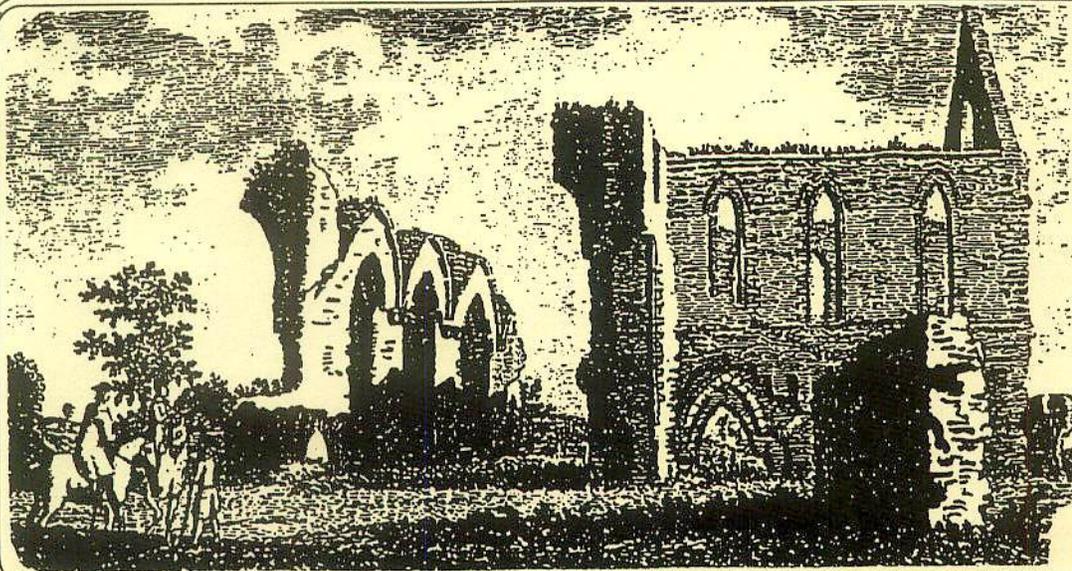


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# Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY  
Registered Charity No. 296324



NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 5 No. 160

Sept/Oct 2001



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# Send & Ripley History Society

*Established 1975 as Send History Society*  
Registered Charity No 296324

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**Cover illustration:** History Society Members outside Woodchurch Rural Life Museum.  
Photo by George Bleach

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

As this Journal begins the process of transcription in early August, through to printing and distribution in early September, it is a sobering thought that the summer will have almost passed by and autumn will be with us. The season, however, of talks, lectures, etc. will be really getting under way, as a glance at any local society's programme will demonstrate. Of course, these events take organising, and we are grateful to those who find time to put together a programme to interest us over the coming months. Looking at our programme of events, the period between September and Christmas is fully covered, and next year's programme is currently being organised. If anyone wishes to hear about a particular topic or visit a place of local interest, please contact Anne Bowerman as soon as possible.

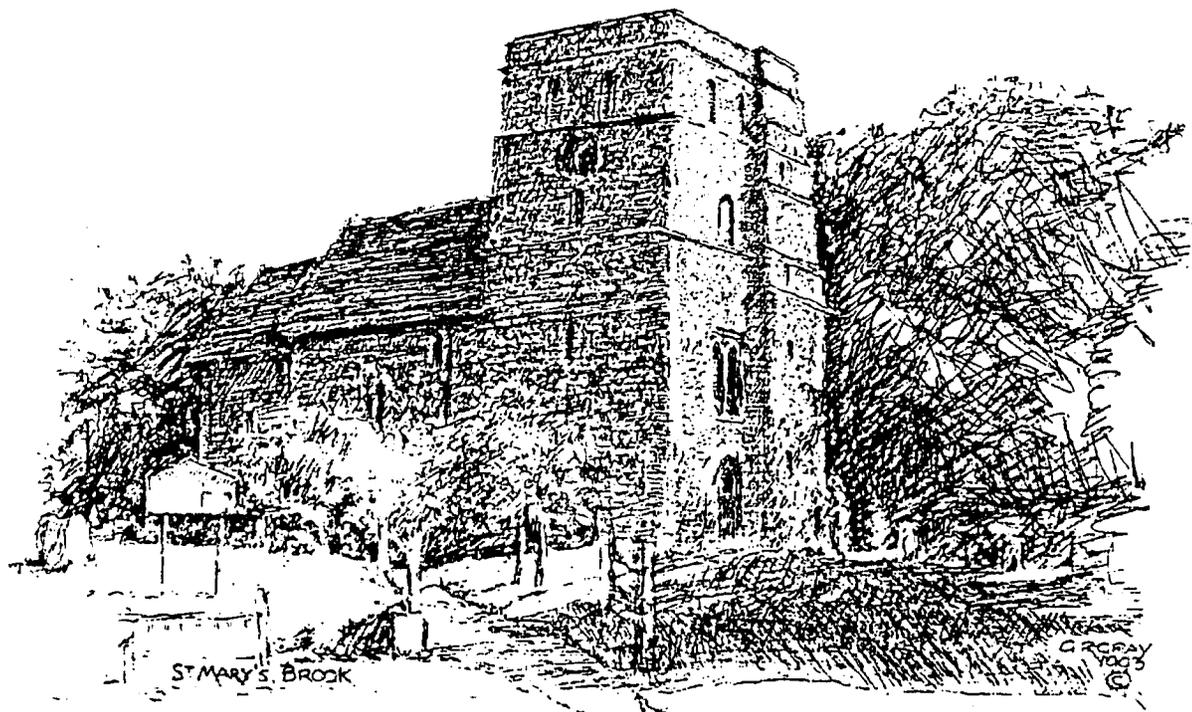
Currently, a new exhibition is being put together at our Museum, under the title of *Rural Surrey*, by Claire McCann and Jane Bartlett. This follows on from the very successful exhibition concerning Scout and Guide movement, which has sparked off a lot of comments by visitors, evident from the content of this Journal. As with all our exhibitions, participation, suggestions, etc. are welcome whilst the exhibition is being put together, and it can be viewed at present, in its embryonic state, on Saturday mornings, so do go along and have a look, and if you have any other information, or photos, etc. you would like to be included, please contact the organisers. Following the setup of the exhibition in our Museum, it will depart briefly for the Surrey Local History Council Symposium, and be on display there for the day on 27 October. Details of the Symposium can be found under *Forthcoming Events*.

