anything else.

Whatever it is called, the community still feels rather like a village, even though 'like Topsy, it just grewed', and at the heart of the community are the people living there.

Where is Burpham? First of all it is in Surrey, not Sussex. First time researchers need to watch out that their investigations do not take them to the Burpham near Arundel in Sussex by mistake. The Surrey community lies about two miles from Guildford and about five miles from Woking. It is difficult to define the boundaries of Burpham as these have varied at different times. Originally Burpham was part of the parish of Worplesdon, which consisted of four tithings (Perry Hill, Burpham, West End and Wyke). Until the building of St Luke's Church in 1859, the parishioners of Burpham had to travel to Perry Hill to attend St Mary's Church. Most old records showed people as living in Worplesdon, rather than Burpham.

For ecclesiastical purposes it was part of Worplesdon Parish until 1920, when it became Burpham with Sutton Green, then in 1954, probably to reflect the growing village, the diocese made the decision for Burpham to become a parish on its own. For political and civic purposes the ward boundary goes along the Wey Navigation to the west, the railway line to the south east, Abbotswood conservation area to the south and Gosden Hill farmland to the north east. There is a Boundary Stone (marking the boundary between Guildford and Burpham, or Worplesdon parish) on London Road, by the end of the Abbotswood estate and the start of the Wylea Farm estate. Coming from Guildford along the London Road it is easy to think that Burpham starts at what is commonly known as 'the old AA roundabout', but technically this is still Christchurch Ward up to the boundary stone at the end of Abbotswood. However, local estate agents show Burpham starting at the Guildford end of Abbotswood, thus including both that estate and Ganghill.

As part of the boundary changes in 1933 Burpham joined Guildford Borough Council and Gosden Hill Farm was included as part of Burpham. The original manor of Burpham went out to the Woking Road, including Jacob's Well where Burpham Court Farm, Hurst Farm (now Willow Grange, the residence of the bishop of Guildford) and Burpham Court House are located, as well as

Burpham Lodge (now known as The White House) on White House Lane. The sale particulars from the 1905 sale of Onslow properties stated ‘as between the manor of Burpham and the vendor’s adjoining manor of Worplesdon the road from the Stoke parish boundary to Hurst Farm shall be considered the western boundary and the road from Hurst Farm to Jacob’s Well the north boundary of Burpham manor.’ The 19th century census enumerators described Burpham as a tithing, part of Worplesdon Parish, and the area was usually the same as the old manor. It is quite possible that Whitmoor Common, Stringer’s Common and as far as Pitch Place were at some time part of the original manor.

Why have Burpham? It may seem like an odd question, but it is worth looking at. It’s not far to either Ripley or Guildford and both have plenty of facilities for the traveller. The Burpham community may have originally started due to its closeness to water (the River Wey), heavy clay soil and availability of sand for brickmaking and pottery, reasonably good farmland and ease of travel to larger communities such as Guildford. However, one of the big reasons was probably the route of the road from London to Portsmouth, which brought much traffic through the area. The public houses were licensed premises with stabling and accommodation, but were not coaching inns, which were part of the inland transport infrastructure. The Burpham public houses were not large enough to provide stabling for teams of horses for stagecoaches. People involved in the navy would also travel between London and Portsmouth, bringing people, horses, equipment, etc along the road.

For many years the manor of Burpham has been tucked in between the family seats of two influential families – the Onslows at Clandon Park House and the Westons at Sutton Place. Neither of these two great houses were part of Burpham, although the lodge gates for Sutton Place, on the A3, are included within the administrative boundary.

So Burpham in Surrey was a hamlet, then a village, now a suburb. However, as well as the Burpham near Arundel in Sussex, there is a Burpham House in Great Bookham and in the 1950s there was also a racehorse called Burpham, which was quite successful.



Top: Clandon House

Bottom: The gates of Sutton Place

ANCIENT BURPHAM

It all started with the Big Bang, or the Creation, or whichever version you prefer for the beginning of life on earth. However, the evidence of history for Burpham starts a lot later. Archaeological finds (many of which can be found at Guildford museum) indicate ancient settlements in the area and include a Mesolithic flint pick (Stone Age, around 3,500 BC), a harness mount (late Bronze Age, around 1,200 BC) and a Samian bowl (Romano-British, around 157 AD), therefore the evidence suggests that there were definitely people living in the area before the Norman Conquest of 1066. Roger Marjoribanks, in his little book *Burpham, Norman Manor to Suburban Village*, suggested that a small community lived behind the site of Wylea Farm estate, making pottery from the local clay.



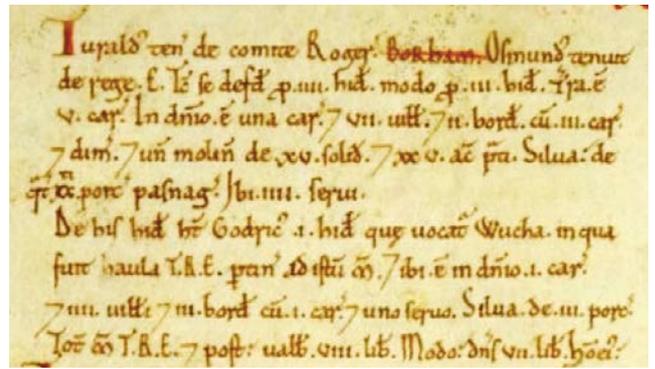
Samian bowl; Romano-British found in 1897 (courtesy Surrey Archeological Society)

In 1897 a Roman burial site was discovered behind Pimm's Row. The Romans occupied much of Britain from 43AD - 425AD. Julius Caesar had invaded Britain a century before but he gave up due to determined British guerrilla resistance and a revolt in Gaul (France). Records suggest that a Roman road, called Stane Street, passed quite near to Guildford, but no remains have as yet been found in the area. It would have been nice to think that there had been a Roman road through Burpham, but it looks unlikely. However, in 1829 a Roman pavement was discovered at Broad Street Common, in Worplesdon Parish – more evidence of Roman inhabitation in the area. At the time of the Roman invasion Celtic Britain consisted of many tribes (such as the Iceni in East Anglia, ruled by Boudicca (or Boadicea)).

