

Miss S. Brown

SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter No. 10

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

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

Mrs P Parker, Rough Mead, Boughton Hall Avenue, Send.
Mrs B Reynolds, 10 Kevan Drive, Send.
Mrs I Atherstone, South Paddock, Pyle Hill, Mayford, Woking.
Mr B Cobley, 14 Newark Lane, Ripley.
Mr & Mrs T Jackman, Home View, Sandy Lane, Send.
Mr & Mrs D P Hannon, 4 Heath Drive, Send.

We are pleased to welcome them to membership, the total of which now stands at 142 paid-up subscriptions. A further 17, who joined last year, have not renewed their membership.

Bereavement

The Society offers its condolences to Mr Joe Baigent on the death of his wife early in July.

Open Meeting - 23 June

Lyn Mileham's long booked illustrated talk on Industrial Archaeology eventually took place on a very hot evening when conditions in the Church Room were regrettably far from ideal - with doors and windows closed it was sweltering, and with them open there was difficulty in hearing due to passing traffic.

Industrial archaeology, particularly in connection with railways, trams, buses and traction engines, has been Lyn's lifetime passion, and he showed many evocative slides of photographs taken before the 1939-45 war, and many beautiful views taken of the remaining traces of the Compton and High Peak Railway; the Whitby & Pickering Railway (including a cattle arch built in 1836) and the Rosedale Branch Line (1869-1929). For those present whose memories extend back to before the War there were nostalgic shots of working traction engines and trams as well as early buses.

Visit to Worsfold Gates on the Wey Navigation - 7 July

After another blistering day, the only place to be in the evening was outdoors, and over 50 people assembled at the Boathouse for what had been advertised as a ramble along the towpath with a visit to the old master carpenter's shop at Worsfold Gates. By kind permission of Ewart Grove, one of our senior members, there was free parking in the Boathouse car park. Ewart's family has had connections with Send and the River Wey Navigation for very many years. As detailed in "London's Lost Route to the Sea", by P A L Vine, Ewart's grandfather, W Grove, was lock-keeper at Triggs Lock for no less than 59 years from 1856-1915, his father, Walter Grove, was master carpenter at Worsfold Gates from 1885-1930, and his brother, Norman Grove, followed on from then until 1966.

Between the Boathouse and Worsfold Gates there is a concrete framed ramp each side of the river. Ewart explained that these had been built by his father to help carry the towpath across the river by means of a wooden bridge. It was necessary to tow from the far side of the river here in order to pull

the barges round the bends in the river a short distance further upstream. These bends (or meanders) were straightened as part of the extensive flood relief work carried out in the 1920's and early 1930's, but they are still visible. After the bends had gone, it was no longer necessary to cross the river, so the bridge was eventually dismantled. Before the ramps were concreted, they had presumably been made of earth and stones.

Mr Vince Locatelli, general foreman at Worsfold Gates since Norman Grove retired, joined us at this point and most ably conducted the party round for the remainder of the evening.

Most of those present, but not all, knew of the existence of Worsfold Gates next to the Boathouse, but many were unaware of the fact that they are not a lock. The object of a lock is to raise and lower boats at a point where the level of a canal changes, whereas these are floodgates, the main purpose of which is to control the quantity of water entering from the river into the next stretch of canal which begins here, thereby ensuring that even when the river is high the level of the canal does not rise. However, sluices in the gates are required to let enough water through to prevent stagnation, (although the canal does not really flow like a river), and to top up the level after Papercourt Lock has been used. In spite of this, the river had been kept about a foot higher than the canal for 110 years, presumably originally to avoid the expense of dredging the river. Mr Locatelli described how he succeeded in proving this by documentary research and by finding water-level marks at Unwins. Reduction to the earlier levels has meant that the whole of the flood plain of the Wey from Broadoak Weir at Sutton Lodges down to Unwins (over 200 acres) can be farmed more productively. An altogether different advantage is that the cellar of Worsfold Gates House is no longer too damp for use.

