

Mr. Mrs L. Brown. 12 W12

SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

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July/August 1979

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

The following have become members since the last edition of the Newsletter was published:

Mr & Mrs A. Pamplin, 28 Maple Road, Send Marsh.  
Mr H. Hill, 6 RHS Cottages, Wisley.  
Mr P. R. Welch, 1 Victoria Cottage, Gale Road, Pirbright.

The paid up membership stands at 45 single and 88 double subscriptions.

Forthcoming Events

Thursday, 20th September ... Members' discussion evening, commencing at 8 p.m., at the Church Room, Send Road. Please bring any historical items which may be of interest, particularly if they have any local connection.

Sunday, 21st October ... Afternoon visit to view the items of historic interest at Ripley Church, meeting at the church at 3 p.m.

Thursday, 15th November ... Open meeting, commencing at 8 p.m., at the Church Room, Send Road, when our member, Ken Dawson, will give an illustrated talk on wild flowers.

Saturday, 1st December ... Surrey Local History Symposium at Dorking Halls. The subject will be "Surrey Rivers and Waterways". It is intended that this Society should enter a display, and it is hoped that there will be good support by members.

Thursday, 6th December ... Social Evening at the Church Room, Send Road.

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THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH ROOMS

Extracts from the Send Parish Magazine

Some time ago I was reading through the Send Parish Magazines (courtesy of Mrs Oliver), when I came across some information on the building of the Church Rooms. I had planned to write them up as an article, but now think they read better as extracts. There are historical notes as well as unintentional humour.

August 1891

... a subscription list will have been started for the long talked of Church Room ... In addition, the erection of a Reading Room is intended ... the sum to be raised is £500 exclusive of the cost of fittings so all must put their shoulder to the wheel. For smaller sums Collecting Cards will be issued.

September 1891 - Copy of Circular

... at a meeting of all principal inhabitants of the parish ... resolved Church Room and Reading Room. The Church lies on the west boundary but the population in the centre and the east ... evening services in the church in winter cannot be held ... all special services held in school, approach is most unsatisfactory there being no carriage road. Everyone can testify to

the dangerous surface on a dark night! The building ... not far from Cartbridge the most thickly populated part of the parish. The site a most advantageous one was generously set aside for the purpose by the late A. P. Onslow Esq. and will be made over by the Misses Onslow to the Vicar and Churchwardens of the parish and two trustees when they are ready to take possession.

... proper to hold Divine Service every Sunday evening in winter for which the Bishops licence will be asked. Beside this it will be used for religious meetings and social gatherings, due care being taken to preserve the religious association of the room.

The Reading Room will be attached to the Church Room and will be under the same control.

Amount received by middle of August, £286-4sh. and a small organ has been kindly promised by Mr. Hill of Pembroke House.

#### October 1893

... Everyone will have noticed the commencement of this building. October 21st 1893 memorial stone laid by Miss Onslow of Send Grove. Church Room will be opened by the Bishop of Winchester on Monday February 5th. (1894) at 3 p.m.

#### March 1894

The Church Room. Every word of this paragraph should be in capital letters. For the Church Room is now opened ... the dream is now a visible reality ... the text of the Bishop's remarks was OPPORTUNITY. First Lenten Service held on February 8th. three days after opening ... capital attendance ...

It may be mentioned that the pads hooked to the backs of the chairs are intended for kneeling.

#### October 1894

Sunday evening services start in the Church Room. Previous excuses for absence will now be tested.

#### February 1896

Mr. Lancaster presented a piano (Broadwood & Son) to the Church Room. Mr. W. Webb provided a 10 gallon urn.

#### June 1897

Meeting on May 7th. to inspect plans for the new Reading Room and Institute.

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Perhaps someone else might like to take on the story from this point ... A number of questions come to mind i.e. did the Reading Room become a reality and was it well used by the villagers? Maybe someone can give a first-hand account of it? Where was it built? There doesn't appear to be any sign of it attached to the Church Room, what became of it?