When the Anglo Saxons arrived from Europe in around the 5th century the tribes developed into kingdoms, such as Wessex or Mercia. In the 9th century Alfred the Great (House of Wessex) became the first King of England and, when he died, he bequeathed 'Gyldeford' to his nephew Etheldred in his will. This was the first written record of the town of Guildford.

A Saxon buckle was found in the grounds of Winterhill Farm, suggesting that either there had been a settlement in the vicinity or perhaps there was a road passing through. Saxon Guildford was a thriving town that had its own mint, from which some coins still survive. However, the only extant building from that time is the tower of St Mary's church in Quarry Street.

The Viking invasion of Britain began in the 8th century and by 1013 the Danish King Sweyn Forkbeard had taken the English throne, followed by Cnut (Canute), and many reminders of these Norse invaders can be seen in the northern counties of England, such as York, although they attacked all around the British coast. The Vikings and the



Domesday Book entry for Burpham

English alternated through much of the 11th century until Edward III 'the Confessor' succeeded to the throne in 1042. In 1066 the Normans defeated the English, or Anglo Saxon, army at the Battle of Hastings. Clearly the melting pot of ethnicity has been mixed by the migration of people invading and settling around the world for thousands of years.

The name of Burpham comes from the Saxon – 'Burh' meaning an earthwork and 'ham' meaning a village or settlement, so probably a 'fortification hamlet'. Roger Marjoribanks also suggested 'fort in the water meadows', which would fit with what is known of flooding in the local area.

The story of Burpham as it is known today started with the Norman Conquest in 1066. One of William the Conqueror's early decisions was to find out what he had won and, more importantly, what taxes were due to him as king. William died in 1087, so did not benefit from finding out this information. In 1086 the first official survey of England, the Domesday Book, written in mediaeval Latin, was completed, and it gives modern-day readers an idea of what Norman England looked like. Burpham, then spelt Borham, was part of the Woking hundred and had a population of 10½ households, with 11 villagers, five smallholders and five slaves. The lord of the manor was Osmund of Eaton in 1066, but by 1086 this changed to Turald (Thorold) following on from Earl Roger de Montgomery of Shrewsbury. Ownership of land changed quite frequently, often being given either as a reward or in payment of a debt.

A hundred was a division of a shire for military and judicial purposes, ranking between the parish and the county. A tithing was originally one tenth of a hundred and then a subdivision of a manor, often meaning a group of ten adult males, and usually denoting an area for church taxation. The value of the tithing of Burpham to the lord of the manor in 1086 was £8. Tax was assessed in hides (approximately 120 acres), that is the amount of land,

measured in ploughs – which meant the area that could be ploughed using eight oxen with one plough in one day.

The Domesday Book informed the king that Burpham had enough land for five ploughs and also meadows, a mill valued at 15s and woodland for 80 pigs as pannage – a form of payment for pasturing pigs – the right to pannage is still part of some modern forest laws. One of the hides was called Wucha (or Wyke), which belonged to Godric, although it is quite a distance from modern-day Burpham. However, given that Thorold also occupied the manor of Worplesdon, maybe it is possible that it was part of the Burpham manor.

MODERN BURPHAM

At the start of the 20th century Burpham was really still just two roads – London Road and Burpham Lane – almost everything else was farmland or common land. In 1912 most of the village consisted of the four main farms bordering the London Road – Winterhill, New Inn, Bower’s and Wylea; plus the two farms on the outer edges, Burpham Court Farm and Gosden Hill Farm (which was still part of Send parish until 1933). On Burpham Lane there was little between the Tudor cottages next to the Green Man and Pimm’s Row, apart from the two cottages opposite, where William Turner and his wife had their shop. There was a small scattering of cottages before arriving at St Luke’s Church and the school, which had opened in 1908, and allotments lay between the school and the river.

Development of the village started after the Great War and by 1934 housing estates were being built – Paddock Road, Meadow Road, New Inn Lane, Orchard Road and Winterhill Way, with Briar Way and Hawthorn Way. However, Winterhill Farmhouse still presided over the far end of the village, where Great Oaks Park would



St Luke's church

eventually be built. Bower’s Farm House stood opposite the end of Orchard Road; Wylea Farm House lay almost opposite the Anchor & Horseshoes, while New Inn Farm House is still there, the oldest building in the modern-day village. The swimming pool behind the Kingpost restaurant could be seen clearly on the map and the old Methodist chapel was no longer marked as it had been closed down several years before. Along Burpham Lane (or Jacobs Well Road as it was marked) the beginnings of Marlyn’s Drive had three or four cottages. The Council Cottages, and the village hall next door, had been built in the 1920s and more cottages had appeared between Pimm’s Row and the church.

