

Send & Ripley History Society



GORDON STEWART
AND THE GREAT DANES
OF SEND MANOR

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CHANGE. ONE VILLAGE,
111 YEARS LATER

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Cover image:

Anna Lea Merritt's painting
of St Martin in St Martin's
Blackheath. Note that St
Martin's Blackheath itself also
appears on the right of the
painting (Photo by Ditz)

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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

It has been quite an eventful summer for everyone, with extremes of weather and the ongoing Brexit saga but here in Ripley there were two very local disturbances to our day-to-day lives which I thought were worth recording. On July 3rd we had what was perhaps our first peacetime bomb scare with the centre of the village closed and locals evacuated from their homes and businesses. An attempt had been made to steal the ATM machine from the front wall of the Co-op and the police and army bomb disposal units were called in to remove explosive materials left behind by the unsuccessful robbers. After a couple of hours life was back to normal.

Two weeks later, on July 19th the Ripley Event due to take place the following day was abruptly cancelled as an unauthorised travellers' encampment had been set up on the Green. One group had arrived on the field on Thursday night before another joined them on the Friday afternoon, bringing a total of 10 caravans. The police attended promptly and in significant numbers but were unable to obtain the necessary paperwork to move them on until early the following week. A disappointment for

all who planned to visit but also a financial loss to the many traders and to the charities who normally benefit from this ancient annual fair. Can any of our members recall anything like this happening before?

Our programme of talks and events for 2020 is shaping up well (see page 30) and I look forward to seeing you at some or all of them.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th October 2019.

Authors of illustrated articles should submit high resolution (300 DPI or higher) jpegs to the editor by email to ensure best reproduction in the journal, but no more than 10MB in any one email

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FORTY YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN

In Newsletter 27 of July 1979 there is a report of a talk given to the society by JCM (Mervyn) Blatch on Anglo-Saxon-England. Whilst perhaps not strictly of local interest it caught my eye as Mr Blatch is buried at Wisley church, next door to our house. In a further coincidence, when I left my job in the City in 1988 to start a new career as a book publisher, my colleagues gave me as a leaving gift Mervyn Blatch's book *A Guide to London's Churches*.

Clearly the illustrations shown here were not used in the original article.

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

The lecture covered the six centuries of mystery, the Dark Ages, roughly from the period containing the Roman evacuation of Britain in about 420 AD and the arrival of Hengist and Horsa, pagan kings from Jutland, at Ebbsfleet in Kent in 449, to the Norman Conquest in 1066; a time space equal to that from the Battle of Crecy to the present day. The speaker then divided these six centuries into a First Period – pagan – from Hengist to the arrival of St Augustine at Canterbury in 597. A Second Period of early Christianity followed, to the commencement of the Viking invasion from Norway and Sweden in 787, then Period III from 787 to 1066, at Hastings, when the flower of the Anglo-Saxon race and the forebears of the present nation were slaughtered with their chosen king, Harold, on the site now occupied by Battle Abbey. The Anglo-Saxon culture was utterly crushed and died here.

During the Pagan Period I, superb ornaments and pottery were executed. Slides of the burial goods in gold from the Sutton Hoo ship were shown, as was the drinking vessel now known as the Clan Beaker, together with the necklace from Desborough, Northants, and the brooches from Minster Lorell, Oxon, and Kingston, Kent. Most of these treasures are deposited in the British Museum and the Ashmolean, Oxford. However, during this time a flicker of Christianity was preserved at places like the monastery at Clonmacnoise in Western Ireland, and at St Davids in



The Sutton Hoo helmet is one of the most important Anglo-Saxon finds of all time. Only four complete Anglo-Saxon helmets are known to date, and this is the most elaborate (courtesy British Museum)

Wales. It was not until the arrival of St Augustine in 597, and the Venerable Bede in Jarrow in 673, that Christianity began to spread through England. The churches of Monkwearmouth, Jarrow and Escombe are of this early date, as also the great church of Brixworth in Northants, built by the monks of Peterborough and called by Sir Alfred Clapham the finest Romanesque building north of the Alps. This period also produced Saxon crosses at Bewcastle, Eyam in Derbyshire.

St Wilfrid's chair in Hexham Abbey, and manuscripts of which the *Lindisfarne Gospel* and the *Book of Kells*, now in Trinity College, Dublin, are fine examples. The maniple of St Cuthbert, taken from his tomb in Durham cathedral, stresses the beauty of Anglo-Saxon embroidery, much of it with Byzantine motifs.

This Second Period, of early Christianity, came to an end with the Viking invasion. Waves of wild Norsemen continued to come, and in 870 the huge Benedictine Abbey in Chertsey in Surrey was burnt, and the abbot and 90 monks slaughtered. The English race countered these acts as best they could until a new king named Alfred succeeded

in organising resistance of such quality that peace was restored. With the return of stability Alfred established centres of education and learning and ordained laws fair to all. Once again magnificent manuscripts were produced, principally by the Winchester 'School', and many of the two hundred and thirty-eight Saxon churches remaining today date from this time, together with the roods at Ramsey Abbey, Jevington in Sussex, Headbourne Worthy and Breamore in Hampshire. Mighty churches also stand at Stow and Barton on Humber in Lincs, Earls Barton and Barnack in Northants, and Worth and Sompting in Sussex.

Early Saxon cathedrals besides those at Winchester, Durham and Ripon are known to have existed at Crediton in Devon, North Elmham in Norfolk, and Selsey in Sussex, now under the sea off Selsey Bill. Notable churches also stand at Bradford-on-Avon, Corhampton and Wing in North Bucks, where a *confessio* to contain relics remains in the crypt under the polygonal apse.

A lively carving of an angel can be seen in a doorway *tympalum* at Winterbourne Steepleton in Dorset, and fonts at Melbury Bubb also in that county, and at Deerhurst in Gloucestershire. The church at Bosham on Chichester harbour appears on the Bayeux tapestry worked by the sister of William the Conqueror and the ladies of her court, and the only Saxon inscription remaining in a church can be seen on the arch to the south *porticus* at Breamore, Hants: *Here the Covenant is revealed to thee*.



Anglo-Saxon inscription at the church in Breamore, Hants

The speaker finally drew attention to the recent remarks in the national press by the Poet Laureate, Sir John Betjeman, who reminded everyone that the Saxons had given this nation its land boundaries, the hundreds and the shires, together with the manorial and parish systems. They had fostered and kept alive learning, literature and poetry while displaying great skill in work on vellum and in metal; and our present parliamentary system had its origins in the Saxon Folk Moot or meeting place. Alfred had first realised the importance of sea power and was the founder of the navy. The evening ended with a special tribute by the speaker to Alfred the Great – 'Mighty in Peace and War'.

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WHERE IS IT? – J258 REVISITED

ALAN COOPER



Where is it? Photo originally published in Journal 258 featuring John Joshua Quick Fox, Patricia Eileen Marsh and Archibald John Marsh



Top Left: Incident Officer John Joshua Quick Fox
Top Right: Stanley Montague Williams



In Journal 258 a photo of World War II ARP personnel was featured. This was in fact a training exercise taking place outside Homewood Farm, Newark Lane, Ripley. SRHS member Michael Giles contacted us recently with the following additional information:

“The gentleman in the white coat was my maternal grandfather, John Joshua Quick Fox, the white coat indicative of his role as an ‘Incident Officer’. The couple standing to the right in the picture were my aunt and uncle, Patricia Eileen and Archibald John Marsh, also fellow ARP members. Additionally I had two home guard uncles in Ripley, Stanley Montague Williams and Eric Fraser Fox.¹

Eric wore ‘Oakleaves’ on the ribbon of his Defence Medal, signifying being ‘Mentioned in Dispatches’. This award followed an incident during a training exercise on Wisley Common when a fellow home guard removed the safety pin from a live hand grenade and then promptly dropped it.

Eric retrieved the grenade and hurled it from their trench before it exploded, a feat confirmed in later years by Arthur ‘Shonie’ Shorter who witnessed the event.”



