

Send & Ripley History Society



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EDITORIAL

CATHERINE DAVEY, EDITOR

We are coming to the end of 2016 and I suspect you will all agree that it has been a momentous year, politically. By the time this reaches you, we will know the results of the American elections and whether the United States has elected Hillary Clinton as its first woman president, or Donald Trump. Back home we are creeping towards the new relationship with our European neighbours following the vote to leave the European Union earlier this year. More locally, Guildford has just conducted a referendum on whether or not the voting population supported the creation of an independent mayor with executive powers. I for one was relieved to learn that we had voted against the idea.

This past week has been interesting as we reach the 50th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster, with documentaries incorporating contemporaneous new reports and footage. I remember that I was at school at the time and what an impact that the disaster had on the country, particularly on children as we tried to get to grips with the idea of being safe at school one minute and engulfed by a landslide the next. The portage of those days was so different to what we

have now when news breaks so much more quickly and we have 24/7 coverage from far flung corners of the world generated by local people using their smartphones.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the journal over the past year and it remains only to wish you all a very happy Christmas on behalf of your committee and to look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Christmas party and at our first meeting of the New Year.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributions for Journal 252 to be published January 2017 should be sent to the editor by 14 December 2016

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.

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KENNETH WHITE — A PIONEER OF MEDICINE

CAMERON BROWN



l-r David Hefford, John Hutson, Andy Walton, Cllr Gordon Jackson, mayor of Guildford © Ditz

On 29th September 2016 the mayor of Guildford, Cllr Gordon Jackson, attended the unveiling of a blue plaque on the wall of Cellar Wines in Ripley High Street. Museum curator Clare McCann first had the idea of commemorating the achievements of pharmacist Kenneth White a year or so ago and raised the funds for the project from Cellar Wines, Ripley Parish Council, Ripley Farmers' Market, the Ripley Bonfire committee, the owner of the building itself and the History Society. Around fifty people attended the unveiling.

White was the first person in Britain to produce penicillin for civilian use, in 1944. Production of penicillin in significant quantities only began in the early 1940s and it was reserved for use by the armed forces. The government did its best to restrict news coverage of

the then revolutionary qualities of this new drug but there developed an inevitable curiosity and a feeling of frustration that it was not more widely available. It is likely that many scientists and pharmacists tried their hand at penicillin production, but Kenneth White got there first.

The process for producing penicillin was not a secret. It had been published in 1941 and subsequent articles had appeared in the American press indicating that penicillin had been successfully produced by a number of private individuals. The British government was determined that this would not happen here, partly because of the risk that the drug could then become available to the enemy. The problem for White was therefore that certain of the ingredients were not generally available. It is on record that he tried to obtain the culture he

needed from official sources but his requests were refused. Jenny Sizzy, who attended the unveiling, told us that her father, Donald Green, a plant pathologist at RHS Wisley helped White in his endeavours but we have no details. He did approach the Russians via their embassy in London, to see what information they might have gleaned from their American and British allies, but apparently without success. It is thought that he might finally have persuaded one of the official penicillin manufacturers to let him have an (illegal) initial supply of the culture he needed.

Kenneth White had first opened his dispensary in Wisley in 1943 and it is highly unlikely that he would have owned any of the specialised equipment required for penicillin production. He was, however, a resourceful man.

We know that he persuaded Lyons & Co to give him an ice cream refrigerator (use of which had been rendered redundant by rationing) and an incubator was made for him out of old packing cases by Bill Weller, the local baker.

Working almost completely independently and unaffiliated to a hospital, an academic institution or a research organisation Kenneth White finally succeeded in producing penicillin which was used in the treatment of patients. These patients were in the main afflicted with longstanding infections that had proved resistant to the only drugs their own doctors had access to. All the evidence suggests that he bore the research and production costs himself and that he made no charge for the penicillin.

His success soon became public knowledge and his efforts were greeted with admiration by a number of drug companies and other organisations. In recognition of his achievements Glaxo Laboratories supplied him with growth medium in tablet form for cultivating the mould. Bayer Products wrote to him congratulating him on being 'the first pharmacist in [Britain] to produce penicillin filtrate for members of the public.' The Pioneer Scientific Development and Research Society wrote to him in 'cordial appreciation of [his] courageous efforts in the producing of penicillin under adverse circumstances and official apathy.' White had trained as a pharmacist at Brighton Technical College and The Brighton and Hove Gazette sent a reporter to

the college for 'background'. The head of the School of Pharmacy, H B Mackie, when told of White's achievements was quoted as stating simply that he was 'not surprised.'

At first the government were deeply concerned by his activities but they did not ultimately try to prevent them, presuming perhaps that the cat was now out of the bag and that a ban could no longer be effective. Indeed in February 1945 the Ministry of Supply sent White a culture of *P. notatum* (the ingredient he had struggled to obtain) which was tantamount to officialdom bestowing approval on his endeavours.

In 1951 Kenneth White sold the business due to ill health, and travelled abroad. He went to both Australia and the Solomon Islands where he was involved with the pearl shell business. He also visited China and other Far Eastern countries before trying West Africa. He joined a German gum manufacturer, for which he travelled in Eastern Europe. He finally retired and settled in Horsley, where he died in 1993, aged 78.



John Hutson © Ditz

The gentleman in our photograph is local resident John Hutson, who came to work for White as a teenager in 1944 and continued to work at the pharmacy until it closed 50 years later.

The building itself has an interesting history. It is a medieval timber-framed hall house and was an inn known as the White Horse from at least the late 1600s until the 1850s. It first housed a chemist's shop, started by Harry Allenby, in 1899. We will write in more detail about the building in a forthcoming journal.

