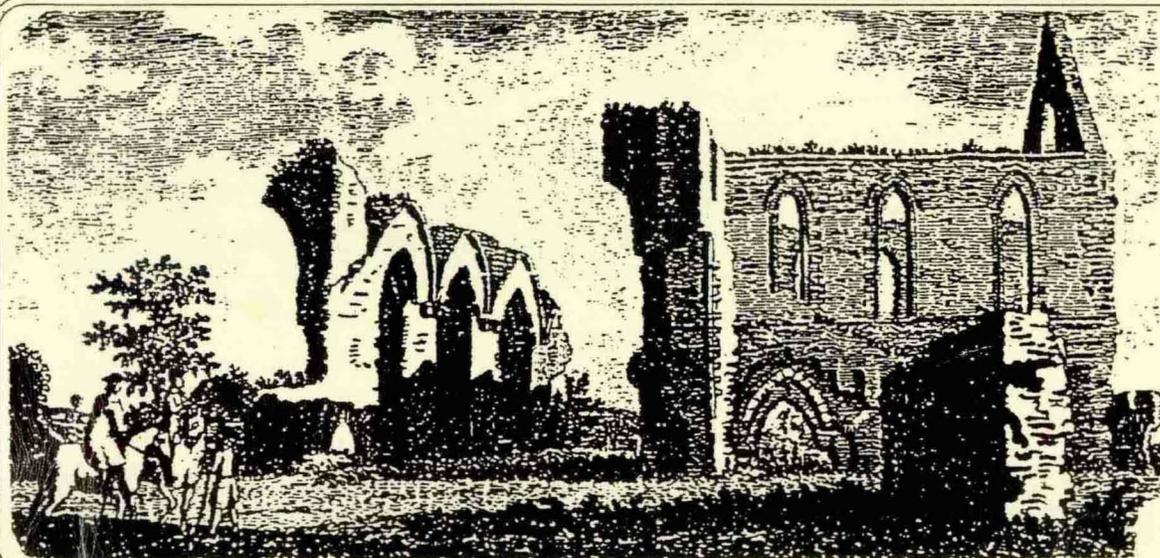


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Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 296324

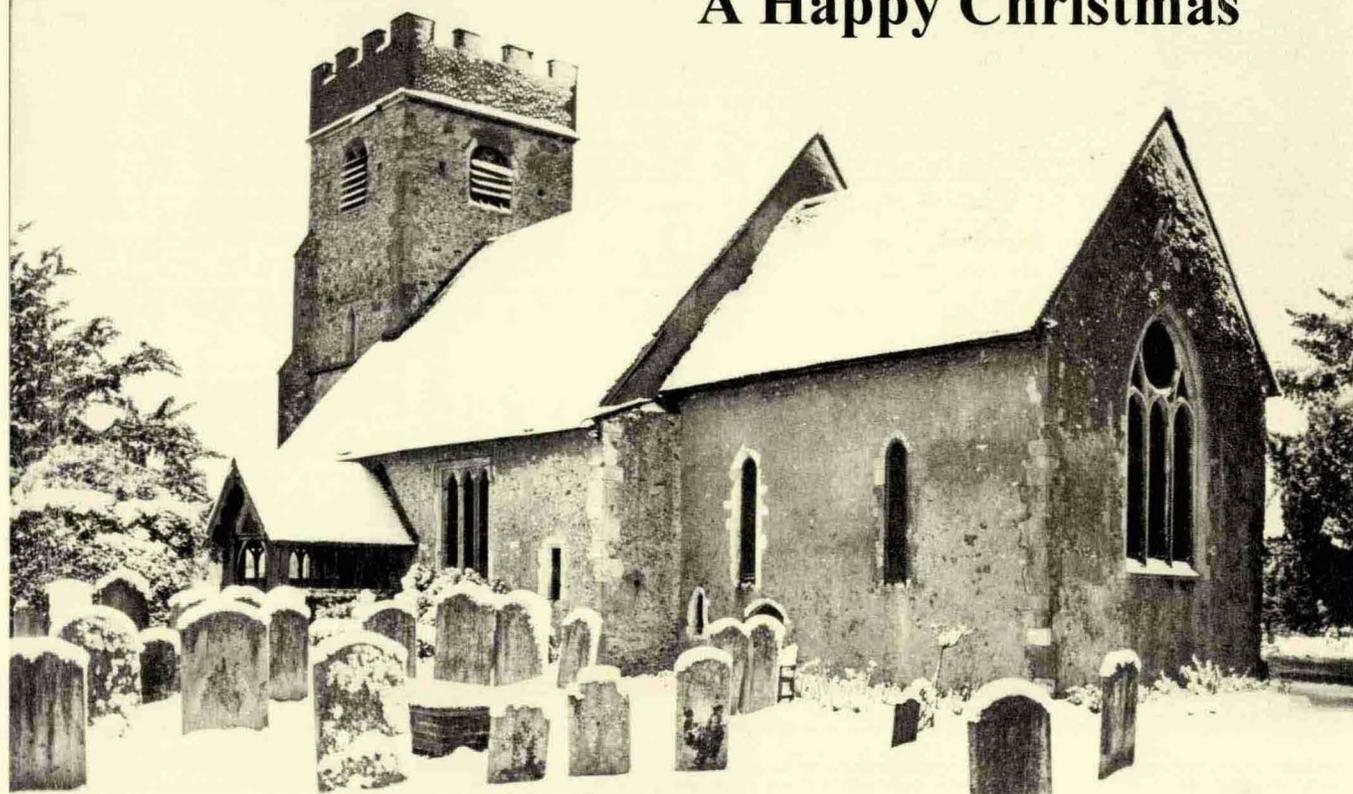


NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 6 No. 191

Nov/Dec 2006

A Happy Christmas



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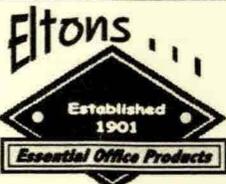
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Send & Ripley History Society

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Registered Charity No 296324

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Nov/Dec 2006

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Cover photo: Photograph of St Mary The Virgin, Send, Christmas 1986 by Ken Bourne.

