Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity No. 296324

Journal Volume 7 No. 226 Sep/Oct 2012

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Cover photo: **The Olympic Cycling Men's Road Race passing through Ripley's Rose Lane on Saturday 28 July 2012. Team GB members in the photo: Chris Froome, Bradley Wiggins, David Millar, Ian Stannard and Mike Cavendish.**
Photo © Teresa Stuart 2012.

Editorial

We have had a jam packed two months since I wrote the July editorial. As one of those who had been rather cynical about the Olympics I found myself glued to the screen nearly every evening watching the highlights of the day on television. In addition, Ripley enjoyed the thrills (and spills) of the men's and women's road cycle races passing through the village and we have included a number of photographs of the event to recall the day. Society volunteers manned the museum and provided a display on the history of cycling in Ripley on both days and Les very kindly lent some of his historic bicycle collection for the occasion. Our contribution was much appreciated by visitors and by the village hall committee. I have noticed a sharp increase in the number of Lycra-clad (and other) cyclists on the roads around the area since the games! I worry that many seem to favour a loose strap on their helmet - not realising that if they do hit the ground their helmet will fly off!

The Paralympic have finished and by the time this reaches you the Tour of Britain will have ridden through Send!

The society has a full programme of activities for the rest of the year. I am particularly looking forward to the Margaret Willes talk on the making of the English Gardener to be held in Ripley Village Hall on Friday 23 November at 8 pm. We are hoping that members of Send & Ripley Gardening Societies will join us.

I have set up a journal-specific e-mail address for contributions to the journal. This will be found on the front page but is also repeated at the end of this editorial. Your committee are still seeking volunteers to help man the museum and help with the other events and tasks that need to be carried out to keep the society going. If you think you could spare some time and would like to get involved in events do please contact either our secretary, Cameron Brown, or our chairman, Les Bowerman, and let them know what you are interested in and how much time you have to spare.

I do need articles for the November Journal so if you have an idea for an article but are not sure where to start or whether it will be suitable, do give me a call on (01483) 773452 or e-mail me and I will be happy to talk it through with you and confirm whether it will be of interest. Snippets of information, in the form of letters are always welcome.

If, like me, you are having a clear-out at home, remember that items that you may be disposing of could be of considerable interest to the society. Pick up the phone to any committee member to discuss what you have and whether or not it could be a useful addition to the museum collection, or should, at the very least, be photographed and recorded for our records before disposal!

Cate Davey
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A Repast and Entertainment Unique in the History of Ripley (and Send)

Clare McCann

With the celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee still in our thoughts, I decided it might be interesting to look back to the 1897 celebrations for Queen Victoria. Under the heading 'The Record Reign', the Surrey Advertiser began thus, "*Seldom, indeed, in this world of vicissitudes and failures is it given to any individual to receive the tributes due to continual and unvarying success. Never before has an English Monarch filled the position which our Queen occupies*

today. Indeed, we may go further, and question whether it has been possible for any other Sovereign to fill it." Well, perhaps our present Queen may elicit less flowery compliments but she too, has had a reign of great distinction.

Queen Victoria
official Diamond Jubilee photograph

However back to May 1897 when, a general committee meeting was held at the schoolroom in Send, chaired by the vicar, The Rev. R Tahourden, several sub-committees were formed. It was decided that a tent capable of accommodating 400 people would be provided. It goes on to estimate that 800 persons, including children, would take part. Presumably 400 could happily get wet if the weather was inclement! The request for subscriptions had liberally been responded to, to the tune of £50 and more could apparently be raised if necessary. The suggestion of devoting any surplus to buying furniture for the new Working Men's Institute was abandoned in favour of buying a fire hose for the village.

The Send celebrations themselves took place at Sendholme in June, thanks to Mrs AH Lancaster. Tea was supplied to about 300 children and dinner was subsequently supplied to 500 adults. Under the supervision of a ladies' committee children's sports took place as well as sports for adults. As well as Mrs Lancaster, Mr and Mrs Grant of Sendhurst Grange, and the Misses Onslow of Send Grove were present. Presumably not to be outdone by the Lancasters, Mr John Paulton MP then invited the villagers to his grounds to *"witness a capital firework display.."*

Ripley also started planning in May but rather than a schoolroom, they met at the White Hart Hotel under the chairmanship of Dr Pearse. He had only received subscriptions amounting to £14 at this point – one hopes more came rolling in after the meeting. There was to be tea for all the inhabitants and maypole dancing by sixty girls, as well as sports. A jubilee tree, given by Mr TG Lucas was to be planted in the autumn on the Green.

