

Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 296324



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January/February 2015

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Cover image: Inglenook Fireplace, Church Farm, Wisley, built 1575
Photo © Ditz 2014

EDITORIAL

Welcome to what will be an eventful 2015 for our Society, our two villages and for the country.

In 2012 when the planning minister, Greg Clark, announced the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework, he said: "Planning must be a creative exercise - finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which we live. This should be a collective enterprise, but in recent years planning has tended to exclude, rather than to include, people and communities." Some might consider that in the four years since the principles of localism came to the fore there has been more centralism and less listening. It is certainly not the role of this Society to get involved in politics; however it is worth remembering that we were formed forty years ago with a view to (*inter alia*) researching and recording village life and documenting change at a time when Redland were expanding their mineral extraction activities in the villages.

It is therefore appropriate to record that 2014 was momentous, certainly in Guildford Borough as residents across the borough, including those of the villages of Send and Ripley, were vociferous in their objections to proposals for future development within the borough, set out in the draft Guildford Local Plan. On 4 October 2014 the Government announced that it had updated its online Planning Practice Guidance. The aim of this was to reaffirm local authorities' abilities to "safeguard their local area against urban sprawl, and protect the green lungs around towns and cities". Government said that it wanted to make planning policy clear that housing need – including for traveller sites – does not justify the harm done to the green belt by inappropriate development.

On 24 November 2014 Guildford announced that the Draft Local Plan "will be reassessed in light of new government planning guidance. There is widespread opposition to building on the green belt and the Council will respond by carrying out a comprehensive reassessment of all site constraints using recent clarification to the government's planning practice guidance." Guildford has gone back to the drawing board and we must await the publication of a new draft after the general election in May 2015.

As a matter of historical record it is also worth recording that on 25 September 2014, Colin Cross (a Liberal Democrat) was elected a local councillor for the Lovelace ward, of Guildford Borough Council. It is the first time since the creation of Guildford Borough in 1974 (merging the former Guildford Rural District and Guildford Urban District Councils) that the seat, which covers Ripley, Ockham and Wisley in the north-east corner of the borough, has not been held by the Conservatives.

2015 is going to be a watershed year for your Society as Les and Anne Bowerman plan to step down from their roles as Chairman and Programme Secretary this year after many years' in those roles. They do plan to stand for re-election to your Committee at the AGM in February and will be on hand to assist and advise their successors to ensure a smooth succession. They have worked hard for and been integral to the success of the Society for so many years and we owe them our thanks and very best wishes for their 'semi-retirement'. I personally am hoping that Les may have time to write a book on the history of cycling in Ripley!

We do hope to see as many of you as possible at both the 40th Anniversary Dinner and the AGM. If anyone is interested in standing for election to the committee to please speak to a committee member to find out what this entails.

Catherine Davey
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A YEAR OF CHANGE FOR RIPLEY POST OFFICE

Cameron Brown

The year of 2014 saw significant changes in our local postal services. In August the post office in Ripley closed and services were relocated to the One Stop store a few doors away. Because of the longer opening hours it is possible that the service will be enhanced but in some ways the closure of our dedicated post office represents as much the end of an era as the year's other big change, the shift from postmen on bikes to postmen in vans.



Postman Andy Jones

Glyn Watkins took over Ripley post office in 2004. Until then it had been managed by local man Bruce Poat who had started in the old GPO straight after school in the early 1960s and stayed in the job until his death in 2004. Glyn himself had started his working life as a NatWest bank employee in his home town of Crawley. “In those days working for a bank was a secure job, a job for life.” After a spell in the City, where he met his first wife, they moved to her home town in Devon, where he worked at a local branch, becoming personal banking manager in the late 1990s. After the Royal Bank of Scotland takeover of NatWest Glyn moved on to be IT manager at Torquay Boys Grammar School. “I hoped to become bursar” he explained “but unfortunately my divorce interrupted plans and I decided to return to Crawley.”

He made the next step in his career because “an ex-NatWest friend had opened a post office in Devon and told me – do it, you’ll love it! I briefly wondered whether I wanted to become an employee again, or work for myself, and the decision was an easy one.” His friend had advised him to look for a sub-post office within a sorting office, as “the GPO pays you for the postmen too.” This was what Ripley offered, just at the right time for Glyn.

Glyn leased the premises from the owners and entered into a contract with the Royal Mail (formerly the GPO). That contract included a flat *per capita* payment for each postman working in the sorting office. The renewal date of Glyn’s lease, mid 2014, would however fall a few months after the sorting office activity was moved from Ripley to Woking, making his financial arrangement much less attractive.



Glyn Watkins in Ripley Post Office

Glyn agrees that in many ways the moving of the post office services to One Shop should be an improvement for local residents, with much longer opening hours. Some services will, however go. “The local businesses will no longer be able to come in with bags of coins to change for notes and will, of course, not be able to pop in and pick up their mail direct from the sorting office, rather than wait for a delivery – because the sorting office has gone to Woking.” Nor will the new sub post office be able to please local philatelists by applying a Ripley date stamp on the envelope, something they have been able to do for over 150 years.



Ripley Post Office 2014

Are the changes happening now at Royal Mail a result of privatisation? Glyn thinks probably not. “It’s more to do with the vast increase in email and online shopping. The Royal Mail’s business is now primarily parcels rather than letters. That’s why it really does make sense to use vans instead of bicycles.”

Glyn plans to continue working in the sector as a *locum*, standing in at post offices needing short-term help. He is certainly not sentimental about the closure. “The post office wasn’t always in this building. It was at various other locations, latterly at what’s now Lloyd’s chemists (and a young Eric Clapton apparently



Andy Jones on his final delivery in Wisley

had a holiday job there). There's nothing particularly fascinating about the building and I think it's going to become a fish and chip shop, which is probably no bad thing".

