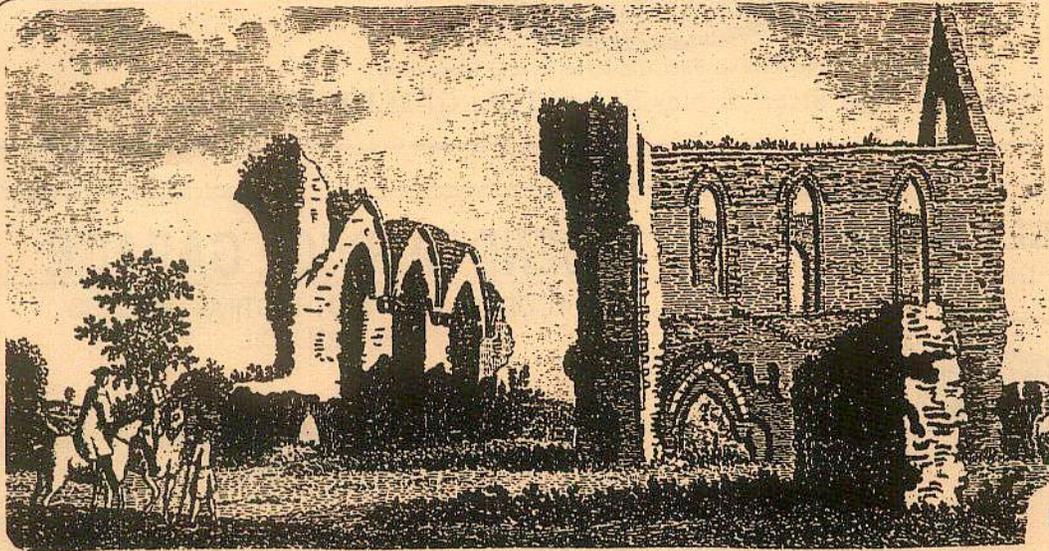


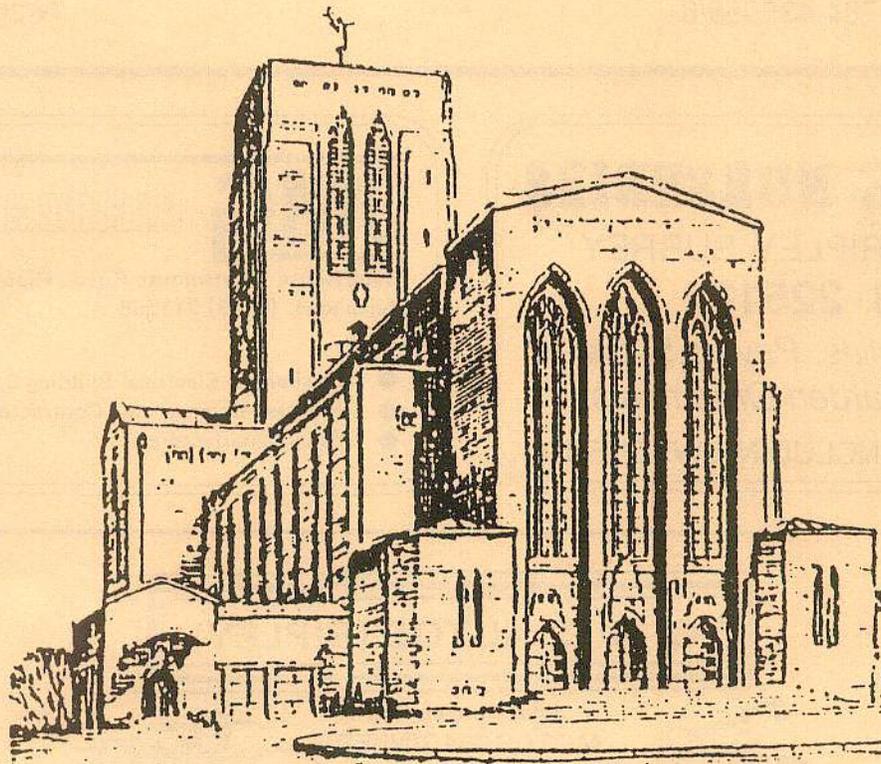
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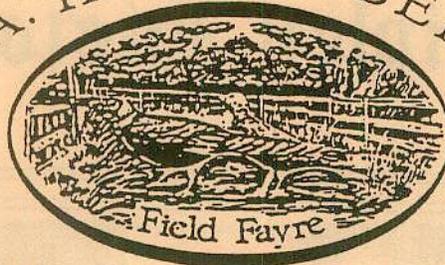
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Nov/Dec 1992



A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

A. H. CONISBEE

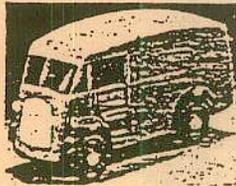


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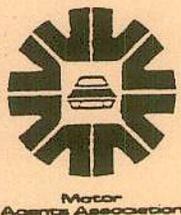
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November/December 1992

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Cover Illustration: Guildford Cathedral.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

This is the last Newsletter in 1992 and it also coincides with the end of my first year of Editorship. Apart from the constant fear of whether there is sufficient material to be incorporated in each issue, in the event there usually is and the year has passed very quickly and, hopefully, satisfactorily, as far as the Newsletter is concerned. I would just like to thank all those contributors who have provided such interesting material, and also those intending contributors not to hold back any longer, but to go ahead and, in the well-known phrase, "publish and be damned".