Diamond Jubileetree planting 1897

Whether Ripley's celebrations were more fun than Send's is anybody's guess but the report in the Surrey Advertiser is certainly much more extensive! They are described as being of a *"very joyous character"*. A procession lined up comprising thirty-eight girls in couples with nine banners, flags and a portrait of the Queen. Behind were sixty other girls in white sailor hats and tri coloured bands drawing *"handsomely-adorned car containing (six tiny girls) and a decorated maypole at the top of*

which was a Union Jack." They were followed by a decorated fire-engine and cyclists and they paraded round the village before being photographed on the Green. The National Anthem and other patriotic songs were sung before giving way to the sports – *"The sports ground had had been brought to a high state of perfection under the assiduous care of Mr George Seal."* Judges, starters and winners are then listed but it is the final item of the proceedings that, I think, is worth quoting verbatim...

"The concluding item of the proceedings was a display by the Fire Brigade. A "dummy" building had been erected on the green and was set fire to. An alarm of "fire" was then given and the brigade called out. A supply of water was obtained from an adjoining pond, and when the building was surrounded by flames and smoke, screams in the interior were heard, and a figure appeared at the window appealing for help. This individual was safely rescued, and a few minutes later a similar performance was gone through, but on this occasion the inmate of the dwelling left his cry for help almost too late, and his rescue was too realistic for his physical comfort, the burning embers falling upon his back while descending the ladder." Apparently this was all witnessed by up to 2,000 people and Mr Pullen, the captain of the brigade is given great credit for arranging the display but one can not help feeling that modern health and safety would take a different view!

As if this excitement was not enough, in the evening there was a Jubilee dinner at the Anchor for all those locals over sixty years of age. *"The dining room was artistically decorated with bunting, Japanese lanterns, pot plants, etc."* The dinner was provided thanks to the generosity of Mr Lewis Taylor and about seventy people were served and afterwards there was musical entertainment on the lawn outside. *"The queen of the evening was the widow Burdett"* as at the age of 91, she was old enough to remember the Queen's accession. The National Anthem was sung and thanks were given for a repast and entertainment "unique in the history of Ripley".

Fun though they were, I am not sure that this year's celebrations quite measured up!!!

Ripley – The Most Famous Cycling Village in the World
&
"The Mecca of All Good Cyclists"

Les Bowerman

Ripley has long been renowned for its historic cycling connections, but even in the cycling world few now know what it was famous for. It appeared to be famous for being famous. In this article we look at what gave it its reputation.

The road from London to Guildford and on down through Farnham to Winchester and Exeter to Cornwall is one of the oldest in the country, and is one of the few shown on Gough's map of 1361. It became known as the Portsmouth Road only after Henry VIII had begun building up the navy, but the surface was so poor that heavy horse-drawn road waggons had to allow a day to travel from London to Guildford. After the road was turnpiked in 1749, the surface was improved beyond recognition and Ripley became an important stagecoach post and thereby prospered until the railway to Portsmouth was completed in 1847. Thereafter it was virtually deserted although the fine surface (compared to other roads) remained. Thus, by the time the first bicycles (wooden-wheeled velocipedes) appeared in 1869, there was a well-surfaced, moderately undulating route from dirty, smoky, smelly, crowded London to the spacious, old-world charm of rural Ripley, virtually traffic-free once away from town. The 46 miles round trip from London was ideal for a cycling day out.

By 1872 cyclists were using the road to Ripley, enchanted by the gorse-covered Ockham Common and the fir-fringed Bolder Mere (Wisley Lake). The following year it is recorded that a nucleus of Ripley Road riders was frequenting the little old original Hut Inn beside the lake. They would have used machines transitional between the velocipede and the high bicycle (later mocked as a "penny-farthing').

Ripley itself as the destination for a ride first featured in August 1876 when the Surrey Bicycle Club held their Captaincy race from Kingston to Guildford and back to the Talbot Hotel in Ripley for tea with non-competing members of the club. By then 58"-diameter-wheeled high bicycles by John Keen of Surbiton were being used. In October Bicycling News noted, despite the 'fearful state of the roads & the weather' 13 men rode to Ripley, including two who had raced the day before at the Oval (where the Surrey BC held their race meets and long since more famous, of course, for cricket). In November 1876 one McCullum Hill wrote about leaving London at 6.30 pm for the pleasure of a moonlit ride to Ripley where, despite being so late, he and his companion were made welcome at the Talbot with smoking hot chops, a comfortable fire and a glass of champagne.