The final resting place of the barge Sultan against the bank of the garden of Ashburton House was pointed out. Sultan is reputed to have carried groceries on the Wey & Arun Canal (in use 1816-1871) and to have been the last barge to pass right through that canal. Ewart Grove remembers it when it still had some superstructure from which, as a boy, he used to fish. While it was sunk in that position, elm sluices were soaked in the hold before being used to prevent them from warping.

The conducted tour of the carpenter's shop was for many the highlight of the evening. Built of timber at about the time the Navigation was opened in 1653, it is still used today for making and repairing lock gates. The principal timbers show little sign of deterioration, use still being made of the tie beams to help hoist the heavy gates. The beams and the array of carpentry and canal paraphernalia accumulated over the centuries produce a never-to-be-forgotten atmosphere which makes it easy to imagine the scene of earlier master carpenters and their men going about their daily tasks.

In the cobwebby interior of a lean-to built on to the end of the shop at a much later date, is a long disused smithy complete with double-blast bellows, the handle of which is tipped with the traditional cowhorn.

Showing the party around the yard, Mr Locatelli pointed out the sawpit shed. Ewart Grove had already described what it was like to work in the pits. They were some 6' deep. The senior man on the saw stood above the work and the junior underneath, which was decidedly uncomfortable especially when the wind blew sand and sawdust about. The saws are still kept in another shed, but the pits have been filled in for safety. The sawpit shed may be demolished as it is unsafe, but it is hoped that perhaps the Society will have an opportunity to record it before this happens.

The shed containing the saws also houses other canal equipment, including a pair of oars appropriate for a Wey barge, a monkey (a manual pile-driver), and specially made implements for removing logs from the water. The purpose and method of use of the equipment were expertly explained by Mr Locatelli.

With all this to look at and the absorbing commentary to listen to, the ramble itself did not materialise, but as our President pointed out, the word was not appropriate anyway. A "ramble" means to wander about without definite aim or direction (it also has another less polite meaning indicating its derivation from the word "ram"!)). However, it is hoped that on a future occasion there will be a very interesting walk along the towpath with a view to looking at the old course of the river and the Triggs Lock area.

Ripley Day - Saturday, 17 July

As noted elsewhere in the Newsletter, the Society had a stall at Ripley Day. The stall completed an interesting corner on the Green between Send & Ripley Rotary Club, who put on an extensive display of historic photographs of Ripley, and the Southern Veteran-Cycle Club, who were celebrating the 21st anniversary of their inaugural ride from London to Ripley, which had been the cyclists' Mecca in the heyday of cycling before the turn of the century. The natural history side of our stall included material provided by Ted and John Bartlett and Lawrence Harris, and was manned by the two former. The history side was manned principally by Ken Bourne, Charles Thurbin and myself. The display included a beautifully set out representative selection of horseshoes from mediaeval times onwards, and an imaginative model of Newark Priory before its dissolution based on Captain Pearce's excavations of 1929 (SAC Vol XL), constructed by Mr Thurbin.

Veteran Cycle Ride - Sunday, 18 July

This item is included not because an interest in veteran cycles as such comes within our declared objectives (which they don't), nor because the function took place locally and was attended by some of our members (which it was), nor yet because this writer participated in it, but because of an incident which was reported in the local paper and which recalled an earlier similar local incident of some importance.

A colourful cavalcade of around 50 riders set off from Ripley on machines as varied as a boneshaker of the 1860's, penny-farthings of the 1870's and 1880's through to machines of the 1920's. The "Anchor" at Pyrford Lock was reached just before opening time, so riders began to congregate on the forecourt anticipating a long cool drink by the canal. However, this was not to be as the landlord came out, very hot under the collar, saying that he would serve motorists only, and not cyclists (notwithstanding that some of the cyclists normally frequent the premises as motorists). Some riders hotly disputed the licensee's right to refuse to serve them, but to connoisseurs of cycling history there was a delightful irony about the incident which added greatly to the enjoyment of the ride; for it was at another local hostelry (the Hautboy at Ockham, which the SVCC were to visit in the afternoon) in 1898 that Lady Harberton, out for a bicycle ride in "rational dress", was refused service.