I would like to wish, on behalf of the History Society, all our readers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL

An Illustrated Talk given on 17 November by Alfred White, First Dean's Verger

After serving as the Verger of the Parish Church of Swanmore on the Isle of Wight from the tender age of 16, and subsequently serving in the Second World War, Alfred White returned to All Saints Church at Ryde. He then applied, and was accepted, as Verger at Romsey Abbey. Whilst he was at Romsey, a bishop friend made a casual remark, "The job is yours". He inquired as to the meaning of this remark and was told Guildford Cathedral! He subsequently sent a letter of inquiry to Guildford Cathedral, but did not receive a reply. Some time later, however, he discovered he was on the short list for Verger at Guildford and was subsequently offered the job of First Dean's Verger.

Alfred White started his talk with an enlightening account of the history of the development of the Stag Hill site. The Diocese of Guildford had been created in 1927 when the Diocese of Winchester, which covered most of the South-East of England, was divided. Originally Holy Trinity Parish Church in Guildford functioned as the pro-cathedral. It was, however, realised that the building was too small for this purpose and it was decided that a new cathedral would be built.

The design by the architect, Edward Maufe, was chosen from 183 submissions in 1932. In 1933, the Earl of Onslow gave six acres of land on the top of Stag Hill. The hill was used as farm grazing land and the subsoil consisted of blue slipper and yellow clay, which was totally unsuitable for such a large building.. To secure the foundations, 778 piles had to be driven 50 feet down through the soft clay. The last pile, which process caused a great deal of annoyance and some damage to local residents, was driven in 1937. The foundation stone was laid in 1936 by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Cosmo Gordon Lang.

Initially, to mark the site, a wooden cross was set up. This was made from timber obtained from HMS Ganges, which was broken up following long and distinguished service.

The use of Stag Hill site for worship was actually pre-dated by the residents who lived at the base of the hill on the fringe of Onslow Village, who had no church and had, in fact, constructed a simple wooden hut (the "Pilgrims'" Hut) close to the site for worshipping purposes. They subsequently used the crypt of the Lady Chapel when it was available during the War.

Consecration, originally planned for 1941, had to be postponed because of the War, and there were subsequent substantial delays after the War as well, due to the problem of meeting vastly increased costs for the continuation of the building works. The original

budget of £250,000 escalated to £1,000,000, which was largely raised by public subscription. Many readers will recall a scheme whereby, for 2s 6d (12 1/2p), the contributor's signature could be put on a brick which was then built into the structure. The cathedral was consecrated in 1961, 20 years after the original proposed date, by Bishop Dr George Reindorp. The First Dean was Bishop George Clarkson and, according to Alfred White, his Verger, he was a very clever and humorous man, about whom he had many amusing stories to tell. One of these related to an incident when, during a procession, Bishop Clarkson made a remark, not intended to be overheard, to the Verger about Reindorp in his new robes: "Behold, the Wigwam walketh!" Subsequently, when on another occasion Alfred inquired of the Bishop, Dr Reindorp, what garment he wished to wear, he said "I think I will wear the Wigwam." A friend, unknown to Bishop Clarkson, had overheard the remark and relayed it to Dr Reindorp.

Alfred White described the architecture and decoration of both the exterior and the interior of the cathedral, noting many interesting details of what I, for one, have always regarded as a severe and somewhat dull architectural surface, especially the exterior. The interior is more sympathetic and majestic (with good acoustics and "atmosphere" for music).

The bricks are hand-made and were made locally at the Guildford Brick Works. These were initially made from clay which was excavated from the foundations, and are a slightly darker colour than those used in the rest of the cathedral, which come from Wareham. The first of these bricks can be seen on the righthand side of the Bronze doors at the entrance to the South Transept.

The apex of the West end centre window bears a carving of the Symbolic Right Hand of God by Alan Collins, who was responsible for many other features on the exterior.

There are also examples of work of the famous church sculptor, Eric Gill, such as St John the Baptist on the South Transept. He also designed the sculpture on the East end adjacent to the round window.

The tower is 156 feet high, topped by a 15' copper gilded Angel, weighing nearly a ton. The tower is hung with a ring of 12 bells, cast at the famous Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

The interior certainly benefits from a lightness and simplicity of design. The centrepiece of the cathedral, the Crossing, is exactly the highest point of Stag Hill, and is marked by a brass stag set in the stone floor. Eighty feet immediately above this point is the octagon through which the 12 bells were raised to be hung in the bell chamber above.

The kneelers on the back of each chair are a distinctive decorative feature of the cathedral. They are worked predominantly in blue, signifying Guildford's importance in the middle ages as a centre for dyeing wool for the cloth trade.

The Lady Chapel is particularly fine with its more delicate and sensitive atmosphere, in sharp contrast to the austerity of the nave and chancel. From the Ambulatory, looking Westwards, there is a stunning vista, created by the architect in the perfect Gothic Arcade, in the direction of the Font (referred to, incidentally, in another of Dean Clarkson's humorous asides, as a "sparrows' bird bath", because of its shallowness)!

Alfred White's richly amusing and informative talk on the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Guildford was a memorable experience. I am sure the 24 or so members of the Society who attended that evening would agree.

Alfred White has produced a very informative booklet, available in the Cathedral Book Shop, "A Walk-About Guide to Guildford Cathedral", price 60p.

THE BURNING QUESTION

A Talk by Ron Shettle on 21 October on the History of Fire Fighting in Surrey

The meeting was very well attended, almost filling to capacity the annex at Ripley Village Hall, and members were rewarded with an exceptionally well presented illustrated talk by an obvious enthusiast, well versed in his subject.

Ron began by complimenting the History Society on its work so far in researching the histories of both Send and Ripley fire brigades. He noted, however, that there was still some work to be done, and in particular he was looking forward to an index of the history of Send Fire Brigade.

Ron Shettle is the Editor of "Vigiles", the magazine of the Fire Brigades of Surrey Preservation Trust, published every three months. "Vigiles" is taken from the name given to the corps of fire fighters, which was formed by the Romans during their occupation of England, a form of fire police helping to ensure that people abided by fire "regulations", and who, in addition, were trained fire fighters. In the Roman town of Silchester, at the turn of the century, was discovered the remains of a fire pump, and it is a reasonable assumption that their fire fighting activities spread throughout Surrey.