The popularity of Ripley and the road thither spoke for itself when a new weekly, The Cyclist, first published in October 1879, in its first issues featured a series of 'Bicycling Hostelries' and three of the first four concerned premises in the Ripley area. The first was the Hautboy & Fiddle at nearby Ockham (now sadly empty and boarded up) which, being far from any houses, was ideal for the noisy musical parties so dear to Victorian club cyclists. The third was the Talbot, said to cater more for those who desired quiet and economy. And No. 4 was the Anchor in Ripley. The charm, which by then 'brought more cyclists to its portals than any other', lay not only in the timber-framed building but in the Dibble family 'as obliging a family to their customers as were ever collected together.....A never-failing disposition to oblige with meals at all sorts of unearthly hours, and a wonderful patience to the noisiness of athletically-trained youths in general' secured the success of the Anchor.

So, by 1880, the road, the village, its hostelries and those who ran them were all famed far and wide. In The Wheel World 1880-81 a reporter noted that, in Southern Australia, a villa had been named Ripley Lodge because the owner had staunch memories of fellowships formed and kindly acts rendered. And apparently in Danish the word 'Ripley' means a club tour. The same reporter, arrived at the Anchor, exhorted his readers "Bring your crock through the gate, we will house the machines, have a pump bath, and announce ourselves to the divine fair." He explained that the pump bath involved wrapping a towel around your neck in a knot and allowing "your heated cranium" to have water pumped upon it by an attendant. The pump is still there in the back yard. "The divine fair" would have been the Dibble sisters, Annie and Harriet, to whom the riders "bowed the knee at the throne of beauty".

In 1881 Annie Dibble inaugurated the practice of wheelmen, and the very occasional wheelwoman, signing the cyclists visitors books at the Anchor, a practice which continued until the end of 1894, a few months after her death. The number of signatures ranged from 4,197 in 1882 up to 7,114 in 1887 and back down to 2000 in '95. Most signatories took it seriously, giving their names and their clubs and occasionally their intended destination. Others took it more jokily, signing for example "Ali Sloper", a comic character. In 1881 Anne Charman rode to the Anchor on a bicycle, which would have been a high bicycle (now known as a 'penny farthing'), an outrageous thing to do at that time. Apart from all over the British Isles, signatories were from as far away as San Francisco, Dunedin, Toronto and Port Elizabeth. Some of the books, which constitute a unique record, remained at the Anchor for 120 years. Six are now at the Surrey History Centre in Woking, which also has copies of another six. Only two are totally missing.

In 1883 there was a 24-hour tricycle race (on heavy solid-tyred machines), beginning in the Caterham area. After following a circuitous route, soon after 9.30 pm the fastest rider, Marriott, reached Ripley, the 201-mile point, where he was handed tea, bread and jam. With ten minutes still to go, he finally stopped at the Bay Tree at Merton, having clocked 218 3/4 miles. Nixon reached the Anchor at 10.23 and, after a meal of chicken and claret, unsurprisingly decided to retire. In the meantime Vesey had arrived at 10.29 and, hearing that Nixon was within, rode on to Wisley Common and back to Ripley for 2nd place with 205 miles. Requests for hot soup and eggs were complied with at the Anchor until beyond midnight. Eighty dined at the Anchor next day. When Marriott, with Fred Cooper, marketed a new lighter-weight tricycle in 1887 it was named the "Ripley". On one of these, SF Edge, later a famous racing driver, won the 1-mile Tricycle Championship the following year.

In 1885 the Ripley vicar, the Rev Henry Hooper, whilst not approving of people cycling down to Ripley for pleasure on a Sunday, pragmatically decided to run special services for them rather than hold them up as ungodly to the rest of his flock. When the church bell rang at 2 pm they were supposed to leave the Anchor for the church service, but some backsliders preferred their post-prandial pipe. Attendances were up to 60-80 riders, and rocketed to 126 in '89 with a party of visiting Americans.

The year 1886 was when Ripley, the road thither from London and the Anchor were at their peak of popularity. On Good Friday over 400 cyclists dined at the Anchor, eating inter alia a bullock, a calf and a sheep. In July a "Between the Houses" handicap race from the Angel at Thames Ditton to the Anchor at Ripley was formalised and the magnificent silver trophy (now owned by the Veteran-cycle Club) for the winner was A L Bower who was later, in 1923/4 Lord Mayor of London. In August Mrs Harriet Dibble (mother of Annie & Harriet) donated the Anchor Challenge Shield, value then £20, for a 1-mile handicap race open to bicycles (ie the high bicycle), single tricycles and safeties, to be held at the Southern Counties Cyclists Camp at Guildford. It was won by Harold Crooke of the Guildford CC. It is now owned by British Cycling and is on display at Manchester Velodrome.