With 536 pages Moira’s book has a wealth of additional information about Burpham. We have a copy in the museum library. If you don’t use amazon you can obtain copies from Moira for £10 plus £3.45 p&p. Contact her at moira.macquaide@gmail.com



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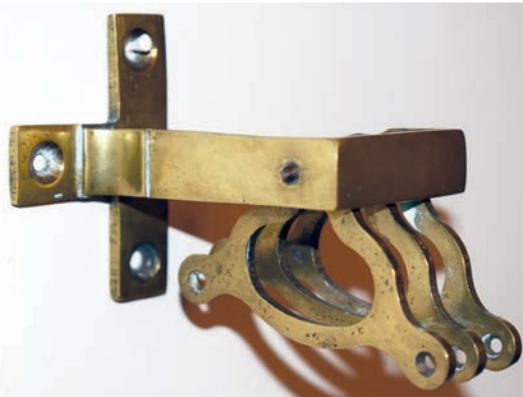
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WHERE IS IT? / WHAT IS IT?

ALAN COOPER



This photo was taken locally circa 1920, but where?



An interesting item this, measuring circa 3" (75mm) x 3" (75mm) x 2" (50mm) and cast in brass – but for what purpose?



J272 – ANSWER TO WHERE IS IT?

Answer: Ripley High Street. The photo was taken from the path by the service road outside the Ship looking in the direction of the former Methodist Chapel and was probably May Day celebrations.

Correctly identified by: Audrey Smithers, Chris Brown, Peter & Blanche Smithers, and Ted & Jackie Strange

BUS PHOTO IN J271 REVISITED

ALAN COOPER

The ‘Where is it?’ photos that have appeared in each journal since J254 have to date very disappointingly generated very little response from our readership – until now. Usually just two people have a guess, but in the last journal there were four! Each correctly identified the location of the bus as Elmsleigh Farm, Send Barns Lane, Send. To add an extra dimension we asked if anyone could identify the make of bus. I certainly couldn’t when I first saw the photo and spent many fruitless hours trying to satisfy my curiosity.

Cate Davey, who many will remember as our last journal editor recently rejoined the committee and now manages the society’s Facebook and Twitter accounts. She believed these platforms would be ideal to solve such queries through the enormous online presence of specialists who frequent them.

Pretty soon Cate was inundated with responses from bus enthusiasts countrywide, with many makes and manufacturers being suggested. There was one however, that several of the experts agreed upon and we can conclude with a high degree of certainty, that the bus pictured was manufactured by The Associated Daimler Company (Identified by one person via the registration plate letters PE).

The Guildford to Woking station service via Merrow, West Clandon, Send and Kingfield started in 1928, two years after the Woking & District Bus Company purchased three Daimler ADC426s. Woking & District were absorbed by London General Country Services in 1931 and passed to one of its subsidiaries, the East Surrey Bus Company. The Daimlers were in use until 1936 when, at just eight years old they were rendered obsolete by a new generation of buses.

Most of us will remember the green London Country buses that operated in Send and Ripley; initially, however, they were painted in a red and white livery.

Send & Ripley History Society would like to thank all those who responded via social networking to solve this mystery.

We also received an email from one of our members, who wrote: ‘as you may already know, the destination board reads Woking Station and the style of the bus would date the photo to around 1920. On the subject of buses in the area, I have an original poster dated 1926 for route 115 from Kingston to Guildford via Long Ditton, Esher, Fairmile, Church Cobham, Wisley, Ockham and Ripley. The bus would probably have been similar to that in the photo.’



MEMORIES OF RIPLEY GREEN

CLARE McCANN

In 2021 we hope to publish a book of memories and photos based on the work done by Jane Bartlett, Bette Slatford, Mavis Lake and others, who recorded memories from older residents in the 1980s and 1990s. The idea is to group memories on a particular topic and use the wonderful archive of photos we have to illustrate those recollections. To give you a taster of things to come we thought we would highlight some of the memories surrounding Ripley Green.

Ripley Green is probably the largest village green in England. In total it is approximately 65 acres and managed by Surrey County Council as Lord of the Manor of Send and Ripley but with much of the day to day management devolving to the parish council.

Another astounding fact is that Ripley cricket club is now approximately 250 years old. This makes it one of the oldest cricket clubs in the world.

Winnie Blakeman¹ said that when she worked for Mrs Macintyre at Elm Tree House there was no cricket pavilion. The building was then the stables, they bred highland terriers downstairs and the kennel maid lived upstairs. Tom Buller² confirmed this as he recalled they had a marquee, not a pavilion.



Outside Elm Tree stables before the pavilion was built, circa 1920

¹ MISS WINNIE BLAKEMAN was interviewed in 1985 by Jane Bartlett. She was born in 1911 in the corner house of the two cottages left of the Half Moon, was one of eight children and left school at 14 to go into service.

² TOM BULLER was interviewed by Peter Rixon and Jane Bartlett in 1986 when he was in his seventies. Originally he came from Somerset but could not find work. He was making his way to Nottingham, where a girl cousin of his had managed to get work, when he heard

Bob Whapshott³ remembered that Mr Pinnock ran a herd of 20 cows on the Green and supplied Ripley with milk. He retailed round the village and one took one's own jug out to the churn. The cricket pitch was fenced round against cows and old Mr Pinnock had a little seat to sit and watch them.