Fire prevention requires a considerable organisation in terms not only of laws and regulations, but also in the planning of access to water supplies and the provision of fire fighting equipment.

The Saxons continued the Roman tradition, at least in terms of getting people to take precautions to prevent fire. Alfred the Great is well known for having failed to do this by letting the cakes burn when specifically requested to watch over them. The Saxons, in 874, introduced the curfew, a regulation to bring about the extinguishing of fires at a specific time each evening in order to reduce the risk from fires during the hours of sleep. This was continued by the Normans, and as early as 1189, there were building regulations to stop fires spreading. The night watchman's duty was, of course, to watch out for fires, as well as to give time and weather reports. In addition his duty was to keep a general eye on the town or city, keeping a lookout for any unusual situations.

Having discovered a fire, how do you raise the alarm? Many systems were tried - playing drums, bugles - and there was even one plan for London for a flageolet to be played from the top of a tower, and in the event of a fire the instrument would be changed for a bugle, and this musical watchman would then point a red flag in the direction of the fire.

The other important requirement in fire prevention or fighting is training, and for hundreds of years there appears to have been no formal type of training, at least not on a national scale, until this century.

Early types of fire fighting equipment were illustrated by Ron with slides, which included portable "squirts" or syringes, and, of course, buckets. A human chain transporting buckets of water is not to be underrated. It is in fact an effective way to deal with a fire, since a fairly large amount of water can be thrown very effectively to dampen adjoining property as well as the fire. Other methods used to prevent fire spreading from building to building were "grapnels" (hooked anchors). These were thrown, attached to a rope, into thatched roofs to pull down the burning thatch. Iron rings, which were attached permanently to specific parts of a building, usually to the top of a gable end, were used for the attachment of ropes for the same purpose. Some mediaeval buildings in Cambridgeshire still have these rings in position.

Ron Shettle described several further ways in which fires were dealt with, quoting from reports in Surrey as long ago as the 11th century. In 1254 in Guildford, the "King's House" was damaged by fire, but only part of the hall was pulled down to be rebuilt, evidence of an organised system of fire fighting. At the turn of the century, a fire broke out at a large house in Gomshall and the fire brigade was summoned by a man riding to Godalming on horseback, the journey there and back taking upwards of an hour. When the fire engine arrived at the scene of the fire, the villagers had formed a chain conveying buckets of water, and the fire was already extinguished.

Early records of water pumps refer to a pump installed in Farnham Castle in 1454. The earliest record of a mobile water pump is in 1518 in Germany. At the time of the Great Fire of London, 1666, pumps were available and used, but not very effectively, since access to the wooden underground water mains was prevented by the congested narrow streets, compounded by the overhanging buildings. The much earlier Great Fire of London, not so well known, is the fire of 1212, when it was reported that over 3000 people died, a considerable tragedy when compared with the four people who are reported to have died in 1666.

The earliest form of fire insurance is thought to be the system operated by the Saxons, who paid, through their trade guilds, into a fund to provide a source of money to pay for the damage sustained by its members. After the 1666 fire, the idea of insuring the house against fire was developed. Only the house, not the contents, was insured. In London the Thames Watermen were engaged to help remove house contents and subsequently they developed into watermen/firemen who helped fight fires as well. Thus in the 17th century the first organised fire service since Roman times was formed in London. Furthermore, in 1707, Acts were passed which required parishes to have fire engines. Also awards were given to the first fire engine to reach the fire. Unfortunately it was not stated that they had to be in working condition, resulting in some fire services being less than effective, although prompt on the scene. As a result, a whole host of new regulations were introduced in order to both prevent and make fire fighting more effective. Fire plaques were introduced by insurance companies to identify those houses whose owners had taken out fire insurance policies, and who thus expected a prompt fire fighting service and compensation for any loss. *(As members of the History Society are aware, the records behind the issue of fire plaques are a rich source of historical information. - Editor).*

The development of insurance companies' fire services created dedicated organisations, personified by their chiefs resplendent in uniform, which no doubt served to advertise the insurance company they represented.

From then on the private fire services were supported by the development of better fire fighting equipment and each town endeavoured to have its own fire service.

A fire always attracts crowds of people, and these were at first controlled by the military, until the formation of the Metropolitan Police in 1829 by Sir Robert Peel (the "Peelers"). Thereafter the police were not only used to control crowds, but also to convey news of fire outbreaks. In the same year Braithwaite constructed the first steam fire engine, using steam to drive the pumping mechanism.

The insurance companies decided to amalgamate the individual fire services in London and called upon James Braidwood, who had developed an efficient fire service in Edinburgh, to come to London to do this. In 1833, about ten insurance fire services were amalgamated to form "the London Fire Engine Establishment". Braidwood, who was a good organiser, a qualified engineer and had much experience in fire fighting, therefore became the founder of what subsequently developed into the London Fire Brigade. Soon after he

took office, the Houses of Parliament caught fire. He mustered a force of about 86 men and 16 manual fire engines, but because of lack of knowledge of fire fighting inside buildings and difficulty with water, they only managed to save the historic Westminster Hall.

The rescue of individuals and saving of life was not originally part of the fire services' mandate, but happened naturally during the course of the firemen's duties. Smoke was always the main hazard with fire fighting, as today, and to assist them to locate victims of a fire, dogs were trained and used and themselves became public heroes when it was realised how effective dogs could be in locating people unconscious in a building who might otherwise be missed by the firemen.