Editor's Comment

As I put together this edition of the Journal (16th Nov. 06), the autumn colours in the hedgerows are aglow; the Field Maple is particularly brilliant this year as are many other trees and shrubs; caused we are told by the hot dry summer. However, the television and the shops would have us believe that Christmas is almost upon us but the autumn colours tell me otherwise. On the other hand, by the time this Journal has been printed and distributed, Christmas will be very much closer, so, although these days we do not often see snow at Christmas time, this Journal features at least one article on the subject plus a snowy picture on the front page.

Thanks to our authors who regularly contribute articles to the Journal. Over the last twelve months this has included: Alan Baker; Jane Bartlett, Les Bowerman, Sheila Brown, Clare McCann, Mavis Davies, David Porter, Christina Sheard, John and Bette Slatford, plus Anne Bowerman who edits the 'Forthcoming Events' section. Thanks also to the following authors who have contributed articles this year, some for the first time: Gerald Chandler; Michael Cowen, Shelley Edwards, Jackie Herring, Andy Jones, Melissa Jones, Mike Knight and Pauline Wilson, Your support is much appreciated by our readers and the editor.

Thanks are also due to our advertisers. With their support the Journal can continue to be produced to a high standard at low cost, Please support them whenever you can.

Thank you members and friends who read the Journal and also those who comment and add to the record of local knowledge.

A reminder that subscriptions are due and a renewal form is included with this edition of the Journal.

Another reminder: Don't forget **Wed. 20th December 8 pm – The Christmas Social.** An evening of seasonal jollity and feasting! Please ring Anne Bowerman if you are able to contribute a suitable item of food and/or bring a raffle prize. Admission is £3.00. See also Forthcoming Events.

On behalf of Send and Ripley History Society I wish you all:

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Hundreds of Snowmen in Send - Christmas 1944

By Shelley Edwards.

Monica Edwards, 1912–1998, author and my mother, lived in Send for eight years, from 1939 to 1947. We lived at Rupel, 115 Send Road, Mays Corner, by the bus stop and in between the forge and the sweet shop, both favourite places of mine.

Although her first two books were written there - *Wish for a Pony* and *No Mistaking Corker*, neither was set in Send. However, as I read the books now, in order to write a personal preface to each as they are reprinted, I recognise parts of our life there. I am also surprised at what was left out.

My mother grew up on the Sussex coast in the fishing village of Rye Harbour where her father was the vicar. Boats and sailing were a large part of her life. Strange then that our idyllic afternoons picnicking with friends on the Rive Wey were never featured. We walked down to Cartbridge and wandered up and down the bank choosing our punt. Having tossed in our cushions and the picnic we pushed off upstream.

We bought our first ponies while we were in the village and rented local grazing, down the Send Marsh Road, up Send Hill and over Burnt Common. We also rented or borrowed, a pony trap. Another picnic basket was packed we trotted of to Wisley Gardens, by minor roads, one so minor that the trap almost slid off.

My father worked at Norcons concrete works, a protected job during the war. He grew soft fruit and vegetables in the garden at Rupel and worked an allotment at the far side of the recreation ground. We also kept a few chickens, which of course, became pets. When the time came to 'cull' one of the birds, my father would take it to the butcher and supposedly exchange it for another, as my mother could not bear the thought of eating Pansy or Tansy, or whatever the doomed bird was called. The following day he would return with an oven-ready bird, fortunately unrecognisable. He explained many years later that he had no intention of eating anyone else's bird. This revelation hit Mother hard and it is difficult to describe her expression.

My mother, as I said, was a vicar's daughter. So that it was unusual for her to miss a Christmas Service. But in 1944 she stayed at home with my new baby brother. There was enough snow that day for my father and me to make hundreds of (or so it seemed) small snowmen. White and rounded, they lined the left-hand side of the lane all the way along Church Lane from St Mary The Virgin church to the junction with Potters Lane. I remember looking back at them, a picture I can still see.*

For more on Monica Edwards visit: www.john.allsup.btinternet.co.uk and www.ggbp.co.uk

** We could not find a picture of Church Lane in the snow but hope the one of the church shown on the front page will do? - editor.*

Old Manor Cottage, Send Marsh Green **By John Slatford**

In 2005 the Society decided to participate in the Surrey Dendrochronology Project by supporting the tree-ring dating study of the properties of two of our members. The sampling for both of these by Andy Moir of Tree-Ring Services took place on 8th December of that year. Vintage Cottage in Rose Lane, Ripley was reported in Journal No. 188 together with details of the sampling procedures. However, the second study of Old Manor Cottage in Send Marsh, the home of Patrick and Christina Sheard, was more difficult and the report has taken longer to complete.



The southern bay of Old Manor Cottage is known to have been part of an early open hall house now abutting a rather later separately framed house. The study was confined to the timbers of the early part. It was established visually that the original construction was a mixture of oak and elm timber.

Oak was used for the corner posts and braces with elm being used in the areas sheltered from weathering, that is, for wall plates tie beams and joists

Accurate tree-ring dating depends upon comparisons with statistical data obtained from timber buildings dated from documentary evidence. Almost entirely such evidence is based upon oak timbers. Research work is ongoing to establish data for other species and in the hope that a result might be obtained Andy Moir decided to take samples of both oak and elm timbers. He was able to obtain six cores of each. The subsequent analysis showed that only two of the oak samples were suitable for cross-matching and it did not prove possible to obtain any dating matches from the elm samples.