Bottom Left: Eric Fraser Fox, life-saving hero of the training exercise on Wisley Common



Bottom Right: Arthur ‘Shonie’ Shorter. His life and many others were saved by the quick thinking of Eric Fraser Fox

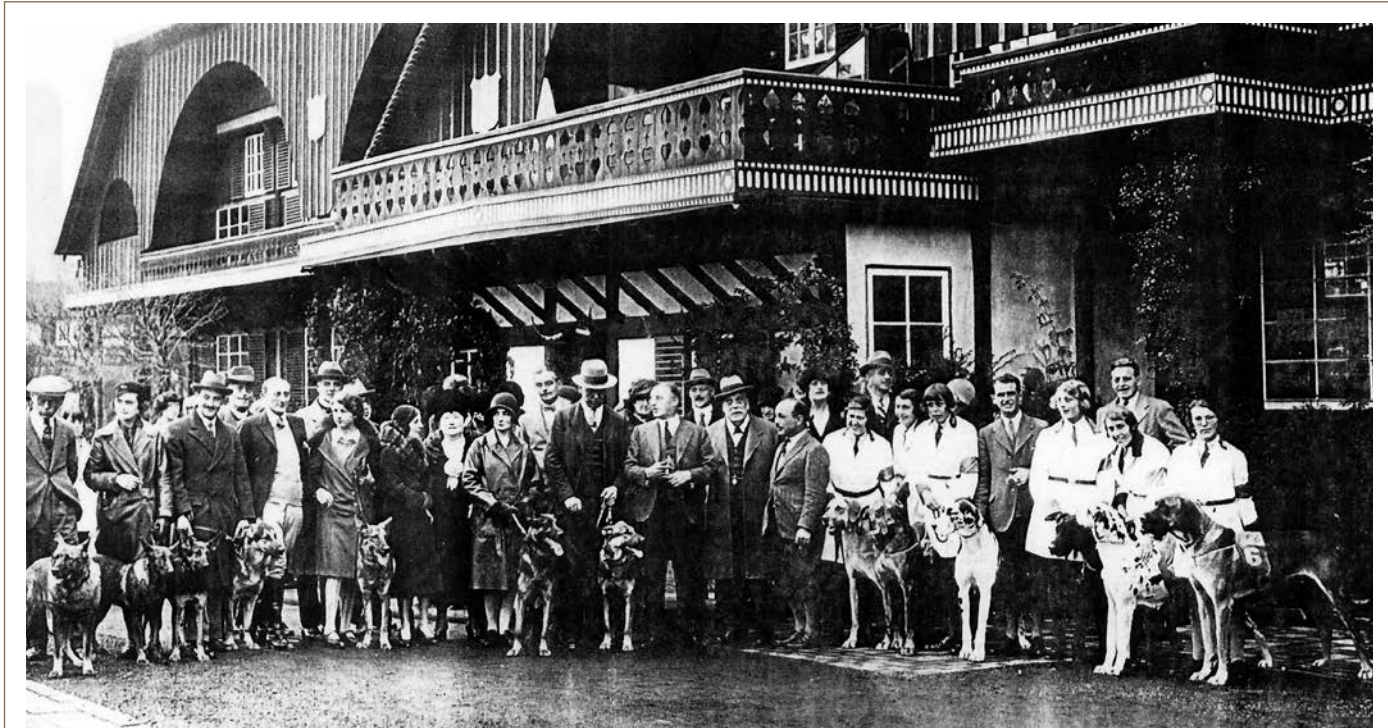
Photos c/o Alan Cooper collection.

¹ In the *Home Guard* article in Journal 259 these two men are incorrectly identified as Hugh Williams and Ed Fox

GORDON STEWART AND THE GREAT DANES OF SEND MANOR

THE STORY OF A REMARKABLE ENTREPRENEUR

CLARE MCCANN



Gathering for the racing at Karinda Hut

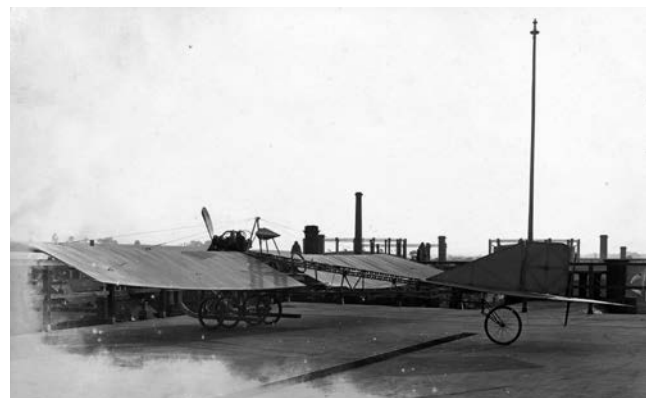
The current exhibition at the museum (until the end of October) tells the story of a truly remarkable, but largely forgotten entrepreneur who lived most of his adult life at Send Manor. Let me say from the outset that it relies very heavily on Robert Heal's book, *The Danes of Send Manor: The Life, Loves and Mystery of Gordon Stewart*. I have been unable to ascertain if Robert Heal is still alive but hope he would be pleased with the exhibition.

Gordon Stewart, one of seven children, was born near Epsom on May 13th 1885 and named William Gordon Stewart. He apparently dropped the William as he hated his nickname Willie. His father was Raynham Vivian King Stewart, a tea merchant.

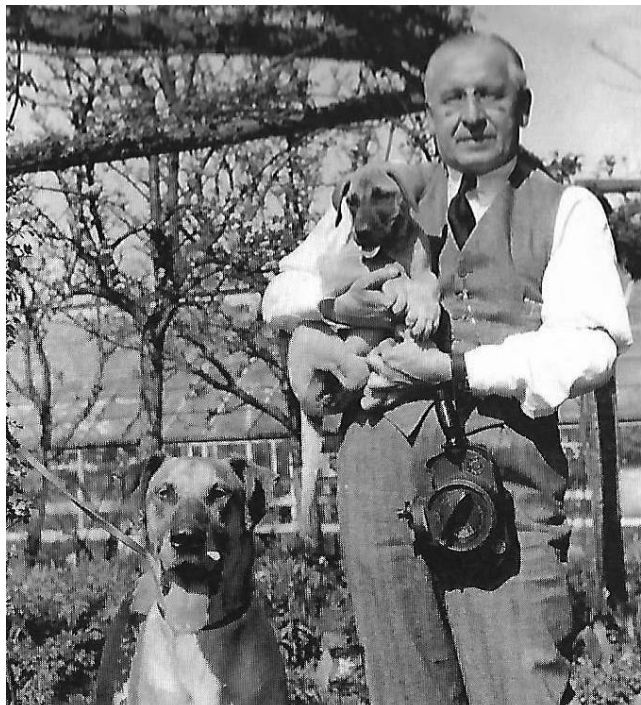
His maternal grandfather, Edwin Smith, estate agent and auctioneer, was keen for the boys to go into the navy. He had supported his daughter and the children after Eleanor and Raynham's marriage ended at the turn of the century. He paid for Gordon's education at Eastbourne College but Edwin and Gordon did not see

eye to eye on his future. Gordon refused to go into the navy and wanted to make his fortune.

He got a job with the Wolseley Tool & Motor Car Company and worked at first with Herbert Austin. Stewart could not only see the future of cars but also planes and designed the Mulliner 1 monoplane (he had



The Mulliner 1 monoplane designed by Stewart



Gordon Stewart

intended to use an Austin engine but in fact used a JAP). The plane cost £450. It was received positively by aero enthusiasts but was not commercially successful. He gave up designing planes but, on the plus side, at the Olympia Aero Show he met Malcolm Campbell with whom he stayed friends.

According to Heal, Gordon Stewart met a Mr Arden in 1911 and the firm of Stewart & Arden was formed. I have been unsuccessful in finding out anything about Arden, to the point that I have begun to doubt his existence! Around this time he made another key friendship with William Morris, later Lord Nuffield. Gordon's grandfather had said to him "I'll bet you this dime that the motor car will never replace the horse on the streets of London", but Gordon thought otherwise. The dime that his grandfather bet him apparently stayed on his watch chain throughout his life.

At the Birmingham Motor Show in 1913 Bill Morris showed his Morris Oxford (with a dummy wooden motor). Gordon Stewart took a risk and ordered 400 without

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GORDON STEWART, Chairman and Joint Managing Director. GEORGE H. UPJOHN, Joint Managing Director

even owning a showroom. However, Stewart had funds from his grandfather's trust fund and set up his first one in Woodstock Street, just off Bond Street. He advertised the Morris Oxford in *Auto Car* saying it could do 45 miles per hour even though it had not yet been on the road!

Once initial problems were solved, the Morris Oxford ran well and Gordon Stewart's gamble paid off. A born salesman he had the car shown off in Harrods. He took part in a London to Edinburgh road trial and won gold medals and a special trophy, the Light Car Cup. Soon Stewart & Arden moved to bigger premises in Bond Street. Later they would circle London with modern car salesrooms in convenient locations at Croydon, Sutton, Harrow and Southend. They were all manned by experienced technicians with the latest service equipment. In 1926 they opened a huge display and service centre at The Vale, Acton, and this was Stewart & Arden's HQ for the next 50 years. In 1934 they also moved into a prestigious central London site in Berkeley Square, called Morris House. By the time of the war they were the largest car distributor in Britain and Gordon Stewart was amassing a fortune.

It was the success of his car dealerships that allowed Gordon to do other things. In the early twenties, when aged 36, he bought Send Manor, overlooking Send Marsh Green. This was just after his marriage to Irene Russell. The marriage did not last and in about 10 years they separated but were never divorced. Irene lived in London in a block of flats owned by Gordon.

As a boy Gordon Stewart had a much-loved Great Dane and when he left to make his fortune, he had had to leave the dog behind but never forgot his pet. It became his ambition to build the largest Great Dane kennels in the world at Send Manor on about 50 acres behind the house. He planned an ultra-modern facility where, by careful scientific selection, he would be able to breed a line of Great Danes not only with elegance, grace and beauty, but with the mental qualities to prove his theory that the breed had the character, stamina and prowess to equal any other. He planned to have his own veterinary staff, dog hospital and kitchen, where dog food would be mixed on the premises. He recruited Colonel Beddoes, secretary of the Great Dane Breeders Association, to help him buy the best breeding stock they could find in Europe.