The fire fighting service in London in the 19th century rose in public esteem, due to the many feats of bravery and saving of public life, which were publicised through the newspapers. It was realised that the fire service needed help to save life, and an organisation was formed called "the Protection for Saving Life from Fire". Queen Victoria became its patron shortly after coming to the throne in 1837. The society developed methods to assist people to escape from burning buildings, using "fire escapes", and appointed men to attend fires with portable ladders and carry out rescue operations.

James Braidwood was a very brave man who attended with his men at scenes of fires and helped rescue many people. He lost his life in 1860 during a fire when a wall collapsed upon him. He was a public hero and it was said that the cortege took over two and a half hours to pass through to the cemetery. During his period in office, he introduced many practices and principles still in use today and is known as the father of the British fire service.

The fire services developed throughout the British Isles, especially when the Prince of Wales became a part time fireman and consequently added much prestige to the service and its management.

Most fire engines were horse-drawn in the mid 19th century and were often the cause of much delay in getting them from the fields or places of work, such as breweries, etc, and hitched up to the fire engines. Some fire engines were pulled by the men themselves, which was satisfactory for short distances. Ladies too were also active in the fire service, although they were in a minority. A report as early as the 17th century referred to women being employed in "drawing the engine", and in the mid 19th century Girton College, Cambridge, had a fire engine attended by ladies of the college.

In 1896 Guildford Fire Station obtained a steam pump fire engine, although steam fire engines had been in use by other fire services much earlier, following Braithwaite's invention in 1829. Steam driven fire engines were heavy and slow and never really caught on.

Guildford, in 1913, bought their first motorised fire engine, made at the town centre Rodboro Buildings by Dennis Brothers. This meant the service could be extended into rural areas, consequently extending the range farther than was ever practicable by horse-drawn means. Thus continued the development of local fire services right up to the time of the Second World War. Many had amalgamated, some had disbanded in favour of the larger town services, and some rural areas still retained their individual fire brigades. On 18 August 1941, the National Fire Service was formed, together with the Auxiliary Fire Service. The Auxiliary Fire Service was made up of largely volunteer part-time firemen, and although essential to the war effort, they experienced many difficulties with accommodation and support from their fulltime colleagues. However, undoubtedly the Auxiliaries did a grand job and made a significant contribution to the fire fighting service.



James Braidwood

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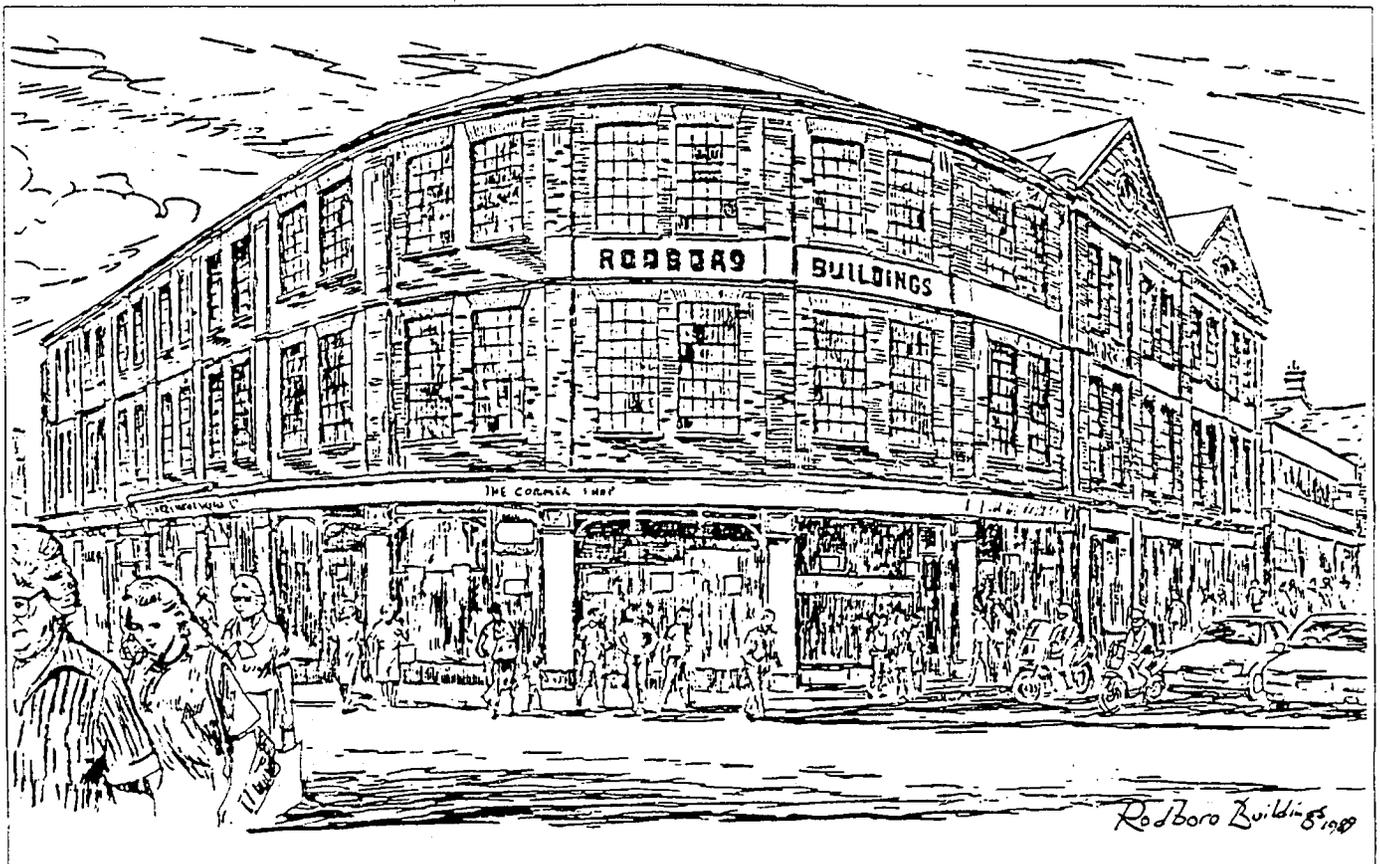