One local man not too happy about becoming a van-driving postman is long-standing History Society committee member Andy Jones, seen below making his final delivery by bike in Wisley in November 2013. "It was a convenient and enjoyable way to do the rounds in an area as attractive as this and a lot more environmentally-friendly!"

WALTER GADD, 1888 – 1962, RIPLEY VILLAGE POSTMAN FOR 35 YEARS

John Slatford

This account of Walter Gadd is based upon a family history written by his granddaughter and Society member, Maureen Inwood. Most of the details are reproduced with her permission.

The Gadd family were originally from Ockham and came to Ripley in the mid 1870s. By the time George Gadd and his wife Eliza, both Ockham born, came to Ripley only their youngest son Frederick was still with them. George died in 1879 aged 74 and was buried in Ripley on 21 December. Eliza survived him until her death in 1898 aged 82. She was also buried in Ripley on 3 June.

Frederick Gadd, who was a bricklayer, was married in 1882 to a Ripley girl, Eleanor West. They started married life in a two-up two-down cottage in Newark Lane. By 1891 they had five children of whom Walter, baptised on 1st April 1888, was the fourth son. Also living with them was Frederick's widowed mother, Eliza. There are eleven children recorded in the Ripley baptisms registers although Maureen believes there are more than fifteen of them.

Like most other children in the village, Walter attended Ripley National School and by the age of 13 he was working as a carrier's errand boy. He is also said to have worked on the land but when he reached the age of 18 in 1906 he joined the army. He enlisted in the Queens Royal West Surrey Regiment and, after initial training at Larks Hill in Wiltshire, he was stationed in Guildford. Two years later his regiment sailed to Gibraltar on a ship named *Braemar Castle* and they were billeted at the Buena Vista barracks.

The Gibraltar assignment may not have been for long because the following year he was back in Guildford. There he was walking regularly to Ripley to see his family and to Ockham to see his sweetheart Catherine Anne Longhurst. They were married on the 2 October 1909. They first lived at one of the Greenside cottages in Ripley and their first child Margery Kathleen was born on 27 February the following year. By 1911, it is possible that Walter was abroad again because according to the Census, Catherine and her daughter were living with her parents, Lewis and Sarah Longhurst, in Wisley.



Walter was abroad again with the army in 1912 when he was in Bermuda for about a year. What he was doing there is not known but it resulted in him being offered a job there after the army. He had to turn it down because his wife didn't want to leave England.

Walter seems to have been back at Stoughton Barracks at the outbreak of the war in 1914, by which time he and Catherine had a second daughter, Violet Eileen. Almost immediately the 1st Battalion of the Queens RWS left their barracks and marched off to Guildford station. The entry date into France is recorded as 12-8-1914. Walter was with them at the battle of Mons, one of the first of the war. The scale of casualties was horrific; by the beginning of November 1914, there were only thirty-two survivors out of a total of 998 men from the 1st Battalion. As a result of this part of Walter's service, he gained the 1914 Star and to this was added, at the end of the war, the Clasp and Roses; this was a small silver rosette worn on the ribbon when the medal itself was not worn. Although Walter is known to have served in the 1st, 2nd and 6th Battalions of the Queens at different times, the actual service records were lost during the WW II bombings, so that little else is known about Walter's war record. His brother, Sydney Gadd, was killed at Ypres on 12th July 1917.

Soon after the Armistice, on 17 December, Walter's fifth daughter was born and he left the army for good. It was then that he applied for a job with the Post Office in Ripley and so he became a postman. He stayed in this job for thirty-five years and on his retirement in 1954 he was awarded the long service medal.

In 1922, Walter and Catherine had their seventh and last child – all daughters – and around that time they moved to No 1 Hedgecroft Cottages in Newark Lane (almost certainly, then newly built) and there he remained for the rest of his days. During WWII, he served in the Home Guard and was much involved with the Ripley British Legion serving as the Hon. Secretary. During his retirement, he was known for his gardening, keeping chickens and ducks and gardening for Mrs Ricketts at Ockham Mill House. He was also for a time the Lollipop Man at Ripley school. On one occasion, he is said to have held up Field Marshall Montgomery who was passing through Ripley.

Walter died after a stroke on 12 June 1962 aged 74, having lost his wife Catherine also 74, only six months before.

EDUCATION AND MUSEUM NEWS

Clare McCann

LEST WE FORGET



The World War I exhibition has now closed but not before the Society showed off entries for the 'Lest We Forget' colouring competition at Ripley Farmer's Market. Narys Hicks and Mya Asraf were winners of the two age groups.

We also had a very enjoyable visit from twelve year 7 pupils from Ripley Court School to see the World War 1 exhibition. I am pleased to say their teacher, Julia Hatfield, has joined our society. This was just prior to the unveiling of a new memorial at the school to honour their war dead.

Janet Tice and I also went out to visit the 1st Send Scouts to take part in their World War 1 commemorations and another member, Michael Morris and I went to visit two year one groups at Send First School to talk about the changing face of Send.



New War memorial at Ripley Court School



Some 1st Send Scouts examine a World War 1 nosebag

This flurry of activity has been prompted by the recent training, Learning on my Doorstep, that I have attended at Surrey History centre. It aims to create partnerships between local schools and museums. I have been trying to follow this up by liaising with local school history teachers.

We are hoping to develop more materials to support the changing face of the national curriculum and make the most of our collections. Of course this will take time and needs members who are interested in education to help and to get involved with school visits or developing loan boxes. If you have a background in education or are just interested in getting involved, then please come on board to form a small education team. I look forward to hearing from some of you. Clare McCann cricketshill@hotmail.com

CURRENT EXHIBITION SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION

I hope by now some of you will have been to the museum to see the new exhibition. While on the face of it, the topic may seem a little dry, in fact it has literally shaped the community in which we live. We are lucky enough to have on loan some Iron Age loom weights and a Bronze Age axe head found by our very own Fred Hookins, a fourth generation employee of Hall & Co. It has also been an opportunity to show off the Mammoth tooth donated by John Hutson. I hope some of you saw the write up in the Surrey Advertiser.