Sheila Brown

### VISIT TO WAVERLEY ABBEY ON JUNE 28th

On the evening of June 28th about 25 members visited Waverley Abbey, whose ruins are situated on the River Wey between Farnham and Tilford. The Abbey was founded by William Gifford, Bishop of Winchester, in 1128 when an Abbot and twelve monks came from Normandy in obedience to the rules of the Cistercian Order, which bade them found communities in isolated and inhospitable places. Waverley Abbey was the first Cistercian house in England. It prospered, and later Cistercian abbeys (e.g. Fountains and Riveaulx) were to a large extent modelled on it.

We were provided with a ground plan of the Abbey buildings, which were originally within a 60 acre walled site. The plan enabled us to identify those parts of the Abbey and its apartments which remain today. The Abbey Church, with its five chapels at the east end and three in each transept, must have been a splendid structure, and the Lay Brothers' Frater (refectory) still possesses part of its vaulted roof. The course of the main drain is very clear, as is that of Fountains Abbey.

As usual, Jim Oliver made the place come to life with many extra snippets of information, such as that Waverley Abbey monks were responsible for the introduction of sheep-farming to England, and the beginnings of the wool industry on which the prosperity of mediaeval England depended. He also drew our attention to the fine 18th century mansion, Waverley Abbey House, which stands a few hundred yards from the Abbey ruins, and is now a home for elderly people. It was initially built by Colen Campbell for Aislabie, the Chancellor of the Exchequer who was disgraced by the South Sea Bubble. Sir Walter Scott stayed with his friend Ellis at Sunninghill around 1800 and visited Waverley. He subsequently wrote the Waverley Novels. Scotsmen may be surprised to learn that Edinburgh's Waverley Station derived its name from this peaceful spot in Surrey's Wey Valley via the Novels!

The Department of the Environment is now tidying up the ruins with a view to admitting the public. It will probably come as a surprise to many to find that Waverley Abbey had such far reaching influence on the development of life in England.

Julia Jones

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### THE COURT ROLLS OF THE MANOR OF SEND & RIPLEY

Among the many documents relating to the district, held at the Guildford Muniment Room, these probably provide the most valuable insight into life and conditions over the longest period. Unfortunately many Rolls are in Latin and therefore present some difficulty in reading.

The Courts were usually held twice a year. They dealt with such things as appointment of the various officers and of the jurors in the district. The Court heard complaints about tenants failing to maintain property and land as required, and various tradespeople were subject to very close scrutiny on the quality of their goods and the prices they charged. Applications for transfer of property and land within the manor were also heard.

As a further part of our aim to properly record all of the information available in these documents, the Committee considered the possibility of having them translated and transcribed professionally. We were fortunate in finding Mrs Maureen Roberts of Burpham, who has a degree in Latin, and was willing to help with this work professionally. It was therefore decided

to ask Mrs Roberts to make a start. The first results (for the period 1533-39) have produced some interesting insights into the problems of the day. Naturally it will be very expensive to have all the rolls translated and it will take a long time, but the Committee believe that it will be well worth doing.

Regular entries in the rolls record, for example, the activities of the ale house keeper being fined for making excessive profits. The ale taster was one of the officials appointed each time the Court was held. People were always in trouble before the Court for failing to clean ditches, repair their houses, etc. Much of the Court's business each time was concerned with the surrender and the granting of tenancies of land belonging to the Lord of the Manor, and in most cases the land or property is named. Although most local names have changed over the years (many times perhaps), we hope that eventually we may be able to produce maps of the time and compare them with present day situations. Two surnames which feature prominently in the life of the parish both in 1533 and in 1979 are Giles and Tysse (Tice). It is unlikely that a continuous link will be proved, but it will be interesting to see.

John Slatford

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#### VISIT TO SILCHESTER AND "THE VYNE" - 10 JUNE

About ten miles from Reading and seven miles from Basingstoke lies the Roman town of Silchester or CALLEVA ATREBATUM. Silchester is thought to be one of the Roman cantonal capitals, and the story of its discovery and the subsequent excavations there set the scene for our excursion into Hampshire.