Installed in Ripley church in 1887 is a rose window in honour of Herbert Liddell Curtis who, in 1882, had become the first cyclist to ride 20 miles in one hour which he did in a paced event on a 60" Surrey Machinists Invincible bicycle at the Crystal Palace track.

In March1888 there was a "Ripley Road Scramble" from Esher which resulted in the then National Cyclists Union purporting to prohibit all road racing. The 80 starters included Mr & Mrs J S Smith on their tandem (her first name was never used in public until many years later at her funeral). Afterwards some 200 sat for lunch at 1s 9d a head at the Anchor. In September it was solemnly announced that the jam-eating record at the Anchor had been smashed. More than half a ton of it had been consumed so far that year, all by cyclists.

1890 was notable only because Edmund Dangerfield (founder in 1891 of Cycling, now Cycling Weekly), together with P C Wilson sliced six minutes off the "Between the Houses" record on a Linley & Biggs Whippet tandem tricycle. Two years later Dangerfield, Arnott and Lowe brought it down a further two minutes or so to 27m 35s on a Rudge Triplet Safety.

By 1892 the signatories in the Visitors Books were down to 4,404 (about 85 a week, mostly at weekends) and in the final year of 1895 only about 2,000. The entries also show that by that time riders were already losing interest. With the deaths of sisters Annie and Harriet Dibble in '95 and '96 respectively, the craze was largely over, although there was a partial revival around the time of WW1 with objections to restricted licensing hours, regular visits by the Bath Road Club, remarks about 'admiring' motor wrecks and complaints about powerful motor car headlights ruining the pleasures of riding home by moonlight.

[This article first appearing in *selectlocal magazine* July 2012 and is reproduced here with their kind permission.]




Scenes from the Olympic Men's and Women's Cycling Road Races 28 and 29 July 2012 showing the continuing popularity of cycling in Ripley.

Thomas Marriott Berridge, Founder of Ryde House School, Ripley

John Slatford

Thomas Marriott Berridge was born in in 1830 in Stamford, Lincolnshire, the son of Tom and Susannah Berridge. He came to Ripley in 1852 to be Master of the then recently built Ripley National School and remained there until 1862. Soon after that time he established his own private commercial academy at the house that became known some time later as Ryde House.

He was married in Ripley to a local girl Sarah Capelin on 7th April 1855 and they lived, before going to Ryde House, in the High Street near to the Ship Inn. There were six children born of whom two died in infancy.

Whether Thomas Berridge actually owned Ryde House is not known but it is likely that he did. It is significant that he was there soon after the 1861 date of the last item in the Ryde

House document collection and that by 1871 substantial extensions had been built to accommodate the 37 boys who were then boarders at his school. By 1881, there were 62 boarders. The original house, reported in Newsletter No 53, was a square box built in 1775 but with the extensions was roughly doubled in size.

Sarah Berridge

Thomas Marriott Berridge

By 1891 Thomas Berridge had retired and the school had been taken over by his nephew Thomas Goodman also from Stamford. The school had also moved to the building which was opposite to The Anchor. This building, previously known as Rosslyn House, was already a school started around 1851 by James Bartlett. It is possible that he was the first master of the National School (in Sheila Brown's Two Surrey Village Schools, the first Master is shown as unknown). Certainly, James Bartlett's daughter Catherine was there from the very beginning as Mistress even into Thomas Berridge's time. Thus the two families were known to each other. The later history of Ryde House School is fully recorded in Jane Bartlett's article in Newsletter No 135.

Thomas Berridge continued living at Ryde House until his death there in 1909. His wife Sarah had predeceased him in 1895. The 1901 census shows living with him, his two unmarried daughters Elizabeth Clara and Lucy Edith. It is believed that they are the two girls in the photo below.

A Visit to Montreux in Switzerland

Sheila Brown

'What', you may ask, 'is there of interest in Switzerland to our readers in the Send and Ripley History Society'? Read on.

Readers may recall from an article in the Journal about the blacksmith in Send, that Clarence Sex and Sons had made the chancel gates for the English Church of St John's in Montreux back in 1914.