Bronze Age axehead found by Fred Hookins

NEXT EXHIBITION How you can help..

Next year I had planned at some point to look at weather-related incidents as we have a wealth of photos in the archive. However I now discover that Ripley First School are studying The Seasons in the spring term so I am modifying my ideas to fit in with their curriculum. I have a few ideas but any contributions or ideas would be most gratefully received.

cricketshill@hotmail.com

SEWAGE DISPOSAL IN PRE MAINS DRAINAGE RIPLEY

Alan Cooper

A few days ago I watched a group of children walking, preoccupied, like a procession of zombies, eyes glued to their mobile phones/tablets and it made me recall my formative years in Ripley in the early 1960s. No computer games then so we made our own entertainment and, armed with fertile imaginations, got up to all manner of mischief.

On a Saturday, we would cycle to the fuzzies (the woods beyond the cricket pitch) and, as if drawn by a magnet, head for the stream. Bridging this are two enormous steel pipes, each at 20" in diameter and carrying utility services.



Photo © Alan Cooper

Here, we would take turns walking across, walking across blindfolded, even running! One day, a friend was encouraged to try to cycle across (His bike was similar to a Raleigh Chopper with large, chunky tyres very similar to today's mountain bikes) - much to our sadistic delight as the outcome was inevitable!

One day, after tiring of our attempts to get everyone else drenched, we made our way back through the woods - to the rear of what was then the Rio Cafe and discovered a strange hole in the ground. No ordinary hole, a tunnel, and constructed of bricks no less. Maybe we had just discovered a tunnel from Newark Abbey! (We always called the Priory the Abbey, probably because maps named, and still do, the river Wey, which runs below Pyrford Church as "The Abbey Stream".)

Photo © Alan Cooper



Very soon, visions of buried treasure - gold and silver - that could be sold at one of the then numerous antique shops in the village to purchase sweets and fizzy

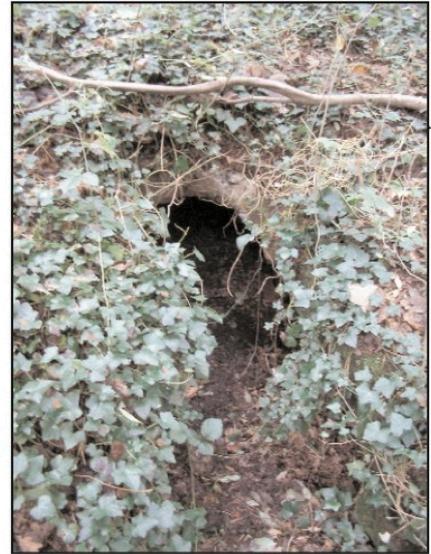
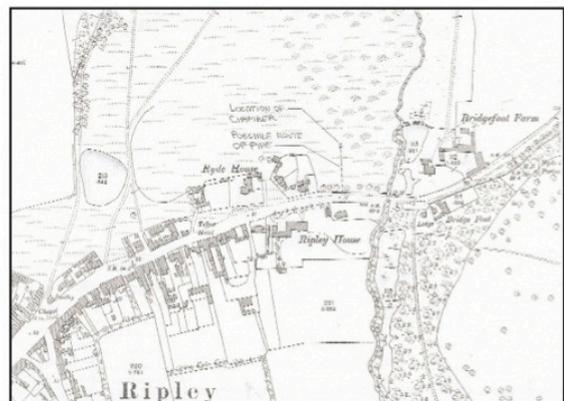


Photo © Alan Cooper

drinks became far too much of a temptation and so the youngest, hence smallest and most susceptible to acts of unmentionable brutality, was selected and forcibly inserted into the tunnel. Thus, having established it was safe to explore, we entered ourselves! Alas, no gold and silver, just rusty cans of white paint. So just what had we discovered? My late father told me he knew of its existence having, like me, discovered it in his youth but as to its age was none the wiser. White paint? No, chloride of lime! Over the years, I have asked many older villagers but none can add to what my father told me.

In Victorian and later times, rubbish was disposed of in a large open ditch known as "the dogpits", which ran from the Dunsborough House Lodges, following the tree line to the pond. In the 1970s, when bottle digging (Codd bottles, pot lids, etc.) was very popular, many people dug there, attempting unsuccessfully to find the Victorian layer. My father laughed at their attempts, saying they would need to go down at least twenty feet to find anything of that age. He recalled how, as a youngster in the 1930s, he and friends found a freshly dumped motor cycle there. Still working, he and friends took turns trying to "scramble" it up the side of the ditch! Lunchtime beckoned and so an object was placed in the cap of the fuel tank, lit, and several small boys made a hasty exit! Was raw sewage ever dumped here? Apparently not (by most people anyway!)

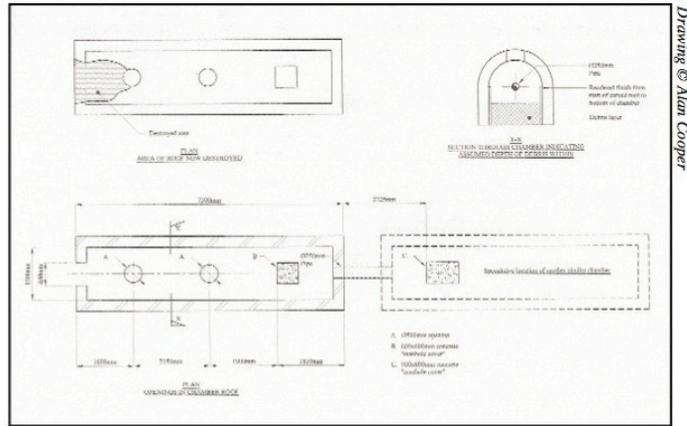
In mid October 2014 I decided to revisit and photograph the tunnel. I found it with relative ease and since the area is now mostly frequented by dog walkers, ground cover, such as ivy, is replacing the once barren areas of leaf-mould. What exactly is it? A depository for raw sewage - dating I would guess to the mid/late Victorian period.