Not much of the site is visible today except the huge perimeter wall which enclosed the town. The wall is made of flint and limestone, and even today, after being exposed to the elements for almost two thousand years, it is most impressive, being some 15-18 feet tall and 8 feet wide.

The woodland town of Calleva was originally the home of a Belgic tribe from North Gaul known as the ATREBATES. They had emigrated to Britain under their King COMMIUS around 55 BC. It is thought that the Atrebates were conquered by the more powerful and warlike CATUVELLAUNI some time before the Roman invasion of Britain in AD 43. Under the Atrebates and Catuvellauni the town must have been only a small rural encampment with villagers living in shacks. However when the Romans came, with their advanced technology, the town rapidly changed.

After two hundred years, it had become one of the principal towns of Roman England, enclosed by a strong city wall with a gatehouse at each point of the compass, linking the city by arterial roads to Dorchester on Thames, Oxon, Chichester, Gloucester, Winchester, London and Salisbury. The Romans ruled wisely, leaving much of the power with the old British aristocracy. Local affairs were run by the natives, although Roman ideas and methods must have made great impressions on such a simple people.

The town grew and prospered under four hundred years of Roman civilising influence. The first Christian church in England was established there about the middle of the fourth century. The site of the church was identified in 1892 and re-examined in 1961.

A new "grid" system of roads laid out in the reign of Hadrian (117-138) meant that many of the original Roman houses and public buildings had to be rebuilt around it to make life more convenient and efficient; trade and culture flourished. The amphitheatre, outside the walls, is still to be seen.

Calleva suddenly lost all of its prosperity and importance and gradually died, unlike the other Roman towns of Winchester, Chichester and St Albans. Calleva occupied an area of 107 acres, which in the course of time became covered with soil and vegetation. The site had been known since the 16th century, but a local Silchester man, John Stair, who made excavations in the 1740s, was the first to show any practical interest. Stair made a plan of the street system by observing the different colours and the lushness of the summer corn crop that covered the site. After further excavations by the Rev J. G. Joyce in 1864-78, at the request of the landowner, the 2nd Duke of Wellington, a complete excavation of the walled area was undertaken by the Society of Antiquaries of London 1890-1909, resulting in the most complete Romano-British town plan we possess. Further excavations were made in 1938-9, 1954-8 and 1961. However the site has been filled in once again and corn grows over it once more.

The huge collection of antiquities found at Calleva have been deposited by the Duke of Wellington in Reading Museum, and there is even a small museum in the modern village of Silchester. Anyone visiting the site of the town cannot fail to be impressed by the huge weathered city walls and a visit to Reading Museum is a must. The site is now maintained by the Department of the Environment.

Three and a half miles from Silchester, at Sherborne St John, lies "The Vyne", called by Pevsner "one of the most architecturally and historically rewarding houses in Hampshire". The Vyne was being built between the years 1518-27, and it is likely that it was built on the site of an old Roman villa. The house has been subjected to many changes during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries and these have added to its charm and interest. Luckily the house is now in the hands of the National Trust and forms part of our architectural heritage.

The Vyne was built by William Sandys, a politician and loyal servant to Henry VIII. The Tudor house was originally much larger than the house we see today with a courtyard on the south side. Lord Sandys became Lord Chamberlain in 1526 and died in 1540.

The estate was purchased from the 6th Lord Sandys in 1653 by Chaloner Chute. Chute was a fearless advocate who had made much money from grievances between Royalists and Puritans. He became Speaker of the House of Commons in 1659 and died in the same year. In 1754 the estate passed unexpectedly to John Chute, friend of Horace Walpole.

John Chute had spent 32 years abroad and acquired a catholic taste. He was a brilliant amateur architect and designer, and made many improvements to the house before his death in 1776. Later alterations were made by William Lyde Wiggett Chute between 1837 and 1879.