As there was no electricity in Send Marsh he had his own electric generating plant installed. Reg Giles, a local carpenter, recalled that he provided employment at the time of the economic slump [see also the article in J265 p18 taken from Reg Giles' diaries]. Harold Giles, Reg's father, headed up a team of 25 employed to construct kennel runs and chicken houses. Stewart also employed three gardeners, a butler, a cook and a maid. At its height there were two chauffeurs, ten kennel boys, five cookhouse- and kitchen staff, 30 kennel maids, two office girls, three dog trainers and eight managers - 91 staff in all. He bought two Morris fire engines, one for the kennels and one which he gave to Ripley.

The layout was recalled for Robert Heal by Phyllis Hill, a former kennel maid. Stewart laid out new gardens, rebuilt a barn that had an indoor tennis court which could be used for exhibitions of obedience and even dog races. The beauty of the buildings was down to the fact that they were all designed in the style of a Swiss village. They all looked like chalets and had wooden carving and paintings of mountain scenery. The tree-lined lanes between the buildings were landscaped and each was named. The show fields or ranges as they were called, behind the Manor House gardens, had a row of kennels with an observation office on stilts where the show manager, Robert Montgomery, could watch training progress.



One of the Great Danes; from Audrey Smithers' collection



A VEHICLE BUILT FOR DOG TRANSPORT: MR. GORDON STEWART'S GREAT DANES. Mr. Gordon Stewart, the Governing Director of Messrs. Stewart and Ardern, Ltd., is an enthusiastic breeder of Great Danes, which he exhibits at the leading shows. These are here seen at Mr. Stewart's country house at Send, near Ripley. The vehicle shown was designed by Mr. Stewart for dog transport, and is mounted on a 35-50 cwt. Morris chassis.

A Morris-based dog-transporter designed by Stewart

At the back of the site were the British Poultry Development and the Send Grist Mills. Gordon Stewart founded the British Poultry Development but Send Grist Mills was an existing business that he renamed. It made animal feed including some for the dogs and poultry. The poultry business supplied chicken and eggs, including to some London hotels, as well as providing eggs for the dogs. Later he held poultry and pigeon shows at Send Manor, with breeders and manufacturers exhibiting.

Five people prepared over a thousand meals a day for dogs and humans. Different menus were needed for puppies, sick dogs, fat dogs, thin dogs, stud and show dogs and any other conditions requiring special food care. The horsemeat vans delivered twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays and carcasses were stored in a Kelvinator refrigerated room that led off the kitchen. The butchers then cut up the meat, saved the bones for soup stock and ground the meat up for the daily meals. Large slabs of biscuit were baked by Reginald French to a special recipe developed by Gordon Stewart with a group of nutritionists. There was a bake-house and the slabs of

biscuit were broken up by machine into different sizes. Each kennel maid was responsible for her own dogs in her range section and she collected the food from the kitchen using a trolley. The waste was disposed of in two incinerators near the rear of the property.

The organisational skills from running his companies were brought to bear on Gordon Stewart's operation and he seems to have hired good staff. In Robert Heal's opinion, 'Nowhere in the world, then or today, has a kennel fed one thousand meals a day, seven days a week, year after year'.

There was a veterinary hospital with the latest equipment. A vet came two or three days a week from Woking and could be called at any time. There was a canine nurse and a staff of five. Stewart designed a Morris dog-ambulance loaded with first aid equipment that went with the animals to shows. Rounds of the 290 kennels were undertaken daily. Once they had an outbreak of mange, probably from an imported dog, and 15 dogs were treated with railway oil.

Gordon Stewart tested a vaccine for distemper in his laboratory and by 1931 Send Kennels had no distemper and all the dogs were inoculated. Ultra violet ray equipment was used for skin conditions and cinder tracks were laid to harden the dogs' pads.

The business began with two English Great Danes in 1921 and ten years later, in its heyday, had 500, many imported from the continent. When it came to importing top-class animals, Stewart was up against experienced rivals and it was hard for him to get the best stock. He had dogs of all the Great Dane colours: fawn, brindle, black, blue and harlequin and wanted to prove that Great Danes could equal or better German Shepherds for intelligence and prowess. They performed for royalty at Send Manor and at agricultural and horse shows. Everything had to be first class; the staff wore crisp white jackets for shows with maroon trim on cuffs and collars and SK (Send Kennel) emblems.

There were frequent shows at Send Manor. The Swiss 'barn' was the focal point, called Karinda Hut. The interior was even painted by Augustus John. Although he was a successful portrait painter, his friend Gordon Stewart persuaded him to lay aside commissions to decorate the Karinda Hut. Sadly nobody seems to have

any idea what became of the paintings. The outside was landscaped and had cobbled walkways. There Mrs Stewart entertained actors and actresses who were invited for the weekend to see exciting dog shows and races. Gracie Fields, Vivienne Leigh and Richard Tauber were amongst the visitors. Some of the 'dog-racing' took place inside the Karinda Hut with dogs being moved forward on the spin of a wheel, and with betting on the outcome. Demonstrations included one dog jumping over five others. Stewart liked to impress the elite and was forever coming up with fresh ideas.

Among his more illustrious visitors were members of the royal family. Gordon Stewart first met Prince George, Duke of Kent, when he was patron of the Great Dane Club. Gordon presented his champion dog, Midas, to the Duke of Kent but the dog stayed at Send. The Duke, his brother, the future King, and the Duke of Gloucester all visited Send to watch the dog perform at races, steeplechases and hurdles.



Alert, bronze of Midas of Send by unknown artist circa 1933
©The Kennel Club

Stewart fostered the connection with the royal family. The Duke of York was patron of the National Safety First Association. Stewart became president of the Association and persuaded the Duke to act in a picture called *Alert today - Alive tomorrow*. The film, in which Midas played a role, was produced by Gordon Stewart who used his own funds to pay for it. As someone who sold cars he apparently felt a responsibility for road-safety and it was partly filmed in Send. Great Danes, including Midas were given special training for the film. A sculpture called Alert was presented to Gordon Stewart in 1933 for this work and the statue subsequently came into the possession of Robert Heal, who went on to write the book about Stewart.



Gordon Stewart with the now elderly Champion Midas of Send, circa 1935

At the launch of *Alert today - Alive tomorrow*, in front of 2000 school children, a message from Sir Malcolm Campbell was played. He was very famous nationally and this must have been good publicity for the film.

Midas was not the only dog to feature in a film. Michael Balcon, who had set up Gainsborough Studios, approached Gordon Stewart and Champion Egmund of Send became the hound in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Some scenes were shot at Send Manor but sadly no copies of the film exist. Stewart's next foray into films was a version of *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*. It was to be part of his Children's Safety Crusade to commemorate the King's coronation. There was an inaugural lunch at the Savoy, to promote his crusade and raise funds. Guests included Lord Nuffield and the then Minister of Transport, Lord Hore-Belisha. Stewart had hoped to raise one hundred thousand pounds for the campaign but due to his enthusiasm, salesmanship and contacts, he raised that sum on the first day!

Back at Send Manor Jack Townsend, a local rat-catcher, was paid to catch live rats and deliver them to Reg Giles, Gordon Stewart's foreman. They had to build special cages and an authentic-looking European street in Send for the village of Hamelin. In the film the piper, played by Albert Hepburn, offers his magical powers to the local safety council in the



A fleet of road-safety vans



A young Gracie Fields and a Send Great Dane bitch read the *Tatler* together at the fountain in Send Manor gardens

village. He trained the rats to hang out of his pockets, sleeves and boots and led the children to safety clutching a green torch. However, on the downside, some rats escaped and this led to a serious outbreak of leptospirosis and the death of many dogs. Forty special Morris vans were built for the Child Safety Crusade with pied piper emblems on the side and loudspeakers on top. They were dispatched across the country to spread the safety message. Gracie Fields, who was often at Send Manor, recorded safety songs. See <https://youtu.be/0q7HCAEByAk>

By 1936 Gordon Stewart seems to have appreciated that war was looming and started to dismantle his kennels, knowing he would never be able to feed the animals. His motor business geared up to repair army vehicles and recondition engines and gearboxes for the RAF and civil defence forces. They built American trucks that arrived in boxes, sometimes manufacturing their own tools to do so.

According to War Department records over two million machining operations were done by Stewart's company. They trained over 2000 vehicle fitters, men and women. Some of their premises were requisitioned but they found other sites and carried on.

All his gifts for organisation seem to have come into play as well as his extraordinary energy. He is quoted as saying, "Without the war we could have stayed in the same old rut getting lazy in our ways. A good company needs change!".

Stewart also served as a reservist and in Send the grist mill and poultry farm were expanded to feed people, not dogs. He built a laboratory, called Swab House, to experiment with a vaccine designed to increase the milk yields of cows. The kennel ranges and the Swiss chalet were stripped out and used for storage.