England is widely recognised as the first country to attempt to tackle the issues of efficient sewage disposal as necessitated by the expansion of towns and cities during the industrial revolution. This population explosion resulted in more raw sewage being dumped in the streets, rivers so polluted as to be effectively dead and ultimately outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid. During the early 19th century, the river Thames was little more than an open sewer. This culminated during 1858 in what became known as "the big stink". This effectively closed parliament for a short while.

With this problem to resolve, a civil engineer named Joseph Bazalgette designed a system of disposal, which piped waste away from the populated area of London, discharging into the Thames estuary further downstream. This formed the basis of today's sewerage system as we know it. Rural areas such as Ripley would have to wait a long time before such luxuries would become available.

Although villages were small compared to the big cities, they were just as susceptible to disease. (Windlesham, not that far away, suffered a cholera epidemic in 1848.) In an attempt to prevent such occurrences, local authorities employed "night-soil men" to collect raw sewage and remove it by horse and cart to a "dump" outside the generally inhabited area. So, what we have here is a relatively well preserved example of one such dump. The drawing of the chamber is approximately to scale and the depth to the bottom is assumed from images of other known examples.



Drawing © Alan Cooper

How does it work? Generally, soil solids, such as clay or even leaf mould, would be added to the sewage and after a period of about four weeks would have developed enough bacteria to break down the mixture to a relatively odourless compound, which could then be removed and used as fertiliser. Water would be drained either by pipe to the nearest watercourse or into another chamber filled with sand from whence it would filter back through the ground to the water table.

I have unsuccessfully attempted to establish the existence of a second chamber by using a steel rod as a probe but whether it was brick or tree root I was hitting I cannot say. There is however, a second larger manhole beyond this chamber which suggests one does exist. I have succeeded in getting inside and to the end to examine the pipe in the end wall and to try to see through and beyond but it is full of soil, presumably from being fractured by a tree root.



Second, larger manhole



Inside the second, larger manhole



Pipe in the end wall

Another manhole cover can be found about midway between the chamber and the ditch. It's purpose is unknown as when I lifted it there is nothing underneath.



Photo © Alan Cooper



Photo © Alan Cooper

Based on modern drainage design, it is feasible that with a 1:150 fall a pipe could have been laid to discharge into the ditch which runs parallel with the road, finally emptying into the stream. This ditch is now nowhere near as deep as I can remember it and establishing if a pipe discharges into it would entail a lot of digging. Maybe in years to come the parish council might be persuaded to allow some minor excavation to take place. Maybe!

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Les Bowerman

40th Anniversary. Doubtless more will be said and written elsewhere about this milestone for the Society and I do not wish to pre-empt that. However, I feel compelled to observe that, when I had a letter published in the *Surrey Advertiser* on 3/4 January 1975, suggesting the formation of a local history society, I certainly had not envisaged the time when, in the new millennium forty years later, with a museum of its own, fifteen publications to its name and over 300 members, the Send History Society as it originally was, would be a continuing feature of life in both Send and Ripley. We have been extremely fortunate that such a wonderfully interested and competent group of people have made this possible.

Local Centenarians. Writing as I have just done about the anniversary, reminds me that, since the publication in issue No 2 of this Journal (then the *Newsletter*) when I wrote about the 101st birthday of Anne's Norfolk great-aunt, we have always congratulated and/or recorded people with local connections who have attained the revered status of centenarian. Since I last wrote on this topic in Journal 234 earlier this year, there are two further names to be added. The first is Charles Hughesdon, whose obituary by John Slatford appeared recently in Journal 237. Charles, the husband of Florence Desmond, lived at Dunsborough Park, for forty-six years until 1994, eventually dying aged 104 in Berkshire. The second, whom we are pleased to congratulate, is Mrs Elsie Walters (nee Tulett) of Georgelands (and formerly of West End Cottages) who celebrated reaching three figures on 27 November just past. The list of centenarians for the past forty years now reads as follows:

Eveline Lancaster of Sendholme.	d.1976 aged 100
Ethel Tice of Send Barns Lane.	d.1981 aged 104
Dorrie Challen of Send Road.	d.2005 aged 100
Elsie Robinson of the Old Hall, Send Marsh Road.	d.2008 aged 100
Connie Garside formerly of Potters Lane, Send.	d.2011 aged 102
Elizabeth Bowles of the Old Hall, Send Marsh Road	Reached 100 in 2013
Charles Hughesdon of Dunsborough Park, Ripley	d.2014 aged 104
Marjorie Goddard of Ripley High Street	d.2014 aged 100
Elsie Walters of Georgelands, Ripley	Reached 100 in 2014

Marjorie Goddard. At the Village Hall on 18 November Gaye Burt gave a lively and enlightening talk on the life of her mother, Marjorie Goddard, a Gaiety Girl in the 1930s, who lived in Ripley and appears in the above list. Gaye was ably assisted by her son. A longer note appears elsewhere in this journal.