Dunsborough House was once the home of the actress Florence Desmond who had many famous friends. Her son said one of his mother's letters was from Sir James Barrie,



Top: The New Zealand Services XI

Bottom: Tom Buller lent the society this photograph of 'Shanger' Cox (a carrier but he was not using his own van) and Collins (the baker's) van on the Green - cutting grass which had got knee high. They cut it first with fag hooks using volunteers, then a pulled machine

she had died. At that point he was in Ripley, so he stayed. He was a baker by trade and worked for 39 years with Collins Bakery.

³ BOB WHAPSHOTT was born about 1915 and gave various interviews to the Society from 1983 onwards, while living at Lime Grove, Clandon. He had lived at Sussex Farm until he was eight when he moved to Waverley Cottages, by the bridge, which were built in 1922. His father, who was chief carter at Sussex Farm apparently, had said he would leave unless he was better housed.



Top: Wartime troops watering their horses at the pond
Bottom: The Home Guard is pictured here on Ripley Green

the author of *Peter Pan*. He wrote that he remembered playing cricket on Ripley Green. Archie Marsh⁴, a local player, said he recollected playing New Zealand cricketers in the first season after the war. They hired a marquee from the army and the opposition included actual test cricketers. Memorably Ripley beat them.

During the war the pond was obviously used for watering the horses. Ivy Sopp⁵ said soldiers marching through Ripley were put up all over the village and camped on the Green. Charlie Milton⁶ remembered searchlights on the Green. Alice Charman⁷ recalled a sing-song on the Green after the war.

⁴ ARCHIE MARSH was born in 1915 and interviewed by Jane Bartlett in 1986 while living in Papercourt Lane. He was born and brought up at No. 3 Half Moon Cottages on the Green by his grandmother as his father was away at the war and his mother was working. Eventually he was given one of the Papercourt houses, originally built in 1920 for WWI veterans. During WWII he was an active ARP member.

⁵ IVY SOPP née CARTER was born in 1903 and interviewed by Jane Bartlett and Bette Slatford in 1983. Ivy's father, Mr Jack Carter was apprenticed under Mr Pledger as a wheelwright and blacksmith, but when Pledger retired and Mr Heath took over as blacksmith in Ripley, her father was not happy and worked as wheelwright cum smith for various people, including Mr Sex in Send.

⁶ CHARLIE MILTON was interviewed in 1985 by Jane Bartlett when living on Georgelands. He was born in 1912 above the Westminster Bank, which then became the Bright Spot Tea rooms and is now Ripley Curry Garden. His father was the village policeman and his mother the caretaker for the bank below. Later they moved to Amberley Cottage.

John Paul⁸ said they dug tank traps on the Green in World War II and put sand bags round houses. Oliver Simmonds of Dunsborough ploughed up the Green for potatoes and wheat. Jack Smithers⁹ said it was all gorse and blackberries and small trees before then.

Kathleen Hodson¹⁰ lived in Dunsborough Cottages as a child. They had a small fenced garden in front. At fair time the horses were hobbled on the Green and used to push up to the fence to get the long grass. Sometimes they kicked and reared, and at night you could hear them snorting. She also recalled the rifle range near Ripley Green, which was in the trees beyond the pond. It was a .22 rifle club in an area known as the Dogpits. Rubbish was dumped in the dog pits and dogs used to scrounge from it. She said potatoes were grown on Ripley Green during the First World War. Mr Pinnock was the green keeper and often tramps slept on the Green. She recalled one called Old Harriet with her pram and they were all frightened of her.

THE LOST POND ON RIPLEY GREEN

The village pond disappeared after the war when new drainage was put in. Kathleen Hodson remembers the pond on Ripley Green "it was lovely when it was frozen", the boys would skate. Winnie Longman¹¹ said they skated on the Green. They used to go with Cynthia and Hubert White who used to take their hands and rush them over the pond.

Several local people remembered a keen fisherman, Mr Tickner, who used to bring his catch back and put it in the pond on Ripley Green for the children to catch. Local man Jack Smithers said there was a fishing competition on Ripley pond. People in the village gave donations for prize money. Young Jack Richardson won with a perch and he won a prize with an eel. Ivy Sopp recalled fishing in the pond on the Green and rolling down the slope to the pond and trying not to fall in.

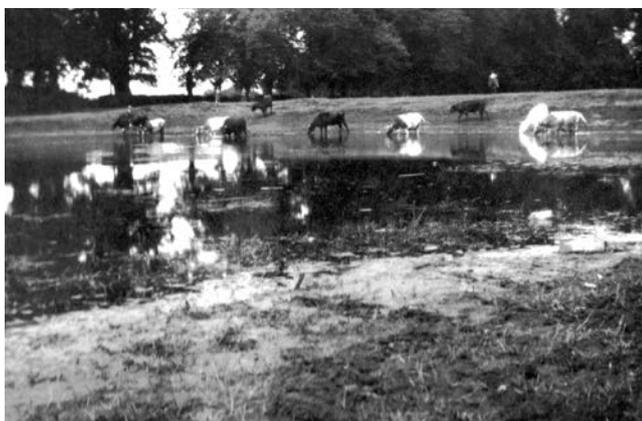
⁷ ALICE CHARMAN was born in 1909 and interviewed in 1985 by Tony Medlen and Jane Bartlett while living in Newark Lane. Her father, William Peters, worked for Ripley Bakery for 55 years from the age of 16, first under Mr Geales, then Mr Collins. He was also a fireman.