### VISIT TO BROOK AND WOODCHURCH VILLAGES, KENT, 8 JULY

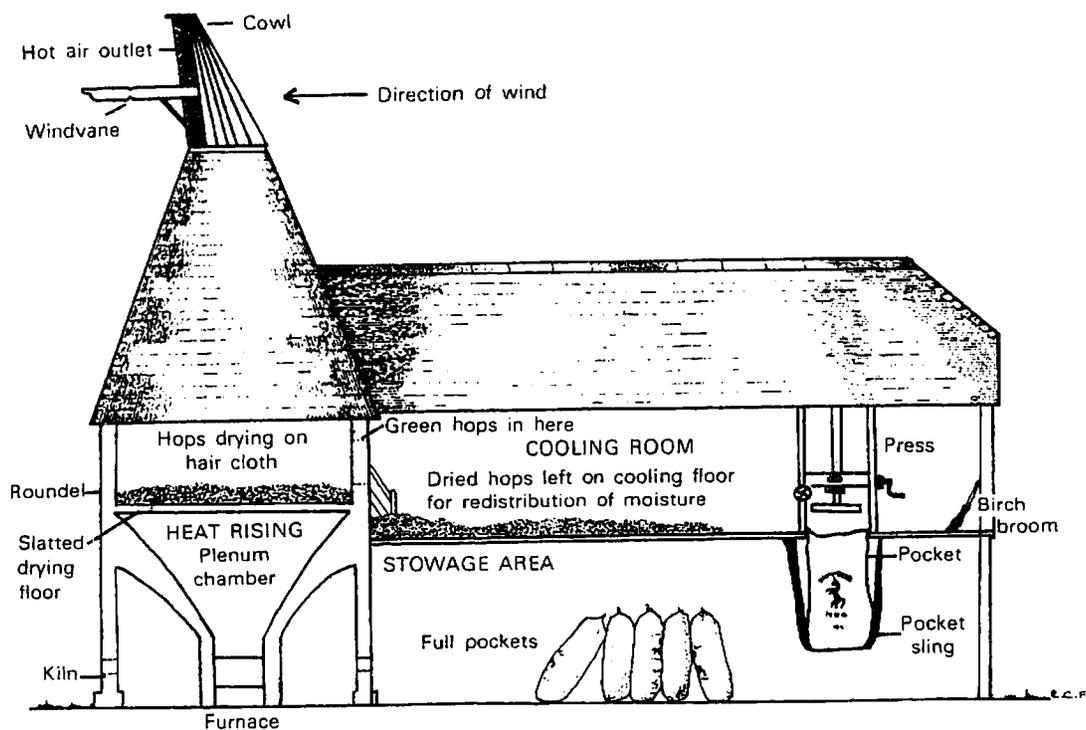
Following a relatively early start from Send Manor, about 20 members and friends gathered at Brook Agricultural Museum, near Wye and Ashford in Kent, and were welcomed by the Curator, Brian Wimsett, with a cup of coffee, followed by an introductory talk about the contents of the museum. Earlier, Ken Bourne, the organiser of the event, had explained that the reason for visiting Brook before Woodchurch was to see the excellent early 19th century oasthouse and all its implements, which would have been very much part of the scene in Kent during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Woodchurch has some 15 oasthouses, one or two of which are still used as farm outbuildings, but the majority of them are now converted to private homes. Following a very interesting tour round the museum, the party was treated to video recordings of films made in the 1930s, showing farming methods as carried out at the time. At least one of our members had the pleasure of seeing land girls working on many of these machines, doing harvesting and ploughing, as she had done during the Second World War.

As it turned out, Brook village has the distinction of being the site of an early Norman church, built shortly after the Conquest, in AD 1076. It has a massive tower and west end, called a westwerk, which, almost unique to this country, provides a chapel for use by visiting bishops. Such structures are common on the Continent, particularly in Germany. The other notable feature of the church is its wall paintings, which are in the chancel and the nave, and all date from the 13th century. A description of this church may be found in Pevsner's guide to East Kent buildings. We are grateful to Dr Ian Michie, who welcomed our party and gave a very interesting summary of the history of the church, as well as opening up the west end vestry door, which afforded access to the chapel in the west tower. From this small room, which once contained an altar, a view could be had through two narrow arched windows of the whole church, including the chancel and sanctuary.

Lunch was either a meal in the local pub in Woodchurch, or sandwiches on the village green. Following the lunch break, a short walk was taken around the green, which had been in private hands as virtually an open field until 1859, when it passed to a charity, to preserve the



*St MARY'S BROOK - Note the massive West Tower and 'Westwerk'*



*Section through Oasthouse similar to the one at Brook*

open area (which then measured about six acres), as a village green. It was handed over to the Parish Council in 1925. There are many splendid buildings facing the green, notably a typical 14th century wealden hall house with a jettied upper floor over the left side. This house was sold to a Richard Capell, who died in 1392. It then continued in the Capell family for several generations, until it passed to the Halackenden family for about a hundred years, when it then passed to the Hales family. Sir Edward Hales was Sheriff of Kent. The house passed through many hands subsequently, and in the period prior to the wars was used by a local district nurse, who rented the house from the Schreiber family, the latter coming to Woodchurch in the 19th century and establishing a large estate nearby, virtually becoming "lords of the manor". They were great benefactors to the church and the community.