SIXTY YEARS MARRIED

LES BOWERMAN

It must have been in about 1960 when, married only four years myself and living in Jacobs Well near Guildford, I first met a couple who had been married for sixty years. They seemed impossibly old and it seemed an impossible attainment. Well, here we are 56 years later and diamond weddings, whilst still a remarkable milestone, do not appear to be quite so rare. Our sister publication, Ripley & Send Matters, has in very recent years, reported two. One of those was that of our members, Ted & Jackie Strange, which appeared in the Winter 2014 edition of that magazine. And there they are, married in August 1954 and looking so young in the accompanying photo that it is only the iced cake they are cutting that proves that it is a recent photo. Both are local people, Ted having been manager at the former Barretts Garden Buildings in Portsmouth Road for many years and Jackie, originally from Send, having been the long-time leader of the 1st Ripley Brownies. Further details of their work for the locality will have been read by most in the Ripley & Send Matters report. Jackie and Ted have been active members of SRHS for something over 25 years.

Anne (from Horsell) and yours truly (from Kingfield Green) achieved similar diamond status on 2nd April last, but enough about us was said and written when, 18 months ago, we bowed out of responsible positions in the Society after 40 years.



Sheila & Les Brown
© Chris Brown

Sheila and Les Brown married on 2 June 1956 and celebrated their diamond anniversary this year. The family had a small celebration with their grandchildren Nicholas and Claire and Sheila's oldest school friend Ninetta at Kinghams restaurant in Shere, and then went back to their house for a specially prepared cake. They moved from Motspur Park (near New Malden) to Winds Ridge in Send in about 1963 and still live there today. Sheila was one of the founding members who attended the Society's inaugural meeting at Heath Farm on 28th January, 1975. Les joined soon after. Sheila, one of the teachers at the Little Owl Nursery School in Send, already had an interest in the history of Send School and for the past 41 years, she has been the SRHS's local schools specialist. Sheila was the main author, together with David Porter, of the Society's 145-page book, *Two Surrey Village Schools, the Story of Send & Ripley Village Schools*, published in 2002, and has contributed articles on the schools to the Journal. For a number of years she has edited the West Surrey Family History Society's magazine. Les, too, has done a great deal for the SRHS behind the scenes, having kept the on-line membership list and printed out bi-monthly lists for the Journal distributors and envelope address labels for postal members for very many years. Because it is not an officially recognised duty there appears to be no record of how long Les has done this but alphabetical lists printed out by him certainly exist for the past 13 years until the beginning of last year. It could be longer!

Sheila and Les have one son, Chris Brown, well known to many of you as the Society's web manager. Chris grew up in Send and went to local schools, starting with Little Owls, moving to the Juniors which was still based at the old school site in School Lane, transferring for the final year to St Bede's and then to George Abbot. Sheila was 84 in October and Les will be 84 in November.

It has been suggested that, as sixty years of marriage is still a great achievement, it could be an occasional feature in these pages. If and when other members qualify and they or their families would like the fact to be recorded in the Journal, do please let the editor know.

SEND MUSTANGS CYCLE SPEEDWAY CLUB

LES BOWERMAN



Send Mustangs © Collection Adrian Richardson

After WW2 ended and until the end of the 1950s cycle speedway was incredibly popular. The first records of it are in the 1920s and it still takes place today, both in this country and abroad, albeit at a reduced level. Oval dirt tracks around 90 yards long were used, usually laid out by the riders themselves or their fathers. Like motor-cycle speedway which perhaps inspired it, speedway is ridden on single-g geared freewheel machines. Races were four laps of the circuit. Bikes were originally old roadsters stripped of brakes, mudguards, etc. Later, the firm J A Phillips & Co Ltd of Smethwick produced specially designed speedway bikes with a curved top tube, cowhorn handlebars and reinforced front forks. As interest grew after the war, race-tracks were made on bomb sites and other disused land. By 1950 there were more than 200 clubs in east London alone. Most towns and villages had a club and Surrey was no exception. Curiously, it seems that Woking itself had no clubs whereas Guildford had five. Chobham had three, Old Woking two, Send one and Ripley had none. The best-known local clubs were

the Chobham Rockets, the Old Woking Jets and the Send Mustangs. Relatively little is known about these local clubs. Apart from a few press reports no documentary evidence, minute books or correspondence has yet surfaced about the Mustangs. In Godalming museum there is a book on cycle speedway, but naturally it is mostly about the activity in that town.

Personal recollection suggests that there were regular press reports in the Woking News & Mail, but that avenue has not yet been explored. In the meantime it seems crucial to publicise what is known about the Mustangs in order to make an appeal to anyone who was involved in any way to make contact since relatively few are likely to be still around.

In the 28th January 1989, issue of the Surrey Mail there was an illustrated article on cycle speedway, mostly about the Old Woking Jets, the Brookwood Bulldogs and the Chobham Rockets. Photos of all of these appeared in the article. The Send Mustangs had a brief mention in the report of an interview the paper had with their captain, Trevor Sadler.

He recalled that their president was Tom Phillips, who was a sports correspondent and tipster for the Daily Mirror. The Old Woking Jets' president was comedian Arthur English (he of the grossly oversized neck tie).

On 4th June 2015 local historian, David Rose, began a series of three articles on cycle speedway in his 'Peeps into the Past' column of the Woking News & Mail. The 4th June article was fairly general. He relates how the riders wore crash helmets and bright tabards bearing their teams' names and logos.

By 1953, he wrote, the heyday of cycle speedway was nearly over, with most of the boys who had taken part going off to do their National Service (two years in 1953). On their return they were more interested in, and had the money for, motorised machines.

David Rose's second article was in the News & Mail of 30th July and appeared under the headlines 'Race? Send the Mustangs'. The first paragraph reads 'The lads who raced their bikes between the trees at an old sandpit (known to Send residents as the Sandies) near the Sandfields Estate went on to become the Send Mustangs cycle speedway team.' The parish council granted them a piece of land opposite the Lancaster Hall. There the 'skid kids', as cycle speedway riders became known, and their parents, created a proper cinder track.