⁸ JOHN PAUL, born in 1910, was living in Apple Tree Cottage in Rose Lane when he was interviewed by Jane Bartlett in 1985.

⁹ JACK SMITHERS, born in 1912, was a decorator most of his working life and was living in Rose Lane when interviewed in 1988.

¹⁰ KATHLEEN HODSON née KNIGHT was interviewed in 1986 by Tony Medlen and Jane Bartlett. She was born in 1908 and, as a child, lived next to Lizzie Sayers at Dunsborough Cottages.

¹¹ WINNIE LONGMAN née TAPPIN was interviewed in 1986 and born in 1902 as the youngest one of nine Tappins in the house next to Conisbees. They did not all live in the house at the same time, for instance her eldest sister married before Winnie was born.



Life on the old pond...

Nellie Holt¹² remembered the Order of Foresters and Nellie's brothers were all in it. She does not remember a specific uniform but thinks they wore a green sash over their own suits.

¹² NELLIE HOLT née HEATH was interviewed by Mavis Lake in 1984. Nellie was born in October 1900 in Rose Lane and went to school in Ripley. Her father was a blacksmith. They moved and took over 'The Haven' when Mr Pledger died. There were six children in the family, three boys and three girls.

¹³ MISS MAY BAIGENT was interviewed in January 1985 by John & Jane Bartlett, Bette Slatford and Tony Medlen. She was born in 1920 and lived in Dunsborough Cottages before moving to 'The



Top: The Order of the Foresters

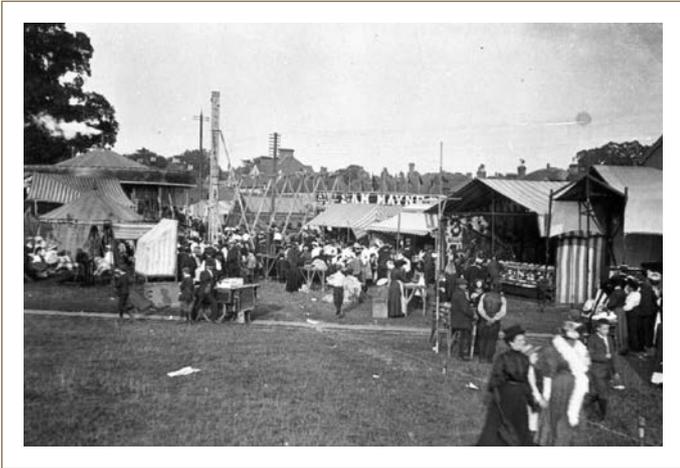
Bottom: Dancing on Ripley Green in 1953 at the celebrations for the Coronation

Many people had memories of the Ripley Fair and it was clearly a highlight of the year. Before the war it was a very big event held on July 22nd. May Baigent¹³ went so far as to say that the Ripley Fair was the only public outing they had, once a year. Her sister won a huge ball and she had a jointed doll. Dad won it on the Lottery, (all sorts of numbers pinned up on a central triangle). She hated the swing-boats but had to go on to balance her sister. She also hated the horses for they made her feel sick.

Peter Giles¹⁴ said it used to be a proper fair, all week, setting up on Monday. Old fashioned roundabouts and gleaming steam engines. The usual fair men were Mathews and Whittles. There were boxing booths and sideshows with shooting and bowls, needing much more skill than chance. They sold bits out of which you could make your own water pistols. 'Jack and Jill' was a straight

Wooden Hut' in Papercourt Lane which was made by her father with wooden walls and floor and had a corrugated roof. There was a river at the back and the garden ran down to it.

¹⁴ PETER GILES was interviewed in 1987. He was born in Rose Lane in one of the Gothic window cottages. As a child he was brought up in Ockham by the village policeman as he was deserted by his mother.



A very early photograph of the fair



Top: Building the bonfire
Bottom: A visit from the hunt

helter-skelter. George Faithful¹⁵ also agreed that the treat of the year was Ripley Fair. George went on roundabouts which worked by someone turning a wheel. They had chair-planes and his brother's girlfriend, a kennel maid, couldn't take it, she was always sick.

THE BONFIRE – A GREAT RIPLEY TRADITION

In the picture Mr Cox is in the middle of the stack. His carriers cart is half hidden under the fuzzies. The other lorry belonged to Charlie Jarman of the nursery garden in Polesden Lane.

As a child Betty Baker¹⁶ said that tar barrels were lit and rolled around which used to frighten her. Individual sparklers, crackers and bangers were let off all over the place. The Green was crowded, but obviously mainly locals as people had to come by bike or walk.

Elsie Best¹⁷ said in her day the children of the village used to make the bonfire. The boys cut the fuzzies which were all over the Green and the girls hauled great bundles tied with string. In the 1930 Wisley students set fire to the bonfire on Saturday night, but the adults of the village helped rebuild the bonfire on Sunday so they could have it on the Monday since when the adults have run the show, and made it a big one with processions.

Mrs Brewer¹⁸ said the children also used to collect 'pinies' off the Green for people's fire-lighting (pine cones) and they were given 1/- a bag.

¹⁵ GEORGE FAITHFUL was 86 when interviewed in 1989 and was born in Send into a family of eight. He started working life as a gardener at Sendhurst Grange.

