

Miss L. Brown. I & W.R.

N/L 48

Sally 1983
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SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at 8pm on
TUESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 1983

at
THE RED CROSS HALL, SANDY LANE, SEND

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
- 2.(a) Minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting held on 25th February 1982.
(b) Matters arising from the minutes.
3. Annual Reports:- (a) Chairman
(b) Treasurer
(c) Secretary
4. Consideration of a motion by the outgoing Committee that the subscriptions for the forthcoming twelve months remain at £1.50 for individual members and £2.00 for couples.
5. Election of Officers:-
(a) President
(b) Chairman
(c) Treasurer
(d) Secretary
(e) Committee of twelve.
6. Any other business

INTERVAL FOR REFRESHMENTS

followed by

a discussion centring on a display by
Bob Whapshott of Flat Irons and an Ironing Stove.

S E N D & R I P L E Y H I S T O R Y S O C I E T Y

President: Mr J. Oliver

Chairman

Mr K. H. Bourne
Heath Farm, Tannery Lane
Send, Woking
Phone: Guildford 223028

Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Mr L. G. Bowerman
The Manor House
Send Marsh, Ripley
Phone: Guildford 224876

Treasurer: Mrs Janet Hill, Asphodel, Milestone Close, Ripley - Gfd 224216

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Newsletter No. 48

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PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS MAINLY CONCERNING SEND SCHOOL

The following notes were written by our member Miss N. Palmer in about 1976, but were not published at the time because we were running a series of historical notes about the school by Sheila Brown; an article by Marjorie Sex would also have overlapped to some extent. In reading the notes it can be borne in mind that the school closed in 1972 when St Bede's C. of E. School in Bush Lane closed as a secondary school and reopened as a junior school, finally becoming a middle school in 1976. On closure of the school the land, a former worked out sand pit, donated by Arthur George Onslow, the 3rd Earl, in 1854, reverted to the present title holder, Michael William Onslow, the 7th Earl. The property was sold and the school and Head Teacher's house attached were being converted into two private residences when a fire some two to three years ago destroyed the latter. The red brick school building has since been rendered.

Perhaps similar recollections centred on the recently demolished Ripley School could be written.

These notes refer to the period from 1923, when we came to Sunnyhaven, a new bungalow in Sandy Lane, the only building between "the Poplars" in Farm Lane, now demolished and replaced by bungalows, and Whitethorn Cottages, new council houses, in Send Road. Later, bungalows, houses and the corner shops were built. "Peggy" is the only original shopkeeper.

Our means of transport to Woking was by cycle, walking, taking advantage of the short cuts across fields, or by Mr Brown's horse bus two or three times a week. Soon after, the Blue Saloon began a bus service between Guildford and Woking via the New Inn and Potters Lane. There was the annual excitement of flooded roads and houses at the Old Woking end of Broadmead when traffic was diverted, and local lads waited around to push the trade vans through the deepest water. For a few years I was away during the week, but cycled twelve miles home on Friday evening and returned early on Monday morning. Rain, fog, snow, etc., made these journeys quite hazardous at times.

The Sunday School:

In 1924 I took over the infants' Sunday Kindergarten, held in the junior school, under Miss Elsie Lancaster. We had to wait for each other's assembly hymn to avoid the clashing of pianos in adjacent rooms. I had help with group story telling from Cannon Girling's two daughters and two grammar school girls. Long school desks were the only seating accommodation at first until we purchased small folding chairs, which were kept stacked in the cloakroom. Later, when the Vicar took over, the junior school went to the Church Room and the kindergarten to the Drill Hall to be away from the day school atmosphere. The small children were lost in the large bare hall, but I tried to make a brighter and more cheerful atmosphere with a focal point table - flowers, pictures, books, a candle holder, but plenty of room for activities and groups. The small chairs received rough treatment, as they were stored with other things belonging to the other users. I have memories of crawling into the space under the stage to rescue our chairs, etc. The annual Sunday School party was a tea, entertainment, games and a large Christmas tree provided by "Miss Elsie". The summer treat was a barge trip up the river to Sutton Green to a meadow for tea and sticky jam sandwiches prepared on the spot. Alternatively it was downstream to a meadow at Newark. In those days the children did enjoy their simple pleasures.

The Day School

In 1926 all infants from 4 years 9 months to 7 years and above were in one class, 50 and more during the third term. At first long immovable desks stretched across the room; there was one large roasting fire in the front - of no benefit to those away from it. In 1934 we had an extra three days' Christmas holiday for central heating pipes and stove to be fitted. Artificial light was provided by large hanging oil lamps until electricity was installed.