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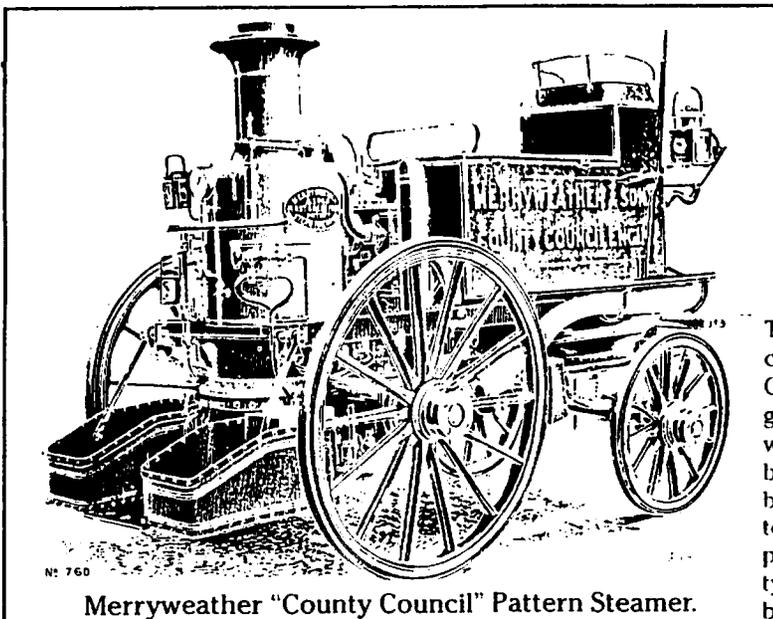
The first Dennis Bros. Factory, recently saved from demolition. (Sketch published in the Surrey Advertiser and reproduced by kind permission of the artist John Baker.)

After the War, in 1948, the fire service was returned to the control of the local authorities, and in this county the Surrey Fire Brigade was formed.

Ron Shettle, in concluding his talk, referred to Send Fire Brigade, which had been formed in 1913, during the same year that Guildford obtained its new fire engine. Send operated from a building adjacent to Lancaster Hall and was disbanded in 1934. Ron continued by saying that from time to time, the Fire Brigades of Surrey Preservation Trust came into possession of various artefacts, and they had acquired a picture, or rather a Calligraphic Address, on a cardboard base, which at one time had been framed, and hung in Lancaster Hall or the adjoining fire station. This address is about 20" x 16" and is in beautiful lettering, stating the pious intention of the brigade, or perhaps the hope of the donor, that this would become the pious intention of the brigade. The address simply states "Send Fire Brigade - Manliness, Friendliness, and Cleanliness." The Society is most grateful for this addition to its collection and would like to know more about the circumstances - how or when it came to be in the possession of Send Fire Brigade.

The notes of Ron Shettle's enthralling talk cannot do more than indicate the existence of a wealth of historical information on this important development of a social service. For those members who wish to learn more, or obtain a copy of the Trust's publication, contact the Secretary, Mr S Stevens-Stratten, on 071-393-6880, or Ron Shettle, Editor of the Trust publication, "Vigiles", on 0483-504772.

K H Bourne



Merryweather "County Council" Pattern Steamer.

Merryweather horse drawn fire engine. This model complete with two horses and four crew is based on Merryweather's "County Council" steamer, which could pump 300 gallons per minute. Unusually, the appliance was built so that the pump was located between the hose box and the boiler, the latter being immediately to the rear. It is intriguing as to why the manufacturer chose to name this particular class of pump the "County Council" type. Although County Councils came into being in 1888, they did not become fire authorities until 1948. Another of the pump designs was designated as the "Metropolitan", no doubt with the prestige of London's Metropolitan Fire Brigade in mind.

**SOME 19TH CENTURY FAMILY CONNECTIONS
WITH ELM TREE HOUSE AND HOMEWOOD FARM,
BOTH IN RIPLEY, SURREY**

By John Slatford

When I first corresponded with Martin Whitney, he who started the 1933 Send Court Farm fire (albeit accidentally!), he was seeking help with:

- (a) the Harbroe family, who lived at Elm Tree House in the early part of the 19th century, and
- (b) the half-brothers, Robert Eatwell and Francis Whitburn, who lived at Homewood Farm later in the 19th century.

Since then, a great deal of information has come to light connecting the two families. It seemed worthwhile to me to record all this, together with some additional background information.

An article, entitled "Elm Tree House, Ownership and Occupation"¹, described how the three daughters of the surgeon, Edward Harbroe (the second), inherited Elm Tree House after his death in 1832. The article went on to describe how the youngest of the three, Anne Harbroe, born in Ripley 1818, had obtained a mortgage of £200 on her share to "defray her expenses", in order to "proceed to pass beyond the seas". We now know that this was Tasmania, or Van Dieman's Land, as it was then known². She sailed on the barque, "Emu", with her elder brother, George, born in Ripley, 1816, and Julia Coverdale. They arrived in Hobart on 21 December 1838. Six days later, on 27 December, Anne was married to Dr John Coverdale, the elder brother of Julia Coverdale, who had arrived there some six months earlier. The two families were obviously well acquainted before then.

John and Julia Coverdale, with another sister, were born in Bengal, India. Their father died shortly after, and their mother was remarried in 1818 to William Eatwell of the Indian Navy, and elder brother of the aforementioned Robert Eatwell. Of them, more later.