¹⁶ BETTY BAKER née COX was interviewed by Jane Bartlett while living at Schoolview, Portsmouth Road, Ripley. She was born around 1926 and her father was a carrier with his own van. Betty left school at 14 and worked for WB Green for 37 years.

¹⁷ ELSIE BEST née PLUMBRIDGE was born in 1920 and was living in one of the Bonfield Cottages in Newark Lane when she

Ivy Sopp mentioned the farren rights on Ripley Green. Apparently all those living on the Green knocked holes in their fences and their chickens were all out on the Green.

She also said that in the summer after the chores were done about twelve of them went to the Green with a picnic lunch – a blue jug of tea from the Anchor, Madeira cake from Farris, baskets of bread and butter, bottles from Stansfields with a marble in the neck. They went to the seat round the tree called the picnic tree. Then they played hat shops in the bracken. 'We wound round bracken and decorated them with harebells and clover – the boys played too. Sometimes we sucked the honey out of the clover'.

Lovely memories...

was interviewed. She and her husband had a little tea room near Newark Mill at one time. She was living in one of the Bonfield Cottages in Newark Lane when interviewed.

¹⁸ MRS GERTRUDE BREWER née PUDDOCK was interviewed in 1985 aged 94. She was born in Ripley, one of ten children. When she was two years old they moved to Conisbee's little house on the corner of their yard. Her father was a 'hoopshaver' and worked in the woods near Horsley for the foresters making hurdles for sheep, props and faggots.

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT – PPE

DITZ BROWN

During the current covid 19 lockdown PPE has become a newly-familiar acronym. Throughout history there have been pandemics. The word derives from Greek πάν, *pan*, 'all' and δῆμος, *demos*, 'people'. The first known use of the word pandemic occurred in 1666, referring to 'a Pandemick, or Endemick' and it is generally understood that the term pandemic implies a disease which is spread via transmission that can be traced from a particular place: an epidemic of widespread geographic extension.

One of the first descriptions of a pandemic can be traced back to the 1350s when Giovanni Boccaccio published *The Decameron*. Boccaccio's work is the tale of ten people who leave Florence while the city is in the grip of the Black Death and seek the safety of the countryside, where they pass the time by sharing stories.

Europe suffered many plagues from the 14th to the 18th century which decimated the population. The so-called Black Death raged in the 14th century and it has been calculated that one quarter of the population of Europe, or 25,000,000 people, died during this great epidemic. The Great Plague of London in 1664-5 resulted in over 70,000 deaths in a population estimated at only 460,000.

Whilst the plague was rife in London the physicians and medical workers followed their wealthy patients in fleeing London because they feared catching the disease themselves, which largely left apothecaries to deal with infected people and they adopted the costume of plague doctors, which was found across Europe.

There was a longstanding belief that diseases travelled through the air and were caused by miasma (μίσμα, ancient Greek for 'pollution'), also known as night air, a mist filled with particles from decomposed matter. (This view was still held in 1858, the year of London's 'Great

Stink' which was mentioned in Andrew Jones' article '*Stench Poles: Victorians getting in a stink*' in J271.)

Those who were still living turned to strong scents to ward away the evil smell which they thought carried the plague. They sniffed pine, sulphur and lemons and burned all manner of incense: juniper, laurel, pine, beech, lemon leaves, rosemary and camphor and, as an early form of personal protection equipment, they dipped handkerchiefs in aromatic oils to cover their faces with when they went out.

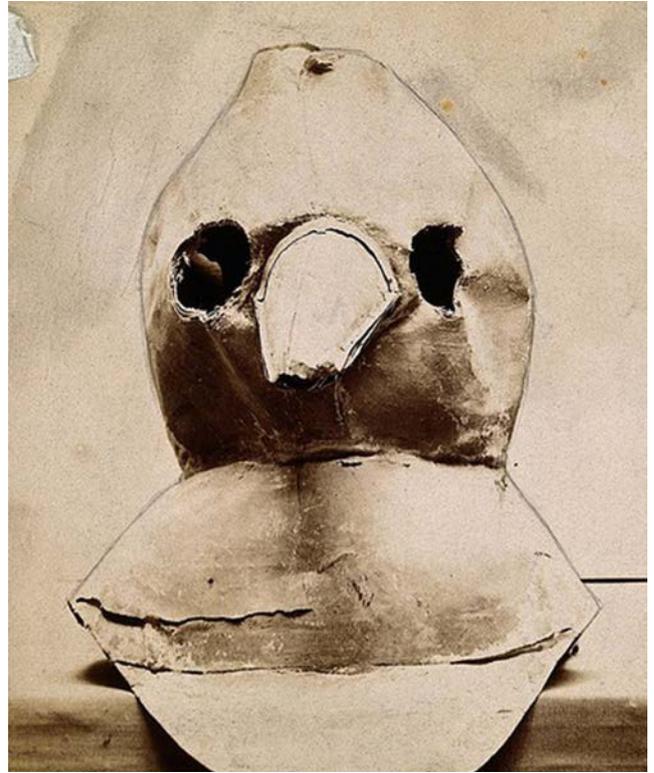
Another remedy was the cure of sound. Towns rang church bells to drive the plague away, for the ringing of town bells was done in crises of all kinds - they even went as far as firing canons which they thought made a comforting sound. There was no end to talismans, charms, and spells that could be purchased from the local wise woman or apothecary. Many people knew of someone's friend or cousin who had drunk elderberry every day, or who had worn a jade necklace, and who had survived the dreaded disease. Certain measures did, however, have a positive effect.