With the dogs gone, Gordon Stewart had many fewer visitors to Send Manor. It seems he missed the attention and to fill the void he turned to the theatre. Even before the war he had bought the rights to an American production called *Family Portrait* and it opened at the Strand Theatre. Unfortunately for him it was totally overshadowed by the fall of France and ticket sales dwindled. He put his energies into the war but in 1946 Stewart's Send Manor Trust bought the lease to the Strand Theatre. It seems that Gordon Stewart was keen to promote an aspiring actress called Diana Yardley. Her real name was Diana Edmonds and she and her sister, Mollie Brown, had worked at Send Manor as kennel maids. Diana played Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. Needless to say Toto was not played by a Great Dane.



Mollie Hoare, kennel maid (courtesy Glenda Francis, nee Hepburn, Mollie's daughter)

In 1952 Gordon Stewart died of a massive heart attack while entertaining at Send Manor. He was buried at Send, with his ashes being placed in his mother's grave and a huge crowd attended a memorial service at St Martin-in-the-Fields. In 2009 members of the family placed a slate memorial in Send churchyard near the grave.

In his book Robert Heal questions why he was not knighted. He offers the theory that his affairs with young actresses might have hurt him or possibly his friendship with Prince George, Duke of Kent (who died in an air accident in 1942 but prior to that had led a fairly scandalous life by the standards of the day). However, the author was told by several people that he was offered a knighthood in 1939 but, having craved recognition all his life, realised that he did not need a knighthood to validate what he had achieved. Who knows ...

The author says by the end of his research, he felt he had come to know a man he never actually met, 'a dapper, kindly man. Always in fashionably tailored suit and waistcoat, wearing his little pince nez glasses and always carrying the American dime on the end of his watch chain'— the dime his grandfather Edwin had bet him so long ago.



Prince George, Duke of Kent, with his dog Champion Midas of Send

The Henlys Group ultimately absorbed his motor business, Stewart & Ardern. His estate was left to his wife and his sisters and loyal friends and employees. While he left money to a lot of people, Gordon Stewart is largely forgotten. However, there are locals whose memories were recorded by SRHS member Jane Bartlett some years ago. For example one local lady, Rose Bird, remembered that it was only after the war that her mother finally married the chauffeur for the Stewarts of Send Manor House (who was a widower) where she had been the housekeeper. She helped Mrs Stewart with the laundry and frequently with her cases, as Mrs Stewart hated the country and kept packing and going back to her London flat.

Another local, Reg Tidy, recalled that during the war he joined the small fire brigade run by Stewart at Send Manor. Seemingly, after the war, there was a fire somewhere within the grounds. The local fire brigade was called out, but there was not enough water pressure and eventually they had to call in Guildford. This possibly goes some way to explain how so many of the buildings were lost.

Also recorded in Jane's book of memories is one from Bill Styles. He said his first job, aged 14, was walking some of the dogs. This he did six days a week for a £1. Later they were given distinctive green bicycles to do the exercising: "if you put the dogs in the right order you didn't have to pedal – they pulled you along".

Since putting up the exhibition we have had new photos and memories contributed by member Audrey Smithers and by Gordon Pearcey. Gordon's father was Frederick William Pearcey, commonly referred to as Fred. He was employed as a carpenter at Send Manor and before marriage lived in West Clandon. Gordon's mother was Clara Evelyn Day, usually called Evie. She was employed as a kennel maid and before their marriage lived in Old Woking. She was the daughter of the local policeman - PC Frank Day. Gordon has apparently wondered why he was named Gordon and thinks it might be after the owner of Send Manor. There were social events for the staff held at Send Manor and a number of romances resulted. Gordon mentioned Basil Hepburn and Molly Hoare, a kennel maid, who married, and they and Gordon's parents both bought houses in Grove Heath North, Ripley. Audrey Smithers thinks her father Tom started as a kennel boy and then moved to general maintenance at Send and she has shared some photos from her family album.

We have only been able to include a few of the photos and artefacts with this article. Many more can be seen at the museum and the exhibition remains open for another few weeks.

Unless otherwise credited photos from *The Danes of Send Manor*

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SEND AND RIPLEY 100 YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 1919

PHIL DAVIE

Celebrations after the signing of a peace treaty for World War I finished when 4000 peace medals were issued to all elementary school children and teachers within Guildford Borough. The mayor of Guildford said the medals would be something to treasure and remind them of the great events of their early life. Balancing this was the unveiling at Send schools of a memorial dedicated to those former pupils who laid down their lives for their country.

Effects from the war continued locally as food rationing was still in operation, with new ration cards issued. Residents then had to re-register with their local retailers before the old ration cards expired. It was forecast that food rationing would end in summer 1920.

Meanwhile normal autumn village activities were starting. Send parish Sunday school children had their annual outing when they were taken for a river trip to Pyrford by barge. Tea was provided with sports and games played in a nearby field.

At Send Drill Hall a successful sale of work was held in aid of the church organ fund. Stalls included refreshments, competitions, cakes, provisions and jams, vegetables and fruit, fancy stalls, a manufacturer's stall, and one to publicise the Working Party (later called the Labour Party). The Rev Seymore Solomon said that £56 was raised that afternoon.

A meeting was held to restart the Send football club after the war. The vicar (Rev Morgan-Jones) was elected as president, Mr Sex as captain, and a committee was formed. The club successfully applied to join the Guildford and District Junior League with the first few games to be played, as in the past, at their home ground of Sendhurst Grange.

In Ripley permission was granted to Ripley parish church for formation of a side chapel at the south east corner of the church. It was to have an oak reredos (an ornamental screen or partition behind the altar) to be provided by Mr Moore Cleverly as thanksgiving for the safe return of his two sons from the war. Also, the Ripley boy scout troop was reformed under the leadership of Captain Cleverly.



A WWI peace medal

After 11 months of dispute a solution to the alleged encroachment of land by Send Tannery from an informal footpath appeared to be nearing resolution. The tannery agreed with the parish council's suggestion to move their recently erected fence back a further 1ft 6ins from an adjacent wall, provided the council agreed that title to the remainder of the land behind this fence belonged to the tannery.

Meanwhile the dangerous and almost impassable state of Send church bridge, leading from Send church to Wareham Bridge, caused concern to Send and Ripley parish council. When approached for funds Woking district council responded that a new bridge of a very temporary character would cost at least £60 and avail very little benefit unless the paths across the meadows were raised and made passable. The district council was not in favour of proceeding with the matter.

With Christmas approaching the Send Carols Club restarted their rehearsals, with 32 members and Mr Rawes as conductor.

OUTING TO BLACKHEATH

CAMERON BROWN

In June we were taken on a tour of Blackheath, near Wonersh, guided by Sarah Sullivan. For many of our group this was our first visit to this early ‘garden village’, despite its being under four miles from Guildford. It is small, with fewer than 300 residents, and its main interest lies in its wealth of well-preserved Arts and Crafts houses by the architect Charles Harrison Townsend (1851-1928). He was not just an architect but also a designer of wallpaper and textiles. His three best-known buildings are the Bishopsgate Institute (1894), the Whitechapel Art Gallery (1899) and the Horniman Museum (1902).

From the bronze age onwards farmers have cleared areas of forest around Blackheath to create grasslands. However, the soils here are very thin and sandy and the nutrients were quickly lost. This resulted in a treeless sandy landscape ideally suited to heather and gorse. During WWII the Canadian army were based on the common and excluded villagers and livestock from the heath. This marked the end of a long period of grazing Blackheath, and birch and pine invaded the area. Woodland developed with the loss of 40% of valuable lowland heath over the years since.

Townsend chose this site to build the village in part because of its far-ranging views, many of which are now lost behind the trees.

Waverley Borough Council is endeavouring to restore a number of areas to heathland by regular felling of the scots pine and clearing shrubs to allow heather to re-establish itself. Our walk took us through a heavily overgrown area of the former heath leaving us in little doubt that the trees are winning the battle.

Townsend had got to know Blackheath, at the time a very small village, made more accessible by the railway in the mid-Victorian period. He saw that the Surrey Hills offered a real chance of escape from London into a peaceful, sometimes rugged landscape, then almost devoid of trees. He started what was to become a major

project with a commission for a friend, Henry Warner Prescott, to extend his house in the village. This was in 1885. Prescott was a banker and a friend of William Roberts-Austen, who had moved to Blackheath for health reasons. The two friends started buying up local properties and plots of land which Townsend was to develop to be rented to friends of the investors. This gentrification led to locals being priced out of Blackheath.

Townsend is less well-known than his contemporaries Lutyens and Voysey, but Pevsner wrote of his designs of the 1890s: ‘they are without question the most remarkable example of a reckless repudiation of tradition among English architects of the time’.



The Blackheath signpost



'Cobbins' built by Townsend for his own use

I wonder how Pevsner and Townsend would have reacted to the road sign at the crossroads in the centre of the village. Originally erected as a temporary entertainment during the annual village fair it has become a permanent landmark (which has been stolen and replaced four or five times). It offers directions to 'This Way, That Way and Somewhere Else'.



'Blatchfeld', built in 1888

Our tour began in the cricket pavilion. The cricket club was founded in 1878 using a patch of heather cleared by the villagers and levelled by hand. The present square was laid down in 1896, and extended in 1908 and again in 1949. For many years the club used the former Forest King pub as an unofficial pavilion but when this was closed down in 1954 they built their own pavilion. By 2012 it was beyond economic repair and the new building was completed, substantially to the design of Townsend for a house to be called 'The Studio' – planned in 1896, but never built.