Up until that time, women had remained very closely tied to the home, and due to the physical restrictions of their full length skirts and heavy petticoats, had been unable to join in the new freedom and mobility which the bicycle had given to men. Rational dress, the principal item of which consisted of knickerbockers (a kind of divided skirt tied at about calf length), had been designed to overcome this restriction, but it had not yet

been fully accepted. The landlady refused to serve her in the usual dining room on account of her dress, but reluctantly agreed to serve her in a bar parlour at the back. Lady Harberton declined to lunch there as "the smell of the room was abominable." On Lady H's behalf, the Cyclists Touring Club prosecuted the landlady for refusing service, but she was acquitted on the basis that the bar parlour was a decent and proper room. The decision was as important in women's battle for emancipation as it was for cyclists, for it affirmed the obligation of innkeepers to supply any travellers willing to pay for it with food and drink. It is also a leading case in licensing law.

Although the position is not entirely free from doubt, the licensee at the "Anchor" was probably within his rights to refuse service because his house is unlikely to be an "inn" in the common law meaning of a wayside house offering food, drink and accommodation to travellers. Suitable refreshment in a pleasant atmosphere was obtained nearer home at the "Seven Stars".

Forthcoming Events

Sunday, 19 September ... Visit to Newark Priory. Meet at the car park near the traffic lights in Newark Lane at 3 p.m.

wed., 22 September ... Open meeting at the Church Room, Send Road, at 8 for 8.15 p.m. The natural history group will show films and slides.

Sunday, 3 October ... Natural history trip to Church Norton. Meet in Send Barns Lane at 7.30 a.m. The outing will take all morning.

Thursday, 14 October ... Natural history group meeting at 7.30 at 14 Orchard Way, subject - photography.

Saturday, 16 October ... Local History Symposium, 10.30 a.m., at Dorking Halls.

Sunday, 17 October ... Natural history group visit to a heronry near Guildford. Meet in Send Barns Lane at 7.30 a.m.

Sunday, 31 October ... Natural history ramble on Wisley Common. Meet 7.30 a.m. in Send Barns Lane.

Sunday, 14 November ... Natural history visit to Frengham Little Pond. Meet Send Barns Lane at 7.30 a.m.

Wednesday, 24 November ... Open meeting at the Church Room, Send Road. Talks by members.

Closing Date

The closing date for the next issue of the Newsletter will be Monday, 8 November.

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

As I sit and write, the hot weather continues. Send has become Sand once more.

Shrubs and, indeed, full grown trees are beginning to die, the harvest has been poor, and generally vegetation of all kinds is showing signs of water deficiency. In contrast, our village has become a life saver in this

year of the drought - birds and animals have moved in from neighbouring areas and taken up temporary residence near our lakes and river. On the muddy banks of one lake in particular, I have found footprints of Roe-deer, Fallow, Badger, Fox, and Hedgehog and, on one occasion, our regular visiting Buzzard winged its way down for a drink.

Dry conditions seem to suit some plants; for instance, I grow the American Thorn Apple (*DATURA STRAMONIUM*) in my garden, and this year it has grown to gigantic proportions. Another plant I have noted within the village boundaries is Belladonna, or deadly nightshade, this was growing on a waste piece of ground, very stony and parched. You will notice that both of these plants are deadly poison, and it is interesting to note that anything that has a poisonous part in its structure seems to thrive in dry conditions - such as the Adder, the Wasp, Ground Ivy, Bryony, and the Yew Tree. Hedgehogs have not come off so well during the drought. Ticks have had a field day on this luckless little animal which plays host to this obnoxious parasite; breeding conditions have suited the ticks very well and the urchin has suffered considerably.