The word 'quarantine' emerged in the 1340s from the Italian for 'forty days'. This is due to the 40-day isolation which ships and people observed as a measure of disease prevention related to the plague. This ancient practice of quarantine was often the only tool in the fight against infectious diseases like bubonic plague and leprosy.

The idea for the standard plague doctor costume was first developed by the French physician Charles de Lorme (1584-1678) in 1619. He was a highly esteemed medical expert who served as chief physician to King Henri IV, King Louis XIII, and King Louis XIV. Incidentally, he was also quite remarkably long-lived, since he died on 24th June 1678 at the age of about ninety-four. There was a misconception that this garment was supposed to protect the doctor by 'scaring' the disease away. However, although these costumes were undoubtedly flawed - partly due to limited understanding of how disease was spread and partly due to technological limitations - the idea behind them was actually a good one and they will have provided doctors with some degree of protection from the plague.



A seventeenth century plague doctor mask from Austria or Germany on display at the Deutsches Historisches Museum in Berlin



Damaged mask from a 17th century Italian plague doctor costume, discovered in 1889 by Theodor Weyl in a lazaretto (an isolation hospital) on Poveglia Island, which served as a quarantine station for the city of Venice

The costume consisted of boots, leggings, an overcoat, gloves and a hood, all made of stiff Moroccan goat leather coated in wax to repel bodily fluids and to keep miasmata (pollution in the atmosphere, especially noxious vapours) from penetrating. It also included a mask attached directly to the overcoat, with glass goggles to cover the eyes and a long, bird-like beak.

This beak was often made out of a metal such as bronze and was filled with sweet-smelling substances, which could include dried flowers, various herbs and spices, or even a sponge filled with vinegar.

The mask had two small holes for the doctor to breathe through and it was believed that these substances would purify the air and keep the doctor safe from breathing in the miasmata. Although the herbs probably did very little - if anything - to disinfect the air the doctor was

breathing, the smallness of the holes reduced the amount of air, thereby decreasing his chances of inhaling airborne droplets.

Some versions of the plague doctor costume also included a broad-brimmed hat, which was worn over the hood and mask. This, however, was a non-essential component of the costume as it was merely meant to indicate that the wearer was a doctor, since doctors in those days often wore broad-brimmed hats to signify their profession. The hat was not thought to provide any protection from the plague and it is unclear whether all plague doctors necessarily wore this hat.

For centuries a cane was a symbolic accoutrement for a physician – a well-crafted cane with a fancy handle would give a patient confidence in the abilities of a doctor. If they could afford a good cane, they were clearly successful. Some canes were adapted to contain a vessel for pomander.



Engraving by Gerhard Altbach dated 1656 depicting a plague doctor from the city of Rome wearing a plague doctor outfit

curieren und tragen, sich von dem Giff zu sichern, ein langes Kleid von gewaxten Tuch ihr Angesicht ist verlarvt, für den Augen haben sie grosse Crystalline Brillen, wider Nasen einen langen Schnabel voll wohlriechender Specerey in der Hände, welche mit Handschuhen versehen ist, eine lange Ruthe und damit deuten sie, was man thun, und gebrauchte soll.’ which, when I translate it in the rather awkward, disjointed style of the original, goes something like this:

Clothing against death in Rome. Anno 1656. Thus go the Medici doctors about when they visit people suffering from the plague, to cure them and wear, to protect themselves from the poison, a long garment of waxed cloth; their face is masked; for the eyes they have large crystal spectacles; for the nose a long beak filled with sweet-smelling herbs; in their hands, covered with gloves, a long cane with which they point to what should be done and used’.

A 17th century poem describes the outfit thus:

*Their hats and cloaks, of fashion new,
Are made of oilcloth, dark of hue,
Their caps with glasses are designed,
Their bills with antidotes all lined,
That fouldsome air may do no harm.
The staff in hand must serve to show
Their noble trade where'er they go’.*

The plague doctors also carried a cane or long wooden rod with them which enabled them to keep suspected plague carriers in the street and also their patients at a distance, as they could carry out their inspections without having to touch anyone, or go near them. The rod could be used to lift articles of clothing to look for buboes or even to check a patient’s pulse to see if they were still alive.

The inscription of Gerhard Altbach’s engraving reads:

‘Kleidung wider den Tod zu Rom. Anno 1656. Also gehen die Doctores Medici daher zu Rom, wann sie die, an der Pest erkrankte Personen besuchen, sie zu curiren und fragen, sich wider den Giff zu sichern, ein langes Kleid von gewaxtem Guch ihr Angesicht ist verlarvt, für den Augen haben sie grosse Crystalline Brillen, wider Nasen einen langen Schnabel voll wohlriechender Specerey, in der Hände, welche mit Handschuhen versehen ist, eine lange Ruthe und damit deuten sie, was man thun, und gebrauchte soll.’

Although the plague doctor costume was developed in accordance with the miasma theory of disease it proved somewhat effective - not because diseases are spread through ‘bad air’, but rather because it helped to keep out germs. Indeed, the idea behind the plague doctor costume was basically the same as the idea behind a modern hazmat suit and should be seen as its early precursor.

Incidentally, three centuries after their invention, masks of a similar design to the plague doctors’ are still worn during Carnival in Venice.