Because only two of the oak samples could be used for dating, a precise year for the felling of the tree could not be obtained. Instead, the report concluded that the trees that were used were cut down between the years **AD1413** and **AD1445**. Thus although not exact, the result confirms our previous conclusion that the southern part of Old Manor Cottage would be the oldest surviving house in Send. Both the oak and elm timber used in its construction would most likely have come from local sources.

Report from the Chairman

Videos & DVDs: The Society owns a number of videos and DVDs. Copies are being made by Andy Jones so that a master set can be kept in the storage room in the old Methodist church while copies are available at the Museum for loan by members who will need to record in a loans book any borrowings. Subjects covered include the "Time Team's" excavations at Syon House and Waynflete's Tower at Esher, "The Big Freeze" of the winter of 1962/3 (the coldest UK winter since 1914) as recorded in the Tannery Lane area by John Jenkins, "The Bank Job" when the Ripley branch of the Nat West was transported in 1992 down the High Street to become our Museum, "Our 3 Villages" (Byfleet, W Byfleet & Pyrford), "The Lost Wey to the Sea", "Surrey on Film 1914-1953, and a composite of a number of cine films taken around Send & Ripley by Stuart Paice of Ripley, the Send WI, Mr Rudkin of Potters Lane, etc.

Web-sites: The **Society's own site** is now up and running. Just Google Send & Ripley and read a brief history of the villages and of the Society, a resume of our publications, etc. Or go direct to the site at **www.sendandripleyhistory.co.uk**. At the time of writing it still needs a little tweaking and the meetings programme needs up-dating, but it is a splendid site, really giving the historic atmosphere of the villages. Chris Brown (son of members Sheila and Les) has created the site and we owe him an enormous amount of gratitude for the time and skill he has put into it. Our President Ken Bourne, John Slatford and this writer have also put in a number of hours providing Chris with material.

The **Send Web-site**, **www.sendvillage.org** now has a link to SRHS as one of the village clubs and societies.

SRHS New Display Boards. The Committee has invested part of the grant money from the "Awards for All" scheme in five professionally made large display boards. They show with vivid pictures and in word a potted history of Send and Ripley. It is envisaged that they will be on display at the Museum, especially when there is no specific exhibition there. They will also be available for taking to appropriate functions. The boards are mainly the result of much thought, drive and effort put in by Clare McCann.

Best Village Award. Congratulations to those, some of the SRHS members, involved in preparing the successful Ripley entry this year in this competition. Every aspect of the village and village life was taken into consideration. Undoubtedly the existence of a local museum and an active SRHS, with its publications and its outreach to school and the Scouts, helped.

The Museum. I hope our stewards are becoming familiar with the air conditioning, which needs only the flick of one switch on arrival and departure. It is kept at a minimal non-occupied temperature and rapidly warms up to 21 degrees when switched on. The second security lock also now functions. The current exhibition, on local garages, is nearing the end of its life, and Clare would welcome suggestions for the next exhibition.

The Library. The lending library, managed by Mavis Davies, has an extensive collection of books on local history, recently augmented by purchase of David Taylor's new book as mentioned above and by member Janet Hilderley's recently published book on Yvonne Arnaud who lived in nearby Effingham. The reference library, nearly half of which consists of indexed copies of the Parish Registers and Census Returns as copied and assembled into binders by Bette and John Slatford, is much used by visitors wishing to research their family history.

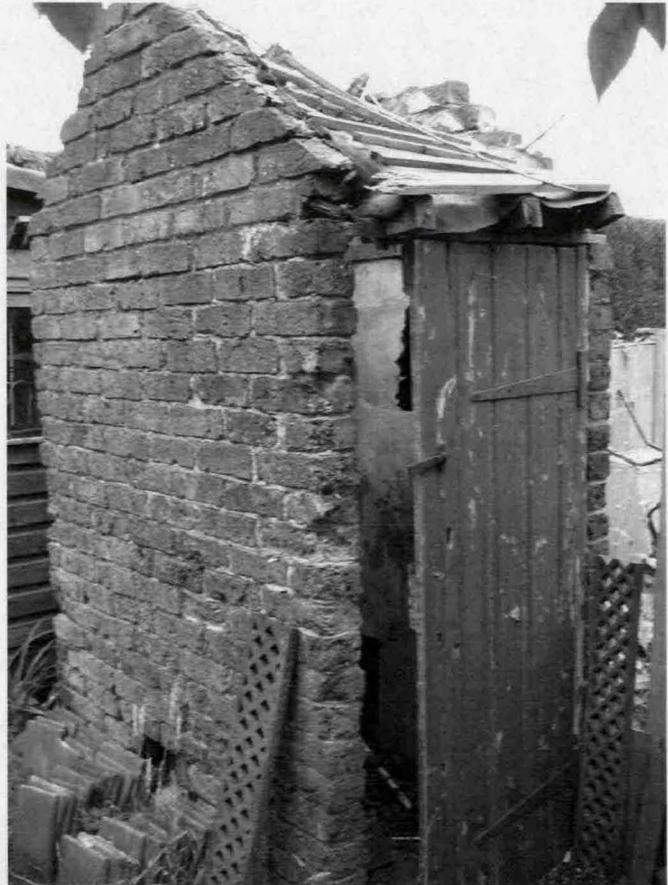
SRHS Officers & Committee. With **Hon. Sec.** Marilyn Scott still very heavily involved in the setting up of the Woking "Lightbox", we are still urgently in need of a **Minutes Secretary**, a position which Anne and I have covered for the past year or so. The job requires attendance only at our 6-weekly Committee meetings and at the AGM in February. The post of **Membership Secretary** is one, which has been unfilled for a few years now and, again, it has fallen to me to keep it going. The job needs no prior knowledge of local history, although it helps in organising distribution of the Journal to have an idea of which roads and streets are where and the more members you know the easier it makes it. You also need to be meticulous in recording subs received and the correct spelling of the names and addresses of new members. Tony and Patricia Medlen have retired from the Committee after many years (Patricia was a long-serving Treasurer and Tony has been Vice-Chairman for even longer) as they now spend most of their time at their home in Devon. We are thus in urgent need of new Committee members. A post on Committee would combine very conveniently with that of Minutes Secretary or Membership Secretary although those are not necessarily Committee positions. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer to help with any of these positions.