David interviewed former rider Ken Lucas, and learned that Mustangs were in the South West Surrey League with matches usually on Saturdays. They were watched by large crowds. Freddie Masters was the team mechanic both at home and away. Ken's father and step-mother ran the team and his brother, Brian, was also a team member. Woking Auto Electrics provided a tannoy system. Barry Jackman, another team member, was best man at Ken's wedding. In 1953, Ken apparently won a trophy named, perhaps not surprisingly given the year, the Coronation Cup. The late Syd Stanley told this writer some years ago that, after the Mustangs folded, a cup named the Jubilee Cup (presumably the same cup) was given to the Send Angling Society although it seems the present Angling Society members know nothing about it.

David Rose's third News & Mail article is mainly about the J A Phillips speedway bicycle and the Chobham Rockets.

The Cycle Speedway History website indicates that the Mustangs were active from the early 1950s until 1955. It also tells us that the track was eventually sold to a property

developer who built bungalows on the site. That would doubtless be the Simmonds development along Send Road or Send Close. The website gives the club names and riders for the whole country, naming the Mustang riders as B Barnes, B Jackaman (sic), B, K and R Lucas, Trevor Sadler (captain), B Sapsford, Edward (Ted) Spittles and B Street.

About the end of May this year a member of the public, Adrian Richardson, contacted the Society online, asking what the Society knew about the Send Mustangs club and would we be interested in a photograph of the club which shows his father, Ernest (Ernie) as one of the club. It is, in fact, the same photo as one of those in the News & Mail article of 30th July 2015. Ernie is the last rider on the right of the photo.

If any reader can add any other information or correct any errors Les Bowerman or Alan Cooper would be pleased to hear from them.

Thanks are expressed to Audrey Smithers, Adrian Richardson and Alan Cooper for their help, and grateful acknowledgment is made to David Rose and the Woking News & Mail.

Editor's note: Geoff Bunce who married Marina Giles (youngest daughter of Harold & Norah Giles of the Drill Hall) was a member of the Old Woking Jets.

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HORSA GLIDER HOUSES

JOHN SLATFORD

One of the most important operations in the Normandy invasion of France in 1944 was the use of airborne troops to spearhead the attack. Many of these were parachutists but far more were transported to the battlefields in large gliders which were towed to the point of release by various powered aircraft.



Horsa glider

The German military were the first to use gliders in the early stages of the war and this so impressed both the British and American military that in 1940 steps were taken to follow the German methods. British glider development involved several designs but the one which became most important was the Airspeed Horsa. It was designed to carry 25 troops but could also be used to carry a Jeep or an anti-tank gun. It first flew towards the end of 1940 but was not used operationally until 1942 when a small force made an unsuccessful attack over Norway. Initially, the Horsa was produced at the Airspeed factory at Christchurch in Hampshire. Subsequently it was also produced by various sub-contractors. By the time production ended about 5,000 had been built. The first major and successful use was in 1943 during the invasion of Sicily. However, the Normandy invasion saw the use of many hundreds of Horsas right through to the crossing of the Rhine. On the night of the invasion, the capture of the vital Pegasus Bridge was entirely due to the surprise arrival of a small Horsa force. At the sadly failed Battle of Arnhem, the Horsa glider again played a major part in getting the airborne troops to the bridge area. A resident of Ripley for many years until he died in was Peter Gammon.

He was a glider pilot at Arnhem and had the experience of being captured and escaping. Almost every year subsequently he returned to Arnhem.

After the war, there were many, probably hundreds, of glider aircraft like the Horsa no longer needed and they could have been, and certainly were, put to various uses. One of these was in Send by the builder Norman Munns who was based on Send Hill and lived there at Broomfields. He is said to have used part of the land now called Winds Ridge as his construction yard.



Norman Munns © Pathe News

His idea was that the fuselages of the Horsa gliders could be used to create temporary small caravans and houses. He was finding that shortages of building materials in the post-war period were restricting his normal work. The availability of the now unwanted glider parts provided him with an opportunity to occupy his craftsmen. The only known record of his venture is in a Pathe News clip of unknown date but probably in 1946/47 which appears on the Society website. Munns appears in this describing how the conversions were done. Nobody seems to remember how long this enterprise lasted or how many buildings were completed or what they were used for. They were very small with limited headroom but could be divided into up to three rooms.

When the Pathe News clip was shown at one of the Society's meetings, our Journal editor, Cate Davey, recognised one of the craftsmen and immediately piped up "That's my Dad"! He was Reg Giles, one of our earliest members but sadly no longer with us.



Reg Giles at work on a glider © Pathe News



Horsa House © Pathe News

Munns was not the only builder using glider bodies in this way. The Bournemouth Echo in 2011 reported how a builder, Arthur Bedford, at Southbourne near Bournemouth had used glider bodies in a similar way. The article suggested that they could be used for summerhouses, caravans, spare room annexes and, of course, small houses. Nothing is known of how many buildings he produced or what happened to them all except that the one shown in the photo was said to be been produced for a London businessman.

We shall never know who first thought of this enterprise but almost certainly it did not last very long as the availability of building materials improved. There is a lot more to be said about Norman Munns another time. He was eventually made bankrupt but did recover from this.

Editor's note: My father Reg and his brother Harold both worked on the glider conversions and appear in the film.



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ROBERT ALFRED (GAFFER) GARNHAM AN EXTRAORDINARY TEACHER

PAULA GILES

Robert Alfred Garnham, born in Wandsworth in 1905, and known to his pupils as ‘Gaffer’, but to his face as sir, joined the staff of Ripley Church of England Primary School in about 1949 and resigned in 1953. In a local newspaper article at the time of his resignation he was quoted as saying that he was sorry that he was leaving as he had been happy at the school, but added “I have a great respect for science and recognise its contribution to civilisation, but unless the spiritual in children is equally held in honour our educational system will become the instrument of pure materialism.”