All needed help with handwork in those years, but with a group of a dozen or so standard 1 boys, for whom there was not enough room in their own class, things were chaotic. It became a tradition that the seniors put on an operetta, the juniors and infants making up the programme with plays, etc. - nearly a term's work for one performance in the Drill Hall. At first the damp cold earth floor of the rifle range (now the central corridor of the Lancaster Hall) was the boys' dressing room (this was also the men's dressing room at dances, etc.) until Colonel Thorpe improved the whole interior and made several smaller rooms. At the Woking District school sports there was a novelty item for the infants to draw more spectators. In 1934 Send carried off second prize for the entry entitled "Cow and Gate Trio" (smiler, baby and tin of food). This item became too popular and took up too much time so was discontinued.

Second World War Years

Two evacuee schools arrived, Croydon and Putney. Children and staff were housed in the village; Croydon used the Church Room as their school and Putney used the Drill Hall. As some went home the schools amalgamated and used our day school half days. Alternate weeks we used the Drill Hall while they used the school, mornings or afternoons. Our session comprised infants and lower juniors for first half of session for games, musical drill, reading and handwork. The senior session followed. There were only two weeks' summer holiday for staff because we took over the evacuee schools to allow their staff a break. Later, in 1941, the evacuees, with two members of staff, were taken in with our junior school. This allowed for a two class infants.

Early Years of Milk Scheme

In 1930 the Headmaster and his wife made cocoa for those children who had sandwiches at mid day until Horlicks sponsored a scheme supplying a large plunger mixer, small paraffin stove, storage cabinet for trays of cups, large storage jugs and space for tin of Horlicks powder. Cost £1 for 7 lb of Horlicks. This lasted a week and children were charged a ha'penny a cup. It was prepared in the infants' classroom. One week the powder miraculously diminished bit by bit each evening (the school cleaner took a fancy to Horlicks). Later the local dairy at Boughton Hall Farm supplied one third of a pint bottles of milk for a ha'penny. We took advantage of this during the summer, but continued with Horlicks in the winter, until the present milk scheme began (now, of course, no more - Editor). Shortage of bottles sometimes meant one pint bottles having to be shared by three when the Horlicks cups came into use again. Class teaching was very upset, for in those days there was no school helper to take over the non-teaching jobs. National Savings was also a big extra. During the "Special Weeks" the school group collected hundreds of pounds - later recognised by a call to the Buckingham Palace garden party for National Savings workers. The village had special days - processions through the village - the school entered Mr Baigent's horse waggon, decorated as a tableau with the children. Our

prize effort was the English Rose, our money prize purchasing a picture for the infants' classroom.

Safety Measures During the War

All partitions and windows were plastered with strips of selotape to prevent splintering (my recollection is that at the Westfield schools gummed brown paper was used - Editor). At every air raid warning the old part of the building had to be vacated as it was considered unsafe. All the infants trailed down through the back garden to the woodwork centre to shelter under the heavy woodwork benches until the "All Clear". On one of these occasions the top class seniors watched a "dog fight" over Vickers at Weybridge from School Lane. Later when the playground was asphalted and a wall built around it, the authorities decided it was safest to lie around the edge of the playground. Trenches were dug for the older children in the vegetable garden. The latest idea was that the infants should crouch around the walls of the flat roofed cloakroom listening for the drone of the "doodle Bug" to stop before it fell, followed by the relief of the explosion. Send was not without its tragedies with bombs and "Doodle Bugs".

When St Bede's School opened in 1939, the junior school had the first sitting for canteen dinners - a daily crocodile trekked through all weathers - wartime hazards as well - till the woodwork centre was converted into a canteen.

Further increase in school numbers meant the temporary use of the old Red Cross Hut as a classroom for the older infants and the beginning of three class infants. This phase had its difficulties. There was a daily freeze up of water in winter, and insufficient heating. We had to turn out into the football pavilion across the "rec" every tuesday afternoon and every other Monday afternoon. Someone kindly lit the coke stove for us, but that often went out and left us cold. Once the door blew off and we had to trail across to the school and take refuge in with another class. When the new installation was ready it was wonderful, but that also had its trials and teething troubles.

Editorial Note. The "Doodle Bugs" mentioned by Miss Palmer were, as many of us remember, flying bombs with wings launched by the Germans towards the end of the war over South East England. They were also known as V1's, as compared with the V2 rockets (the first form of guided missile), which came a little later.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership

For the first time in exactly eight years there are no new members to report. Membership, therefore, remains at 108 couples and 74 single members.