The house is approached from the south side and the forecourt is seen first. Much of the early 16th century external detail has gone, but most of the brickwork is original. The house is E shaped in plan and is "double pile". The brickwork is English Bond and is heavily diapered. The dressings are of stone, as are the window surrounds, which are cut flush with the brickwork and date from the mid 17th century. The shallow porch is

19th century and was built by Wiggett Chute to replace a "sham tower" of about 1780, and on either side of the porch is a two-storey gabled wing. On the north side of the house is one of the splendours of The Vyne, the Portico. This is the earliest example of a classical portico to form part of an English country house, and the architect was John Webb, nephew and disciple of Inigo Jones. Speaker Chute employed Webb in 1654 to design the portico and to attend to other improvements. The portico is of brick rendered with stucco, and the two giant columns carry Corinthian capitals. The pediment is of wood and painted white. Viewed from the lake, the effect is magnificent, showing the Palladian style at its best. Webb also made other alterations to the doors, windows and chimney pieces. Unfortunately only two of the windows have survived on the south front.

To the left of the north block is the chapel. This is the finest example of a late mediaeval private chapel in England, with Flemish stained glass windows of exceptional quality, as are many of the interior features. A door in the south wall leads to the Tomb Chamber, which was built by John Chute in 1757 to house the marble tomb of his distinguished ancestor Speaker Chaloner Chute. The sarcophagus, designed by John Chute, supports the reclining figure of the Speaker and the figure, in marble, is a notable piece of English sculpture.

The inside of the house is tastefully furnished and holds much of interest. There is much linenfold, but that in the long gallery is exceptionally delicate and crisply carved with the arms and crests of the Sandys family, relations and friends, including Cardinal Wolsey.

John Chute himself designed the vestibule and great staircase, which Pevsner describes as "a triumph of art over circumstance". The classical staircase was described by Walpole as "theatric", a most appropriate description for one of the highlights of The Vyne.

When John Chute died a bachelor in 1776, the male line of the family died out and a cousin, Thomas Lobb of Pickenham Hall, Norfolk, inherited the estate. His mother had been a Chute and he assumed the family name. His descendant, William Lyde Wiggett, also adopted the name of Chute and he sold the Pickenham estates and used some of the money to develop and embellish The Vyne. His main alterations to the house were the additions to the east wing and an increase in the number of bedrooms. He did much to improve the estate and made the house more habitable. He died in 1879 and in 1956 Sir Charles Chute bequeathed the house, its contents and the estate of 1124 acres to the National Trust.

Tony Medlen

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#### ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND

##### A Paper Given to Send History Society by J. C. M. Blatch, 21/6/79

Mervyn Blatch returned to Send History Society on Thursday, June 21st, and spoke with his usual authority on "Anglo-Saxon England", a subject very close to his heart. Those who did not know the churches and shrines he mentioned were shown an exciting new aspect of England, while others were taken on a nostalgic re-visit, with the aid of superb photography.

The lecture covered the six centuries of mystery, the Dark Ages, roughly from the period containing the Roman evacuation of Britain in about 420 AD and the arrival of Hengist and Horsa, pagan kings from Jutland, at Ebbsfleet in Kent in 449, to the Norman Conquest, in 1066; a time space equal to that

from the Battle of Crecy to the present day. The speaker then divided these six centuries into a First Period - Pagan - from Hengist to the arrival of St Augustine at Canterbury in 597. A Second Period of early Christianity, followed, to the commencement of the Viking invasion from Norway and Sweden in 787, then Period III from 787 to 1066, at Hastings, when the flower of the Anglo-Saxon race and the forebears of the present nation were slaughtered with their chosen king, Harold, on the site now occupied by Battle Abbey. The Anglo-Saxon culture was utterly crushed and died here.