Marjorie and her 100th Birthday Cake

The Anchor Cyclists Visitors Books. There have been various references and articles about these books in the Journal, most notably at 167/9 and 176/9. Indexed back numbers of the Journal are accessible at the museum and will be on the Society's website when it is up and running again. The books were kept at the Anchor in Ripley by landlady Annie Dibble to record the numerous cycling visitors from 1881 until her death in 1895. Half a dozen of them remained at the Anchor for over 100 years and were sold at auction by Bonhams in 2002 for £6,500 to Sheikh Saud Bin Mohammed Bin Ali al-Thani of Qatar. Their present whereabouts is unknown but, as manuscripts, they would have required a licence to be exported and it is thought they may still be in the UK.



a unique picture of all twelve of the surviving Visitors Books together in one photo

Now comes the surprising news in *The Independent* of 12 November that, although only 48, Sheikh Saud has died suddenly in London. Will these books now come to light again?

As noted in Journal 176/9, a further six of the books are held by the Surrey History Centre as are photo-copies of the late Sheikh's books. Two books remain totally unaccounted for – those of 1886 and 1889.

I hope to see as many of you as possible on 28 January for the occasion of the dinner to celebrate the founding of the Society forty years ago to the day, and also at our 40th AGM on 14 February. If anyone would like to give a short talk after the AGM, please contact Anne.

FUN ON THE RIVER WEY

Les Bowerman

I read with great interest Vernon Wood's article in Journal 239 under the title "Dangerous Games for Boys". I was doing much the same thing from 1945

Photo © Les Bowerman



Warren Farm wooden chalets

to 1949. Most weekends and during school holidays at that time I would cycle over from Kingfield Green to visit a school friend, Roly Masset, whose parents had one of the wooden chalets bordering a small field at Warren Farm, Pyrford, separated from the River Wey by only a narrow strip of woodland. *En route* down Tannery Lane, for part of those years I had to thread my way past substantial road works, which Rob Donn tells me were for the laying of mains sewerage. Arrived at Warren Farm we would take to the river close to the diving board mentioned by Vernon. Sometimes, if the weather was cooler, we, often with another friend, would walk over to Ripley to buy a loaf

of bread and eat it on our way back to tea with Roly's parents. On Bank Holidays in the early period the three of us would hire a skiff at Walsham Gates and explore the waterways up to and sometimes beyond Newark Mill. Later we found a half-sunken dinghy in the river and made it more or less watertight. On 5 August 1947, I noted in my diary that we didn't swim due to the 'infantile paralysis scare', notwithstanding which we resumed with no ill effects on 30th of that month.

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In May 1948 I tried the diving board, but managed only a painful belly-flop. By September Roly had acquired a canoe. He would paddle that while I rowed the dinghy, sometimes at night with the aid of hurricane lamps. One evening after nightfall we went in this fashion up to Newark Priory which nearly everybody then called the 'Abbey' and I photographed it.



River Wey Bathers, ca 1921



l to r: Les Bowerman, Roly Masset, Larry Coram



Newark Mill



Barn at Woking Palace

On 25 September that year we both went in the canoe up-river to what we knew as the 'Old Hall' and is now called Woking Palace. Having eaten sandwiches there and walked around, we discovered some show cases of not very exciting finds in one of the buildings. What is now believed to have been Henry VIII's tennis court still had in 1948 a large timber-framed barn built on to the Tudor foundations and was used to store agricultural equipment.

In May 1949 we found that the winter storms had created a small island near Newark Mill and we began cultivating it, calling it for some reason 'Burnt Island'. We even created what we called a pier and a lawn. Sometimes we would go up to the 'bombed bridge', which was in fact the flat bridge in Newark Lane which earlier this year was the third one of those repaired. 'Burnt Island' still shows up when the river is low. In June 1949 we found another decrepit dinghy in the river and, using an old Royal Enfield bicycle found in a hedge, we constructed a cycle-boat. Leaking and unsteerable, it was not wildly successful. On 2 July '49 we swam from 'our' island near the mill down to Walsham Lock and my diary records that we swam again in the evening. Oh to have that sort of energy now! National Service, the giving up of the chalet and an increasing interest in cycling spelled the end of our fun on the river.



Newark Priory from the River Wey

Photo © Les Bowerman

Notes:

River Wey Bathers: Although this is a print of a photo from a member of the Dibble family, it is believed to be one of a batch taken by *Cycling* magazine in the early 1920s for an article on the Anchor in Ripley and the Dibble family. The late Joan Dibble told me that the young lady in the photo is not a Dibble. The photo was not used in the *Cycling* article, which appeared in their issue of 28 July 1921.

Skiff at Walsham Lock: a postcard endorsed with a message dated 6 August 1929. It shows a 3/4-seater skiff identical to the one the author and friends hired in 1946/47. It is moored exactly where we used to collect it. Bearing in mind that it was probably carefully laid up during the war, it may well be the very one. It is not known, of course, how long before 1919 the photo was taken. The initials AM will be untraceable after all this time. The bicycles and clothing of the cyclists are compatible with a 1920s date.

CHANGES IN RIPLEY 2013-2014

John Slatford

A lot has happened in our village over the past two years and it is always worth recording the changes for posterity.

Ripley Police Station: Having been closed for several years and demolished in 2012, the construction of the terrace of three new houses, appropriately named Peeler's Place, was completed towards the end of 2013. The original building built as a police house dated from around 1908.



Ripley Police Station

White Hart Court: The construction of 45 new houses on the site of the not very old sheltered housing complex finally got under way in 2013 and has now been completed. The estate has been named Marlborough Place.

Stansfields: The redevelopment of the site into houses and apartments was completed as Old Stansfields in 2013 after several years of neglect. It is unfortunate that the restoration of the separate former Stansfields home has yet to be completed.

Ripley Post Office: After a considerable delay, the Post Office finally closed in July 2014 and has been relocated in the One Stop shop. The facility, although small, is a considerable improvement on the sadly neglected old shop. It is, at least, the fifth Post Office location in the village.