Subscriptions

Janet Hill, our Treasurer, has asked me to remind members that their annual subscriptions are due on 1st February. It will be helpful to her and to the Society if subscriptions are paid promptly. Her address appears on the front page of the Newsletter, or members can, if more convenient, pay me. Since there is no proposal to increase the subscriptions this year, they remain at £2 for couples and £1.50 for single members.

Buildings Group Research on the History of Individual Houses

Buildings Group members are working on the history of individual properties within the parishes, and would be interested to hear from anyone else who has information about the properties on which they are conducting research. The members and properties concerned are as follows:

Bette Slatford	Ripley Court
Mavis Lake and Bernard Watts . . .	Oakride
John Slatford and Barbara Tinkler .	White Hatch
Jim Carter	The Cottage, Sendmarsh Lane
Gloria Henson	Hillside Farm
Ken French	Aldertons and Goodgrove
Les Bowerman	The Manor House, Send Marsh
Derek Bromley and Ted & Rita Goldup	Willingham Cottage

"Stephan Langton", by Martin F. Tupper

Our member, Desmond O'Connor, has kindly donated to the Society a copy of Martin Tupper's novel, "Stephan Langton, or the Days of King John, a Romance of the Silent Pool" (first published 1858).

Tupper was an interesting personality who lived from 1810 to 1889, for many years at Albury. "Stephan Langton" is typical Victorian romantic prose, but the book is mildly interesting to members of our Society for its references to Newark, Albury, Gomshall, Guildford, St Catherines and the Silent Pool. The legend of King John and the Silent Pool originates from this book (Surrey Archaeological Collections No. 54).

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday, 15th February ... AGM at the Red Cross Hall, Sandy Lane, at 8 p.m., followed by a discussion when Bob Whapshott hopes to show a collection of flat irons and an ironing stove.

Wednesday, 2nd March ... Buildings Group meeting, at 8 p.m., at 11B Kevan Drive, Send.

Tuesday, 22nd March ... Open meeting, at 8 p.m., at the Red Cross Hall, Sandy Lane, when Mrs Shirley Corke, archivist at the Guildford Muniment Room, will speak about her work, which includes many items connected with the parish of Send & Ripley.

Tuesday, 19th April ... Open meeting, at 8 p.m., at Ripley Village Hall, possibly entitled "An Evening of Ripley History", when it is envisaged that a number of people will give short talks on aspects of the history of Ripley. It is hoped that this will encourage the interest of Ripley residents who are not yet members of the Society, in addition to existing members.

Please note days of the week and venues for meetings.

Closing Date

The closing date for submission of material for the next issue of the Newsletter will be Monday, 7th March.

The Christmas Social

The annual Christmas social was held on 15th December at the Red Cross Hall. Seventy-five tickets were sold and a festive cold spread was organised by Phyllis Bourne and Flossie Oliver. The Society's symposium exhibit, featuring Sir Anthony Browne and his son of the same name, 1st Viscount Montague, was on display for the benefit of members who did not attend the symposium. The exhibit was introduced by Peggy Aldridge.

Largely as a result of the raffle and to a lesser extent due to the sale of surplus food, a modest profit was made. The Society's thanks are due to Flossie and Phyllis as organisers, to Ken Bourne for producing the tickets, to John Slatford for organising the raffle to Rita Goldup and Barbara & Alan Tinkler for sterling help on the night and to all who assisted in other ways.

Les Bowerman

NOVEMBER 18th - OPEN EVENING - "FARMING THROUGH THE AGES"

On Thursday, 18th November, Bob Claydon gave his long-awaited second illustrated talk on "Farming Through the Ages" to over 40 members in the Church Room. His remarks, because of limited time, did not cover all facets of this vast subject, but a good insight was given into farming during the period of the ascendancy of the draught horse, and with the aid of good slides, he generated a sense of nostalgia in many present, and illustrated that village life, as then understood, is gone for good, and that now most communities, including Send & district, are no more than dormitories or places of retirement. The speaker stressed how little the horse implements and the farming practices had changed until the advent of the tractor just before the outbreak of the 1939-45 World War and how the War acted as a catalyst for the new ideas which have revolutionised farming in the last 40 years. Here the speaker presented slides of the "shop window of farming", the Agricultural Show, and mentioned modern field machines, dairy equipment, milking machines and the numerous breeds of animals which the farmers use as tools to feed the populace. Modern hay-making machinery, operated by one man, contrasted sharply with slides of a score of men hay making and stack building with horses and waggons at the Dairy Research Institute at Shinfield, near Reading, in about 1910.