We, who were there for those three or four years, were extremely fortunate. Gaffer was rather a scruffy man with a comb-over hair style, he smelled of cigarette smoke, and consumed Rennies all the time. However, he was a commanding presence.

When he spoke we listened, and if anyone started messing about (which was very unusual) they would be in big trouble. He was a tough disciplinarian. He didn’t like spelling mistakes or ink blobs, the latter being very difficult to prevent because we used wooden pens with metal nibs and an inkwell.

Every day we had to write a composition. He would give us a title and a list of key words to use in it, and the rest was up to us.

Two of my compositions were marked respectively ‘6/10 Spoilt by a ridiculous blunder and WARNING—Writing’ and ‘3/10 Half of what you have written I can’t understand. The other half isn’t worth understanding!’ I was 9 at the time.

Punishment for bad work and other misdemeanours could result in a whack on the bum for the boys, in front of the whole class; more humiliation than pain; and for the girls a ruler striking the back of the hand – ouch! Mr Dixon, the headmaster, wrote in his memoir, *The Straight Furrow*, that he used to use the cane to punish the boys. This was the norm in those days.

However, the good times are those we remember most. On some fine days in spring and summer we would walk with Gaffer down the village, across the Green and into the ‘fuzzies’. With Gaffer’s help we would identify trees, plants and wild flowers, pick small samples and pick up leaves, and look out for any wildlife, such as rabbits and foxes. I remember the harebells that used to grow on the outer edge of the football pitch; they really tinkled like bells when gently moved. I don’t think they are there any more. The gorse bushes on the edge of the fuzzies used to be covered with yellow flowers in summer; but when it was dry and hot they often caught fire.

We all loved those trips down the Green, but we also had Friday afternoons to look forward to. These were used for leisure activities, but also as an introduction to music, art and poetry as well as nature. In our own time leaves and flowers, as well as seed pods, would have to be identified and some of these we would make into things, such as sycamore planes, acorn cup pipes and even animals, with the addition of matchsticks.

There was a picture hanging over the fireplace in our classroom; Gaffer told us it was titled ‘the Light of the World’; it was Jesus knocking on a door. The artist’s name was Holman Hunt. The original hangs in Keble College, Oxford, and another larger version hangs in St. Paul’s Cathedral. Whenever I see a copy I think of those early schooldays.

My favourite memory was Gaffer setting up a gramophone and playing us the *Hall of the Mountain King* from the *Peer Gynt Suite* by Greig. He tried to explain to us how the music fitted the title, where it was (Fingal’s Cave) and the nationality of the composer (Norwegian). I don’t know how my classmates felt, but I was hooked on this wonderful music and couldn’t wait to tell my dad because he played a lot of classical music on his radiogram.

The other outstanding subject Gaffer introduced us to was poetry. He didn’t just tell us to read it; he wrote it on the blackboard and then recited it very ably to the class. The poem was *Silver* by Walter de la Mare*.

*'Slowly, silently, now the moon
Walks the night in her silver shoon;
This way, and that, she peers, and sees
Silver fruit upon silver trees;
One by one the casements catch
Her beams beneath the silvery thatch;
Couched in his kennel, like a log,
With paws of silver sleeps the dog;
From their shadowy cote the white breasts peep
Of doves in silver feathered sleep
A harvest mouse goes scampering by,
With silver claws, and silver eye;
And moveless fish in the water gleam,
By silver reeds in a silver stream.'*

He then explained the recurrence of the 'S' and that this was called alliteration. This beautiful poem certainly painted a picture in my head. I still love it and it takes me right back to happy Fridays at Ripley C of E. Mostly on those happy Friday afternoons we were rewarded for good work with packets of foreign postage stamps. I went home the first time I got stamps and begged my mum and dad for a stamp album. Obviously I didn't get

one straight away, but eventually I did and I started my collection. What a great introduction to the countries of the world and their strange foreign names. I kept my precious album for a long time until my husband (Mike Giles) nicked all the best stamps for his own collection!

Well, as if that wasn't enough for us to keep busy, Gaffer decided to produce plays and concerts for the school, church and the cubs. There was plenty of help from Stuart Paice, Elsie Wood (Vernon's mum), Roger Brown, Mr Petty (on the piano) and Mr Keniston (on the violin) to name just a few. Parents helped with the costumes and some also took parts in the productions..

Thus, an amazing number of productions were performed under Gaffer's directorship, including The Merchant of Venice, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Where the Rainbow Ends, The Blue Bird, The Windmill Man, Red Riding Hood, Three Plays (St. Mary's Sunday School) and last, but not least, Peter Pan.

Editors Note: * 'Silver' is reproduced by kind permission of 'The Literary Trustees of Walter de la Mare and The Society of Authors as their representative'. See 'The Complete Poems of Walter de la Mare' (1975).



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LIVING HISTORY - PART 1

ALBERT PULLEN

INTERVIEWED BY ALAN COOPER

EARLY YEARS



Albert Pullen © Albert Pullen Collection

Albert Pullen (aka Cunger), was born to Harry and Alice Pullen on November 6th 1928. Bert explained “Mum was sitting by the bonfire ashes on Send Marsh Green, I decided it was warm enough and out I came!”

The family (including Bert’s sister Margaret) lived at 2 Send Marsh Cottages. His great-grandfather Thomas, b.1803 in Kent had married a Woking girl called Mary and moved to Send. Typically for the time, nearly all Bert's relatives were employed to some degree in gardening and farming.