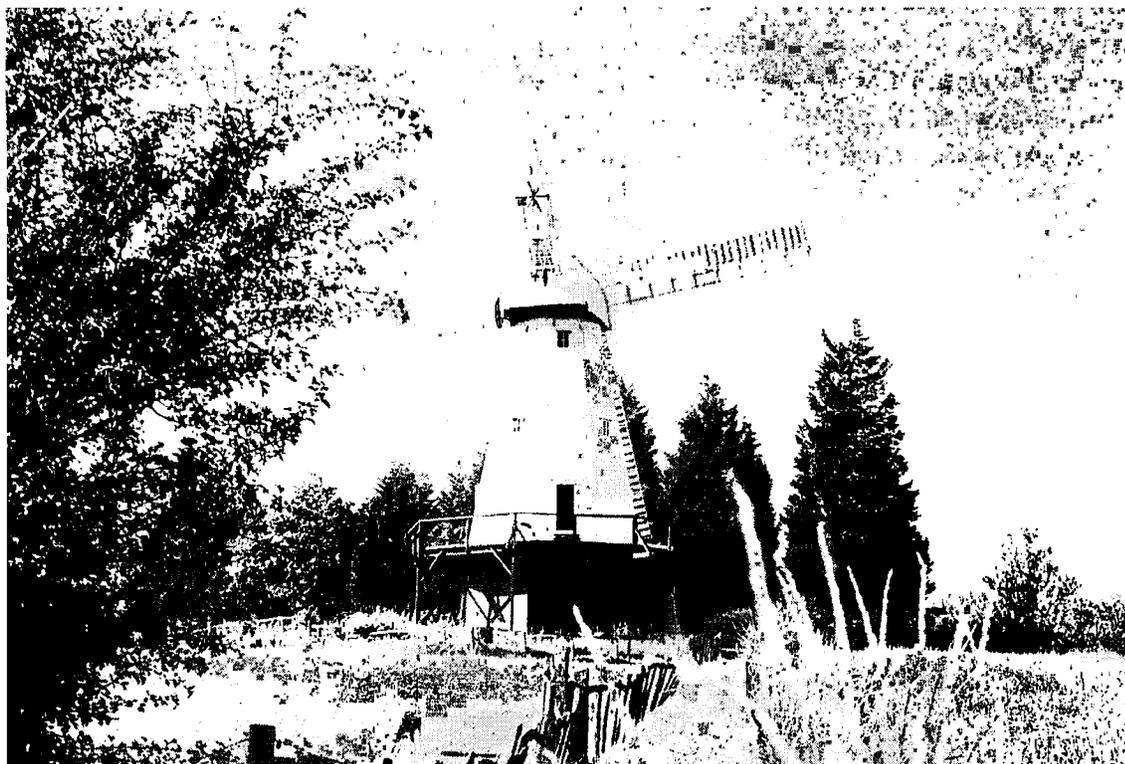
At the other end of the green is a house called Place Farm, which is relatively modern, but contains some remnants of a Tudor farmhouse. This building's situation is reputed to be on the site of one owned by Anital de Woodchurch, a baron appointed by William the Conqueror. The Woodchurch family lived here until the 13th century, Sir Simon de Woodchurch being knighted by Edward I. The property then passed by marriage to the Clerks and then the Halackendens in the 15th century. In the 17th century, the Halackendens are in both Hendon Place and Place Farm, as well as large areas of land surrounding Woodchurch.

There are, of course, many other interesting buildings, but space does not permit inclusion here, except for one small artisan's cottage, timber-framed and faced with white-painted weather boarding, typical of this part of England. The cottage, known as the Chequer Tree, was owned by the local builder, W H Bourne & Son (a distant relative), and was tenanted by a sawyer, whose job it was to saw up tree trunks in one or both of the large sawpits that existed in front of the building, just on the green. Timber was sawn here until the pits were filled in in the 1930s. The building business was established in 1750, and continued in Woodchurch until it closed in 1989.

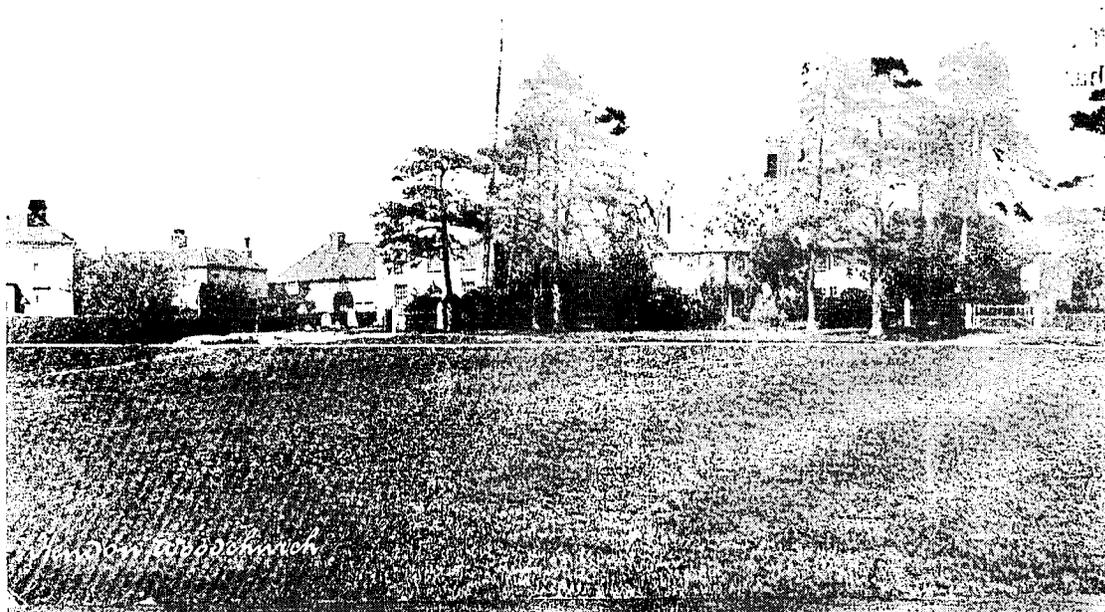
The next scheduled visit was to the Woodchurch Village Life Museum, where we were met by its Curator, Charles Boxer, shown on the group photograph on the front page, in the centre (not to be confused with our Chairman, Les Bowerman, to the extreme right), and just out of sight, extreme right back row, behind Anne Bowerman is Geoff Loynes. Both Charles Boxer and Geoff Loynes had played vital roles in forming this museum.