Annual Subscriptions. You will find enclosed with this issue of the Journal a renewal form. It will help in the smooth running of the Society, doubly important with our shortage of officials, if you will kindly complete the renewal form and return it to me as quickly as possible together with the appropriate fee, not forgetting, please, to complete the Gift Aid paragraph.

Ripley Farmers' Market: The Farmers' Market, which takes place on Ripley Green on the second Saturday of the month, has been operating very successfully for 18 months. It is very successful in bringing fresh produce, which has not had to be transported across the world at enormous cost to the environment, to the locality, and acts as a very enjoyable social occasion. It is a pleasing thought that several, possibly most, of the organisers, are also members of SRHS. We have also had an official presence at the markets in the shape of an SRHS stall, selling our publications and answering questions.

Many thanks to the small band of five couples (Bartletts, Bowermans, Cobbetts, McCanns and Slatfords), who have so far acted as stall holders. To spread the load, it would be appreciated if a few more members would come forward to go on the rota. If you would like to help in this way, three hours on a Saturday morning, twice a year at present, weather permitting, please let me know.

Privies: Since John Janaway gave the Society his talk on Surrey Privies last year three local ones have come to light and been photographed for the record. One is at The Georgian House in the High Street (see Journal 188), one in Newark Lane (see Journal 187) and the third is in Papercourt Lane shown on right. Very likely there are others (which we would like to hear about) because Ripley did not go onto fully mains drainage until just before WW2 in 1939 and mains drainage in Send was not completed until after the war.



Christina Sheard writes:

I have at long last been round to my old house (Willow Cottage) in Papercourt Lane to take photos of the outside loo.

Sadly, it is looking a bit worse for wear than when we moved out. Angela tells me that a tree fell on it (the willow tree I believe).

The old Privy at Willow Cottage; Papercourt Lane.

Surrey Local History Symposium. The theme this year was "**Parks in Surrey**". Five members attended. We don't have too many parks in Send and Ripley, but at very short notice Clare McCann produced a very interesting display on Sendholme which was (is?), to use a dictionary definition, "a large ornamental piece of ground, usually comprising woodland and pasture, attached to a country house or mansion, and used for recreation." Among several interesting papers was one by an old friend of the Society, David Taylor, on Cobham Park. Its earlier history was sometimes lurid. His new book, *An Estate for all Seasons*, ie Cobham Park, was launched at the Symposium, and a copy has been bought for our library.

Les Bowerman

The Surrey Local History Symposium

Chertsey, 28th October 2006

Parks in Surrey

Reported by Clare McCann

After a warm welcome from the chairman of the morning session Prof Alan Crocker; Peter Edwards opened proceedings at 11.05 am with a talk entitled 'English Parks in Transition', which looked at medieval parks as areas for hunting, primarily deer and boar. As these both declined, either animals had to be brought in to the parks to satisfy royal hunting parties, or foxes and hares were pursued. The nobility hunted both from horseback with hounds, or using hawks, and local farmers not only had to put up with their land being ridden over but in many cases were not allowed to take game for themselves.

At the end of the Middle Ages hunting was in decline and with the growth in population it made economic sense for some parks to be dis-emparked to allow for more agriculture, which brought in rents for the landowner. It was easy enough for trees to be cut down and sold for timber, but preparing the land for agriculture was hard as roots had to be cleared, and this was apparently left to the tenant farmers.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the owners of these great estates began to take more interest in their parks as a means to setting off their houses. First formal gardens surrounding the house were constructed in the Italian, French or Dutch styles but these gave way to a more naturalistic style. Famous designers such as Capability Brown, William Kent and Humphrey Repton were brought in to transform the landscape, put in lakes and streams, open up vistas, and introduce a 'ha-ha' to keep out sheep or deer. In some cases fields and common land were taken into parks and even villages, such as Milton Abbas, were moved, regardless of local feeling. *(Although I do not recall the speaker mentioning it, the development of Albury Park, [not far from Send & Ripley] also involved moving the original village – LesBowerman on proof-reading)*

Brenda Lewis from Surrey Gardens Trust illustrated her talk with slides of paintings and illustrations of some well-known Surrey estates. There were several significant parks round Cobham, Esher and Weybridge, perhaps because it was an easy journey to London and the Court. She made the point that the gentry were influenced both by the landscapes and the paintings they saw on 'the grand tour'. Romantic painters such as Poussin used temples and ancient ruins in his landscapes and this moved the Honourable Charles Hamilton, for example, to introduce similar features at Painshill. Claremont received the attentions of almost all the well-known designers of the day including Vanbrugh, Capability Brown and William Kent. Brown almost certainly did work at Peperharow, Clandon and Gatton. Sir Humphrey Repton created one of his 'Red Books' for Hatchlands - these showed illustrations of the existing park on overlays and underneath were drawings of how he proposed to transform it. Apparently some smaller landowners would purchase a small parcel of land within sight of their house and erect an 'eyecatcher' such as a temple, then visitors would assume he owned all the land in between! The Duke of Cumberland (Butcher Cumberland) could afford to indulge his fantasies and developed the park at Virginia Water, creating the largest man-made lake of its day - sufficiently large to stage mock sea battles on it. Parks were designed to be viewed from different vantage points known as 'stations' and in the case of Norbury Park they went as far as to relocate the house.