During the Pagan Period I, superb ornaments and pottery were executed. Slides of the burial goods in gold from the Sutton Hoo ship were shown, as was the drinking vessel now known as the Clan Beaker, together with the necklace from Desborough, Northants, and the brooches from Minster Lorell, Oxon, and Kingston, Kent. Most of these treasures are deposited in the British Museum and the Ashmolean, Oxford. However, during this time, a flicker of Christianity was preserved at places like the monastery at Clonmacnoise in Western Ireland, and at St Davids in Wales. It was not until the arrival of St Augustine in 597, and the Venerable Bede in Jarrow in 673, that Christianity began to spread through England. The churches of Monkwearmouth, Jarrow and Escombe are of this early date, as also the great church of Brixworth in Northants, built by the monks of Peterborough and called by Sir Alfred Clapham the finest Romanesque building north of the Alps. This period also produced Saxon Crosses at Bewcastle, Eyam in Derbyshire, St Wilfrid's Chair in Hexham Abbey, and manuscripts of which the Lindisfarne Gospel and the Book of Kells, now in Trinity College, Dublin, are fine examples. The maniple of St Cuthbert, taken from his tomb in Durham Cathedral, stresses the beauty of Anglo-Saxon embroidery, much of it with Byzantine motifs.

This Second Period, of Early Christianity, came to an end with the Viking invasion. Waves of wild Norsemen continued to come, and in 870 the huge Benedictine Abbey in Chertsey in Surrey was burnt, and the Abbot and 90 monks slaughtered. The English race countered these acts as best they could until a new king named Alfred succeeded in organising resistance of such quality that peace was restored. With the return of stability, Alfred established centres of education and learning and ordained laws fair to all. Once again magnificent manuscripts were produced, principally by the Winchester "School", and many of the two hundred and thirty eight Saxon churches remaining today date from this time, together with the Roods at Romsey Abbey, Jevington in Sussex, Headbourne Worthy and Breamore in Hampshire. Mighty churches also stand at Stow and Barton on Humber in Lincs, Earls Barton and Barnack in Northants, and Worth and Sompting in Sussex. Early Saxon cathedrals besides those at Winchester, Durham and Ripon are known to have existed at Crediton in Devon, North Elmham in Norfolk, and Selsey in Sussex, now under the sea off Selsey Bill. Notable churches also stand at Bradford-on-Avon, Corhampton and Wing in North Bucks where a Confessio to contain relics remains in the Crypt under the polygonal apse. A lively carving of an angel can be seen in a doorway in a panum at Winterbourne Steepleton in Dorset, and fonts at Melbury Bubb also in that county, and at Deerhurst in Gloucestershire. The church at Bosham on Chichester Harbour appears on the Bayeux Tapestry worked by the Sister of William the Conqueror, and the ladies of her court, and the only Saxon inscription remaining in a church can be seen on the arch to the south porticus at Breamore "Here the Covenant is revealed to thee".

The speaker finally drew attention to the recent remarks in the national press by the Poet Laureate, Sir John Betjeman, who reminded everyone that the Saxons had given this nation its land boundaries, the Hundreds and the

Shires, together with the manorial and parish systems. They had fostered and kept alive learning, literature and poetry while displaying great skill in work on vellum and in metal, and our present Parliamentary system had its origins in the Saxon Folk Moot or meeting place. Alfred had first realised the importance of Sea Power and was the founder of the Navy. The evening ended with a special tribute by the speaker to "Alfred the Great - Mighty in Peace and War".

J. Oliver writes:

This talk forms part of the activities of the Society during the spring and summer, which have spanned the history and development of England from the Stone Age to Victorian times, and illustrate the unique palimpsest which England alone offers to those prepared to read and discover. We have seen the remains of the 400 years of Roman occupation at Silchester, preceded by the earliest human dwelling at Abinger, where also the Norman Motte is placed upon a Saxon manorial site. The Vyne then picks up the continuity preserved by our visit to Waverley Abbey to look at Cistercian monastic life, with its pioneer sheep farming for wool, the basis of the mediaeval economy of the country, and takes us from Tudor and Jacobean life to the Age of Elegance epitomised by the tomb of Chaloner Chute and the wonderful staircase designed there by John Chute. Finally there are, as an anticlimax, the Victorian alterations and "improvements" of Wiggett Chute, perhaps a reminder that by that time we had mislaid the skills and greatness of former ages.