Before we were shown the rest of the village we were invited to view the interior and garden of a house called 'Cobbins' built in 1897 by Townsend for his own use as a summer retreat, on a plot owned by Prescott. Strongly influenced by William Morris and the Arts & Crafts principles Townsend designed not only the buildings but also the textiles and much of the furniture. Our walk then took us past several more Townsend houses including 'Blatchfeld' built in 1888 for Sir William Roberts-Austen.

This house was leased to the young Virginia Woolf in the very early twentieth century. She refers to it in a letter to Violet Dickinson in April 1903 describing it, rather inaccurately, as 'three old cottages run together, and comfortable, which is the main thing'. We then continued through the aforementioned woods down to the main road in Blackheath, where we were to visit the church and the village hall.



St. Martin's Church from a watercolour by K G Twitchen



Virgin and child in the manger, painted by Anna Lea Merritt

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

Sir William Roberts-Austen, a former Deputy Master of the Royal Mint and, locally, a lay reader for Wonersh, purchased a cottage in 1890 to use as a chapel for the village; this is now the vestry of the present church. In 1892 he commissioned Townsend to build a church for the village. St Martin's church cost £600 and was dedicated on 23rd July 1893. It was an original design of Townsend's, based possibly upon an Italian wayside chapel, and named after St Martin's Canterbury, with

which Sir William's family had connections. Before the building was complete, services were conducted fortnightly in the cottage and worshippers were summoned by the ringing of a large dinner bell by his servant. Since 1998 St Martin's has been part of the combined parish of Wonersh with Blackheath, and shares its vicar with Wonersh church.

It is in basilican form with an oblong hall instead of the traditional cruciform (cross shape with chancel, nave and side chapels). The Arts and Crafts movement encouraged sincerity and simplicity, the avoidance of lofty and grand design and the use of local materials, seen here in the candleholders and lectern, made from ironstone from the heath and smelted at the Royal Mint.

The church is well-known for its striking wall-paintings, which were completed in 1894-95 by Anna Lea Merritt, an American artist who studied in Europe and was aware of the Pre-Raphaelites, whose influence is evident in the church murals. She was the first woman artist to have work acquired by the Chantry Bequest which now forms the Tate collection. The technique used for the wall-paintings was revolutionary, using silicon-based paints for the first time in the UK to protect against the effects of damp and consequent deterioration of the artworks, which also explains the remarkable success in retaining the lightness and quality of the colours. She and Roberts-Austen presented a paper on the new technique to the Society of Arts, chaired by Holman Hunt, in 1895.



The interior of St Martin's

The paintings depict a number of scenes from the life of Christ, including Christ on the Mount of Olives; the raising of the widow's son; Virgin and child in the manger; the resurrection. Of particular interest is the representation of St Martin with the churches of St Martin's Canterbury and St Martin's Blackheath in the background [see cover photo]. The crucifix window in the pulpit recess of Christ on the cross is by F Hamilton Jackson, and this and the copper pulpit desk constitute a memorial to John Bell, a member of the congregation who was also the inventor of asbestos.

The original idea was to use the nave of the new church as a village hall on weekdays, however this was avoided when a village hall was built in 1897, in time for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and financed by Prescott. The hall was built on land donated by the Cowley Lamberts of Little Tangle Manor who owned a lot of the land in the area at this time. The original building was designed by Townsend, and consisted of a main hall, front/side entrance lobby, a small meeting room at the rear and outside toilets. The hall was given to the village as a non-political, non-sectarian meeting place for villagers. There are memorials to both Roberts-Austen and Prescott in St Martin's.

Between the village hall and the church we were shown some of the cottages built for workers from the

local gunpowder mills. The oldest of these were at Chilworth and were set up by the Wotton family in the early 16th century.

By 1570 the Albury and Chilworth mills were well established. At Blackheath the blocks of cottages were built in the mid 19th century and became known as 'the barracks'. There was also Unwin's paper mill at Chilworth, which manufactured banknotes.

This burnt down in the 1890s and the heavy calendar (a roller-press) used for finishing the bank notes now stands on the edge of the cricket pitch, where for decades it was used to roll the square. The workers from both these factories were accommodated in cottages like the ones we saw in Blackheath, with names like Pine Cottages, Hillside Cottages and Mitchell Cottages. This accommodation was preferred as the real danger of explosions in Chilworth at the gunpowder works was ever-present. In 1901 six men were killed, and another serious accident in 1913 saw a cloud of leaves blown into the air and then carried on the wind to fall onto the villagers of Blackheath. From the village, then down Sample Oak Lane and into Chilworth

there was a continuous line of oil lamp-posts to light the way for workers. One of these lamps survives outside Lamp Post Cottage at the top of Blackheath Lane by the entrance to the National Trust car park.

Thanks to Sarah Sullivan (and in particular her contributions on the website <http://www.victorianweb.org/art/architecture/townsend/4.html>) and the Blackheath Village Society, for much of the historical information in this article.

All photos © Ditz



Our group, with guide Sarah Sullivan third from the right

AND SO TO MAINFORD DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ!

JOHN SLATFORD



Anthony Bathurst at the Grange, Woking. Courtesy *Sunday Telegraph*

At a recent Committee meeting among the new Society acquisitions shown was a copy of a booklet entitled *And So To Mainford*. It was published in 1972 by the then Mayford History Society (now Woking History Society). To me, it immediately brought recollections of a saga in 1977, our Society's very early days, which attracted a huge amount of what proved to be very embarrassing publicity for the Mayford Society members.

It all began with a young man, Anthony Bathurst, then aged about 14, who was a member of the Mayford Society and a collector of Victoriana as well as being interested in local history. In the slim book he was recorded as having been looking through a mid-19th

century cookery book in a Woking antique shop. To quote from *And So To Mainford*: 'Between its pages he found, inserted at random and tightly folded, twelve sheets of unglazed white quarto notepaper, closely written on both sides, which appeared to be extracts from an anonymous diary.'

The young Mr Bathurst, again quoting from the small book, 'realized the value of the diary he had found and allowed the Society to publish it.' At first, the identity of the diary's author was unknown but, after research by other Society members, it was determined that she was Charlotte Bowles, a member of an Old Woking family, and that the manuscript was all about what she saw and did in and around the parish of Woking in the 1830s.

Having completed the additional research, the Mayford Society decided to publish the diary together with all the new material. The book reproduced and enlarged each part of the diary to include this research.

The volume proved to be very successful and up to 1977 had sold some 2200 copies. Doubts about authenticity began to emerge towards the end of 1976 following a *Seeing Eye* article by John Baker in *The Surrey Advertiser*.

Baker was a prominent local artist through the 60s to the 80s. In our Society we knew him well. His *Seeing Eye* series was a regular feature in which he described and illustrated different notable properties and features throughout our part of Surrey. From him, our then president Jim Oliver and another noted historian, Ken Gravett, our buildings research group received a huge amount of learning about medieval buildings.

John Baker's *Seeing Eye* feature was about a house named The Grange in Old Woking. In order to check some facts he took a look at *And So To Mainford*. He found a number of

inconsistencies which just didn't add up. His words in his article were 'It just don't smell right'! One of several things which did not match up with the diarist's record was the detailed description of a Christmas feast - yet Baker was sure that the kitchen at the Grange was not possibly large enough to have catered for such an elaborate meal.

In November 1976 the Mayford History Society chairman Robin Oakley publicly and strongly defended the book as genuine and challenged Mr Baker to prove it a fake by writing again in the *Surrey Advertiser*. After reading Mr Baker's doubts, a teacher at Horsell Secondary School, Les Moores, also decided to investigate. He quickly came to the same conclusion. He found no evidence that Charlotte Bowles had ever lived at The Grange, adding that he felt that 'the Society had been guilty of over-eagerness in its research.'

In the *Surrey Advertiser* of Friday July 15th 1977 it was front-page news when the truth came out, with Anthony Bathurst confessing that he had faked the 147-year-old diary. At the same time, the *Woking News and Mail* printed an interview by reporter Jane Pearce with Anthony (by now aged 20) with his parents present. Bit by bit, it seems, the truth came out that he had written all of the 'diary' himself and that the sketches with it were his own work.

AND SO TO MAINFORD

A Woking Diary of 1830



Mayford History Society

40p

On the Eve of Christmas we decorated all the mantles and gilt picture frames with sprigs of holly and mistletoe. We hung the rooms with coloured lanterns and silver and gold paper decorations, and even had torches posted along the drive which made the falling snowe looke exceeding beautiful. On the Christmas daye we first attended the morning service in the Church²¹ then returned to a light luncheon and to unwrapp the fine gifts.

At half past eight of the clock we had a fine supper. There were 8 personnes at supper and the servants eat their goose and so-such in their hall beforehand. The supper was indeed fine and on the next page I will escript the bill of fare as I fear it would not fit into the space which is left.

Bill of Fare for Christmas 1832

With it	First Course
Cheese sauce	Carrot Soup. Fried smelts. Snipes. Crimped Cod. Oyster Sauce.