Top: Frontispiece of a plague doctor in full habit from Jean-Jacques Manget's *Treatise on the Plague*, published in 1721
Bottom: A 20th century mask © JC Brown from her book *Carnival Masks of Venice*

As societies were evolving, so too were disease patterns and scientific understanding of how diseases spread. The plague doctor costume was flawed. It was open at the bottom and the mask didn't adequately filter the air the doctor breathed. Modern hazmat suits have solved both of these problems as the bottoms of the suits are always



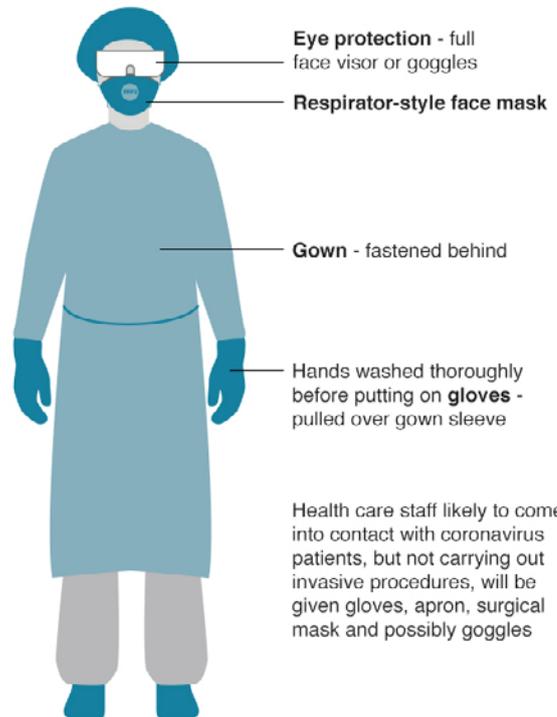
NHS medical staff members wearing PPE of gloves, eye protection, face masks and aprons

closed and the suits usually have self-contained breathing apparatus. In other words, we have learned from the mistakes and successes of the past and developed better methods of protection from disease.

I'm sure Charles de Lorme would be pleased, although doubtless future generations will smile about our current attempts at protection just as we condescendingly look at previous ones.

Personal protective equipment for health staff handling coronavirus patients

Full protective gear given to staff carrying out procedures likely to generate airborne droplets from mouth, throat or lungs



NHS Corona virus PPE

MUSEUM NEWS, FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

CLARE McCANN

These photographs from 1978 and 79 were taken – and donated – by David Sowerbutts. I was particularly pleased to see the museum in its earlier life.



Top: The Jovial Sailor being transformed from a bikers' meeting place to a family pub

Bottom: Ockham Court, down by the mill, when it had just been converted but not furnished except for a very basic set of kitchen units



Top: Goodgrove, Sendmarsh Road

Bottom: Ripley High St with the NatWest in the foreground and the White Hart still a pub



THE MUSEUM WILL REMAIN CLOSED
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EVENTS MUST ALSO REMAIN ON HOLD UNTIL
A FURTHER RELAXATION OF LOCKDOWN MEASURES
AND THE RE-OPENING OF THE VILLAGE HALL

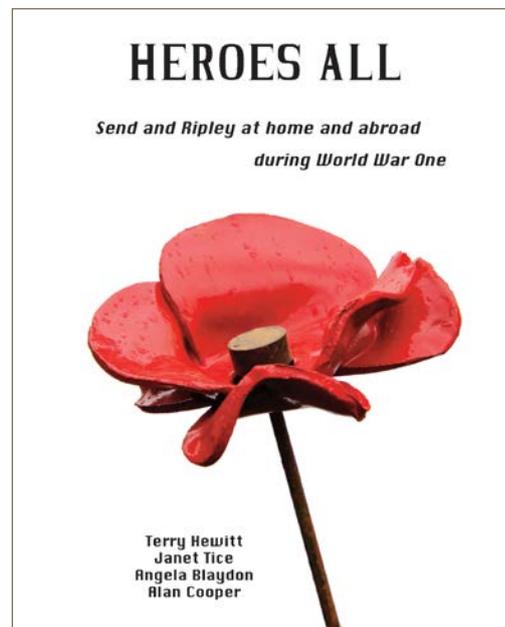
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HEROES ALL – SEND AND RIPLEY AT HOME AND ABROAD DURING WORLD WAR ONE

TERRY HEWITT, JANET TICE, ANGIE BLAYDON, ALAN COOPER

Over the past five years or so a small team of members of the Society has been collaborating to produce an exhaustive, illustrated book on Send and Ripley in WWI. The contents are wide-ranging, offering an extremely detailed study of all aspects of the war as it affected our two villages. This book, at almost 400 pages, is the biggest and most thorough local history project we have ever undertaken.

It is available now at a cost of £20 (plus £5 p&p for postage within UK). For local members we will either deliver to you or arrange for you to pick it up somewhere convenient to you. To order please email Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com or phone 07811 276386. Cheques, payable to Send & Ripley History Society, should be given to any committee member or posted to me at Church Farm House, Wisley, GU23 6QL. Easier for us is a bank transfer to: Send & Ripley History Society, 40-47-08, a/c 21488589.



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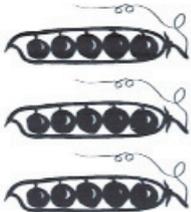
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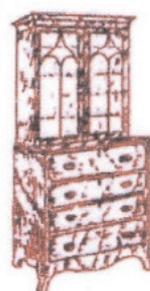
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