After lunch we had a talk from David Taylor, author of a new book called 'An Estate for all Seasons' about Cobham Park, which is south of Cobham and is still in part owned by the Combe family, who have been in possession of the estate for about 200 years. Harvey Christian Combe, a friend of the Prince Regent, bought the estate having made his fortune brewing porter. Originally known as Bridgelands, the property was in the lands of Chertsey Abbey.

Mr Taylor has researched the various owners of the property, including the Legonier family. In the seventeenth century Penelope Legonier, wife of the then owner, not only had an affair with an Italian writer but also the stable lad, which caused a major public scandal and led to divorce.

In Victorian times Charles Combe had the Paladian mansion demolished and built a grand house for his growing family. He interested himself in all aspects of local life and was a good landlord, building new cottages for his tenants on the estate. His son, Charles Harvey Combe, moved into a smaller property on the estate, Cobham Lodge, and the main house has been offices (*in one of which our Treasurer was pleased to work for many years*) but it is now divided into apartments. The current owner, Harvey Combe, was on hand to answer questions at the end of the talk.

Phil Stevens gave a speedy talk with slides on Bagshot Park, which has and had royal connections. Originally a hunting lodge for William the Conqueror, it was in the forest - this, he explained, did not mean it was entirely surrounded by trees but from the French 'foret' meaning 'with out', i.e. outside the law and subject only to Forest Courts. King John agreed to reduce the size of the forest in return for cash and in 1486 it was formally emparked. Plans show a courtyard house was there in 1607 and in 1635 it was from Bagshot Park that Charles I agreed to share his 'Royal Mail' with his subjects, thus enabling letters to be distributed from place to place. The property survived the Civil War by supporting the winning side. After the Restoration Charles II gave it to Admiral Keppel, who held military events there. Once again the Victorians could not let well alone and a later owner, Prince Arthur, son of Victoria, built the present grace and favour house on the site. During the war it was the ATS headquarters and then a centre for army clergy. They vacated the property in 1996 and it is once again a royal home for Prince Edward and his family.

Judie English gave an interesting perspective on the economic value of parks. She pointed out that hunting was not just for the chase but also to bring food to the table. Landowners had to find other ways of making their estates profitable. She is an archaeologist and has researched Vachery and Baynards Park in the Weald and in the case of Vachery has found signs of forge and furnace ponds as well as documentary evidence of iron works. The case for Baynards is apparently more circumstantial but she thinks it likely that it too had an ironworks. The ironworkers were mainly French and had to register and some definitely settled in and around Cranleigh.

Helen Davies ended the day with an excellent talk on Guildford Park. She began her slides with the view of the Mount as it is today from the High Street, and pointed out that most people do not realise it is the south east corner of the old park. In medieval times it was part of the forest of Windsor, and deer parks were then meat stores for their owners. They were managed, woods for cover, pasture for cattle, and warrens for rabbits. The first mention of rabbits was in 1226 and they were obviously valued as Henry III gave a gift of rabbits. The meat was eaten and the fur used to embellish clothing. Apparently deer parks were usually surrounded by ditches, hedges or pales and because Guildford Park was a royal park it was larger than average - approximately 1620 acres. Norden's Map shows the park was bordered in the south by the Hogs Back trackway and in the north by what is now Woodbridge Road. The park would have provided a great deal of employment maintaining the fences, ditches, farms, fishponds, etc. The house eventually fell into disuse and some of the stone was taken to build Loseley. The park gradually shrank in size with fields being fenced for farming. Eventually much of the park has been built on, but names such as Park Barn and Manor Farm (site of the university) survive. The land was at one time in the ownership of the Onslow family who sold part of it to the Guildford Park Estate for the development of Onslow Village. Originally 3000 houses were planned but it was never fully developed and the land was split by the by-pass. As the money could not be found for an underpass, the remaining land was sold to the university.

It was an interesting day and there were many excellent displays. Sadly the Send and Ripley History Society with its display on Sendholme did not win the prize this year but we will keep trying!

Letters

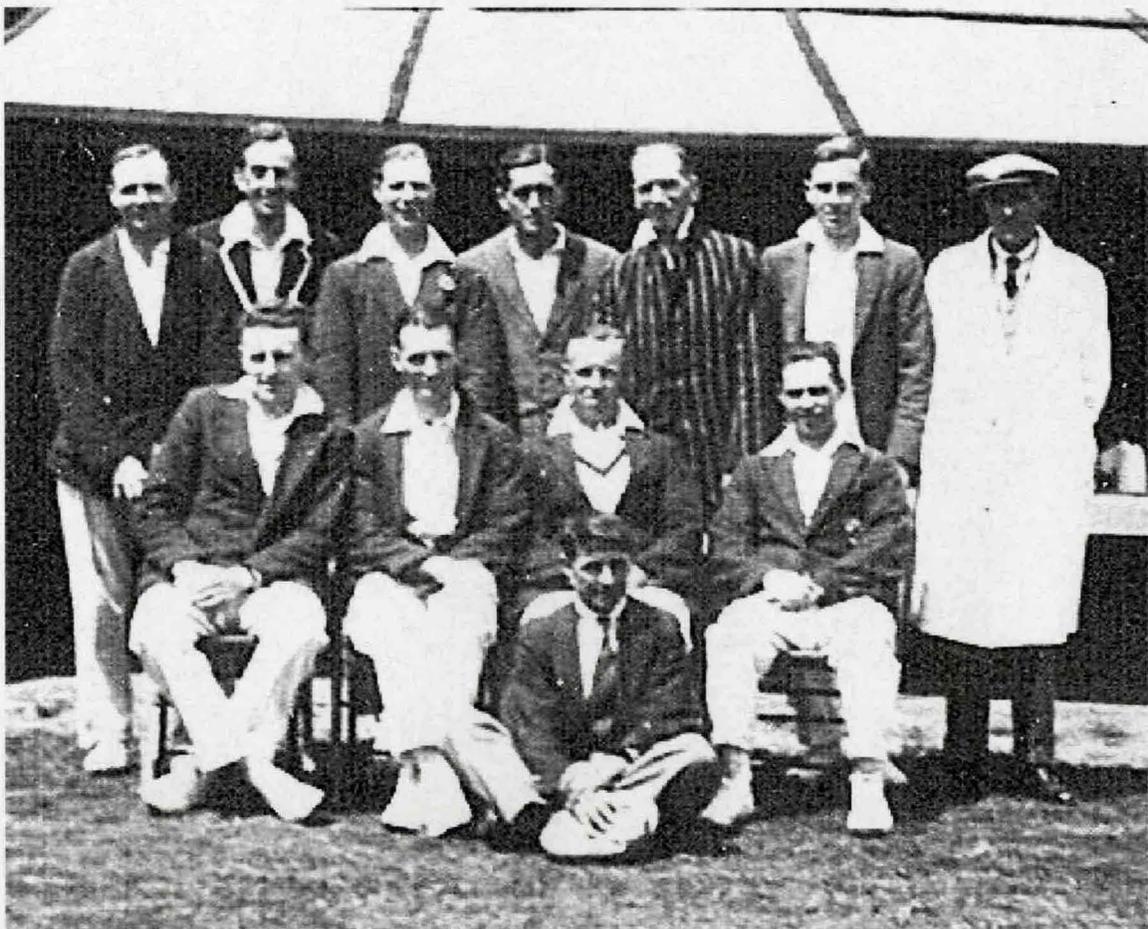
Letter from Mike Sex
Horsham
West Sussex.
29 September 06