	Second Course
Reliches et.	Roast Goose. Boiled Leg of Mutton
Apple Sauce	Mixed vegetables
Lords (?) sauce	Pork cutlets and glazed ham

	Third Course
Stuffing onion	Roast Turkey and sausages
chestnut (?) prune	Pheasants and wild ducks
gravey. Tongue	Vegetables
Sauce	

	Desert
Cream,	Fancy pastry. Lemon creame-
orange sauce,	Christmas Brandy pudding and
orange jelly	minced sweetmeat pies-
water port-wine	Custards in glasses
sauce	Cabinet Pudding
Port wine	Hunters pudding, sylabub
and	glazed fruit-glazed and sugared
apple-cider	marons and dragees. Wine-after
	coffee hot punch and toddy.

Yes we feasted well that Christmas Daye and the cook and kitchene maids had been making the pies and puddings for several months before. On the Christmas night we retired to the drawing room where we roasted chestnuts in the great and Papa mulled the punch with a red hot poker-iron which was most merry and exciting. For the rest of the evening we played wist and told ghoste stories while the fire blazed and leapt in the big olde hearthe.

Details of the Christmas feast which raised John Baker's suspicions

to the main place with the small green patch, the
 alde manor house, several elegant and modern
 houses of small size and many small alde cottages. As
 you do know our house was at the end of this
 long straggling lane and the fine grey stone and
 white cornices and fresh panelling in the stone was
 along the front wall all did look fine in the morning
 sun.

On the Sunday afternoon I took the trap with
 Plater and 1/2 of the dogs down the long cart lane
 to the alde farm by the river. Upon reaching
 the farm house I tied the trap to a sickle and set
 out acrossing the field with the dogs. We passed many
 men with fad and line. In the next field there being
 a huge red brick barn and a smaller one in grey stone
 along side. The rest of the field was struck with many
 altho hits of wall or pillars and many goats were tethered
 there to them. My Uncle had told me that the place
 was once a palace but to my thinking it much suited
 the goats better. Little further onwards I came upon some
 strange dwelling houses or hamlets. The were of
 woad and built with thatch and tiles and old
 broken pots for the roof parts which were
 exceeding low to the earth. I soon returned
 home.



A page from Bathurst's manuscript

Originally, after showing all to the Mayford History Society, he was shocked when everyone got carried away with enthusiasm to publish but he was by then too afraid to say anything about what he had done. This story was also reported in the *Sunday Telegraph* of August 21st 1977.

It wasn't long before the Mayford History Society accepted the inevitable, issued a public apology and arranged to have all remaining copies of the book withdrawn.

At the same time Les Bowerman, our then secretary, was researching for an article on the Bourne Stream and he too noted inconsistencies between his own observations and statements about the 'Hoe Stream' in the book, believing that the use of this name for the Bourne post-dated the 'diary' by perhaps as much as 100 years. Jim Oliver also discussed these with Les and, as a result of an invitation from Anthony to see the original manuscript, Les and his wife Anne went to visit him at his home in Hook Heath.

While there they noticed sketches on his bedroom wall in the same style as those in the 'diary' and a subsequent handwritten letter sent by Anthony to Les showed a close resemblance to that of the 'diary' – to the extent that Les became 99% certain that both were in Anthony's natural hand.

Very surprising about the whole saga was how much the Society members and the experts were taken in and failed to spot the various pieces of evidence. In particular, the graphologist who commented on the manuscript failed to spot similarities with a modern childish hand.

In fairness however, in Appendix 1 of the book there is the comment 'Charlotte dated some of her episodes but on at least two occasions her dating is suspect.' Without knowing much about paper, it is also surprising to me that no-one picked up anything about what must have been modern paper being used for the manuscript.

After over 40 years, it has been fascinating to look back on all that happened. Suffice to say *And So To Mainford* has for a long time been out of print. My thanks are due to Les for lending me his extensive Mayford file.

[Editor's note: we are re-telling this fascinating story not to embarrass any members of the Woking History Society but because it is of local interest and, I imagine, unknown to many of our members. My own reaction on reading this story was that Anthony Bathurst seems to have been a very bright young man!]



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THOMAS GWINN, WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER OF RIPLEY, AND HIS FAMILY

ALAN COOPER

During a recent conversation with fellow SRHS committee member Bob Stonard, I was told about a family heirloom, a pocket watch made in Ripley by Thomas Gwinn and now in the possession of Bob's son Mark.

THE WATCH

Close examination of the hallmarks dates the silver case to 1836 and being manufactured in London by (in all probability) George Heming.



The silver outer case with hallmarks for London 1836, makers mark G.H. for George Heming and the engraved name of the owner, J Stonard



Outer case lifted to reveal the face of the watch



Movement and case exposed



The watch movement engraved Gwinn Ripley 79803



Close-up of the beautifully constructed movement

The owner's name, J Stonard is engraved on the inside of the case, but who was he? Bob knew the family originated from Pirbright and very soon a sizable family tree dating back to 1782 was completed. The conclusion drawn was that the owner of the watch was, with overwhelming certainty, John Stonard, born 1815 in Pirbright, Mark's great-great-great grandfather.

THE GWINN FAMILY

The first record of the Gwinn family living in Ripley was after the marriage of Sackville Gwinn to Mary Stanton in Send during 1722. Their son William produced 12 children from two marriages and his son George (1769 - 1825) married Ann Pledger (1771 - 1836) in 1792 and produced six children.

George's children were clearly bestowed with business acumen and the four sons quickly became businessmen with George, James and William all recorded as trading in the village.¹

George (1796 - 1840) became a publican, running the Ship in the High Street, Ripley. He was also a barber and one wonders if he practiced this from within the licensed premises! When he died, his wife Jubilee Charlotte continued to run the Ship, but by 1851 it was in the hands of Stephen Green, owner of Green's Boot & Shoe Factory. She died in 1854 having produced a son, also named George. Both George and Jubilee are buried at St Mary Magdalen, Ripley.

James (1799 - 1858) became the village postmaster, bookseller and stationer. He married Rebecca Wheeler in 1845 and had a son, James Wheeler Gwinn in 1847 who died before his first birthday. They moved to Camberwell, London, and continued the business there until James' death in 1858. Shortly after, having moved to Battersea, Rebecca ran a grocer's shop with her sister Sarah Wheeler. James is buried at St Mary Magdalen, Ripley, and Rebecca, born 1813 in Cobham, moved back to the village of her birth living by 'private means' until she died in 1904. She is buried at St Andrew, Cobham.

Edward (1804 - 1871) was a baker by trade, moving to Guildford with his wife Mary (née Sparkes, 1802 - 1862) where he started his business at 3, Chapel Street, which a further three generations of his family continued to run as Gwinn Bros' Bakers well into living memory, with James Sparkes Gwinn (1910 - 1986) believed to be the last family member with involvement in the business.

The electoral role for 1962 has James and his wife Stella still living at this address. Edward and Mary had three children and seven years after Mary's death he married Elizabeth Wyllie. Elizabeth died in 1881 and is buried at St John the Evangelist, Stoke Next Guildford. Edward is buried at St Mary the Virgin, Shalford, along with his first wife Mary, who was born in that village.



Chapel Street, Guildford; note the well-weathered advertisement for Hovis bread on the wall. In the 1940's this building was West's bakery, beyond which was Read's butcher's shop and beyond that Gwinn's bread & grocery shop. The bread ovens were located to the rear of the shop frontages but are all now demolished²

Thomas (born 1807) was a watch and clockmaker, working in the village from the 1830s until his untimely death by suicide in 1857. His wife Mary died in 1871 without issue. Parish records indicate that Thomas is buried in the graveyard of St Mary Magdalen, Ripley 'by coroner's warrant' but examination of the family headstones suggests this is not the case (due to taking his own life).³

¹ *Pigot's Directory* 1839

² Letter from Brian Holt to David Rose (published in *The Guildford Dragon* 28th July 2014)

³ Clergy attitudes towards suicide varied considerably around the time of Thomas' death and it is very likely that he was buried without ceremony, outside the churchyard in unconsecrated ground and, if practical, on the north side of the church



Gwinn family headstone in the graveyard of St Mary Magdalen, Ripley



Final resting place of William Meryett junior in the graveyard of the Strict Ebenezer Baptist Chapel, Newark Lane, Ripley

A fifth son Robert (born 1802) failed to live to maturity and died in 1815. The sixth child, Elizabeth (born 1794) married James Steer (1793 - 1849), another clockmaker in the village, in 1817.⁴ She died in 1832 aged 38 having given birth to ten children. Interestingly, James is recorded as being a farmer living in Send for the birth of his first child Elizabeth in 1818 and a farmer living at Burnt Common, Send at the time of the birth of his second child Mary Ann in 1820. The next eight are recorded as born in Ripley with the exception of the seventh, Emma, who was born in Worplesdon in 1830. All eight records state James' occupation as watchmaker. Elizabeth died 2 months after the birth of her tenth child Eliza Jane and it was around this time that James relocated his business to Guildford and married Mary Bateman (born 1788). Mary died in 1866 having produced three children and is buried, along with James, at St John the Evangelist, Stoke Next Guildford.