Charles Boxer gave a brief introduction to the history of the museum, followed by a guided tour around its displays. Unlike our own Society, the local history society in Woodchurch and the museum operate as independent organisations, but like our own Society, they were formed at different times. The museum was formed in 1989, when it became registered as an educational trust. The main problem was finding a suitable building to house a collection that had been put together by Geoff Loynes and upon which they hoped to build further. After considerable searching, they were offered by a farmer in nearby Beckley a 17th century cart shed and an 18th century barn for a bargain price. These were dismantled and stored. Subsequently a Woodchurch farmer gave a plot of land, and restoration and erection of the cart shed took place during 1997 and 1998. Having set the whole process in motion, they realised that more funds were needed than their resources at that time, and they applied to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and were given a grant of £180,000 in late 1998. This enabled the employment of professionals to do much of the restoration and construction within a 15 month period, and the total cost came to approximately £300,000, of which over £100,000 had been raised by the museum itself. The official opening of the museum was carried out on 10 January 2001 by Joanna Lumley, who had once spent a large part of her childhood in Woodchurch.

The museum is operated entirely by volunteers, and the display includes farm implements and memorabilia, all drawn from the village of Woodchurch. An interesting feature on entering the museum is the map of the village as it is today, with an arrangement to slide to one side each period back to the 18th century, showing how Woodchurch has developed over the last 200 years or so. Another feature of the exhibits is proactive recordings which give descriptions of village



*Woodchurch Windmill*



*Part of Village Green  
Henden, a 14c Wealden House on right.*

industries and village life, spoken by older members of the village, recalling events and customs over the past 100 years.

Woodchurch, although it lies off the main roads, roughly in a triangle between Ashford and Tenterden, nevertheless found itself in the front line during the last war. An airfield was established in 1943 just north of the village, as a temporary airstrip to assist in the proposed invasion of Europe. One can imagine the impact this must have had on a rural community of not more than about 1500 people at that time. The first tenants of the airfield were Mustangs of 128 (RCAF) Wing, RAF. These were followed by the US 9th Airforce, and in April 1944 the 373rd Fighter Group moved in with about 80 P-47s. Although used in emergencies by allied bombers returning from missions, by early 1945 all flying had ceased and the airfield was de-requisitioned and returned to its former owners.

Outside the museum, in the adjoining cart shed, are several vehicles, including a Brougham, formerly owned by Tanton, the Woodchurch carrier, and built by Bligh of Canterbury in 1900. There was also a hay waggon from about 1910, painted in typical Kent colours of red and blue, and a baker's van, horse-drawn, of course, which delivered bread around the village until just before the Second World War. Indeed there was much to see, and an hour and a half was hardly enough time to do it in. Regrettably, we had to depart from the museum to our last scheduled visit to Woodchurch Windmill.

Overlooking Woodchurch stands a splendid white-painted smock mill, and here we were met by Cherry Beck, one of the enthusiastic members of the Society of Friends of Woodchurch Windmill. Cherry, assisted by two of her helpers, greeted us warmly with a cup of tea and scones with jam and cream, which, needless to say, were greatly appreciated. Before partaking of the refreshments, however, a tour of the windmill and its inner workings was given by Cecil Antony.

The Society of Friends was formed in 1979 with the object of restoration of the mill, which was in a very poor and dilapidated state. It required complete dismantling and rebuilding, which was completed in 1981. Since then an outside gallery and internal floors have been added, and a new cap was fitted in 1984. The stocks and new sails were added in 1986. The internal machinery was subsequently restored, and is now in full working order, with the exception of the millstones, which require reseating.

The weather had been quite good all day long, with only a slight threat of rain at lunchtime. The views, therefore, from the platform of the mill were indeed splendid right across the village, and in the distance could just be discerned the beginnings of the Romney Marshes. It is true to say that the day was a memorable one, made even more enjoyable by the welcome received from the curators and custodians of the various buildings we visited. To them we give our heartfelt thanks and wish them well for the future.

Ken Bourne

## THE RIPLEY WAR MEMORIAL

The War Memorial, in Ripley Churchyard, was badly damaged by storms last autumn. A new cross and stem need to be carved, and this will cost £2600. We are told that grants are unlikely to be available from either of the two obvious bodies, the Friends of War Memorials and the English Heritage Grants for War Memorial Repair and Conservation. The Royal British Legion itself basically only spends money for the welfare of ex-Service persons, so an appeal for the sum required has been made by the President of the local branch, Mr E Lindsey. This being an important piece of local history (not only commemorating those local men who gave their lives, but also reflecting the sentiments of those who originally gave money to have the memorial built), our Committee has made a contribution of £50 on behalf of the Society. If any individual member would like to donate, a cheque (payable to Ripley War Memorial Fund) should be sent to the Fund at Legion Headquarters, 27 Rose Lane, Ripley, Woking, GU23 6NE.

It has since been learned, from a chance conversation elsewhere, that the reason that the English Heritage people have not made a grant is that they are able to do so only if the memorial is Listed. The church is Listed. Does that cover the Memorial? If not, should a Listing application be made?