All English breeds of cattle were expertly discussed with their respective suitability, disadvantages and regional preferences, and those breeds, particularly the Hereford, capable of thriving in most parts of the world were given a special mention. This was followed by an analysis of the numerous European breeds which are invading this country in an attempt by English farmers to meet the popular demand for lean tender carcasses. The speaker rightly mentioned the harsh side of this business and briefly explained the economics of livestock farming when the heart has to be hardened and the cattle disposed of or slaughtered when they have reached their prime, or are worn out as in the case of dairy cattle.

Question time proved lively, with much interest being shown by questions on silage. The chemistry and theory of silage was clearly explained and a plea made for toleration towards its odour, which the meeting was assured is not objectionable to experienced noses. Here it was unfortunate that the reference to silage in the Papeworth (Papercourt) Manor Rolls, 3 Henry VI sixth day of November 1424 "Robert Attefeild in mercy for a trespass made

with three bullocks on the lord's sileage in Papeworth feild, pledge the same Edward (Tyler)", could not be referred to, as this proves to be a mis-translation from the original Latin.

Thanks are due to Bob Claydon. The Society is fortunate in having members who possess specialist knowledge and who can speak with authority on their experiences.

J. Oliver

YEW TREE HOUSE, HIGH STREET, RIPLEY. TQ055568

At the request of the owners, Mr & Mrs Chris Smith, Jim Oliver and the writer made a number of visits of inspection to this two-storey brick built house. Yew Tree House is built on an East-to-West axis set back from, and parallel to, the London to Portsmouth Road between Pear Tree Cottage (the former coach house to Ripley House), and Hartley Antiques. Viewed from the road, it has a very attractive 18th century front elevation, which, unexpectedly, is not symmetrical. The house looks to be double pile, but there is an irregularity on the West side of the roof, and one wonders whether there may be something older at the back. Pulling the probably original bell pull to activate the spring-hung bell by a series of wires and nicely fretted triangular pivoted angle plates, one enters through the front door and it is immediately apparent that the reason for the door being off centre is that there is a central internal dividing wall. Behind the front door hangs an original locking bar. There is also a central dividing wall from West to East, so that there are the two front rooms and a recently altered large back one extending the length of the original house. Fortunately currently proceeding alterations have necessitated the removal of most of the plaster from the walls of the large back room and it is immediately apparent that the bricks of the East-to-West dividing wall and the back wall are similar - hand baked but of standard size. The large back room was until recently divided by a staircase leading from the centrally placed back door. The Western part was clearly the kitchen as the much altered brick fireplace proves. Exposed foundations show that this was originally wider to accommodate an open range. The Eastern end of the back room led via a door with another locking bar to what was probably a half open scullery. From this part of the back room brick stairs lead below the East-to-West dividing wall to a cellar under the East front room. The brick walls of the cellar are clearly the walls of the house continued down to foundations, indicating that the cellar is contemporary with the main walls. The top of a cellar window at the front of the house is just above the level of the garden.

The fireplace in the front room to the West has a bolection moulding surround (i.e. with a wide raised curve tapering to the outside edge) and is probably original, but that in the room to the East is unlikely to be so.

The writer was delighted to see hanging above the original fireplace a cycling drawing of the "Anchor" in Ripley High Street, signed by the artist, Charles E. Shaw, and dated 1897.

Mr Smith kindly allowed access to the extensive roof space, which is basically square with a central well, the rainwater from which is carried out by a lead gully above the East-to-West dividing wall to the West side of the house. There is no access door to the roof well. The parallel East-to-West roofs are of similar construction - plain rafters with no purlins or ridge pieces, although the rafters of the North roof are not as well

preserved.

Most of these rafters are of hard wood, probably oak. The North-to-South roofs have ridge pieces, although not in one piece. The East roof was constructed against the rafters and over the ends of the battens of the North roof. The West roof is a hotchpotch at the corner where its ridge does not quite meet that of the North roof. Inside the roof the front wall is seen to have been heightened by 18 inches with six courses of bricks on top of the original wall plate. These courses continue round the West side to the chimney and can be identified from the road by the fact that the bricks of the first of these courses have been laid on edge, doubtless to fit better in front of the original rafter ends. Above the additional six courses is a second wall plate and new soft wood rafters, which are attached at the ridge to the old rafters. Welsh slates on soft wood pit sawn boarding cover the new front rafters, whilst the rest of the roof is covered with clay tiles on riven oak battens over a thin layer of straw (called "torching") to prevent driven snow from entering the roof cavity.