Anne (Harbroe) and John Coverdale had three sons and four daughters. She died, in a suburb of Hobart, in 1875. Her husband, a controversial character, had been educated in England and obtained his medical degrees at Glasgow University. It is likely that he met his wife through her elder brother, Edward, born in Ripley, 1808, who was also a doctor.

Edward later went to Tasmania to join his brother and sister (he was still in Ripley in 1841³). He died in 1880 in a hospital for the insane, having been committed there by his brother, George. He had been serving a sentence for immoral behaviour in a prison where his brother-in-law, John Coverdale, was Commandant and Medical Superintendent. George Harbroe married and had three children. He died in 1881 at his home near Hobart, and, although members of his family continued living in the house until the 1930s, the Harbroe line in Tasmania has become extinct.

Back now to the Eatwells. William and Robert, born in Compton, Surrey, 1777 and 1780, were the sons of Robert Eatwell, who died in 1780. His wife, Hannah, was later

¹*Send & Ripley History Society Newsletter No 72, 1987.*

²*Correspondence: Martin Whitney, Les Portes, Mainsat, France.*

³*1841 Census for Ripley.*

married again to Francis Whitburn and produced another son, also Francis, born in Cobham, 1791¹, who later became a farmer at Homewood Farm in Newark Lane.

William Eatwell, from his marriage to Julia Coverdale, had five sons and a daughter, of whom only the eldest, William Coverdale Beaty Eatwell, survived to old age. There is a memorial in Ripley Church to the third son, Augustus Coverdale Eatwell. He was a Lieutenant in the Bengal Infantry, and was killed at the Battle of Ferozehur in 1843. The daughter, Helen Coverdale Eatwell, who was also the youngest, died at Homewood Farm in 1846, aged 18. Their mother had died at their home in Hampton Wick shortly after Helen's birth².

The half-brothers, Robert Eatwell and Francis Whitburn, were apparently very close. Robert is recorded as being at Homewood Farm both in 1841 and 1851³. Also at Homewood Farm in 1841 was Robert's nephew, William.

Robert Eatwell was married in Send in 1820 to Sarah Daniels⁴. There were no children and, it would seem, they soon parted. In his will, he said "I give and bequeath to my wife Sarah Eatwell the sum of one shilling only, as her wicked and abandoned conduct has rendered her no longer worthy of my affection, regard or consideration, she having eloped from my house and now living in open and shameful adultery. I thank God I have no children by her ..." ⁵. He left all his property to the children of his brother, William.

Although Robert Eatwell appears to have lived with his half-brother at Homewood Farm for most of his later life, he was, in fact, the owner of Wheeler's Farm in Warren Lane, Pyrford. He purchased it from John Whitburn in 1816 for £1600⁶. In 1828 he borrowed £2000 against the property from his brother, William⁷. This was never repaid, and after his death in 1861, the farm reverted to William. He immediately conveyed it to William, his only surviving son, as the sole beneficiary, who then sold the farm to the Earl of Lovelace⁸.

Robert Eatwell and Francis Whitburn, who died in 1876, were buried next to each other in Send Churchyard.

This record of the Harbroe and Eatwell families is much abbreviated. It is, of course, concerned only with the Ripley connection, which came about through a marriage on the other side of the world.

It is interesting to note that Wheeler's Farm later became the home of A J Munby, who was the subject of "Then and Now, a Victorian Walk Around Ripley"⁹, now, unfortunately, out of print. He spent the rest of his life there and was buried at Pyrford Church.

¹1988 *International Genealogical Index*.

²Guildford Muniment room (GMR) ref: 165/50/18.

³1841 and 1851 *Censuses for Ripley*.

⁴*Send Parish Registers*.

⁵*Correspondence: Martin Whitney, Les Portes, Mainsat, France*.

⁶GMR ref: 165/50/16.

⁷GMR ref: 165/50/17.

⁸GMR ref: 165/50/18.

⁹*Send & Ripley History Society 1983*.



THE CASE OF THE MISSING FOUNTAIN

Many of the local inhabitants of Ripley have bemoaned the loss of the drinking trough which used to be on the small green opposite the White Hart in Ripley. I have been told how the animals, on the way to market, and many of the passing carthorses, used to drink there. On the day of the fair, small boys used to buy water pistols, which would then be charged at the fountain, and - such joy - squirted down the necks of squealing girls. Paddling in it was not encouraged, and one small boy left his shoes behind when he was chased off by John Pullen, the bearded landlord of the White Hart (he should not, of course, have called out "Hi, Father Christmas!").

The "fountain", with its trough for horses and a trough for dogs, was erected in October 1901 as a memorial to Queen Victoria by the committee of subscribers. Almost immediately there were certain problems. Lord Onslow and the Fountain Committee, on behalf of the subscribers, desired to present the fountain to the Parish Council of Send & Ripley. Mr Paulton, at the Council Meeting on 9 January 1902, "felt it would be a disgrace and public scandal if such a monument fell into disrepair or suffered injury for lack of proper authority and funds. Mr Hill, Dr Pearse and Mr Barratt expressed hope that the Council would undertake the care of it." (And do I note a hint of disapproval?) "Notwithstanding any difference of opinion as to its beauty, utility or suitability of situation, but to honour our late noble sovereign as a memorial to whom it has been erected." The voice of common sense came from Mr Lucas, that this was all premature, as the fountain was not yet paid for, and scarcely out of the builder's hands.

In the following month, February 1902, the committee of subscribers once more desired to present the fountain to the Parish Council, but Mr Boorman, the market gardener from Send, suggested that it should wait until the probable annual cost was worked out. Woking Water Company agreed to supply water to the trough at the cost of a shilling per one thousand gallons. The estimated average yearly cost was 25s. So far so good, but in

April it was reported that 5000 gallons of water had gone through the fountain meter in five and a half weeks. This was caused by constant leakage from a defective ball cock. Finally in April 1903, Dr Sutcliffe offered to put the fountain in good working order if the Parish Council would then be willing to take over.