Les Bowerman

## THE DANES OF SEND MANOR

Having been, with Anne, my wife, owner of Send Manor for the past 24 years, and being deeply involved with the Send & History Ripley Society all that time, I have naturally learned a great deal about the history of the house and about its most notable owner, Gordon Stewart. Odd snippets of the history have appeared in the Newsletter/Journal over the years, and I suppose I have long had it in mind to write something fairly comprehensive about it.

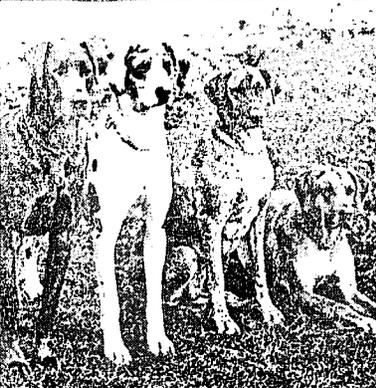
Now here comes along a Canadian dog breeder and international dog judge named Bob Heal, who produces a substantial book which mostly concerns Gordon Stewart and his various activities on the 50 acres or thereabouts of the Send Manor estate. It includes much that I had already learned, but equally there is much that is new to me. Whilst he was writing the book, Bob paid a visit here to see the house and get the feel of the estate. He has taken on board that the house dates from about 1670, with Victorian additions, but sadly repeats and confuses an old myth, writing that it once belonged to "Queen Margaret of Richmond, mother of Henry VIII". He continues: "She used it when visiting her son, who was educated at the monastery of Newark Abbey." This is manifest nonsense because Henry VIII was, of course, born in 1491, his parents being Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. The usual form of the myth concerns Henry's grandmother, Lady Margaret Beaufort, who was given the Manor of Woking in 1485, and lived at Woking Palace for much of the remainder of her life, dying in 1509, long before this house was built. Apart from the incorrect early history of "Send Manor" (a variation of "The Manor House", a name adopted for the building between 1851 and 1861), it is difficult to fault the book.

The book details Stewart's early interest as an aircraft designer, his support of William Morris (later Lord Nuffield), by ordering, as an agent, his first 400 cars, and the growth of Stewart & Arden as Morris distributors for London and its surrounding area. The wealth generated by this enabled Stewart to set up behind The Manor House (which he bought in 1921) the Send Kennels for breeding Great Danes. The kennels eventually grew to accommodate what is claimed to have been 500 dogs, the largest kennels for any dogs anywhere. The author's background in the dog world enabled him to deal with this central part of the book with great authority.

We learn how the Royal Princes (Henry, Duke of Gloucester, and George, Duke of Kent) visited the kennels, we see photographs of them in the dog training area, and we read of Stewart's friendship with Albert, Duke of York (later King George VI). We see photographs of the various Swiss-style buildings connected with the kennels, of the charming kennel-maids and their charges, and of an impressive display of early Morris vans lined up in front of the house. We are told of Stewart's encouragement of the young singer, Gracie Fields, and there are several photographs of her at Send Marsh with the dogs.

Another of Stewart's interests, dealt with in much less detail, was the British Poultry Development Company, which he set up behind the kennels. There was the National Road Safety Association, there were his films, beginning in 1932 with a road safety one for children (in which the future George VI played a small part), and there was also his purchase of the Strand Theatre.

With the approach of the war, Stewart reined in his dog breeding activities and was then involved in various ways with the war effort. The kennels never reopened. Within the past two years, residential houses have been built by Thomas McAlpine on a large part of the site of Send



*The*  
**Danes**  
*of SEND MANOR*



*The Life, Loves and Mystery of Gordon Stewart*

**ROBERT HEAL**

Kennels. The name of the development is Danesfield, for obvious reasons.

All his life, Stewart appeared to be looking for social recognition. Early in 1939 he was offered it in tangible form by George VI - a knighthood! At peace with himself at last, he turned it down!

In January 1952, Gordon Stewart died, aged 66, of a heart attack at Send Manor. Having no children and having lived for the most part of his life separate from his wife, his will is an intriguing document. A substantial beneficiary was one of the former kennel-maids. As part of his research for the book, Bob Heal sought to speak to her, but met with a blank refusal, maintaining that she had nothing of Stewart's left and could not really remember anything. Bob sets out such facts as he knows, and then leaves the reader with a sense of mystery.

This, then, is a gripping book. It will of course appeal to dog (and especially Great Dane) lovers. Although parts of the book relate specifically to doggy matters, and there is a final appendix of Great Dane pedigrees, the bulk of the book will be of absorbing interest to Send and Ripley local historians. In fact, apart from our own publications, this book is probably the biggest about our local history yet published.

This is a hard-back book of 320 pages printed on quality paper. There are some 180 photographs and other illustrations, mostly local. It was published by Boston Mills Press of Ontario (an affiliate of Stoddart Publishing Co Ltd of Ontario), just a few months ago, under ISBN number 1-55046-355-1. The website address for Boston Mills Press is [www.bostonmillpress.com](http://www.bostonmillpress.com). The UK price is £17 plus £5 for shipping and handling. I have been offered a discount for a bulk order, which would probably, in effect, cancel out the shipping cost. If anybody reading this is interested in that, please contact me before the end of September for a sight of the book. I would then need a £5 deposit before placing the order.

Les Bowerman

### EXCHANGE OF JOURNALS

The Society receives complimentary copies of the periodicals published by two other local societies, the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society and the Horsley Country Preservation Society. In exchange we send them a copy of our Journal.

Back numbers of both periodicals are available for reading at our Museum (Horsley is filed against the wall behind the counter and Walton & Weybridge is under the counter). If anyone would like to be entered on the circulation list for reading these Journals before they are filed, please contact our Chairman, Les Bowerman.

### RIPLEY SCOUTS PHOTO - JOURNAL No 159

In his article in the last issue of the Journal, Les Bowerman asked if the location of the building could be identified.

This has proved to be not too difficult. The location is the row of cottages, Greenside, facing the cricket pitch on the Green. In the photo are numbers 4 and 5 at the then right hand end when viewed from the Green.