Unidentified cricket team at Sendholme

Dear Mr Bourne,

I found the article on Sendholme in the September/October Journal (190) extremely interesting, especially the notes on Send Cricket Club. All my Send ancestors were associated with the Club (including my mother who provided the teas, not easy when food was rationed), and on one notorious occasion there were five Sexes in the team! A difficult affair for the scorer, and the conversation in the dressing rooms is not to be repeated!

Which brings me to the team photograph on page nine off the Journal. The player on the left hand end of the back row is my Uncle Arthur – Arthur Ernest Sex. The chap second from the left in the front row is almost certainly my father, Ronald Clarence Sex. They were the sons of Clarence Henry Sex, who had the Forge in Send and at one time was the president of the Cricket Club. The umpire is very probably Alf Sale.



Mike is the son of Ron and Marjorie Sex who were founder members of this Society. Ron died in 1981 see N/L 40/2, Marjorie died in 1988 see NL 79/16. Editor.

Connaught Cars (1959) Ltd
(Part one)
The garage buildings and Forecourt 1960
By David Porter

Editorial comment:

Several references to Continental Cars Ltd and Connaught Engineering, predecessors of this company, have appeared in earlier newsletters but the most comprehensive article is that by Alan Baker on Mike Oliver's reminiscences as Works Manager at Connaught Engineering (N/L 144/2, and 146/2, both published in 1999), covering the period in Send from 1946 to 1957. David Porter draws upon his father's recollections of the company and much later his own, taking up the story from 1959 when the above company was formed.



This photograph of Connaught Engineering was taken on 18th Dec. 1958 by Surrey County Council and is a copy from S&RHS archives. Parked on the right is a Citroen Traction Avant pre-1952 model, registration (DJN 290). The Avant popularly known as the 'Maigret car', was the predecessor to the DS series introduced in 1955. Editor.

This article describes the general layout of the buildings that had evolved as a result of Continental Cars Ltd and Connaught Engineering's activities on the site at Burnt Common. Situated on the busy London to Portsmouth Road (the old A3) close to where the Shell Service Station is today the forecourt was a single brand 'Esso' petrol filling station. These were branded as Esso Premium (a basic grade low octane petrol), Esso Mixture, Esso Extra and Esso Golden, a high octane petrol. The pumps were placed upon a central 'island' with a small kiosk at one end. An attendant served all fuel and there was no canopy to shelter the customers or the attendant from the rain. Diesel was not sold here but could be obtained at Fishers Garage, the only local source of this fuel at the time.

The large building in the centre, behind the forecourt (*looking like a private house – editor*) was used as offices and showroom and also had a domestic flat above. Behind and adjoining this building stood the main garage workshop. Access to this workshop was through entrances located on either side of the forecourt (there was no one-way system in operation). Although used infrequently, there was also access to the garage at the rear via a gate in Burnt Common Lane. Second hand cars were lined up along the side of the A3 beyond the Ripley end entrance to the forecourt. Out of view in the photo a small building, used for maintenance and storage, stood at the back and to the left of the forecourt. On the outside wall of this building was fixed a row of cigarette machines, a basic shelter protecting the machines and customers from the weather.

To the right of the forecourt on the Guildford side stood an attractive building with a gable ended tiled pitched roof surmounted by a weathervane. This was the new car showroom with company offices at the rear including the company telephone switchboard. The telephone numbers were Ripley 3108 and 3122 with all calls transmitted via the Ripley exchange. Access to the garage workshop behind the central building was between this building and the boundary fence. Behind the new showroom was a goldfish pond.

Behind all the buildings shown in the photograph was a large yard providing access to a further five large buildings. The first four from the left were Nissen Huts with their distinctive semicircular roofs. The fifth had a normal pitched roof. On the left was the first of these Nissen Huts, which was equipped as a machine shop (*no doubt a legacy from its wartime use – editor*). It contained lathes, pillar drills, etc, and was never used as a general workshop. The next Nissen Hut was used for repairs to Citroen cars, mostly the ID19, DS19 and Safari estate models. The smaller Citroen Bijou and 2CVs were repaired in the main workshop. The next two buildings were joined internally and were used as the Stores Department where spare parts for a wide range of vehicles were kept.

Connaught Cars (1959) Ltd

(Part two)

'A winning Team'

By David Porter.