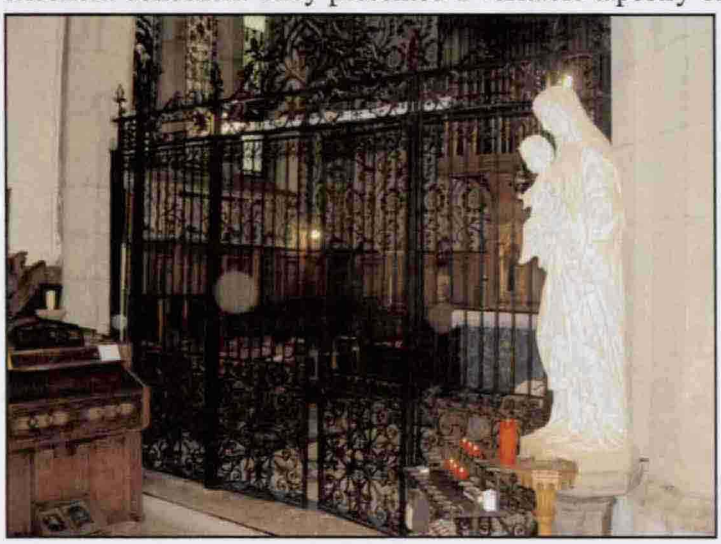
Last September my husband Les and I spent a week on holiday in Montreux and we decided to visit the church and ask permission to take some photographs of the gates, if they were still there. Our travel rep knew that the location of the church was in Territet, an area of Montreux, easily reached by the local bus, so on Sunday we arrived at the church in time to join in the morning service.

Looking down the aisle from our seats at the back of the church we could only see two short iron railings at the chancel steps. Were these the gates that we had come to see, we wondered? Towards the end of the service the vicar asked if any visitors or holiday-makers visiting the church for the first time would make themselves known. Several people put up their hands and the vicar brought the microphone into the congregation and asked them to introduce themselves. We too were invited to say a few words so we said we were on holiday from Surrey and had come to the church especially to look at the chancel gates that had been made nearly 100 years ago by the blacksmith in the village of Send where we lived.

This drew some gasps of amazement from those around us and when the service was over the vicar suggested that we talk to the church historian. He introduced us to Mrs Marion Green who having heard us mention Send was already waiting and eager to talk to us.

She led us to the side of the church to the Lady Chapel where she showed us the gates that had formerly been at the entrance to the chancel and which had been moved to the Lady Chapel when that had been built onto the church at a later date.

These gates were impressive, being about 12 feet high, and as wide across, and in excellent condition. They presented a veritable tapestry of fine scroll work and tracery in metal, topped by outlines of the pomegranate fruit which we were told was a Christian symbol; one fruit with many seeds. The church walls too were decorated with the flowers and fruit of the pomegranate in very pleasing patterns and colours.



Mrs Green had much to tell us about the church and was also excited about the connection between Clarence Sex and George Frederick Watts, the Pre-Raphaelite painter, who had lived in Compton. Clarence

Sex had made the gates for his home 'Limberlost' and also the gates for the Watts Memorial Chapel and cloister at Compton.

It seemed that several artists of that period visited or made their homes in Montreux.

Clarence Sex had learned his trade at his father's forge in Compton but was very keen to develop the decorative wrought iron side of the business, which he continued when he took over the blacksmith's forge in Send in 1899.

Mrs Green made coffee for us while we chatted and we were joined by a member of the congregation who knew our Les Bowerman in his cycling days!

How about that for the world being a small place!

Memories of Ripley School

Sheila Brown

It is ten years since the *Two Village Schools* book was published in 2002 but I still get calls and emails from people telling me that their name, or that of one of their siblings, is missing from the Pupil Lists of Send or Ripley school. I am always delighted to hear from these people and will add the missing names to the next up-date of the Addendum of Names that was printed a few years later to accompany the book.

Recently Marion Wrenn (née Marsh) e-mailed me telling me that her brother Brian's name was missing from the Ripley Pupil List and also mentioned that she had some school related photographs.

Elaine and Marion Marsh 1966

The next email included an attachment with school photos of herself and her sisters Jane and Elaine together with some photos of a school assembly showing the interior of the old Ripley school, which are of special interest.

Mr J Reynolds was the head master when Marion started school in 1962 aged four and she recalls being very tearful as she had broken her leg and had to sit in a pushchair at the front of the class. She remembers Mrs Crane as her first teacher and then she was in Miss Penny's class where the photograph was taken when the children made cakes for a Teddy Bears Party.