Our local colony of Sand Martins have bred extra well this year, with as many as three broods coming off. Insects have been plentiful and so conditions for these birds have been perfect - one wonders where they will make their home next year when that particular sand-pit has been worked out.

The Little Owl has also had easy pickings, for this cheeky little bird has acquired a taste for young sand martins. Perched at a convenient lookout post, he sails in and swoops up to the holes and neatly picks off an unsuspecting nestling.

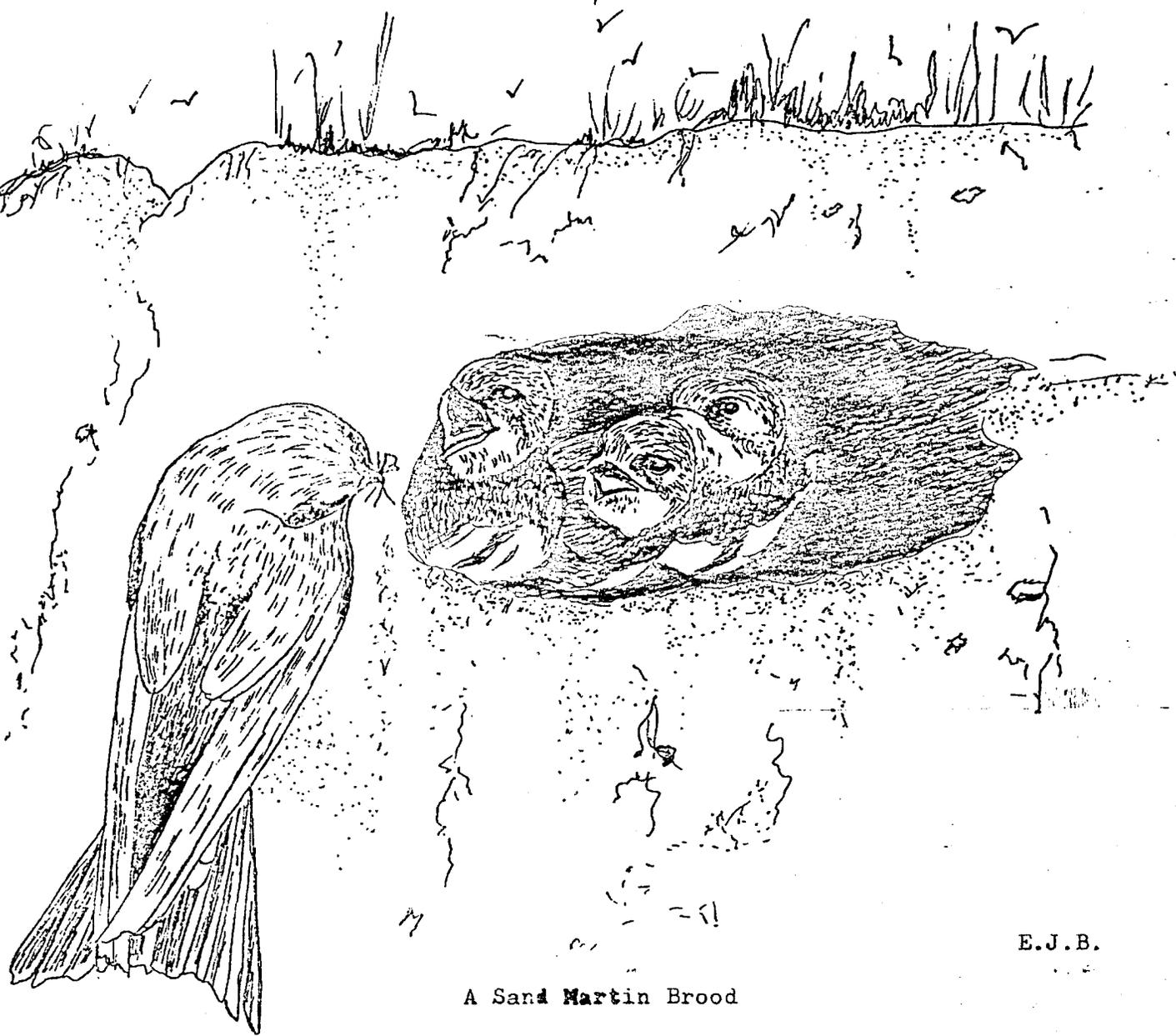
I called this bird cheeky, but perhaps more cheeky are the Magpies, who wait patiently sitting on the fence. They watch with beady black eyes, and then fly in like Vultures to clear up the remainder of the kill when the Owl has finished. And so this quiet drama unfolds, going mostly unnoticed by the unseeing eye. This last remark prompts me to question the activities of our Society, the natural history side at least: I feel that we could do a whole lot more.