It started with a phone call! The service manager of Connaught Cars was Desmond (Des) Arthur who with his wife Josephine (Josy) and their young son Tommy lived at a house named Stiperstones in Tuckey Grove. Des called the service department of the nearest Daimler agency in Guildford requesting technical information regarding a Daimler rear axle. The Daimler agent at the time (March 1960) was Holloway's Garage in North Street, Guildford. Today it is a furniture store. Eric Lass, the foreman, received the call and suggested that my father, Max Porter, call into Connaughts on his way home from work, to give advice. My father had attended courses at the Daimler factory at Coventry and also at Willesden, London, and was therefore well qualified to advise the Connaught service staff on the axle problem.

My father, cycling home, called into Connaughts and, introducing himself to Des Arthur, provided the information needed. He was immediately offered a job there, but my father was hesitant at first as it meant working on foreign cars! At that time Connaughts were agents for Citroen, Fiat and Renault in a big way. Dad was a 'collar and tie' mechanic, having been introduced to the motor trade as a young lad with Rolls Royce in the 1930s and this was their dress code to work on such prestige cars in spite of the dirt. However, within a few days my father had accepted Connaughts' offer and he commenced work there at 8am on Monday 21st March 1960.

On Saturday 19th I joined my father who had borrowed Bert Webb's black Austin A40 Somerset car (7997 H) in order to collect his tools from Holloway's Garage where he had worked since 1946.

Arriving at Connaughts we placed his tools on the floor at the end of the left hand row of benches just inside the door of the main workshop located behind the central building. We had to return Bert Webb's car before closing time at May's Stores at 1pm. Dad had looked after the car for a long time and also given advice on his daughter's Austin A30. His daughter lived at Hook Heath.

The first few weeks at Connaughts gave my father many sleepless nights and he said 'he would give the job six months'! He was there nine years!

In 1960 I was in my penultimate year at Send Primary School and therefore too young to understand the management structure of Connaught Cars. However, the following notes are written from my recollections of many 'in depth' conversations and experiences with Dad over the years.

At the top of the management tree between 1959-60 were Mr G H Claydon (Dick Claydon) and Mr Kenway who was an Australian sheep farmer. Probably Mr Rodney Clark was also involved. By 1961 Mr Kenway had returned to Australia and I believe he withdrew his financial support of the business. Alan Brown then stepped into the void. He married a daughter of the Dowdeswell family of Guildford and lived in a large house named Greyladies in White Lane at the foot of St Martha's Hill.

The Sales Manager was Geoff Sizzey and the Parts Stores Manager was Keith Vincent. Richard (Dickie) Wigman looked after the garage maintenance from his small workshop near the Ripley entrance gate. Des Arthur was the Service Department Manager with Dennis Slade as foreman.

In the first Nissen hut (the machine shop) at the Ripley end was Benny Benstead. His Christian name began with an 'A' but we never discovered what this stood for and he was always called Benny. He was a Brooklands veteran and a lover of Bugattis. He was 'Connaught Racing' and his knowledge and skill put it, and later Connaught Cars, on the road to financial success. He had his own workshop with access to the machine tools. He was the top man!

In the next Nissen hut, situated between Benny's workshop and the stores department, was the team of fitters who worked solely on the Citroen 'D' series cars. It was a small workshop that could only contain three cars at any one time, one behind the other. The Citroen mechanics were Brian Strong, Tony Arthur (nephew of Des) and Bill Smith.

Initially, my father worked in the main workshop on 'run of the mill' every day work. Within three months Dad was invited to join the Citroen team. This move proved successful and Dad remained with Connaughts as a member of this enlarged team.

The Citroen DS19 had won the Monte Carlo rally in 1959. There were no GT/Gti. variants in those days and Connaughts, headed by Benny Benstead, decided to put their racing knowledge into this very successful and advanced car known as the 'Shark'. Connaughts were now sharpening their teeth.

The photograph on the right is an early Citroen DS (Duchess). Courtesy of the Citroen Car Club.

www.citroencarclub.org.uk



Footnote: Mr Eric Lass, the foreman at Holloway's Garage, had served in the Royal Navy prior to, and during, WW1. He was at sea during April 1912 when, one night just before midnight, his radio operator picked up the S.O.S. call from Jack Phillips onboard the stricken liner 'Titanic'. After plotting their position it was deemed they were too far away to offer assistance. Eric never forgot that night. He lived in retirement at Waggoners Wells.

Send and Ripley History - Museum Report.

By Melissa Jones

The reasons I chose this building were because it was one of the smallest purpose built banks in England and it has not only changed use but has also changed location so I thought this was the ideal building to do my report on. I would like to start by telling you about the history of the original location of this building. The land was once part of Ripley Green. The first mention of ownership was of a William Heady (butcher) dated 23rd Feb 1804 and the land was on the side of Ripley Green in front of the high road, measuring 22 feet east to west and 41 feet 6 inches north to south. He built a messuage and lived there. He obtained a loan of £130 from Richard Greenwood (pawnbroker) of Marylebone as a mortgage. William Heady died March 1814, intestate, leaving his son William Heady (labourer) as executor. He sold the property to Thomas Greenfield (grocer) for £140, so paying back the mortgage. In about 1828 Thomas Greenfield used the shop as a grocery store for over 30 years until his death on 18th Jan 1860 when his estate was put up for auction (see "for sale" notice).