Wyllie & Mar: Having been under threat for some time the store finally closed in July 2014. The Wyllie family had owned the business for almost 80 years although it continued under its old name of W B Green until the 1990s. It was originally established by Stephen Green as a boot and shoe manufactory in the 1830s. Quite recently, a new business has opened on the site under the name Jo Dunne, makers of designer glassware. To the rear of the shop buildings a complex of eight new houses is being constructed.

Suzuki Garage: The redevelopment providing houses and apartments on the Town & Country Cars site was finally completed in 2013 and is now known as The Courtyard.

Miss Bush: The relocation of the bridal shop business across the High Street into the old Methodist Chapel took place in 2014. It is a sad fact that there are several empty shop premises in the High Street awaiting new businesses.

Budgens: After several years of being empty and neglected, the old Gibbs site on the High Street has seen the arrival of the mini-supermarket chain Budgens in 2013. The company is to be congratulated on the conversion of the building into what is now an asset to the village.

Newark Lane: The reconstruction of the Mill bridges did take a long time and did cause a lot of inconvenience although Newark Lane residents enjoyed relative peace and quiet through the first half of 2014. The result has proved to be a huge improvement to the roadway and well worth waiting for.

Lutidene House: Most recently the building has ceased to be a business site and is being converted, we understand, into residential apartments.

Little Waitrose: Although in Send, the redevelopment of the Shell Petroleum site to provide another convenience store in 2014 is worthy of recording.

The Anchor: After several years in decline, The Anchor closed in 2013 but was then bought by Steve and Serina Drake and Lisanne and Chris Mealing. It was re-opened later that year as a very interesting and enjoyable pub restaurant and locally owned.

The Old Telephone Exchange: This building, late Doolittles pet food store, late Clifford James shoe shop, is currently being converted into yet more apartments.

There probably are other changes worthy of being recorded, which have yet to be identified.

MARJORIE GODDARD

Gaye Burt

In November we were joined by Gaye Burt, the daughter of Marjorie Goddard, who gave us a presentation on her life story. Here is the transcript of Gaye's talk.

Marjorie lived in Ripley for 60 years and could often be seen on the Green picking up wood and walking her dog. But let me tell you her story from the beginning.

My mother Marjorie Henderson was born in Willesden, London on Sunday 18th May 1913, one year before the start of WW1. Her earliest memories were being put under a billiard table in the dining room to protect her from the bombs. From an early age her only interest was dancing and she was a star pupil at her dance school. At the

age of thirteen (1926) she was asked to accompany a pianist with a tap dance for the first showing of television by John Logie Baird. She went to studios at Crystal Palace and her parents went to Selfridges store in Oxford Street to view it from the television set that was in their window display(1).

During her school years at a convent in Willesden she regularly appeared as principle dancer in school productions and her mother would make her costumes, one of which caused the nuns to despair because when she was kicking her legs in the air the priest in the front row nearly had a heart attack and for the second half the nuns quickly tacked an extra length of material around it, much to my mother's disgust.

I am afraid she hated school and often played truant or feigned illness, once on her way to school on her bike she got off and ripped her stockings and scratched her knees with sticks and hobbled home saying she had fallen off her bike. My grandmother always fell for it - which is more than I can say for her when I was at school I was never allowed to stay at home!

Marjorie went into dancing and appeared in London shows from 1930, like *Babes in the Wood* at the Lewisham Hippodrome, *Les Femmes de Paris* at the Prince of Wales Theatre and *Dick Wittington* at the Garrick. She also went on tour to theatres around the country, including Stratford-on-Avon, Liverpool, Birmingham and in Scotland. She said touring was the only time she put on weight because of the hearty meals the landladies used to give them every day.

She had many funny stories to tell about her time on the stage, like when one girl was desperate to lose weight and was taking pills, which she had acquired somewhere, and after a couple of weeks she opened the tin to find they had all turned into maggots!

She received many fan letters from male admirers.

Marjorie then joined the Gaiety Theatre and became a Gaiety girl and was in shows with Stanley Lupino(2) and Laddie Cliff, who were both very much in vogue at that time. Although I have photos of mum in shows, unfortunately at some point she destroyed quite a few.

One contract for the show *Sporting Love* at the Gaiety, shows that she had to appear in eight shows a week and for that she was paid £3. 10 shillings a week.

16th. April, 1933.

Miss Henderson.
Prince of Wales Theatre. W.1.

Dear Miss Henderson.

I am writing to ask you a favour. Have you got a spare photo by you which you would spare me? I should value it very much indeed.

I was in the Theatre last Monday night with a friend, in the second row of the Stalls..maybe you saw me.

I do hope that you will forgive my audacity in asking you..and that you will let me have a picture of you.

Sincerely yours.

Lawrence Fasson

P.S. I have just seen your picture in to-day's Sunday Express.

The Gaiety Theatre started out in the 1800s in the Strand and was known for musical burlesque and pantomimes.



Gaiety Girls with Marjorie left hand end bottom row

It then became famous for musical comedy; this was when they started to employ female dancers known as the Gaiety Girls. The building was demolished in 1903 and rebuilt at the corner of Aldwych and the Strand. Shows included *Love Lies* and *Sporting Love*, which ran for 302 performances, and *Running Riot* was the last show in 1939 because of the outbreak of WWII and, due to damage as a result of bombing, the theatre was finally demolished in 1956.

During the 1930s mum entered many beauty contests and won quite a few -

she always had lovely legs! When I was clearing out Cranford I found a reel of film showing a contest and took it to show Peter Fairbrass. It is now with the BBC library.