The occupation of 'watchmaker' needs some explanation as the majority did not 'make', but merely 'assembled' the timepieces from their component parts purchased elsewhere. One can ponder on the assumption that

anyone with a degree of engineering competence could call themselves a watchmaker. Indeed, using James Steer's transformation from farmer to watchmaker makes the notion of a 'cottage industry' located in a spare room or garden shed totally feasible.

Around this time Ripley had, in addition to Thomas Gwinn and James Steer, a third watchmaker named in *Kelly's Directory* of 1855 as William Meryett whose father, also William, founded the Strict Ebenezer Baptist Chapel in Newark Lane in 1812 where William junior is buried.⁵ In addition, Stephen Green (Green's Boot & Shoe Factory), who had expanded his business empire beyond footwear to selling clothes, household goods, jewellery and ironmongery was also selling clocks and watches and advertising a clock and watch repair service.⁶

Grateful thanks to Bob & Mark Stonard for their combined input.

Watch photos c/o Mark Stonard collection

Chapel Street, Guildford and grave photos c/o Alan Cooper collection

⁴ An article about James Steer was compiled by John Slatford and published in SRHS journal 222 of Jan/Feb 2012 and will hopefully be available to view on our website in the not too distant future

⁵ *Kelly's Directory* part 1 1855.

⁶ SRHS publication *Then and Now* p22

ALLENBY THE CHEMIST, RIPLEY

ALAN COOPER

Alfred Allenby was born in 1874 in St Albans, Hertfordshire, where his father Henry practiced as a chemist and dentist. Both Alfred and his elder brother Henry Edmond (born 1868) trained as chemists and joined the family business. In 1895 Alfred married Agnes Alice Hitchman (born 1871 in Banbury, Oxfordshire) and moved to Ripley where he established his own practice. In 1901 he was recorded as being a chemist's manager and by 1911 this had expanded to shopkeeper, chemists, sundries and stationers. Alfred and Agnes had two children, Agnes Alice, born 1896 in Kensington, London, and Alfred Henry Richard, born 1900 in Ripley but both died during infancy.

Alfred's father Henry died in 1916 and brother Henry Edmond continued to practice in St Albans. Alfred died in 1937 and Henry Edmond, who never married, moved to Ripley to aid his sister-in-law. Henry Edmond (aka Harry) died in 1943 and the business was first managed and eventually taken over by penicillin pioneer Kenneth White. Agnes died in 1950.



Alfred and Agnes Allenby enjoying a picnic in 'brick wall fields', Ockham, circa 1933
Photo c/o Alan Cooper collection

WHAT IS IT?

ALAN COOPER



From the collection of Trevor Tice comes this unusual looking object. What was its purpose?



Ditz submitted a photograph of an object she dug up whilst gardening at Church Farm House in Wisley

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE. ONE VILLAGE, 111 YEARS LATER, SAME OLD PROBLEMS!

ALAN COOPER

A recent visit to a charity shop resulted in the purchase of *Highways & Byways in Surrey* by Eric Parker. It was published in 1908 but 111 years later parallels with today immediately became apparent.

**HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS
IN: SURREY
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY
HUGH THOMPSON**

Highways and Byways in Surrey –
profusely illustrated with charming sketches
by Hugh Thompson

Nobody needs an introduction to the traffic problems that blight Ripley today, but, in 1908, Parker observed similar issues:

‘Send lies deep among the fields, counting itself fortunate, perhaps, that it is not on the Ripley Road, a mile away ... The coaches brought their heyday, the

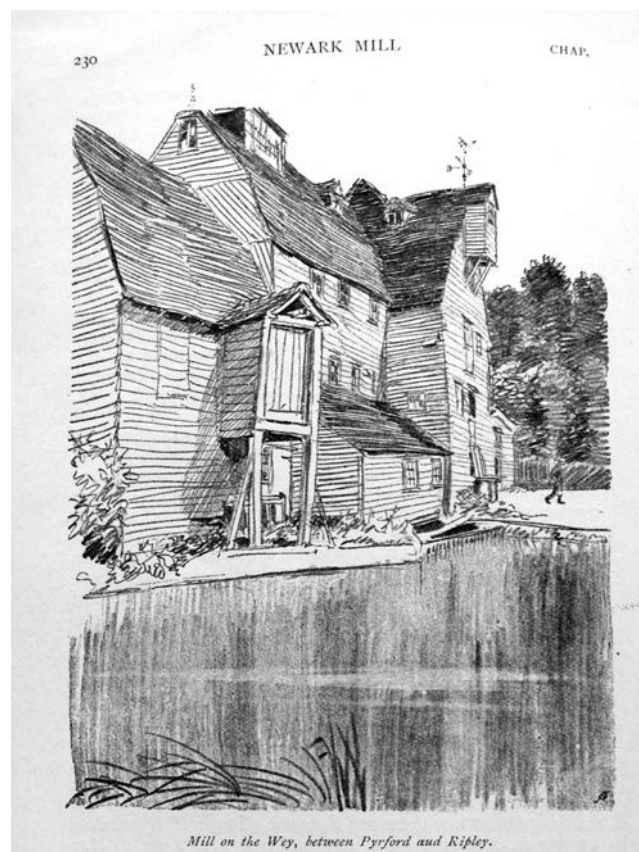
railway spoiled it, the bicycle re-made it, and now the village is being re-decorated by the motor-car. The Ripley road, for the two days in the week when it is most used, is a place to avoid ... Ripley itself, but for the traffic, would be the prettiest village on the road ... The motor-car has brought prosperity, even if it is a prosperity that can soil.’

Sound familiar?

A few years back in a conversation with Reverend Christopher Elson, vicar of St Mary Magdalen, Ripley, he explained to me that, although theft from the collection box was rife, the church remained unlocked and he refused to ruin its appearance with a CCTV system.

PARKER ON RIPLEY CHURCH:

‘But those have not been the only attractions to visitors. When I was there, I noticed that the oak collection-box by the door stood with its lid propped open. The caretaker happened to be in the church, and I showed it to her.



A Hugh Thompson sketch from the book

“Oh yes,” she said in a matter-of-fact tone, “we have to keep it like that. It has been robbed so often that we prop it open, so as to prevent people putting anything in it.” The church door still remains as wide open as the box. It would be a pious act for some passing motor-car – or a collection from many – to present the little church with a stronger box. Such continued hospitality, so vilely abused, deserves a return.’

Eric Parker, the author and naturalist was born in 1870 in East Barnet. He moved to Weybridge in 1902 following an education at Eton and Oxford and embarked upon a career in journalism. He moved to Hambledon in 1911 and remained there until his death in 1955. During this time, he wrote books which not only described the historical aspects of Surrey but also the natural history he encountered there.

Photo and book c/o Alan Cooper collection.

RIPLEY GREEN FARREN RIGHTS & THE SEND AND RIPLEY INCLOSURE ACT 1803

JOHN SLATFORD

Recent interest in Ripley Green farren rights has prompted me to take a new look at the Inclosure Award and the effects that resulted concerning Ripley Green. In Newsletter No 67 dated March/April 1986, the then editor, Les Bowerman, included a brief description of the Award in his regular report which now seeks to provide greater detail of what resulted from the Award, in particular, on Ripley Green.

The term 'farren' is a bit mysterious. The only reference I can find is in *The Local Historians Encyclopedia* which simply describes it as a west-country term for a division of land in an open field.

[Editor's note: I found a legal definition of 'farren rights' as 'rights of common', which does not help me a lot]

The original Inclosure Act passed on 17th May 1803, in the 43rd year of the reign of George III, was entitled *An Act for Dividing Allotting and Inclosing the Open Commons Meadows and Pastures and Wastelands in the Parish of Send and Ripley in the County of Surrey*. It appointed George Smallpeice of Stoke next Guildford and Thomas Crawter of Cobham, gentleman, as Inclosure Commissioners. A plan of the entire parish (just one parish as it was then) dated 1805 was prepared by Job Smallpeice, surveyor. This included parcel or plot numbers of every piece of land included in the eventual Award.

The detailed Award took some 10 years to complete and it was on 25th May 1815 when this happened. The main volume, in manuscript and very bulky, was initially kept in the parish chest with a copy held by the Clerk of the Peace for the County and later held by the County Record Office at Kingston. Eventually the church copy passed to Send Parish Council and it was this that was transcribed over quite a long period in 1989 by Society members Bette Slatford, Audrey Sykes and Betty Bennett. A typescript copy was produced by my daughter Jane Mestraud. The only known surviving copy of the parish plan, in the then Guildford Muniment Room, was found to be in very poor condition and almost impossible to read. However, a copy was made and to a very limited extent made readable by Bette and myself.

The typescript copy has 164 pages and makes extremely complicated reading. The way the document was produced with an almost complete lack of punctuation throughout was a particular difficulty. The section dealing with Ripley Green runs from page 142 through to page 164. The complete Award states that 'within the Parish of Send and Ripley aforesaid certain open common meadows and pastures commons and wastelands containing by estimation 1000 acres or thereabouts'. The awards range, for example, from 27 acres 1 rood and 1 perch to Lord King and as little as 6 perches awarded to Rebecca Morris. In many of the awards considerable sums were paid although it is difficult, from the transcript, to determine where the money went. Among the names of recipients Lord King and the Earl of Onslow figure prominently but most are names familiar from the parish registers and the court rolls. One name in particular was George Walton Onslow who was one of the longest serving vicars of Send. He received many of the parcels of land.