Bert's memories of his childhood in Send remain vivid:

“Our garden stretched right around the back of April Cottage, past the shop down as far as Manor Road and it took dad and I eight weekends to dig it. Dad would plant about a hundredweight of seed potatoes and dig a ton and a bit. These were all stored in the cupboard under the stairs. We grew all our own vegetables and after planting seeds everything was netted to keep the birds away. At any one time we had three pigs, four geese, a dozen chickens, a couple of ducks, a donkey and a variety of cats and dogs.

When I came home from school my first job was 'wood and coal' - fill the coal scuttle and bring logs in, then get paper and kindling ready for the morning. Next, put

the pig swill in the hopper, light the fire, boil it up then feed the pigs. I always remember when the pigs were slaughtered - we got a couple of sheets of corrugated iron in a funnel shape leaving just about enough room for the pig to get through. Dad stood astride them with an axe and as the pig went through - whack! And that was that. I remember some were so big we had to cut off their heads in order to hang them up in the living room.

We only used coal in the range - for cooking - which had a separate chimney out through the wall. The main heating was always oak logs because the hams and bacon were all stored up the chimney, curing. I had to go up the chimney with a brush, sweeping soot. I don't know if that chimney is still there as it was struck by lightning years ago but if it is you will find metal hoops let into the brickwork. It measured about 8 foot by 5 foot at the bottom and gradually tapered to about 2 foot six inches by 2 foot 6 inches at the top. I had to go all the way up.

Round about this time, I would have been about 11 years old, I learnt the 'F-word', what would ultimately become an extremely painful experience never to be forgotten. I used that word in front of my father and immediately realised I had made a big mistake. Suddenly I was running full pelt the full length of the field at the back of the house with these footsteps behind me getting closer and closer and the stream rapidly approaching. I launched myself to hurdle the stream and whilst in mid-air dad's belt wrapped around my backside. I never forgot that and to this day I hate that word. I don't think I sat comfortably for a week after that!”

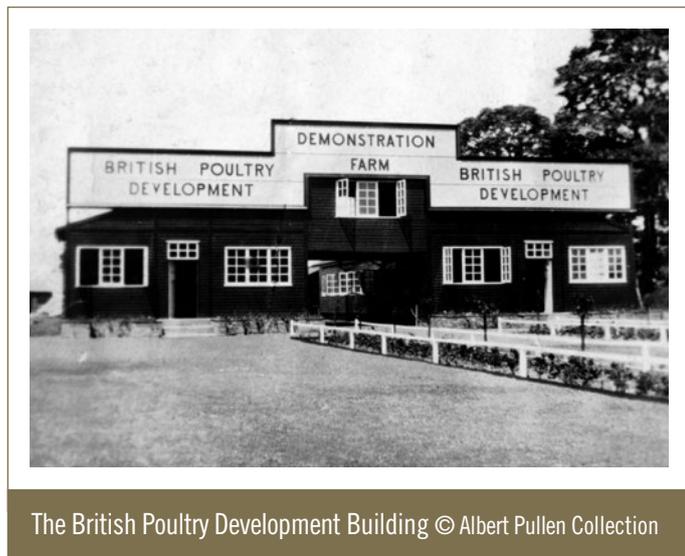
AROUND SEND MARSH GREEN

“The house we lived in was originally built for the lord of the manor's 'bit of crumpet' so it was quite literally a whore-house - with one room up and one room down and the privy down the garden. All the walls inside were wattle and daub. Later a second building was attached resulting in the bedroom of one dwelling being above the kitchen of the other.

Dad had one and uncle Jack the other. When Jack got into financial difficulties dad purchased it from him. When later, my aunt died and cousin married and moved

out, mum was left living in a pair of cottages on her own so I sold them and moved her into a flat. The next pair of cottages were occupied by Mrs Muir & Tom Smithers. Down from them was a bungalow, occupied by Harold Giles (great uncle to SRHS journal editor Cate Davey) who was the farm manager to Sir Gordon Stewart, who lived in Send Manor.

To the rear of the Manor, 'safety first' films were made and to the right of the rear entrance was the British Poultry Development Demonstration Farm. This was a large wooden building where chickens were bred. Clearly these birds had suicidal tendencies, as one would always manage to follow me home on a Saturday night!



The British Poultry Development Building © Albert Pullen Collection

On the other side of the green were two pairs of tied cottages owned by the Manor. Gordon Stewart's chauffeur, Mr Bird lived in one, along with his son, my childhood friend Roy Bird. Next to them was Mr Cakebread, the gardener. I'm not sure about the others, but later, Dr Moody lived in one and married Betty Turner, Gordon Stewart's adopted daughter. Next to these a bungalow was built for Boughton Hall Farm, and occupied by the Tidy family.

Dave Balcombe ran Send Marsh stores, and operated very much a 'trust system' in those days. At about the age of five I would deliver a shopping list to him and later, if nobody was at home, a box filled with groceries would appear on the kitchen table. A couple of hours

later I would be sent to the shop to pay him. On Saturday mornings I would go to the shop, go upstairs, and remove the skin from the outside of the cheeses and take the coverings (a bit like mutton cloth) off the bacon. I did other chores too and for payment I was given a couple of sherbet dabs.

We never had to worry about traffic because there wasn't any - only horses. Every farm had a horse and you knew them all. I had a rabbit which I would walk on a lead on the green. Every November 5th we built a bonfire on the green. Dad started 'the bonfire boys' and we would suspend an electric cable from our shed over the road to one of the pollarded elm trees and brew up tea,

Jo Downs

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cook a few bits and have a bit of a do out there. There were 7 pollarded elms but they are all gone now. I was responsible for one of them when an experiment with my chemistry set went out of control and another was demolished by a steamroller! I don't know what happened to the others."

GYPSY LIFE

"A gypsy family by the name of Smith lived at the bottom of the fields down from Send Marsh. My sister and I would regularly go down there and many happy hours were spent in their company during which time I learnt a lot from them as they were proper country folk. Contrary to popular belief everything was immaculately clean and I remember the knots in their wooden table standing proud where the womenfolk constantly scrubbed and cleaned it. I must have made thousands of dolly pegs with them. They knew exactly when to harvest the hazel from which they were made. This was split and finished with a metal band made from discarded tins and held together with a single nail.