Greenside, built in 1892, is one of many properties in Send and Ripley owned, and mostly built, by Thomas Lucas. There is a plaque on the wall between numbers 2 and 3 with the name Greenside, the initials T L and the 1892 date. Tommy Lucas, as he was known, was the trader in Ripley, in the late 1800s and early 1900s, in the premises which are now Town & Country Cars. He later built, and lived the rest of his life at, Sandmore in Send Hill (now the site of the Council owned pensioners' flats) - see Newsletter 118, September/October 1994.

The present day Greenside is unaltered, except for the addition of number 6 at the right hand end, built later in the same style.

Bette and John Slatford

## CHANGES IN RIPLEY, JULY 2001

In recent years, the rebuilt Ripley Smithy has been occupied by a number of businesses with varying degrees of success. It is, therefore, welcome news to record that the Ripley jewellers, Williams & Wright, have moved their business to the Smithy from their previous shop, which was next to The Half Moon.

In Rose Lane, we note that our members, Fiona and Alastair MacMillan, have added a new porch to their house, Vintage Cottage. It has been built in a style wholly sympathetic with the cottage, using peg jointed oak timber.

On the opposite side of Rose Lane, the new owners of Apple Trees, previously the home of John Paul for over 50 years, have completed extensive renovations and extensions. The work was carried out by Brian Lawrence, who was responsible for the 1997 restoration of The Manor House in the High Street.

In the High Street, the building with the date 1597, a coffee shop which closed two years ago, has been converted to a private dwelling.

As I write, major work has been started at the 15c jettied house, Little Barn, opposite The Half Moon. At this time, we do not know what the new owners' end result will be.

The future of the long established Colbornes site on Portsmouth Road appears to be uncertain, following the sale of the business. The owner, Peter Colborne-Baber, has decided to retire, and the new owners have implied that major change is to be made, with the indications that a new VW Centre will be established at a yet to be announced new site. After 62 years of ownership by the same family, it will be a great loss if the company is no longer a part of Ripley.

John Slatford

## CLASSROOM CONTACTS

With the 60th Anniversary of the official opening of St Bede's School coming on the horizon, it is fitting to be able to report the existence of a friendship website, listing names of former pupils from the school. I am very grateful to both Anita Weller and Margaret Pink, both of Send, for allowing me to submit the details to our Society Journal:

[www.friendsreunited.co.uk](http://www.friendsreunited.co.uk), Yahoo website

David Porter

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - VENTURE SCOUTS

I read with great interest BP's comments on the new "breed" of Venture Scout. As father of Stephen, who joined in 1979, and was an Assistant Leader from 1983 to 1990, I approached him for his recollections, and he supplied the information as set out in his letter to me of 4 July.

He also supplied photos and has identified those in them on the reverse of the spreadsheet of VSU Executive Committee members.

I'm not sure whether you will receive information from other sources. I briefed Clare, who was meeting Helen (Pullen) early in July. She thinks that she might also contribute. Clearly, Steve could fill in on more of their adventures! ... I think that the unit represented the liberal ideas of the '60s without losing sight of the principal aims of the Scout movement.

In my sheds are some of the relics of the Venture Scouts' enterprises, including two of what would now be considered primitive disco decks, which Mark Hilton and Steve assembled and which gave delight or apprehension to many, depending on which side of the sound barrier they were on. There are also six pre-1950s cycles, which formed the core of an eventful ride to the South Coast (Les is not interested in them!). There are also the remains of a truncated old Morris PO van!

Joy and I were several times cajoled into providing rear base for orienteering exercises.

On another occasion, we provided a traditional Sunday lunch for five German lasses and a Dutch one, accompanied by Ripley Venture Scouts. They were all attending a World Camp at Henley Fort; afterwards to the Saddlers - soft drinks outside!

We know that the V Scouts still remember the happy days they spent together and meet when they can. Many have done well in their various spheres of activity. Steve, a chartered engineer, became an Acting District Commissioner in Southampton. Now, with his wife, Clare (a former Girls' Brigade member), they are active in church work and campanology in Bletchingley.

We have every reason to be proud of them all!

Phil Carter, Send, 6 August 2001

Thanks for your letter. It's interesting to see what BP recalls about the Ripley Ventures. I attach a spreadsheet that I have quickly put together, showing my recollections of who was in charge of the Venture Scouts at Ripley whilst I was there.

My recollections of my first night at Ventures in 1979 are as follows:

My best friend (Mark Mooney) and I had girlfriends (Mandy Ridd and Julie Turner - later Noble) who were in the Ripley Guides. When they got too old for Guides they went on to Ripley Venture Scouts - who at the time met in the old school where School Cottages are now built.

Mandy would go on about how good Ventures was and about this chap called BP. Not knowing who or what BP was, Mark and I decided we'd better find out. We turned up unannounced to a meeting on one Monday in August 1979 (much to the annoyance of our girlfriends), and I stayed for 11 years!

The first night was Executive Committee election night, followed by candlemaking. The outgoing Executive Chairman was Rob Thompson. He had reached the grand old age of 20 and so had to leave the unit. His replacement was a girl called Julie Powell.

Rob and Julie had both been founder members of the unit. The other names of founder members that I can recall were Maxine Watts, David Penny and Marie Pullen (Helen's sister).

Also at the first meeting were three old Scouts from a Guildford Scout troop (I can't remember which), who had come to see how a VSU should be run, so that they could start their own. However, they enjoyed Ripley so much that they decided to stay. The three Scouts were Andy Wye (later to become Leader), Richard Hutley (brother-in-law of current Scout Group Leader, Richard Ayears) and Andrew Turner (Andrew actually lived in Ripley, in Grove Heath). These three were busy playing darts on the first night I attended. Darts and beer seemed to play quite a large part in the life of the unit.