One only has to look at the accounts of the Parish Council to realise that this is not, of course, the final picture. In 1906, the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain & Cattle Trough Association was asked, in vain, for financial support. In 1915, for example, £1 14s 6d was paid to the Woking Water Company, as well as 17s spent on repairs to the fountain, out of a total parish income of £4 4s 8d. The tap needed repairing in 1918, 1919 and 1920. In desperation the Parish Clerk was told to buy a padlock for the tap in 1921. However, Mr Blaxland, the Headmaster of Ripley School, suggested that a push-in cock, rather than a pull-out cock, would make the fountain more childproof, if not foolproof. The tap was thereafter more childproof, but in 1931 the Council Minutes said "The ornamental top to which the tap is fixed is broken off again, Mr Sex (the blacksmith from Send) is to advise a suitable method for permanent repair." The word "permanent" was underlined.

During the 1940s, the County Council removed the drinking fountain. After some time, people realised it had not come back. One of the Parish Councillors made it his quest to rescue it. He was told that it had probably been moved to the County Council Depot at Merrow. But no trace of it could be found. Did some other village fancy it? There may have been certain sighs of relief, for financial reasons, but the fountain is still mourned.

Jane Bartlett

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Ron Denyer, 20 Lake Drive, Alkrington, Middleton, Manchester M24 1WB.

Ian Bull, 24 Kevan Drive, Send.

Mrs Sue Monk, Down View, 12 Johnston Walk, Guildford GU2 6XP.

There are 105 double subscriptions and 71 singles. Total membership stands at 281.

100 YEARS AGO

"Cycling" - 7 January 1893

"The New Year at Ripley"

There was the usual rush of wheelmen into the quiet village of Ripley on New Year's Eve, and as soon as the old year had been chimed away by the church bell, the New Year's festivities at the Anchor were commenced. It is always a merry party, and this year was no exception, but we are sorry to learn that Harriet Dibble is suffering from an outbreak of bronchitis, and we wish her speedy recovery.

PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP

Bernard Titcombe has presented to the Society a number of photographs, taken from glass plates c 1925, which show various external and internal views of the Cedar Teahouse in Ripley. The views also include the butcher's shop owned by Grimditch & Webb, on the corner of the High Street and Rose Lane, and an external view of the Cedar Teahouse rear garden.

In addition to these photographs, Bernard has also presented to the Society various other prints of buildings around Ripley, no doubt taken by his father, Bill. One print in particular is of interest, as it shows a building no longer standing, a pair of cottages, timber-clad, which stood next to the righthand side of the British Legion building in Rose Lane. One of these cottages was occupied by Mr and Mrs Robbins. Mr Robbins was the manager of the Coop in Ripley High Street, and was also a fire officer of Ripley Fire Brigade. These prints date mostly from 1960.

1992 ROUND THE WORLD YACHT RACE

Since the last report in the previous Newsletter, the competitors have reached Rio de Janeiro and, after a week or two of recuperation, have now sailed on the next leg of the journey, sailing in the opposite direction to the Trade Winds. Nicholas Jubert of Heath Farm, sailing in group 4, got off to a good start, but after leaving Rio de Janeiro, some 200 miles South of Rio, developed a technical fault, which, following repairs, has now put them last in the race. However, with several more months of sailing to go, they still have a good chance of catching up, and we wish them the best of luck.

A PLAN TO ESTABLISH A "HOME GUARD" AT THE TIME OF NAPOLEON

Introduction by John Slatford

The copy of a pamphlet opposite, published by George Jackson, was given to us some time ago as an item of interest relating to Ripley. We know nothing of him and we have failed since to discover where Beach Hill might be (or might have been). Has anyone any ideas?

The article itself is arguing a case for the information of a "home guard" type of force at a time when, although Britain was not at war with France, there was great uncertainty over Napoleon's future intentions. We have no idea how far the plan might have gone, but it does seem to be far more concerned with the uniforms that the "conscripts" would have to buy for themselves than with the provision of weapons.