Following the outbreak of the Second World War Marjorie's parents' house was bombed and they had to move out of London. After renting in Oxshott and Burnt Common they moved into the house next door to Cranford, now part of the former Wylie & Marr building. Mum joined the Surrey War Ag in Guildford - her dancing days were over. However, she said that the war was the best time in Ripley, mainly due to the influx of Canadian soldiers that moved into the Lovelace Estate!

Once the war was over, Edward Goddard, who Marjorie had previously met while dancing (I think the term was that he was a "stage door Jonny") came down to Ripley and wooed mum and they were married at Ripley church in 1949. They started married life in Haslemere but when Cranford (Prospect Cottage) came on the market they bought it for £2,000 and moved in and Gaye grew up there. However their marriage ended when my father went to New Zealand to live and then my Grandmother moved into the cottage where my mum cared for her until she died in 1956.

There was no such thing as Social Security(3) in those days and Marjorie worked in the Green Lantern [now Ripley Curry House] as a waitress during the day. In the evening she worked in the White Hart pub, which was owned by my god parents Mabs and Des O'Shea. Although I was put upstairs to bed I can vividly remember sneaking down and peeking through the curtain to the back room to watch the customers playing records and the girls practising with hoola hoops, which had just come into fashion the first time around.

When things got really tight Marjorie started making pasties and cheese and onion pies. She would bake them twice a week in our tiny kitchen on a Belling stove about 200 at a time and I remember her loading up the trays and walking down to the bakers on the corner, which is still there, for them to sell. She also sold them in the White Hart. This would never be allowed today with current food hygiene legislation!

Marjorie and Edward had been members of the Ripley Cricket Club and mum had the notoriety of being able to do the splits and kick the main beam. She spent Monday nights at the British Legion playing bingo.

Marjorie had worked throughout her life but never complained about it. She loved walking on Ripley Green right up till she was ninety, when her dog had to be put to sleep and after that Marjorie seemed to slow down. She was never seen out in the village without her make-up and hair done.

She lived with me for three years and then, after breaking her hip in hospital, went to live in Springfield House in Cobham where she was very happy. Marjorie died on 16 December 2013 aged 100 years and 7 months - her aim had always been to reach 100 and get her card from the Queen, which she achieved. She was a brilliant mother and grandmother and always put her family first.

Editors Footnotes

(1) On 25 March 1925 Baird presented the first public demonstration of 'silhouette television' at Selfridges store in London's Oxford Street. Gordon Selfridge Junior had heard of Baird's experiments that had resulted in the transmission of simple "shadowgraphs", and after making some enquiries he visited Baird. He was given a demonstration and saw transmitted from one room to another a crude outline of a paper mask. This was made to wink by covering the eyeholes with white paper, and it could be made to open and close its mouth by covering and uncovering the slot corresponding to the mouth opening. Selfridge was impressed enough to arrange for Baird to give personal demonstrations of the new device for three weeks at his Oxford Street store.

(2) Between 1926 and 1927 Lupino appeared on Broadway in *Naughty Riquette* and *The Nightingale*, returning to England to play at the Gaiety Theatre in London, including *Love Lies* (1929), *Hold My Hand* (1932), and *Sporting Love* (1934), which ran for 302 performances.

(3) The first unemployment benefit scheme was introduced in the UK with the National Assistance Act 1911 by the Government of Herbert Asquith - as a measure to combat the increasing influence of the Labour Party among the country's working-class population. The Act gave the British working classes a contributory system of insurance against illness and unemployment. It only applied to wage earners, however, and their families and the unwaged had to rely on other sources of support, if any. The scheme was based on actuarial principles and it was funded by a fixed amount each from workers, employers, and taxpayers. It was restricted to particular industries, particularly more volatile ones, like shipbuilding, and did not make provision for any dependants. The dole system (introduced by the Unemployment Insurance Act 1920) provided thirty-nine weeks of unemployment benefits to over eleven million workers—practically the entire civilian working population except domestic service, farm workers, railway workers and civil servants.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Here are pictures of the cover, cast list and other credits for a St Bede's production of *Oliver*, which took place, we think, sometime in the early 1970s. The programme was kindly sent to us by Peggy Ireland who was then living at Church Farm in Wisley. Her son Peter was Oliver. Peggy now lives in Lancashire but is a member of the History Society.



Music, Lyrics and Book by LIONEL BART Produced for the Broadway Stage by David Merrick and Donald Albury	
Scenery designed and executed by Constructed and painted by Costumes and hats designed and made by Wardrobe in charge of Make-up Stage Managers Assistant Stage Manager Lighting Business Manager and Publicity Organisation of Programme Programme and Poster design Front of House Prompt Properties Stage Hands Dance devised by Pianists Percussion	Diana Whitehouse*, Michael Tickner, Staff and pupils Graham Key*, Staff, John Palmer and pupils Mona Simmons*, Valerie Robertson*, pupils and parents Margaret Carter* and pupils Lin Peacock, Staff and pupils Graham Key*, William Davies* Jane Lepper Dam Duthie, Stephen Neale John Jones* Maureen Chaloner*, Mary Craig* and pupils Diana Whitehouse* Kenneth Wardle* Sandra Avery Honor Marriott*, Ronnie Cornwall, Suzanne Hicks Paul Rann, Alan Bancroft, Colin Durbridge Nicky Gosling* David Prout*, Joan Freeland*, Mary Craig* Colin Roke
Directed by Evelyn Jenner Assistant Director Mary Craig Musical Director and Choreographer David Prout	
We are indebted to; Old Woking Theatre Group; Send Amateur Dramatic Society; Shepperton Studios; F. Tice & Sons, Builders; Anderton's Modern Music Centre, Guildford; Mr. E. Martin for printing Programmes, Posters and Handbills, and to parents and friends of the school for their invaluable help and co-operation.	
The performances of the Play are given by arrangement with Evans Brothers, Limited, and Stage Musicals, Limited, of New York.	