Anyway, who was BP? BP turned out to be Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the VSU Leader. He was a great character and full of ideas that he subtly planted in the minds of the Ventures, so that eventually they believed that they had thought of them themselves. I think all the ex-Ventures who were around during BP's time remember him with great fondness.

So that was my first night (we would have gone back the next week, but we already had tickets to see Gary Newman at Guildford Civic Hall on that particular Monday).

There are plenty of other things I could say about Ripley VSU, and perhaps I will write down some more at a later date, if anyone is interested.

Stephen Carter, 4 July 2001

*Editor's Note* The following are two photographs with names, and also a list of those in charge of the Venture Scout groups, as supplied by Stephen Carter. A copy of the Hatchford Echo, dated 9 April 1950, which was omitted from the previous Journal, is also included here.



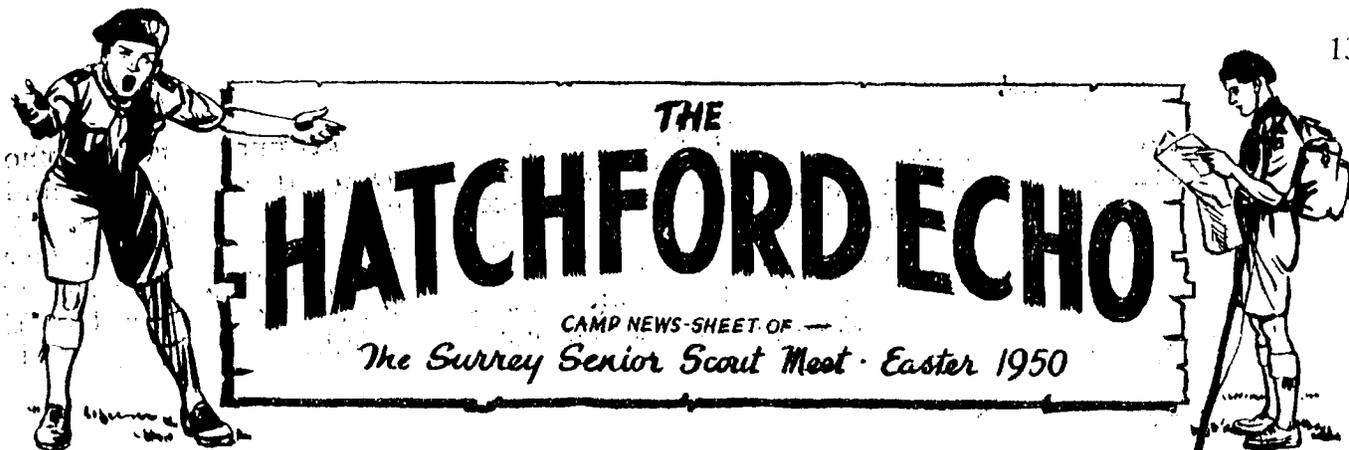
*Forest of Dene 1982*

*Claire Pullen, Andy Rowe (striped jumper), Steve Carter (in front), Helen Pullen (in front), Mark Hilton (next to Steve Rowe), Rob Thompson (in front of Mark), Karen (in front of Rob), Sophie Thompson (front row), Brian Rowe (back row) and Andy Wye (extreme right).*



*Criccieth 1986*

*Andy Wye, Mark McDavitt, Jane Hampton, Lara Rowe (back row), Carole Steers (in front of Lara), Linda from Ash Vale VSU, Andrew Rowe, Lesley Green, Helen Jenner, Mark Hilton.*



No. 4.

Sunday 9th April 1950.

Price 1d.

EASTER.

A happy Easter to you all! Do let's remember the reason why we all got an extra-long holiday this week-end. It's because, in the words of the Psalmist, "This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it." So, then, today let us try and have a specially good time as we celebrate, with all our fellow-Christians, the redemption of each one of us by Jesus Christ, when he arose from the dead on that first Easter Sunday morning. No man could ask for a better reason for a celebration than that.

FRANCIS V. COWIE.

ARCHERY.

We were much interested by the talk and demonstration of this popular sport yesterday afternoon by Mr. G.A. Brown, who is himself indoor archery champion of Great Britain and of the Southern Counties, as well as representing this country in contests abroad. He uses a bow of 50 lbs. pull, with a string of 250 lbs. breaking strain. The arrows, which he makes himself, weigh less than one ounce. Mr. Brown impressed us very much with the accuracy of his shooting, and we are most grateful to him for coming.

"THE HATCHFORD ECHO."

The pressmen of "The Hatchford Echo"  
 All come around to have a dekko:  
 Instead of cooking for their Troops,  
 They run around for newsy scoops.  
 With labels white and squiggly letters,  
 They come and criticise their betters.  
 This paper is, some say, of course,  
 A money-waster and dead loss.  
 But though this ditty mocks their work,  
 We know they're not the ones to shirk.

JABBERWOCKS.

(Thank you, Jabberwocks, but why did you 'beat it' so fast after handing in your excellent contribution?! - Ed.)

BOOBS.

Yesterday morning, one of our reporters visited forty camp kitchens, and in the course of his tour found no fewer than twenty-seven axes lying around unmasked! - He completely lost count of the number of uncovered and unmarked grease pits. - See to it, chaps!

DO YOU?

We understand that inspecting officers yesterday found that a surprising number of Scouts did not even know where their Troop first aid kits were kept.

## GUIDE AND SCOUT QUIZ

As the Guide and Scout Exhibition has now closed, we can announce the winner of the quiz. First prize goes to Andrew Jennings-Giles, who got all the questions correct, and the runner up was Elliott Nix, who only missed out by one mark. Well done to both of them, and they will receive a small prize in September, when the Scout meetings resume. Thank you to the Ripley Guides and Scouts for participating, and we hope that they will come along to future exhibitions.