Marion and Jane Marsh 1963

Although the old school closed when the new school in the Georgelands opened in September 1968, it is evident that some of the new classrooms were already being used on the new site as early as 1964/5 as Marion refers to being in 'the

Christmas Show 1962/63

School Assembly 1962/63

annexe' but having to return to the old school at lunchtime. She was there for three years with Miss Burnett (who became Mrs Bushell), Miss Gawthorne, and Mr Porter as her teachers, and then she moved on to St Bede's in Send, which was the secondary school for the children of Send, Ripley, East and West Clandon, Wisley and Ockham.

Making cakes for a Teddy Bears' Party 1963

Mr Reynolds was officially appointed as the head master of the new Ripley school and his first priority was to arrange for the swimming pool to be built. A Swimming Pool Fund had been started at the old school by the former head-master, Mr Dixon, and this was continued by Mr Reynolds when he took over and it was soon after the new school opened that the swimming pool became a reality, to the extreme delight of all the children. But Marion missed this event because she had left the school in the summer of 1968.

Mr Reynolds moved on after five years to become headmaster of another school when Ripley became a school for Infants only, in 1972.

It is always interesting to hear from past pupils and thanks are due to Marion for sharing her memories and her photographs, which are a valuable contribution to the archives of the Society.

Correspondence

Send Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Following on from the article on the Brownies in the July Journal Pat Clack has written to say:

"Regarding the picture on page 11 of the Journal; my daughter, Valerie, is in centre row, in front of Susan Giles - 3rd from right, with beret on back of head (incorrect angle), and Jane Lepper is next to Susan - second from right".

11 August 1964 - Does anyone know who the others are?

E-mail from Pat Clack to John Slatford re: Send Lodge Part 2 article in Journal N o 224

Dear John,
Regarding your report in the current Journal, I had no idea that Send Lodge was connected with Tyler & Co. I joined Tylers at the head office in Woking in 1941 straight from school aged 15 and stayed there until 1944 when I joined the WAAF. While I was there, the manager was Cecil Finch who lived in the flat over the shop with his wife and disabled daughter Evelyn. She attended Greenfield School but never went out apart from that. I got to know her and would go upstairs to visit. When I was about to leave, I suggested to Mr Finch that Evelyn could replace me. He thought it was impossible but I persuaded him to let me train her in the shop and office – she stayed there for over 40 years and is now in Kettlewell Hill Nursing Home.

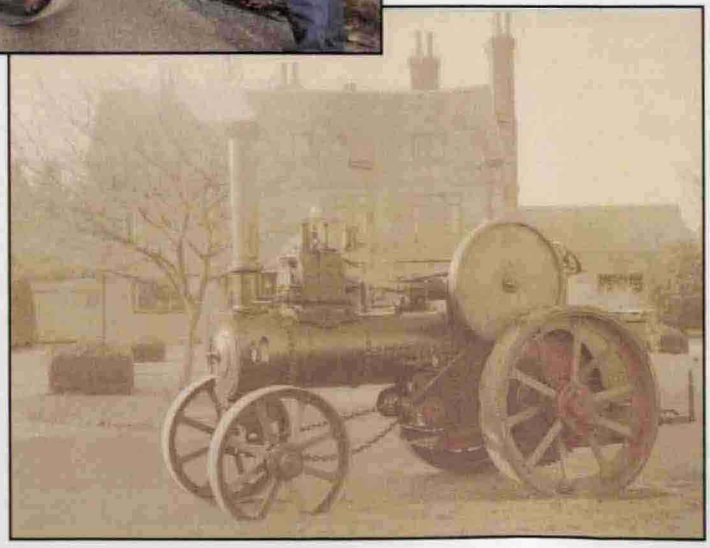
While in the WAAF, I always visited them while on leave and after I was married took my children to visit as well. The staff when I was there were Alfred Dimon from Kingsway (went into the RAF Police), Mr Murphy (went into the army), Gladys Miller from Byfleet, Mrs Stone, Sid Kent, yard-boy (joined the RAF), Bob Candy (joined the RAF and was killed). One of the van drivers was Charlie Pantling, a real character who was there all his working life.

Because of my address, I was friendly with the Parvin family who were managers of Tylers.in Send at Mays Corner Their son Peter Parvin who now lives in Cranleigh is a member of the Society. Edward Parvin went into the RAF and his wife Eva managed the shop while he was away with the help of her father Mr Andrews. He kept the garden in excellent condition. I knew all three of the local "boys" who were van drivers there: John Webb, Jack Lepper and Jim Styles

About Cartbridge, before Lemons and Gladdings, the baker there was Arthur Webb. I remember, when he was delivering bread, he would come in and sit at the table talking to my mother – and everyone else he called on, I believe – so his round took him quite a long time! I used to go down there to play with his boys and still recall the smell of baking bread, all was cooked on the premises then.