Members could, I feel sure, collect specimens for our own private museum - no matter what it may be, as long as it would present the wild life of our village as we know it now. An extension of this idea would be to build up a picture or slide library, illustrating as many aspects of the village and its wild life as possible. One or two of our members have become interested in this side of our activities, and this is very encouraging.

Perhaps any members who feel that they would like to participate along the lines mentioned, would like to come along to the meeting arranged for 14 October at 7.30 p.m. Mr & Mrs R Croucher have kindly offered to be our hosts at 14 Orchard Way. It is to be a meeting dealing entirely with cameras and equipment, how to use them, the most suitable types to purchase, and do's and don't's when photographing various subjects.

Please don't be put off if you have never used a camera before, and remember, it is not necessary to have the latest super-duper camera on the market, an old box camera will do, and many first class pictures have been taken in the past on these old timers. Please try and come along, it should prove to be both interesting and entertaining.

Summer activities of the group have been poorly supported, mainly due



E.J.B.

A Sand Martin Brood

to holidays and the excessive heat. However, a visit to Witley Common to see adders encouraged a few members to brave the heat, but alas we saw no adders, although a couple of discarded skins were found. On exploring further afield, a Yellowhammer was found sitting on her nest. A local lake sported several water birds and a shoal of fresh water Bream was seen; altogether a most enjoyable time was had by all. A combined effort of both the Sand History Society and natural history group put on a stand at Ripley Day Show. Many visitors to the show were attracted to the stall, with numerous questions concerning both sides of our activities.

On Monday, 23 August, a meeting was held at Stiperstones, Tuckey Grove, our hosts were Mr & Mrs F Hooking. Not many members turned up for the meeting, but nevertheless it was a very useful evening. Les Bowerman brought along a slice of the Oak Tree which was so unceremoniously felled on Sand Hill, and this was discussed at length. Further arrangements were made for interesting outings which are listed elsewhere in this issue. It is hoped that many more members will attend these trips.

Ted Bartlett

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN THE PARISH OF SEND & RIPLEY

Part 1

Education has been at the centre of public interest throughout this year. There has been national concern with the cost of education, and the quality and methods of teaching have come in for a great deal of criticism. Therefore it is worthy of note that it is exactly 100 years since an Education Act of 1876 made attendance at school compulsory for all children and the onus was placed on the parents to send their children to school regularly.

At the beginning of the 19th century the facilities for educating children were mainly out of reach of the poor and most children of working class parents were put out to work by the age of 9 or 10 years, and often younger. The only teaching they had was in Sunday schools and this was limited to learning to read and write so that they could more easily study the Scriptures, for religion played a very important part in the life of the nation.

The government was reluctant to become involved with state education for several reasons. The country was still recovering economically from the effects of the Napoleonic wars and it was considered by many that education would only teach the labouring classes to despise their lot in life and "render them fractious and insolent to their superiors". The Church wanted religion to be the foundation of national education, but a growing band of non-conformists objected to this and saw good elementary education for all as being important to the future of Great Britain.

History reveals that the moment often produces the man, and in the 19th century two men attracted attention in the field of education. They were Joseph Lancaster and Andrew Bell. Both men claimed to have invented a method of teaching that was cheap and successful, a method which became known as the monitorial system, whereby the Schoolmaster taught the lessons for the day to selected older children (the monitors) and they in their turn taught the younger children. By this method it was claimed that hundreds of children could be taught by a single master.