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#### BARNS

The Buildings Group have found the inspection of houses confusing on occasion, and have quickly realised that farm barns are similar structures to timber-framed houses and usually stand without the internal confusion of partitions, ceilings, and floors, always present in houses. Therefore it was soon suggested that some owners in the district be found who would allow their barns to be inspected. The barn at Hillside Farm (Stephens Farm), Send, was briefly reported in 1978. In May last, the barn at Willow Pool, Send Marsh, now an annexe to the house and also an attractive garden feature, was seen at the kind invitation of the owners.

This barn was once the principal building in the now vanished farmyard of Butchers Pond Farm at Send Marsh, recorded on Bryants Map of Surrey in 1823. It has the appearance of having suffered severely, alternately by neglect and at the hands of the restorer. Whilst still attractive in many ways, its character has been reduced by a new roof and the indiscriminate use of re-used timbers from other sources. Candle-light and a large log fire must quickly dispel any disappointment for the student, and it remains to be stressed how much better it is for barns to be cared for and preserved in this manner than that they should disappear completely.

A large gathering had come to inspect the Send Marsh Barn, and only a slightly smaller number went to Stoke d'Abernon to see the barns at Manor Farm and Sheepbell Farm, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs J. Miller. The first barn at Manor Farm was magnificent, in every way complete in all its mediaeval detail, the timbers with that silvery grey sheen which only mature oak takes on when left to itself in fresh circulating air.

The inspection of the second barn at Manor Farm stressed the changes in timber construction between 1540 and 1700. Jowls and wind braces have been dispensed with, and all timbers less carefully prepared, but the early feature of dragon ties was retained to strengthen the corners of the building at eaves level. This was a late aisled barn.

Before arriving at Sheepbell Farm, Mrs Miller showed us the barn at Slyfield Place at the invitation of Lady Harris, as a kind of bonus. This barn is similar to the second barn at Manor Farm and has been equipped as a concert hall, much used by the Yehudi Menuhin Music School nearby. Whilst there, members saw the renowned brickwork on the whole of the outside of Slyfield Place, and Lady Harris also showed the ancient wooden paddles of the water wheel of the long vanished Slyfield Mill.

The barn at Sheepbell Farm completed the range of barns. Firmly dated 1825, in sawn soft wood, large, but very precise, the braces now all straight, this barn accentuated all the characteristics of those seen earlier, when it was realised they were not present here.

This exercise was considered successful, and it was decided that other variants of barns should be found and examined.

J. Oliver

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#### THE LODGE, SEND GROVE - TQ022543

This house has been inspected, measured and drawn by D. Bromley, B. Watts and J. Oliver. It is a gem of a small hall house of one bay, with parlour and service opposed at each end. Rough cast plaster outside hides many external timber features and some decorative ornamentation of circa 1800 must be contemporary with the enlargement of Send Grove and the engrandisement of the estate. There is no access to the roof inside, but the truss visible at the east end of the house will tell the observer everything. Queen posts, collar and side purlins are seen. Inside the main middle bedroom, over the floored hall, these purlins are again visible with their wind braces, the purlin with a simple splayed scarf.

The house is set upon a high cill, necessitated by the slope of the site and the need for a level base for the timber cill frame. This frame looks complete except where cut in the hall when the huge chimney was added to the side of the hall, and also where the present door at the east end is cut through it. Argument could be generated in support for either of these sites for the original door, but the most probable must be at the east end. This would enter straight into the combined service with no division, and removes the need for a cross passage in so small a house. Original joists remain in the service, and the internal division walls of the hall are also original. The parlour joists at the west end have been replaced, probably when the hall was floored and the site of the present stairs must be of that date. The house did not have a period with a smoke bay - the massive chimney was added when the hall was floored, and a second flue in this chimney serves the central bedroom. At present a delightful early Victorian grate remains in the bedroom fireplace, and downstairs a large brick accretion beside the chimney base must be the remains of a bread oven, perhaps later combined with a bacon loft. At present complete sealing leaves nothing but speculation.