I thought I would put all this on paper while it was fresh in my mind.

A 1904 Wallis and Steevens traction engine that stopped on Send Marsh Green on 13 March 2012. It belongs to local man, Ross Anderson (at the back of the engine), who was celebrating his birthday at the time.

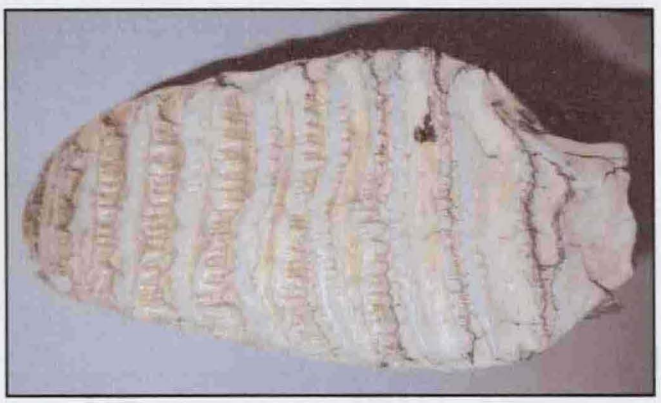


Colour photo: © Les Bowerman
Sepia photo: © Peter Hoare

Mammoth Tooth from Send[1]

Andy Jones

A short while ago Mr John Hudson of Ripley gave our Society the fossilised tooth of a woolly mammoth, which he felt should be deposited with us. He believes that it came from the Papercourt gravel pit in Send. This is a good possibility as one of our members, Fred Hookins, worked at the pit when it was being dug. He has confirmed that mammoth teeth were found at Papercourt pit (I believe a number of them); that the teeth were offered to a museum, which refused them saying that they already had some and did not need any more; and that the staff did not want them as mammoth teeth turned up quite frequently. So the pit owners re-buried them in the pit when it was filled in and perhaps at least one was taken away.



The mammoth tooth looking at the top (grinding face)

The mammoth tooth looking at the side

Mammoths were from a family of animals called Proboscideans, which included the Mastodon and the modern day Elephant They first appeared around 3-4 million years ago in sub-Saharan Africa, the oldest known mammoth fossil is 4 million years old. About 1.7 million years ago mammoths crossed the land bridge that linked Siberia and Alaska. There were many types of mammoth species that lived in northern climates and their remains can be found in most northern regions, including Europe, Northern Asia and North America. Three species of mammoth are known to have been present in Europe and Siberia. The first was the primitive mammoth or Ancestral Mammoth (*mammuthus meridionalis*), which lived in Europe between about 2.5 million and 700,000 years ago. This was followed by the steppe mammoth (*mammuthus trogontherii*), which lived until about 200,000 years ago, and then the woolly mammoth (*mammuthus primigenius*), which finally died out about 3,500 years ago. So our tooth could be between 2.5 million and 3,500 years old. It is from a woolly mammoth, the most widespread species. The last known mammoths; a dwarf species found on an island off the coast of Siberia, died out about 2,000 BC.

A woolly mammoth

Woolly mammoths were about the same size as African elephants, fully grown bulls reached heights of between 2.7m (8.9ft) and 4.0m (13.1ft). Their tusks could be up to 5m (16ft) long and were markedly curved more than those of an

elephant. They could have used their tusks to clear snow as tusks have been found with flat surfaces. Their fur colour was dark brown to black or pale blond or ginger depending on the gene that determined colour.

They had a number of adaptions to the cold. The best known was a thick layer of shaggy hair up to 1.0m in length with a fine under wool that was similar to a musk ox. They probably moulted in the summer months. Their ears were smaller than modern elephants. They had sebaceous glands in their skin, which secreted greasy fat into their hair improving its insulating qualities. They had a layer of fat up to 8cm (3in) thick under the skin, which helped keep them warm. Their haemoglobin (blood) had adapted to the cold to improve oxygen delivery and prevent freezing. They had a high-peaked head that appeared knoblike and a high shoulder hump.

They lived in herds on the tundra plains and ate the grass and small beech saplings. The life-expectancy of the average mammoth was 60-80 years. They had six sets of teeth in a lifetime and usually starved to death when they lost their last set of teeth. They died out due to climate change and hunting by ancient man. It's hard to imagine that woolly mammoths were living in the area that became Send. There was not much worn-down surface on our tooth, so perhaps it was killed by man. Flint wasters have been found elsewhere in Send so it's a good possibility. Tusks have been found in a pit in Farnham, so mammoths were probably quite common in this part of Surrey..