THE following Plan was put to Paper last summer a few months after the definitive Treaty of Peace was signed; my Motives for turning my Thoughts to the Subject were, that a great Change had taken place in the Situation of Europe, since the Revolution in FRANCE, that that Nation openly professed, to keep up an Establishment of above 400 Thousand Men, during Peace, that in the event of a Rupture it was possible our Government might be forced to arm the whole People of England, and above all, that I have devoted more of my leisure Hours to thoughts on Military Subjects, than to any others. I had very considerable Difficulty in striking out a Plan to induce all the Young Men in the Kingdom to come forward, and without this, no very great advantage was to be expected; the Events of the last few months, and the Advice of some friends, have determined me to submit my Ideas to persons better able to judge of their Utility than myself, and the difficulty has been done away by the late Act of Parliament, making it compulsory on the whole Nation to Arm. The great Points to be considered are, how the Kingdom can be armed in the shortest time, at the least expence, to be of the greatest use, and to make the Country Gentlemen, who will be Officers of Corps, most at ease, when they are called out; and, I propose, that every Parish (or where one is too small, Two or more Parishes) should enroll themselves, under some Gentleman in their Neighbourhood; who must be approved of by his Majesty, and who should recommend a Lieutenant, and Cornet or Ensign; these Corps to consist of the first Class, viz. from 17 to 30 years of age. I am fully convinced that, by Exertion, the whole of this business might be finished in the Southern & Eastern Counties, and those near London, in a fortnight, and throughout the entire Kingdom in one Month: a great deal has already been done. I, next, propose, in order that the Captains of Corps may know from whom they are immediately to receive orders, when call'd out, that a Field Officer and Adjutant of the Line, (to be taken from the Half-pay List,) should be appointed to every One or Two Thousand Men, whose Duty it should be, to see, that the several Captains regularly exercised their Men once a week, that the numbers were effective, and ready at an hour's notice, whose residence should be in the centre of the Corps He commanded, and known to every Captain, and who should report at the usual times to the General commanding the District, for the Information of his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, so that any Irregularity of Exercise, or Deficiency of Men would be known, and Government be enabled to calculate exactly on the Number of Men ready to take the Field; If the Enemy were to Land, the General Officer Commanding the District would send his Orders to each of the Field Officers, who would have their Men collected, under Arms, immediately, and ready to march where their Services were most required. Thirdly, I propose that every County in England should be ordered to wear the same sort of Uniform; the Cavalry Corps, Dark Blue, like the Regular Cavalry, with a Button, the Crown, G. R. and the Counties name; the Infantry, Scarlet, like the regular Infantry, with a facing of Blue, or any other Colour that may be approved of, with the same Button as the Cavalry. The Lord Lieutenants of the different Counties to order a pattern Jacket for Cavalry, and Coat for Infantry, to be sent at each County Town: by this means all his Majesty's Troops would know each other at a Distance, and the Confusion arising from different Uniforms in the same Army be avoided. All Officers, who have seen Service, know that even regular Troops have been known to fire on each other, by mistaking Uniforms, how much more ought this to be expected from such a Levy as is now to be made? In every Parish, some persons will be found who cannot afford to purchase their own Clothing, but who *must* serve under the Act of Parliament; I make no doubt, from the Spirit and Liberality of my Countrymen, that such Men might be Clothed by Subscription in the Neighbourhood; but this was not done, it would perhaps be worthy the Consideration of Government, whether it would not be advisable to give a Uniform Coat to every Man called out, who had not the means of purchasing one, such as Labourers and others of the poorer Class. In such an Army, it could answer no purpose to attend to the Minutia of dress; the whole, except the Coat, should be settled by the Captains and their Corps. I am induced to think that the Plans I have propos'd would answer the purpose of making the General Armament as useful as possible; It would give the Gentlemen of each County, and, of course, the Men they commanded, much more confidence; and the only expence to Government would be, the difference between half and full pay, for one Field Officer, and one Adjutant, to every Thousand or Two Thousand Men, and even if this were an object, a Field Officer might have the Charge of Three or Four Thousand. If the ideas of an humble Individual like myself, can be of any use to my Country, I shall be sufficiently rewarded. In times like these every subject is bound to contribute his assistance, however trifling it may be, to counteract the attempts of a daring, envious, and implacable Enemy.

GEORGE JACKSON,

LIEUTENANT COLONEL in the Army.

BEACH HILL, near RIPLEY,
SURREY. AUGUST 1st 1803.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meeting - Red Cross Hall, Send - Thursday, 28 January 1993 at 8 pm.
An illustrated talk on "Tudor Surrey", by Dr Peter Edwards.

Society AGM, Ripley Village Hall - Wednesday, 24 February, at 8 pm.

Meeting - Red Cross Hall, Send - Thursday, 25 March, at 8 pm. A talk by Ruth Watson on "The English Civil War in Surrey".

Meeting - Ripley Village Hall - Wednesday, 28 April, at 8 pm. Details to be announced.

Newsletter Contributions. The closing date for material for the next Newsletter is 22 January 1993. Please ensure that all copy is delivered to the Editor by this date.

APOLOGIES

In the previous Newsletter, the name of Dr F E Pearse was incorrectly spelt in the more conventional manner, Pearce. This was, unfortunately, an error in transcription, and not the fault of the presenter of the article. Apologies. - Editor

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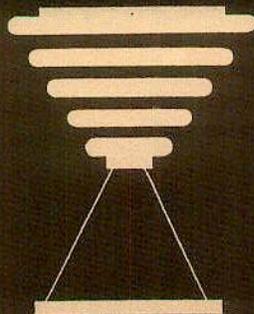
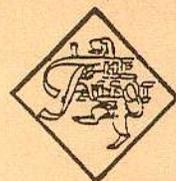
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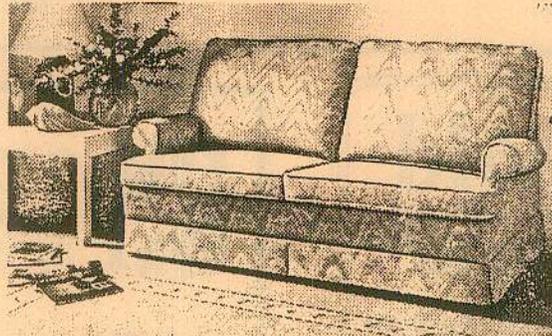
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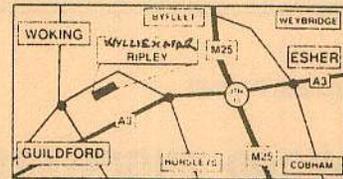
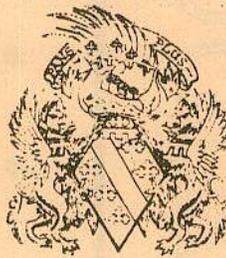
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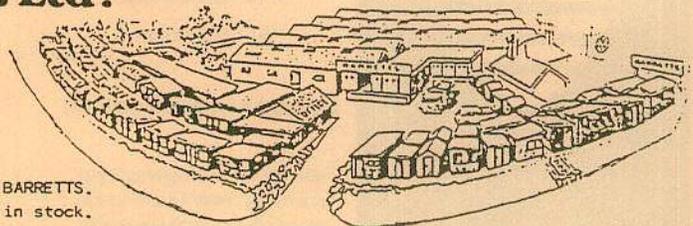
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