"OLIVER"

Characters In Order Of Appearance

MR. BUMBLE	John Jones*
MRS. CORNEY	Mary Graig*
OLIVER	Peter Ireland *
	David Kick
MR. SOWERBERRY	Peter Moreton*
MRS. SOWERBERRY	Heather Anderson
CHARLOTTE	Sherrell Chuter
NOAH CLAYPOLE	Gervase Haimes
ARTFUL DODGER	Jorgen Dyer
	Michael Lowe
FAGIN	David Prout*
CHARLIE BATES	Jorgen Dyer
	Michael Lowe
NANCY	Diana Whitehouse*
BET	Lorraine Hotson
BILL SYKES	Graham Key*
ROSE SELLER	Anne Williams
MILK MAIDS	Rosalind Jones
	Wanita Styles
STRAWBERRY SELLER	Ann Surey
KNIFE GRINDER	Paul Richens
MR. BROWNLOW	William Davies*
DR. GRIMWIG	Keith Esdon
MRS. BEDWIN	Linda C. Smith
OLD SALLY	Susan Perryer
BOW STREET RUNNERS	David Roker
	Graham Russell

*Best wishes,
Fagin
David Prout*

*Best wishes,
Oliver*

*Best wishes,
Nancy*

David Prout

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FAGIN'S GANG:—Kevin Ackehurst, Richard Ayears, Deborah Bower, David Brooks, Paul Gaffikin, Martin Hayles, Raymond Hughes, Michael Jones, Fred Morgan, Alan Munt, Jackie Pretty, Michael Setright, Leslie Stanley, Tony Whiting.

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DANCERS:—Belinda Baker, Gillian Brewer, Dianne Godden, Nicky Gosling*, Susanna Grimes, Jane Knight, Jacqueline Parrott, Amanda Potter, Jacqueline Ridge, Carol Robinson, Elizabeth Smith, Vanessa Styles.

AND CHILDREN:—Penny Anderson, Carol Arnett, Deborah Bower, Denise Bowers, Leslie Burt, Drury Campbell, Amanda Cobbett, Marion Cornwall, Anne Crane, Denise Gaines, Denise Griffin, Belinda Grimes, Joan Grout, Louise Keeble, Stephanie Leigh, Kim Martin, Christine Moss, Sonya Pullen, Glenis Sale, Diane Salman, Gary Savage, Angela Tickner, Susan Voller, Judith Wheatley, Margaret Wye, Stephanie Wye.

Were you in the cast or backstage team or are you in touch with someone who was?

What do you remember about the production and your schooldays in the 1960s?

Where are you now?

We'd love to hear your story.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The opening times of our museum are on the next page. The current theme is the fascinating and long story of mineral extraction in Send and, to a lesser extent, Ripley. The Museum is open on Saturday mornings from 10am to 12.30 and on the third Sunday of the month to coincide with the Antiques Fair. All indoor talks will commence at 8pm and, with the exception of 17 March, will be at Ripley Village Hall.

- Tues, 20 Jan. -** The latest Circle 8 Film, "Guildford in the first World War", presented by Terence Patrick. Choc ices will be on sale.
- Wed. 28 Jan. -** 40th Anniversary Dinner at the Toby Cottage Restaurant in Ripley. Contact Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Christina Sheard, for details.
- Tues. 17 Feb. -** The AGM. Afterwards. Cheese and Wine will be served followed by talks by members. Please see the AGM Agenda enclosed.
- Tues 17 Mar. -** "Francis Frith and the Picture Postcard". An illustrated talk by David Edney.
NB. This meeting will take place in the Talbot Hotel, Ripley.
- Tues. 21 Apr -** An illustrated talk by Judie English on "Iron Age Hill Forts in Surrey".
- Mon. 18 May -** A guided tour of Send Church, commencing at 7 pm.

Please ring me, Anne Bowerman, on 01483 224876, if you have any queries about the programme.

Journal Contributions: Closing date for the next issue is **Monday 16 February 2015.**

Will authors of illustrated articles please submit **original photographic prints** if at all possible to ensure reasonably good reproduction in the Journals.

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---	---



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Other times for school groups and small parties by
arrangement

Contact Les Bowerman on 01483-224876 if you require
further information or wish to help in the museum.

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

'Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life' (Reprinted 1998 and 2006)		£10.00
'Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send'		£1.25
'Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley'	(Reprinted 2004&7)	£4.00
'The Straight Furrow', by Fred Dixon		£1.50
'Ripley and Send – Looking Back'	(Reprinted 2007)	£9.00
'A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey'	(Reprinted 2005)	£2.00
'Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey	(Reprinted 2012)	£4.00
'The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey'	(Reprinted 2005)	£4.00
'Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures'		£6.00
'Two Surrey Village Schools - The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools'		£10.00
'The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey'		£5.00
'Memories of War'		£8.00
'Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford'		£2.50
'Memories of War' and Map of Bomb Sites		£10.00
'Send and Ripley Walks'		£5.00
'Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin'		£8.00
Special Offer - Purchase 'Newark Priory' and 'St Mary's Ripley'		£10.00

All the publications are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Pinnocks Coffee House, Ripley. The reprinted copy of 'Ripley & Send Then & Now', 'Two Surrey Village Schools' and 'Memories of War' can also be obtained from Send Post Office. All publications are available via the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk



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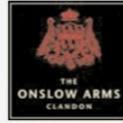
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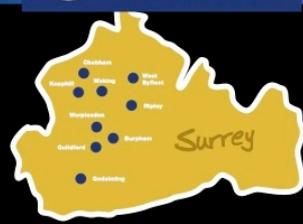
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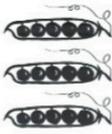
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