This small house must have belonged to a farmer. Was he the Potter who gave his name to the farmland towards Three Fords, formerly known as Potters Lands and whose name is now perpetuated in Potters Lane? Another point of interest emerges: Send Court Farm, The Old House in Send Grove grounds, The Old Vicarage, Send Grove Lodge and Fell Hill Farm are all Yeomen's Houses except the Old Vicarage (and the mediaeval vicar was a farmer), and are roughly also equidistant one from the other. Is this the best remnant still extant of the pattern of the mediaeval parish, and can the former size of these holdings be inferred by the distance apart of these timber-framed houses?

J. Oliver

FELL HILL FARM - T9024544

Four members of the Buildings Group visited Fell Hill Farm, and whilst a general idea of the development of the house was obtained, certain anomalies were apparent; and as it was impossible to gain full access to the roof space, some questions were not resolved. A further visit was suggested, with the immediate approval of Mr & Mrs Macleod. On this subsequent occasion the party consisted of J. Oliver and Kenneth Gravett, who had expressed a wish to see the house, Mr & Mrs Slatford being unavailable.

Fell Hill Farm is timber framed, of four bays, to which have been added a high roofed Victorian extension of one bay to the south, and a modern tile hung extension at the north west corner in the 1930s. The whole of the timber framing on the west side has been faced in brick, probably at this time.

The timber-framed house of four bays comprises a hall of two unequal bays with service rooms to the south, with parlour and chamber over at the other end of the hall, now represented by the dining room, with its high ceiling. Mortices remain indicating doors from hall to service, one door representing access to stairs within the service end. Remains for the fixing of a stair partition remain in one service joist, and in another for the division between buttery and pantry.

For the examination of the roof a high powered lamp was essential, as the roof over the hall and service is unapproachable. This roof is original and complete except for replaced common rafters, in places of particular interest, and is of the side purlin family with the side purlins clasped by the collars, and principal rafters which diminish above the collars to common rafter dimensions. The truss over the south of hall and service division carries soot on the perpendicular face to the hall and on part of the soffit. The remaining part of the soffit on the service side is clean, and two intermediate studs in the truss are smoke blackened on the hall side. This is conclusive proof that the house began as an open hall, although all the common rafters to the next truss, the Centre of Hall truss, are clean, having been replaced at some later date. Close examination of the common rafters reveals two series of carpenter's marks, also indicating replacement at the later date.

The common rafters in the next bay, the smaller one, are original and carry considerable mediaeval soot, this bay having been converted to a smoke bay on the partial flooring of the hall. Possibly the additional pickling of these rafters in mediaeval soot has preserved them for all time. The smoke bay partition in the end of hall truss remains complete, heavily encrusted within the smoke bay, and clean over the parlour and chamber. One pair of smoke blackened rafters remain outside the smoke bay and adjacent to it, over the parlour, now the dining room. These are remnants of the roof of the hall house. The rest of the rafters over the parlour have been replaced and bear secondary carpenter's marks.

After the initial flooring of the hall and a period of living with a smoke bay, the smoke bay in turn was floored and a chimney inserted. Instinct and knowledge of other houses in West Surrey indicate this house to have been built 1500-40 with the smoke bay added 1580-1600, to be followed by a chimney of 1650-80, all dates being arbitrary. However the principal posts carry jowls, whereby the mediaeval method of attaining an unfailling joint at the most important point in the house is assured. Also remains of the diamond shaped sockets for the unglazed window bars of windows for the hall and chamber have been found.