Clare McCann

## 125 YEARS OF THE MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union was founded in 1876 at New Alresford, Hampshire, by Mary Sumner, wife of the vicar, George Sumner. She was a grandmother at the time and, remembering her own difficulties as a young mother, she believed that all mothers needed to acquire child-rearing skills to bring up their children in a loving Christian environment. By creating a local union of mothers, bound by fellowship and prayer, she hoped to help mothers fulfil this role. After enthusiastically promoting the Union at the Portsmouth Church Congress in 1885, she saw it grow quickly from a parochial to a national and then an international organisation, until now there are more than a million members in over sixty countries.

The Send Branch of the Mothers' Union was an early one, and its registers from the time of its foundation in 1896 still exist. It appears that it is very rare for such early registers to survive. Possibly as long ago as 1971, the Send Branch ceased to exist. Mrs Pat Herbert was left with the branch's original registers and, realising that these were important local historical documents, in 1989 deposited them, on permanent loan, with Send & Ripley History Society. The registers concerned are 1896-1902, 1903-24 and 1925-38, and very interesting they are. There are some later notes, the last being in 1971. One wonders whether there are any official records subsequent to 1938.

It is understood that there was also an early Ripley Branch of the Mothers' Union, and that this came to an end many years ago, but was re-formed, possibly 20 years ago. As some members came over from Send, it became the Ripley & Send Branch. If anybody has any specific details about this, it would be useful to record them in these pages, if only to complete the history.

For this year's 125th Anniversary, the Mothers' Union archivist, Dr Cordelia Moyse, has borrowed the Send registers to help in mounting an exhibition in Guildford Cathedral. The exhibition was formally opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mrs Sarah Goad, on Monday, 6 August, and Anne and I were privileged to attend. The exhibition ran until 27 August. Photocopies of a couple of pages from the Send register of 1903 were incorporated into the display on stand No 10 and SRHS was acknowledged in the programme of the exhibition.

At the time of writing, the registers are still at the Cathedral. It is hoped to include some extracts in a later edition of the Journal.

Les Bowerman

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS****Wednesday, 17 October - 8 pm, Ripley Village Hall Annex**

An illustrated talk by Carol Brown on the history of Bellfields and the development of its estate.

**Saturday, 27 October - all day from 10 am at Chertsey Hall**

The Surrey Local History Symposium, which this year is on the theme of "Rural Surrey". The Society will be setting up a stand, which will be based on a theme of local interest relating to Send and/or Ripley. Please contact Clare McCann on 01483 728546 for further details.

**Thursday, 8 November - 8 pm, Ripley Annex**

A talk on Kew Gardens by Dr Peter Brandon.

**Monday, 10 December - 8 pm, Send Church Room**

A Christmas Social, similar to last year's arrangements - details to follow later.

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**Journal contributions**

The closing date for contributions for the next edition of the Journal is Friday, 12 October.



## SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

OPEN: May-September, Saturdays 10-12.30  
October-April, Saturdays 10-12.30

ALSO: 3rd Sunday of each month, so as to coincide  
with Ripley Antique Fair, in the Village Hall.

Other times for school groups and small parties  
by arrangement.

*Please contact George or Irene Bleach on 01483 222233 if  
you require information or wish to help in the museum.*

### HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

"Ripley & Send Then and Now, the Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life"	£10 Reprint 1998
"Guide to Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Send"	£1.25
"Then and Now, A Victorian Walk around Ripley"	Reference copy only
"The Straight Furrow", by Fred Dixon	£1.50
"Ripley and Send - Looking Back"	£4.95
"A Walk about Ripley Village in Surrey"	£2.00
"Newark Mill, Ripley, Surrey"	£2.95
"The Hamlet of Grove Heath, Ripley, Surrey"	£4.00
"Ripley and Send - an Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures"	£6.00

The reference copy is available at the Museum. All the others are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of "Ripley & Send Then and Now" is additionally available at Send Post Office.

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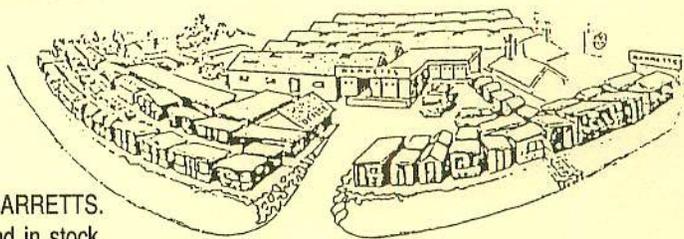
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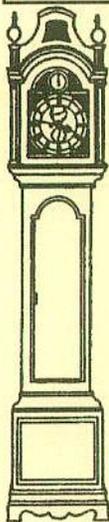


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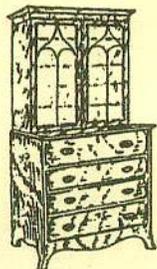
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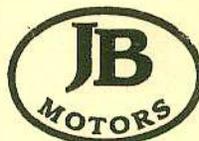
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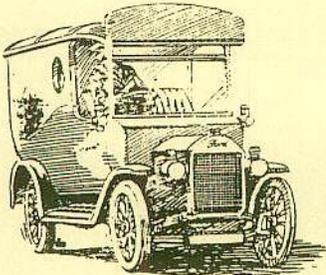
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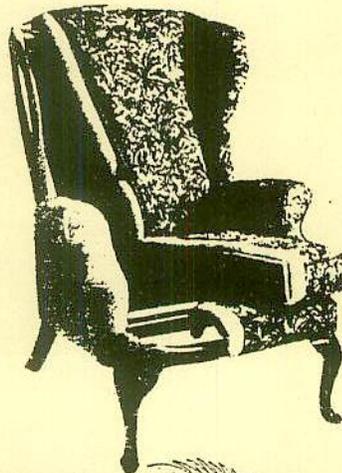
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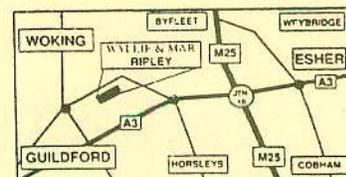
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