The house and shop (two cottages) were bought by William Henry Bund Smallpeice for £100, along with outhouses, yards, gardens, etc. He owned them for over 50 years until his death and his daughters for some 30 years after that. In 1871 Henry Smallpeice bought land on the north of the property for £5 from Richard Strong. His surviving daughter Rose (spinster) sold the houses to James and Owen Hugh Tedder (grocers) in 1908. They owned these cottages until June 1929, when Owen Hugh Tedder, the surviving brother, sold everything to Westminster Bank Ltd for £400 for use as a bank. Some time in 1930 the cottages were demolished and the bank was built and opened. During its time as a bank it changed from Westminster Bank Ltd to National Westminster Bank, and served the village of Ripley for 61 years. It closed its doors on

30th September 1991. The Natwest Estate Management and Development Ltd in Crawley files read that the site was to be sold for redevelopment, so Send and Ripley History Society and Ripley Village Hall Committee were able to obtain the building as long as they moved it before the end of April 1992. It was placed in its current position in the village hall car park and has been the History Society Museum for about 14 years.

The building was moved by Vanguard Engineering who constructed a lifting cage to raise the 18.5-tonne building on to a tri-axle low-loader using a crane, as seen on the DVD of the move, and placed it at the village hall. They have called the DVD "The Bank Job" (copy available in the museum made by kind permission of John and Bette Slatford). The museum was opened on 25th September 1993 by Lord and Lady Forte who made a big cash donation to help complete the museum.

The building is made of a wooden framework (red cedar) with the gaps filled in with concrete blocks and plaster. The framework and concrete blocks are held together with coach screws about 200mm long. Breeze blocks were used as a cheaper construction material as six house bricks would be used to one breeze block. The wooden framework was probably constructed in sections and put together on site. The building has a tiled roof and metal framed windows. The door, of solid wood, opens inwards and still retains the Natwest Bank's name on the letter box. The building measures 13ft by 20ft and is about 15ft tall. It is built to imitate a Tudor style. It has wooden floor boards and two time capsules from Send and Ripley schools were placed under the floor.

The building's most interesting feature is the wooden beams because not a lot of banks have that style on their buildings.

I wish to thank John and Bette Slatford, Send and Ripley History Society and everybody else who have helped me with my research.

Melissa Jones age 13 years produced the above report as a project for the 2006, 'Young Archaeologist's Award'. Thank you Melissa for choosing our museum for your subject and on behalf of the committee of Send and Ripley History Society we congratulate you on receiving a YAC 'Commended' certificate. Editor.

Forthcoming Events

Anne Bowerman

It is pleasing that our evening meetings have been so well attended recently. This means that we are sometimes a bit squashed in the Annexe but we cannot suddenly switch to the main village hall as our meetings are all booked a year in advance. We will do our best to arrange the chairs carefully and hope you will be understanding. I would like to thank everyone who brings the odd raffle prize and helps to sell tickets as this keeps our expenses down. Evening meetings are usually held in the Ripley Village Hall Annexe on the third Wednesday of the month and begin at 8.00 pm.

Wed. 20th December – The Christmas Social. An evening of seasonal jollity and feasting. Please ring me if you are able to contribute a suitable item of food so a menu can be planned. Expenses will be paid. A charge of £3.00 will be made.

Fri. 26th January - Yes, our New Year film evening. Terence Patrick will be presenting a biographical film by Circle Eight called "Seventy Years at the BBC". Come and buy your choc ices! This will take place in the main hall.

Wed. 21st February – The Annual General Meeting. Cheese and wine will be served and Marilyn Scott will give a presentation on the Woking Lightbox galley and museum.

Wed. 21st March – Judie English, Vice-President of the Surrey Archaeological Society, will give an illustrated talk on "Surrey Landscapes".

For further details of any of our events, please ring me, Anne Bowerman, on 01483 224876.



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Contact Les Bowerman on 01483-224876 if
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HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

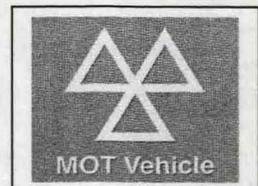
'Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life'	(Reprinted 2006)	£10.00
'Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send'		£1.25
'Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley'	(Reprinted 2004)	£3.50
'The Straight Furrow', by Fred Dixon		£1.50
'Ripley and Send – Looking Back'		£5.00
'A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey'	(Reprinted 2005)	£2.00
'Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey'		£3.00
'The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey'	(Reprinted 2005)	£4.00
'Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures'		£6.00
'Two Surrey Village Schools - The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools'		£10.00
'The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey'		£5.00

All the publications are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of 'Ripley & Send Then and Now' and 'Two Surrey Village Schools' can also be obtained from Send Post Office.

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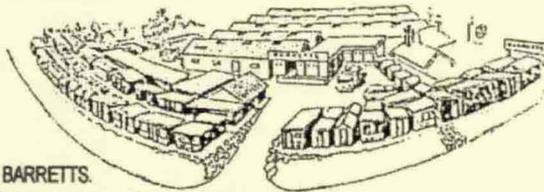
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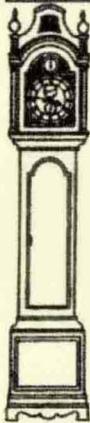


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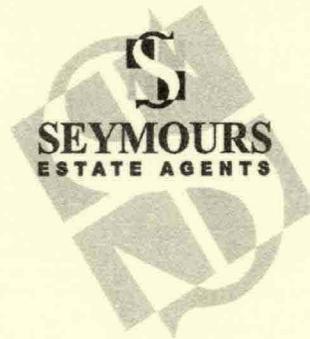
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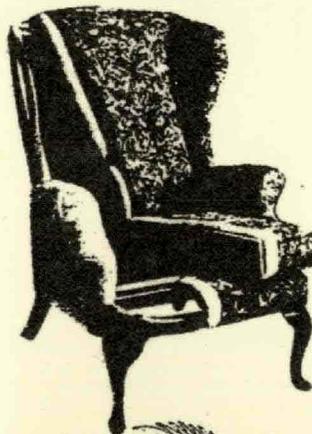
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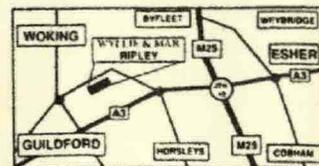
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