The non-conformists with Joseph Lancaster as their leader set up an education society in 1807 known as the British and Foreign Schools Society and began raising funds to build their own schools. They were closely followed in 1811 by the Church of England, who formed the National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church. The National Society (as it was known for short) took Andrew Bell as their leader and the aim of the Society was to plant a church school in every parish in the land. These two societies made good progress in setting up schools throughout the country, but the National Society claimed to have set up the most. By 1813 there were 30 National schools. Grants were offered by the societies to prospective founders of schools, but half the cost had to be raised locally first and maintenance of the school and the payment of teachers' salaries had to be assured locally too.

Eventually the government gave its first grants towards education. In 1833 a sum of £20,000 was made available to be administered by the two societies and many more schools were built. Some of these early buildings still survive and can be identified by the words BRITISH SCHOOL or NATIONAL SCHOOL carved into their stonework denoting which society they belonged to.

The parish of Send & Ripley did not wait until it was compulsory before providing education for poor children. In 1845 the Rev. Albany Bowles, Vicar of Send & Ripley, wrote to the National Society for a grant towards

building two schoolrooms at Ripley for 80 boys and 80 girls. This was to be called the Send & Ripley National School and it was opened in 1847. Anyone looking at the interior of the school at Ripley (on the A3) would wonder how so many children could be accommodated in such a small area, but early schools had tiered fittings known as galleries which made such numbers possible. This also accounts for the high ceilings. There were two doorways, now bricked up, one for boys and one for girls, and a wooden screen separated the two rooms. The cost of building Send & Ripley National School was £420 and the quality of construction was sound, for the ratepayers wanted value for their money. The children had to pay 1d a week each, called Childrens Pence, and this together with the local subscriptions supported the school. The first Master and Mistress were Mr T Berridge and Miss C Bartlett.

The population in the parish was increasing and in 1854 another school was built, this time in Send. The cost was £508 16s 8d, and was for a schoolhouse, and residence for the Master and Mistress. Lord Onslow granted the land, which had been a gravel pit, off Send Hill, under an Act which allowed him to claim it back if the school ceased to function as such. The plans were drawn up by Henry Peak, a rising young architect who later became the first Surveyor of Guildford and also Mayor of Guildford.

Send National School was opened in September 1854 with accommodation for 100 children. Childrens Pence at the new school was 1¹/₂d a week, which was quite dear when farm labourers earned only 10/- a week, and most of the poor in Send were farm labourers and servants. The first Master and Mistress at the school were Mr & Mrs F T North. The school was administered by a school committee consisting of the Vicar, the Rev. C Richmond Tate as the secretary, and the Hon. Francis Scott, MP for Berwick, who resided at "Send Hurst". The government had set up a system of inspection in secular subjects and Her Majesty's Inspector for Surrey was the Rev. W H Brookfield, who was also HMI for Kent, Sussex and the Channel Islands. His assistant, the Rev. A R Grant, made the first inspection of Send National School in 1858 and wrote "A nice orderly school but not having much to show yet in way of attainment...".

In 1861 the government, concerned about the increasing cost of education, which was by then £813,441, set up the Newcastle Commission to report on the state of education. The report revealed that the quality of teaching was poor, that attendance was poor, and that few children remained at school after the age of 10 years. A new system was introduced whereby all children were examined annually and grants awarded to the school according to their success. The grant was paid as follows: 4/- for general merit and attendance, plus 8/- for a pass in the three "R's". Failure in any of the three "R's" would reduce the grant by 2/8d. Children progressed from Standard 1-7 in their school career.

The system had a disastrous effect on teaching, since only examinable subjects were taught. Many deceptions were practised for the teachers knew their salaries depended on the outcome of the inspection. It led to mechanical methods of instruction and rote-learning. Reading books were learned by heart. The Inspectors were aware of the deceptions and many disapproved of the system and stated so in their annual reports to Parliament. However, despite the protests the system continued until 1897 and the effects lingered on for many years after.