By the late 18th century the timber framing had rotted at ground level, and the house was underpinned from cill to first floor in brick, a date on the masonry on the east side probably commemorating the repair. At the same time a further brick chimney on the outside north face of the parlour was built to provide another heated room, and the roof space over the parlour had all its rafters replaced except the pair just outside the smoke bay. All these rafters were ciled and the roof space floored to provide sleeping accommodation for unmarried farm workers. Access to this attic was through a door cut in the wall beside the new chimney and reached by an outside wooden stair or ladder. No internal communication was possible between this attic room and the farmhouse proper, and it is assumed the farmer had his daughters in mind, and protected them at night in this way. This arrangement is recognised in other farmhouses, but Kenneth Gravett comments that it is the nearest example to London that he has seen in South East England.

Volume XI of the Place Names Society gives the earliest existing reference of Fell Hill Farm in the Onslow Papers 1654, but the house here existed long before that date. The present house has undergone the changes of successive centuries and stood up to them well. Much of the original atmosphere is still there, and it is gratifying to find owners who appreciate and value a house of this nature.

J. Oliver

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#### NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

An enjoyable meeting of 14 members interested in Natural History was held on the evening of 14th June. A discussion revealed a range of interests and it was agreed that small groups should form to follow various subjects, the object being to collect information within the Send area.

One group led by Anne Bowerman had already started to explore the flora around the local gravel pits. A number of others expressed a desire to participate in a local tree survey, and to this end it is hoped that suitable large scale map sections can be prepared in time for the next meeting. Some members showed an interest in birds, insects and fungi. The biggest need which arose was for more leaders to direct the various specialities. A further meeting was arranged to take place on Thursday, 16th August, at 8 p.m. at the Manor House, Send Marsh, by courtesy of Anne Bowerman; it is hoped that this will lead to a further discussion of activities already undertaken and a consolidation of plans for the future.

K. N. Dawson

The 14th June meeting agreed that it would be advantageous if some areas of the village were surveyed regularly and the plant life recorded; thus it could be observed what types, frequency and habitat of flora could be found in Send and whether any were particularly in need of protection. A small group, who had already made a preliminary survey of the Papercourt Sailing Club area, decided to continue working here, and fortnightly checks are proceeding.

The challenge of identifying plants by consulting reference books and discussing the finer points of leaf shape and distribution is very absorbing. So far no rare specimens have been found, but we are learning much about plant recognition, and it is surprising how interesting some common plants are when studied closely. For instance, on the first visit to the sailing club area, we were thrilled to find a large imposing unrecognised plant. We later managed to identify it as *tragopogon minor* or lesser goat's-beard - quite common, but one we had not noticed before.

Some of the most attractive wild flowers to be found in this area are the Common Spotted Orchis, of which there are about fifty plants. Although these are by no means rare, there are not many in Send, and it has been distressing to note that many of them have been picked by passers-by.

More than seventy species have been recorded so far and it has been interesting to note how they have changed during the past two months.

A few more members are needed to help in this survey. We meet at 2.30 p.m. on alternate Sundays at the Manor House (next visit will be 12th August). So far, only flowering plants have been recorded, but with larger numbers of observers trees and insects could be recorded as well.

Anne Bowerman

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"GOODGROVE", SEND MARSH ROAD

Further to the editorial note under the above heading in the last edition of the Newsletter, a further letter was sent in the name of the Society to the County Planning Officer, urging that further consideration be given to the possibility of statutory listing on the ground that the disappearance of this house would destroy the character of the Boughton Hall area. A reply from Kingston stated that there was really nothing further to add, but a telephone call on the morning of 27th June gave the welcome news that "Goodgrove" was after all being statutorily listed that very day and that the fact would be announced at the auction of the house the same afternoon. The house was duly sold, but it is not known who the new owner is or what he (or she) intends to do with it. If any reader notices any damage or significant deterioration in the building, it will be helpful if it is reported to the Secretary.

To complete the Building Group's recording of "Goodgrove", Jack Miller has taken full measurements and Ken Bourne has taken a series of photographs.

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