I also experienced many different traditional meals with them, squirrel being particularly tasty, also hedgehog and snake both of which were baked in an open fire wrapped in clay. I remember the snake dish being cooked with a whole variety of herbs, all locally sourced.

Their 'van' was the type that had originated from the drovers who took cattle and sheep to market in London from Sussex and Hampshire. This experience prompted me in retirement to build a scale model of such a van, taking me 1010 hours to complete and winning an award at a model making exhibition at Sandown Park, Esher."

1940'S SEND

"In early 1940's Send we played war games, locals vs. evacuees in the sand pit off Bush Lane. Sometimes the evacuees took it a bit far and you had to duck to miss a half house brick!

Dad was very 'Victorian' and we weren't allowed out of an evening. I would alternate with my sister Margaret

spending three days working indoors with mum and three days in the garden with dad. On Sundays we walked to Send Church, till they built the Church Room by the Lancaster Hall where we attended religious instruction, taught by Jean Page. She wore a hat whilst teaching with a very wide brim and we would take great delight in rolling up balls of silver paper from chocolate bars, discreetly pop them into the brim and watch them roll around.



Send school - @1938 - When part of the school curriculum for boys was 'metalwork, carpentry and gardening.

Back row, l to r: John Buxton, Ken Penn (teacher), Denis Buxton, Ron Smith, Albert Pullen (no relation), Basil or Arthur Harvey, Reg Durbridge, Pat Martin.

Middle row, l to r: Lenny Charman, Ray Challen (directly in front of John Buxton & Ken Penn)

Front row, l to r: Albert Pullen, Pat Masters, Ron Dunn, Micky Wright, Harold Parrott.

© Albert Pullen Collection

Opposite the Lancaster Hall in Send are a row of shops and bungalows. During the war, before they were built, it was all boggy land and part of Baigent's farm. The Canadian soldiers stationed nearby bulldozed a huge ditch which was filled with water. It was here they waterproofed vehicles and ran them through the ditch to test them. They were mostly square box-shaped Fords and Chevrolets. These were then hidden all around the Surrey hills ready for the D-Day landings.

I pretty soon got fed up and joined the Air Training Corps (ATC). Then I started work and with a bit of money in my pocket got restless, lied about my age and joined the RAF - it was November 1944.

To be continued.

PEOPLE WHO LIVED AT WESTWARD HO!, NEWARK LANE, RIPLEY

JOHN SLATFORD

Following my report about Westward Ho! in Journal No 249, several members have responded with details of residents covering most of the last century.

Although William Tedder built Westward Ho!, it is very doubtful if he ever lived there. In 1891, he and his wife were living with their daughter and two sons over their grocer's shop (now One Stop) on the High Street. By 1901, he had retired and, with his wife, had gone to live in Hampstead, north London. The occupant in that year was Anna Laaser and she seems to have been there until 1905. It is likely that ownership of Westward Ho! remained with William's son James until he died in 1929.

Between 1907 - 1909, the occupant was Constance Kelly. Margaret and Minnie Meager lived there between 1913 - 1915.

Subsequently, Mabel and Wallace Jones lived there with their daughter Aileen. Wallace was a major in the Royal Field Artillery serving in France. On 30 November 1917, the Woking News and Mail reported that "Mrs Jones, of Westward Ho!, Ripley, has been informed that her husband Lieut. (Acting Major) W Jones RFA has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry and devotion to duty". Later, on 16 September 1918, he was awarded a bar to his Military Cross. Sadly, just one month later, he was killed in action less than one month before the Armistice. He is recorded on the Ripley War Memorial in St Mary's Churchyard. Mrs Jones is on record as being at Westward Ho! until 1920.

Francis Vernon Derbyshire lived at Westward Ho! from 1921 until 1931, and from 1933 until 1937 Edgar Percival and May Blanch Manser were there. It is possible that during that period the house was acquired by Richard Thomas Geale after the death of James Tedder. It was certainly in the Geale family ownership until the mid 1970s.

The Geale family had been the village bakers located on the corner of the High Street and Rose Lane since before 1852 and Richard Thomas Geale had been the baker from 1897 until 1913 (Kelly's Directory). It was in 1911 that he sold the business to Maurice Collins, another

baker, who had come from Cobham. From 1907 until at least 1938 Richard Thomas Geale lived in Broadway Villa on the High Street.

Maurice Collins and his wife Charlotte had one son Donald Thomas born in 1908. On 27th April 1938, Donald (known by all as Don) married Ruth Warner and they set up house in Westward Ho!. Donald worked for his father at the bakery as a confectioner. They had two daughters, Madeleine Ruth born in 1940 and Margaret born in 1955. Paula Giles (nee Shoemsmith) being the same age as Madeleine used to visit Westward Ho! for afternoon tea. Celia Mappes (nee Baker), who grew up at No. 1 Vine Cottages in Newark Lane, remembers the house and used to play with Madeleine. When the bakery business was sold by Maurice Collins, Don was only interested in the confectionary side and so did not stay. Around 1955 the family moved to Woking and later to Tongham where my wife Bette and I visited them and talked about their Ripley memories.

After Don Collins and family left Westward Ho!, members of the Geale family moved there. Mary Geale and her daughter Eva Elizabeth, known as Cissy, were there until around 1974 when Cissy was killed in the High Street by a lorry while crossing the road. Mary Geale then moved to Compton where she had lived for only a short time when she died in 1975.