In 1871 the Send school committee applied to the National Society for a grant to build on an Infants' Room. Ripley already had a separate infants' school built in 1861 with a gift of money from Mrs Charles Marshall of Ripley Court. This was later the British Legion Hall.

The new Infants' Room at Send was opened in 1873 with 42 infants. It cost £198 15s 6d. Mr & Mrs Marshall left the school and Mr & Mrs Howick took their place with Miss Howick as the Infants' Mistress.

In 1876 the year of compulsory education, the first School Attendance Officers were appointed. Their job was to seek out children in their district who were of school age and ensure their regular attendance at school. This was a difficult task, for parents and employers were in league to confuse them. Children were much in demand as cheap labour and poor families were eager to supplement the family income, particularly as Childrens Pence had still to be paid. An Education Act passed in 1876 also forbade the employment of children under 9; and above that age they could only leave school if they had passed the Second Standard.

The School Attendance Officer for Send, Ripley, Ockham and Wisley was Mr Charles P Frye. He served the district for 14 years and his untimely removal from office will be discussed in another issue of the Newsletter.

Sheila A J Brown

MISS LANCASTER

Miss Eveline Lancaster of Sendholm, Send, died on August 25 at the great age of 100.

She - with her parents and her younger sister - came to live at Sendholme in 1894 at the age of 18. Her father, the late Mr A H Lancaster, later became the patron of the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin. Those who have lived for many years in the village, and who were privileged to be her friends, will remember with gratitude and affection her untiring work for the Church, the village children, the Missions to Seamen, and her kindness to the many people who had served her over the past years.

M.S.

THE WEATHER

Such are the uncertainties of our climate that whenever two Englishmen gather together they will reputedly discuss the weather. There is no intention to make the weather a regular feature of the Newsletter, but truly exceptional conditions seem to merit recording as part of the continuing saga of local history as much as events long past.

In N/L 1 we commented on the unique mildness of the 1974-75 winter. This was followed by an unusually fine summer (see Ted Bartlett's report in N/L 4). The 1975-76 winter was again remarkably mild and exceptionally dry, followed in turn by a uniquely sunny spring which brought forth an almost tropical profusion of spring flowers. At the end of May the papers were reporting that the previous 12 months had been the driest since 1727 - and then the drought started in earnest!

According to the "Times" daily weather reports, less than one inch of rain was recorded in London during the whole of June, July and August, and the situation throughout the country, and indeed Western Europe as a whole, is now very serious indeed with severe restrictions on the use of water belatedly imposed in many districts, followed by a desperate attempt by the government to avoid disaster by creating the novel appointment of Drought Minister. By contrast with 1976, the driest of summers from 1782 to 1792

was 1790, for which Gilbert White recorded a rainfall of 5.67 inches for the three summer months at Selborne in Hampshire.

As far as this year's summer temperatures are concerned, the "Times" has recorded maximum daily temperatures of 90°F or over on eight occasions (June 25, 26, 27 & 28, and July 3, 4, 6 & 7). Never before has 90° been exceeded on more than two successive days. The 95° on June 26 is the highest recorded since records began in 1940.

During the three summer months 80° has been exceeded on no less than 30 days, including 17 successive days from June 22 to July 12. A maximum temperature of less than 70° has been recorded for only 10 days during this period. The average daily sunshine has been 8.8 hours. On the record-breaking 26 June, the water temperature at Woking outdoor swimming pool was 73°, and the traction engines at the Mayford History Society Steam Rally had difficulties because it was impossible to keep their water cool enough.

L.G.B.

THE ARMY CAMP AT SEND HEATH

We have an exciting article by Pat Thurbin ready for publication. Unfortunately there is insufficient room in this Newsletter and the article could be spoilt by being split. We have therefore had to hold it over.