The particular exception to the awards was Ripley Green which was deemed to be too large to be awarded singly and a different system was devised. The Award states 'Ripley Green which by the first mentioned Act is exempted by any such division, inclosure or sale as aforesaid'. What actually happened was that the rights to graze livestock were allocated to individuals owning freehold or copyhold property in the village of Ripley. Not generally realised was that although individuals were named, the awards actually applied to their property. Thus in perpetuity the property owned the grazing rights but the owner or occupier had the right to use them. There were over 50 awards listed in the Award, mostly quite small and varied granting the right to graze just two sheep or perhaps six sheep with the alternative of two cows or one horse. There were some notable exceptions. George Walton Onslow who owned and lived at Dunsborough Park was awarded the right to graze 53 sheep or 17 cows and two sheep or eight horses and five sheep. Peter Lord King as owner of the Talbot was awarded the right to graze 69 sheep or 23 cows or 11 horses and three sheep. In respect of his copyhold land, Lord King was also awarded the right to graze another 29 sheep or nine cows and two sheep

or four horses and five sheep. The Earl of Onslow also had considerable grazing rights. Without counting, these three landowners probably had more rights than all of the other awards put together! Very few of the properties were named, other exceptions being the Anchor, the George, Cobham Cottages and Horrells (in Newark Lane).

No records are known of how all the awards continued or might have been used until 1948. A document prepared by the then Clerk to Ripley parish council, Thomas S Goodman, lists the then known owners of farren rights with their properties. At that time there were 29 owners listed but the heading of the document states that 'many names in the (original) Award are now obsolete'. There is no indication whether any of the then owners ever exercised their farren rights.

Fast forward now to 1983. In Newsletter 51, Bob Gale, then a Society member, wrote about his purchase of Tudor House in Ripley High Street and what he found out about the history of the house. It formed part, with Cedar House next door, of what used to be the George Inn farm and the freehold of his property had a Right of Common attached which allowed the owner to graze six sheep or two cows or one horse on Ripley Green. He thought no more about this until 1981 when he was notified by the commons commissioners about a hearing to be held in Guildford concerning claims of Rights of Common on Ripley Green which included his property.

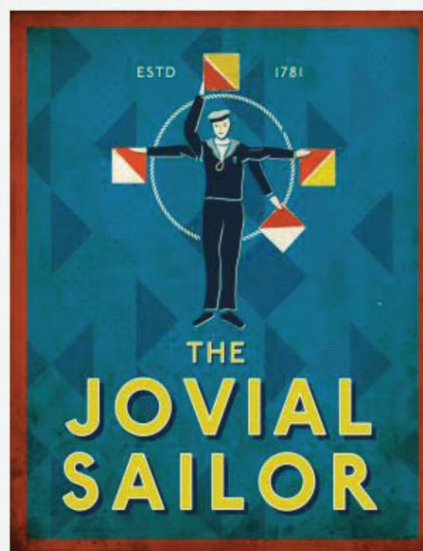
Eventually he discovered that the Commons Registration Act of 1965 had required all claims to Rights of Common on Ripley Green to be registered within a given period and this was to be followed by provision for a similar interval to allow for notification of objections. Bob's predecessors at Tudor House had duly registered their claim and Surrey County Council, by then the owners of Ripley Green, had notified their objection as a challenge to all the claimants. Then nothing happened for upwards of ten years which turned out to be due to the commissioners processing claims all over the country.

Bob and his neighbour attended the hearing in Guildford and successfully defended their Right of Common asserting that their properties jointly constituted the original George Inn Farm. Notwithstanding their belief that their award was for six sheep, the commissioner corrected this to two sheep and drily commented "Mr Bolt and Dr Gale will have to share, one sheep apiece!" Apart from one

other claimant who had established his rights prior to the hearing, ten other claimants lost their cases by default. However, sometime later it was reported in the *Surrey Advertiser* (2nd March 1985) that Mr Charles Hughesden, the owner of Dunsborough House, had successfully defended his original application, which was made within the stipulated time, because it had been overlooked and he was granted the right to graze 53 sheep on Ripley Green.

I very much doubt it, but does anyone know if Mr Hughesden ever exercised his grazing rights? I'm pretty sure that Bob Gale (or the subsequent owners of Tudor house) never has although the Rights of Common must still remain.

My thanks are due to Clare McCann who found previously unknown but important material in the Society's archives.



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MORE PHOTOGRAPHS OF OCKHAM PARK

CLARE McCANN

Following on from the *Kings of Ockham* exhibition, member Vernon Wood brought several photos into the museum which he has donated to the society and I thought they might be interesting to share.



Vernon helping his father, Henry, demolish a garden wall and reclaim the bricks circa 1967



Henry Wood (right) and Len Elliot (centre) reclaiming bricks



Top: Len and Henry digging footing for a big shed near the Ockham Lane entrance which Vernon thinks might still be there

Middle: Gates at Ockham Park c.1963, in Ockham Lane. Taken when Felix Fenston owned Ockham Park

Bottom: Flats in the Orangery circa 1967

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CLARE McCANN

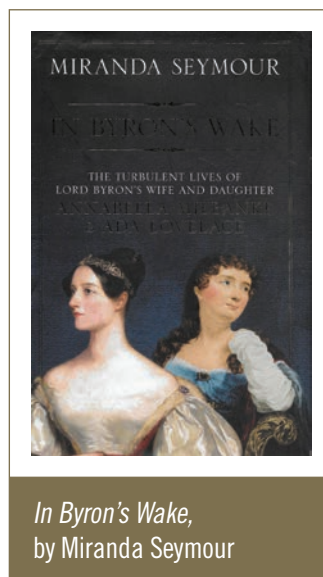
Members might like to know that there are four new books in the library which are available for loan:

Miranda Seymour's excellent *In Byron's Wake*, a biography of Ada Lovelace and her mother Annabella Milbanke

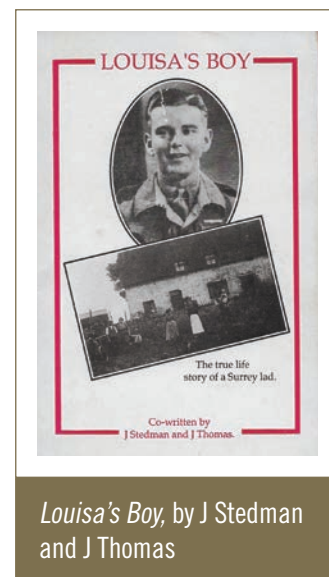
The History of Ockham to 1900 by our member Gillian Lachelin and Robert Primrose

Changing Woking 1900-1929 by The Woking Community Play Research Group

Louisa's Boy, The True Life Story of a Surrey Lad, by J Stedman and J Thomas, a delightful and fascinating memoir of a local working class boy born in 1918 [might not be available yet as, at the time of writing, your chairman is reading it...]



In Byron's Wake,
by Miranda Seymour



Louisa's Boy, by J Stedman
and J Thomas

Doors open for all evening talks at 7.30pm for an 8pm start at the Ripley Village Hall. Tea/coffee available.

DATES	EVENTS
Friday 11th October 2.15pm	Trip to Abbot's Hospital and Guildford House gallery. Meet at Abbot's Hospital for a tour of the hospital and then on to Guildford House Gallery for the exhibition celebrating the 400th anniversary. There is the opportunity to get afternoon tea at Guildford House Gallery. Cost £6 per head (not including tea). Please let Clare or Helena know if you would like to come cricketshill@hotmail.com 01483 728546 or helena_findenbrowne@compuserve.com
Tuesday 15th October	Carole Browne talk: <i>Women's Suffrage</i>
Tuesday 19th November	Terry Patrick and Circle 8 Films: <i>Tunnel under Hindhead and Out of the Blue</i>
Tuesday 10th December	Christmas Social - members only
2020	
Tuesday 21st January	To be confirmed
Tuesday 18th February	AGM (members only) followed by refreshments and 'local memories'
Tuesday 10th March	To be confirmed
Tuesday 21st April	June Davey talk: <i>West Horsley Place</i>
May or June	Outing to West Horsley Place
Tuesday 15th September	Pat Morris talk: <i>Walter Potter and his Curious World of Victorian Taxidermy</i>
Tuesday 20th October	To be confirmed
Tuesday 17th November	To be confirmed
Tuesday 15th December	Christmas Social (members only)

Further details can be obtained from Helena Finden-Browne.
helena_findenbrowne@compuserve.com

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS



OPEN: SATURDAY MORNINGS 10.00–12.30
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 Clare McCann on 01483 728546 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 1998/2006	£10.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.25
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£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	New Edition 2017	£8.00
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 (revised edition)		£7.50
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, from Pinnocks Coffee House, Ripley, or via the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk



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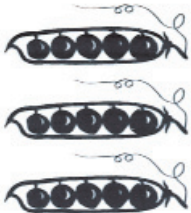
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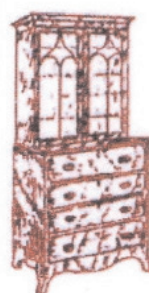
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