After Mary Geale left, Westward Ho! was acquired by Ralph Moore-Morris and his wife Jayne. He was advertising manager for the Decca music company. During their time there they had three daughters. After they moved on, they were succeeded by the Walden family and it was thereafter that the house became neglected and fell into disrepair. It is good to know that the developer is retaining the name so that the new cottages will be Nos. 1 & 2, Westward Ho!. The original name plaque is to be refixed to the frontage. The origin of the name remains a mystery.

This article could not have been produced without the information given by our members Mike Giles, Celia Mappes, Alan Cooper and Janet Tice. I have to express my appreciation to them. I am also grateful to John Hutson for further information.

RIPLEY BONFIRE QUEEN - 1949

ALAN COOPER



Left: Pip with Florence Desmond.

Top-right: The parade, with the White Hart pub in the background.

Bottom-right: Bonfire Queen Pip Roberts with her 4 attendants - Jean Conisbee, ?, Doris Jones & Margaret Jones.

We take bonfire night celebrations on Ripley Green for granted these days but in 1949, 'Pip' Roberts was crowned as Ripley's first 'bonfire queen'. She was paraded around in her 'carriage' accompanied by a procession of floats and crowds of people on foot before lighting the bonfire. Over the years this parade has become a shorter event due to the problems created for traffic whilst the High Street is closed.

Pip recalls being presented with a powder compact by Florence Desmond and then being invited to her home, Dunsborough House afterwards. Florence Desmond was Ripley's celebrity of the day, an actress/entertainer/comedienne from the 1920s, who achieved stardom during the 30s. She died in 1993 having married firstly, the aviator Tom Campbell Black who died in an aircraft accident in 1936 and secondly, Charles Hughesdon, also a pre-war aviator with whom she lived at Dunsborough House. He died in 2014 aged 104.

With thanks to Wilf McCoy for providing the three photographs.

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LOCK OR GATES? CANAL TERMINOLOGY

LES BOWERMAN

Cameron Brown's piece about the newly acquired photograph of the keeper's cottage in the last issue of the Journal (J250/6) is very interesting and a great acquisition for the Society, but I'd like to add a couple of observations about Wey Navigation terminology.



Triggs Lock looking south and showing depth of fall from the cut to the river © Cate Davey

Jim Oliver, our first president, who farmed many acres of land adjacent to the Wey Navigation and was an extremely knowledgeable local historian, taught us in the Society's early days that a lock was for facilitating the passage of craft between sections of a canal of differing levels whereas the purposes of gates (short for flood gates) was to control the amount of water entering or leaving a section of a canal which had to be maintained at a



Worsfold Gates. Barge loaded with timbers for installation of new gate at Thames Lock © Cate Davey

constant operating level. i.e. to stop an excessive amount of water entering a canal section, to top up the canal level when it was too low, or indeed to stop any water entering if for any reason the canal had to be drained. Thus, locally, there were locks at Triggs, Papercourt and Newark, but flood-gates at Worsfold and Walsham.

The Wey Navigation was designed to accommodate wide-beamed barges, whereas canals such as in the Midlands were for use by narrow-boats. I think I am correct in saying that narrow-boats arrived relatively recently on the Wey Navigation, and indeed the Basingstoke Canal, and tend to be used down here for leisure only.



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SOLVING A PUZZLE

ALAN COOPER

As a result of reading the article in J248 May 2016 Philip Hook's brother-in-law, 97 year-old Charles Hewlett got in touch with more information to share.

Charles was born in Lewes, Sussex and joined the Territorial Army in June 1939 before hostilities broke out. The old and young in the Sussex battalion were spared being sent to France. Charles was posted to Aldershot and explained that "if the army doesn't know what to do with you they send you to Aldershot!" There he palled up with a Welsh chap who's sister-in-law had written to him saying that if he was ever on leave and near Ockham, a Mrs Hook would always welcome him and provide him with tea. He didn't want to go on his own so Charles accompanied him "and that's how I met Philip & my future wife Doreen."



PORT AUGUSTA JULY 1943 ITALY.
 CATTANIA " " REGGIO.
 MALTA " " MESSINA.
 PORT AUGUSTA MALTA SEPT. 7TH
 MALTA AUG 1945. PIZZO.
 GIBRALTAR. SEPT 25TH
 PLYMOUTH. OCT 6TH
 SHEFFNESS. NOV. 1941
 LOUGH - FOYLE DEL
 PONTA-DEL-SARDA. DEC 1941
 FREE TOWN. DEL 1941
 POINT-NDIRE. JAN 1942
 SIMONS TOWN JAN " "
 DURBAN. JAN " "
 MOMBASA. FEB " "
 SEYSCHELLES. MAR " "
 COLOMBO. MAR " "
 KINCOMALEE. APR " "
 SOLOMO. MAY " "
 SEYSCHELLES. MAY " "
 MOMBASA. MAY " "
 MAJUNGA. SEPT " "
 DIEGO-SUAZ. OCT " "
 DURBAN. NOV " "
 MOMBASA. MAY " "
 ADEN. MAY " "
 SUEZ. MAY " "
 SAID. MAY " "
 ALEXANDRIA. JUNE " "
 SICILY. JULY " "
 SYRACUSE.

Front and rear of a postcard. Front is of H.M.S. Erebus and on the back, Philip made a record of his entire wartime service © Charles Hewlett Collection

At this time. Philip worked for the Japanese poultry farmer, Mr Watanabe, (a kind of fore-runner to Bernard Matthews) whose farm was adjacent to the 'Black Swan' public house.

He joined the Royal Navy in 1941. Philip's service took him around the world and in 1945, he married Margaret Edwards, from Battersea.



Gun crew aboard H.M.S. Erebus - Philip is 2nd from right, front row © Charles Hewlett Collection

At this time, Charles was in Germany, having participated in the D-Day landings a year earlier. Charles was finally demobbed in 1946 but by that time, Philip was desperately ill with T.B. having been taken poorly on his last leave. He was admitted to Chertsey hospital, recently enlarged to cope with the stream of veterans returning home and in need of treatment.