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1. Mammoth info and picture from free internet sites, tooth photos from Andy Jones ■

Museum and Events

Clare McCann

The Jubilee exhibition has given way to the modestly titled Ripley – *The Most Famous Cycling Village in the World,* so please try to pay the Museum a visit if you missed seeing the exhibition at the village hall

RIPLEY – *"The Most Famous Cycling Village in the World"*

A new exhibition

RIPLEY MUSEUM, SATURDAYS 10 –12.30

The exhibition was on show at the hall to coincide with the two Olympic Road Races which came through Ripley. Les Bowerman brought along some of his amazing collection of bikes, which drew a lot of attention when visitors were not watching the big screen showing the race.

Ripley was packed to watch both the Men's and Women's Road Races come through and every car and motor bike was cheered through the village while waiting for the peloton to arrive.

Jenny Cliff had a banner on her house declaring 'Ripley welcoming cyclists for 140 years (which incidentally now adorns the museum) and The Cedar House had bicycles on the roof and 'Bravo Cyclists' on the wall. The Bakery acknowledged the heroics of 'Wiggo' and the new Pinnocks cafe was doing a roaring trade.

The village was *en fête* and it was a weekend that will live long in the memory.

OTHER NEWS

Society members at Lords

Some members of the Society have enjoyed an outing to Lords Cricket Ground, just before it played host to the Olympic Archery and there has also been a local guided walk round Old Woking.

Finally a reminder that the next event is on the 19th of September. It promises to be a special event. It is entitled "A Night of Terror!" - David Rose is coming to tell us about a piece of WWI local history. ■

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Society's Museum, which is next to the Ripley Village Hall, is open every Saturday morning from 10.00am to 12.30pm and on the third Sunday of the month to coincide with the Antiques Fair. The current display is based on Ripley's strong link with cycling ever since the 1870s. Indoor meetings are held in the annexe of Ripley Village Hall starting at 8 o'clock.

Wed. 19th Sept - "A Night of Terror!" An illustrated talk by David Rose about the Zeppelin attack on Guildford during World War I.

Wed. 17th Oct - "Ripley and Woking Postal History". A talk by Michael Lockton. The story of the development of the postal services – Ripley Post Office was the earliest one in Surrey.

Fri. 23rd Nov - A talk on "The History of Gardens" by Margaret Willis, well-known author of several books on gardening. NB. This date has been changed from our normal Wednesday meeting and will take place in the main Village Hall.

Wed. 19th Dec The Christmas Social. Members only.

If you have any questions regarding the programme, please ring me, Anne Bowerman, on 01483 224876 for further information about the Society's talks and events.

Journal Contributions: Closing date for the next issue is **Thursday 25 October 2012.**
Will authors of illustrated articles please submit **original photographic prints** if at all possible to ensure reasonably good reproduction in the Journal

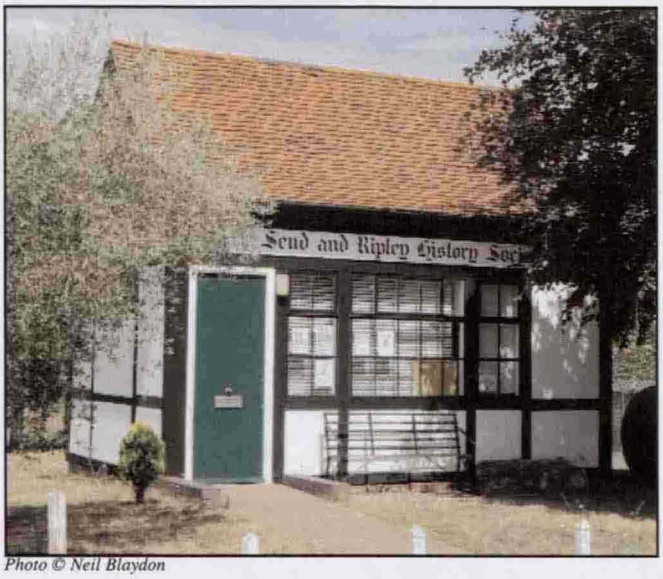

Photo © Neil Blaydon

SEND & RIPLEY
LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM
Tel (when open): 07887 736735

OPEN: Saturday mornings: 10.0-12.30
Throughout the year
(Check bank holiday opening times).

Also open on 3rd Sunday of each month to coincide with Ripley Antiques Fair in the Village Hall

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		£3.00
'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
'Send and Ripley Walks'		£5.00

All the publications are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. 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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