Viewed externally, the South and West walls are manifestly of one build in Flemish bond in dark red bricks with many blue headers and some blueish stretchers. Smoke from the cooking fire in the West wall of the back living room is carried away by a chimney built integrally flush with the West wall. The chimney taking smoke from the fireplaces in the West front rooms has been added at a later stage in salmon red bricks with a butt joint against the original West wall. This chimney partially fills the inverted North-West corner of the house. Some double pile houses are of two builds, but that is not the case here and the conclusion from the evidence detailed above is that this is a four-square house of about 1750, perhaps reflecting increased prosperity following the turnpiking of the road in 1749. Originally the front elevation would have been similar to how the back still is, and there were two ridges parallel to the road. About 1800, with the turnpike at its busiest with stage coaches, and before this traffic died away with the completion of the railway line to Portsmouth in 1847, the appearance was upgraded from being a basically rural double gable ended house in brick with a steep tiled roof, into a town house of some elegance with a higher stuccoed front elevation and a shallower slated front roof.

The biggest problem for the builders who carried out the upgrading and for those who would interpret the house comes from the previously mentioned inverted North-West corner. The inversion of this corner has put the front elevation out of symmetry, caused the irregularity of the roof line as viewed externally and the hotchpotch internally. The reason must be either that the original corner failed and could not be repaired (perhaps through having been built inadvertently over an earlier well or cess pit), or that there was a difficulty over rights of light with an earlier adjacent building which is no longer there, or possibly that it had to be built against some such earlier building. Whatever the reason, it meant that the West ridge, which was constructed at the time of the upgrading, is physically unable to meet the shortened front ridge. The house has modern extensions on the Eastern face.

Estate agents have stated that this is a Queen Anne house (1702-14), but the size of the bricks shows that it is unlikely to have been built before the middle of the 18th century. In the absence of specific evidence, it is unsafe in any event to date a house to a period more precise than 20 years.

The historical origins of the house are unknown at present, but it is built within the curtilage wall of Ripley House. From some time after the founding of Ryde House School opposite in 1860 until at least 1928 (the date

of a prospectus shown to the writer), Yew Tree House was the school sanatorium.

At the bottom of the back garden is an outbuilding fronted with a brick arch in the 1860's ornamental style of Lord Lovelace, cf. Guiles Hill Farm, Ockham, and Church Farm, Wisley.

Les Bowerman

THE COACH HOUSE AT CEDAR HOUSE, VICARAGE LANE, SEND

TQ023545

By kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Jones, a small party from the Buildings Group did a survey of the coach house, situated at the rear East side of Cedar House.

The west side of the coach house was used for housing the coach and there is a small tack room on the East side. In a corner one can still see evidence of where a small stove would have been because the chimney still remains. Warmth was necessary for keeping leather harness supple and also prevented polishes from becoming hard.

Behind this small room is stalling large enough for three horses, although alterations have taken place; on the left side of the stall is a door used for emergency - if an animal were taken sick he could be dragged through this door without too much difficulty. On the other side of this door a steep wooden staircase has been built leading to the loft. Before the addition of these stairs there would have been a steep ladder leading to a trap door to the loft. At the top of the stairs there are rooms to the left and the right. In the righthand room is a sizeable window where the doors to the hayloft would have been.

In the 1920's the Rev. Girling had a school in the house and used this loft for boarders. One would imagine this to have been very cold and comfortless, especially during the winter.

Back down the stairs the flooring is of original Staffordshire blue bricks. These would have stretched out towards the drive, covering an area at least large enough for coach and horses.

There are many attractive original features still to be seen. A verandah between coach room and tack room, horseproof catch on the tack room door and a hay manger in the stable are a few.

From a distance the coach house looks much older than it is because of its mock Tudor framing. Cedar House was built in 1863 and the garden wall would have been built soon after. This is in rat trap bond, meaning that it has a hollow centre, the bricks being laid on edge. Rats are then able to run around inside the wall. This wall has been incorporated for the West wall of the coach house, giving it a date soon after the house was built.

This survey made a refreshing change from houses and barns, and the finishing touch was to be invited to take tea with the Jones family, which we enjoyed very much.

Gloria Henson and Barbara Tinkler