From there he was transferred to Dartford Naval Hospital - and Charles recalls on visiting him there: "It was a great old Victorian building, cold flagstone floors and brick everywhere - a terrible place really. He was a pretty shocking sight and was obviously on his death-bed - I didn't say as much but I was old & wise enough to realise this.



Philip Hook and Margaret Edwards - married 1945
© Charles Hewlett Collection



A wartime greetings telegram sent to Philip
© Charles Hewlett Collection



Philip's World War 2 medals © Charles Hewlett Collection

The end came on Christmas eve 1946 with a phone call from Dartford(not Portsmouth as previously stated). Charles's wife-to-be was working in the telephone exchange in Ripley behind Rust's the butcher and she took the call. He was buried on New Years eve. Hardly likely to forget those dates, are you?"

Another shocking revelation was that food taken into the hospital for patients was not actually getting to them - staff were keeping it for themselves.

Philip's wife remained with his parents William & Florence, being treated like a daughter until she re-married some years later.

More of Charles' memories will be covered in future articles and many thanks to old friend & history society member Jenny Milligan for setting up and co-ordinating our meeting with him, and his sons, Steve & Tim.



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EDUCATION TEAM NEWS

CLARE McCANN

THE EDUCATION TEAM WERE BUSY IN OCTOBER

Bob Stonard and Clare McCann went to Ripley Court to tell first years what life might have been like for Stone Age man. They were thrilled to hold real artefacts and intrigued by the idea of making string from stinging nettles!

The following week Clare and Bob were back again to discuss with year six students how metal artefacts (many of which had been found at Ripley Court) could inform historical study. They were fascinated by part of a metal patten, as worn on ladies' shoes to keep long skirts out of the mud of Rose Lane, and musket balls.

This was followed up by a Friday afternoon hands-on metal detecting session in Court Meadow, helped by Andy Jones. No Roman hoards were found but a few coins and part of a plough. Andy generously gave them some of his own local finds so they all had a keepsake.



Christian Challis holding the ploughshare with permission of Ripley Court School and his parents © Clare McCann

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WITCHES' MARKS

CATE DAVEY

Historic England has asked members of the public to help create a record of ritual markings or symbols that were once believed to ward off evil spirits and can be found on many medieval houses, churches and other buildings most commonly from around 1550 to 1750.

These 'witches' marks' or apotropaic marks were often carved near entrances to buildings (including the house where Shakespeare was born and the Tower of London) and were thought to offer protection when belief in witchcraft and the supernatural was widespread.



Left: Witches' mark
Right: Daisy wheel mark highlighted
© Ditz

They took many forms, but the most common type was the daisy wheel, which looks like a flower drawn with a compass in a single endless line that supposedly confused and entrapped evil spirits. For those of you old enough to remember the Spirograph they look a little like designs that drawing machine would have produced! Some include letters, such as AM for *ave Maria*, M for Mary or VV, for Virgin of Virgins, scratched into walls, engraved on wooden beams and etched into plasterwork to evoke the protective power of the Virgin Mary.

Known examples of witch markings include several found at Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, carved near the cellar door where beer was

kept, and at the tithe barn, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, to protect crops. Others have been found in caves; the Witches' Chimney at Wookey Hole, Somerset, has numerous markings.

In 1542 Parliament passed the Witchcraft Act making witchcraft punishable by death.

So please start looking closely at the timber and plaster in your old houses and let us see whether we can find any witches' marks around Send, Ripley and the adjoining villages. Please send photographs to editorsrhsjournal@gmail.com or call me and I will pop over and look at them and photograph them. Please remember to tell me the address of the property when emailing images to me.

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MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN – CURATOR

I do hope members will try to get to the current exhibition, CHEERS, about local pubs. Please do also bring friends and family as it is disheartening for stewards (not to mention the curator!) if they do not get a good number of visitors each week.

After Christmas I am planning to put on an exhibition about the SIXTIES. We have David Rose coming to talk next year about Guildford in the Rock & Roll years but I want to know about Send and Ripley's Rock & Roll past. So if you were in a band, have some truly embarrassing photos (as I do) of skirts you would not let your kids wear (or better still, the skirts themselves) or other sixties memorabilia, then please get in touch.

Clare G728546 or cricketshill@hotmail.com

NEW RESEARCHERS AND AUTHORS REQUIRED

As editor I am grateful to those regular contributors who keep the pages of the journal filled with articles. However, the majority are original members of the Society and we need to find a new generation of researchers and authors.

I am keen to hear from anyone who would like to start getting involved in researching the history of the two villages whether it be documentary evidence at the Surrey History Centre or maybe the history of your own house.

I will then organise a meeting so that we can discuss sources and how to get going.

We are also seeking a new editor to replace me from March 2017.

Cate Davey – Editor
editorsrhjournal@gmail.com

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All evening talks are at 7.30pm on Tuesdays at Ripley Village Hall, unless otherwise stated.

DATES	EVENTS
13 December	The Christmas Social. Members only. In Ripley Village Hall.
2017	
Tuesday 17th January	Illustrated talk by Tim Morris -History of Brooklands - race track and airfield.
Tuesday 21st February	7.30pm AGM – members only. 8pm for 8.15pm Cheese and Wine followed by Circle 8 film on the History of Guildford cinemas. Non-members may join us at 8pm.
Tuesday 7th March	(Note - 1st Tuesday) Guildford - The Rock 'n Roll Years. Illustrated talk by David Rose.

Further details can be obtained from Margaret Field 01483 223387

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throughout the year (check bank holiday opening times)

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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		£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
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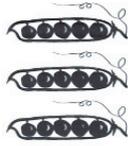
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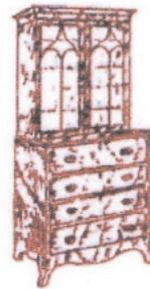
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