

SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

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 Green, Ripley
Phone: Ripley 2876

Treasurer: Mrs Janet Hill, Asphodel, Milestone Close, Ripley - Ripley 2216

843 2876

Typed by Chris Parker. Copyright Send & Ripley History Society 1982

Newsletter No. 44

May/June 1982

CONTENTS

Page No.

| | |
|---|----|
| New Members | 2 |
| Genealogical and Documentary Research Group | 2 |
| Send Grove Lodge - Bread Oven | 2 |
| Wild Flowers - Survey in Send 1981/82 | 3 |
| The Dominican Friary Site at Guildford | 4 |
| Natural History Group Report | 7 |
| Manor Court at Stockbridge, Hants | 8 |
| Courts Baron & Leet of the Borough of Stockbridge | 9 |
| Send & Ripley and the Onslow Family | 10 |
| Mr Fred Oliver - obituary | 10 |
| Visit to Marshcourt, a Lutyens House at Stockbridge | 11 |
| Buildings Group Tour of Lutyens Buildings in Surrey | 11 |
| "The Mary Rose" | 12 |
| Bird Report for March/April | 14 |
| Events Forthcoming | 14 |

FORTHCOMING EVENTS (Continued from Page 14)

Sunday, 6th June. All Day Visit to the Meon Valley

Since the programme may have to be modified at the last minute, meet at Send Marsh Green at 10 a.m. The route will be via the Hogs Back, Farnham Bypass, Alton Bypass on to the A32. Leave the A32 $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles at TQ 688304 for Byeroad signposted Petersfield L.H.S. Eastwards via Colemore Common, Barnet Side, Stoner Hill and Steep Hanger to enter head of Meon Valley at Rothercombe, Stroud, TQ 722241. It is hoped first to visit East Meon to see the church and the Court House (subject to the owner's consent) and then to proceed to Old Winchester Hill for a picnic lunch. After lunch the plan is to go on to Warnford to visit the church and the ruinous King John's House followed by the villages of Exton, Corhampton and Meonstoke. On the way home a brief stop at West Meon is anticipated.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mrs N. Reeve, Harlequin, Broadmead, Send.
Mr & Mrs D. McCrum, Sunnymeads, Westfield, Woking.
Mrs B. M. Atton, 30 Hawthorn Road, Send Marsh.
Mr & Mrs D. Oades, Elmsleigh Farm, Send Barns Lane, (rejoined).
Mr & Mrs T. C. Graham, 65 Send Road, Send.

Paid-up membership at the time of writing is 60 couples and 54 individual members.

GENEALOGICAL AND DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH GROUP

Although much of the available material has been studied and transcribed, a vast amount of work remains to be done if the Group is to achieve its aim of building a complete picture of our predecessors in the parish.

We need help urgently from any member with a little time to spare to assist us in this work. For example, there are still a number of the parish registers to be transcribed, many wills to be examined and numerous documents relating to the parish records yet to be studied.

There are many places to be visited in search of all these, such as the Muniment Room and the Guildford Room in Guildford, the Record Office at County Hall and the G.L.C. Record Office in London to name but a few. Most are open only on week days and each, of course, has its own procedures. We will advise anyone able to help on what to do, although the staff at all of these establishments are always most helpful.

In case anyone interested is uncertain of our aims, these are principally to trace the history and ownership of the various lands and properties within the ancient parish of Send & Ripley.

I will be very pleased to hear from all volunteers. My number is Guildford 222107.

John Slatford

SEND GROVE LODGE

TQ 022545

The replacement of the hot water boiler has necessitated the insertion of a new flue through the brick addition on the west face of the fine early 17th century brick chimney built on the southern outside wall of the single bay hall house now known as Send Grove Lodge. Some bricks from the west face of the addition have now been removed, revealing the rear of a bread oven of 18th century date. A few bricks of the dome of the oven have collapsed at the rear, showing the internal construction from an unusual and particularly interesting viewpoint. The oven is entirely constructed of brick; floor, walls (one brick on end 10" high), and domed roof of vaulted brick. The oven is circular about a yard across and 15 to 16 inches high at the centre of the dome. The large iron door giving the normal access for first the faggot and later the unbaked but proven loaves is still closed, as this leads off from the huge open fireplace of the chimney proper. This fireplace is still blocked.

From this unusual viewpoint into the rear of the oven the small flue can be seen situated in the domed roof adjacent to the lintel of the oven door. Because of its position this feature is often missed or misunderstood by observers trying to understand the working of a bread oven. This flue is also of brick and enters the main chimney of the house about 30 inches above the oven top and was vital to effect complete combustion of the faggot inserted and fired prior to baking. This combustion had to be complete to white ash and was controlled by a simple air regulator in the door. Blackthorn, hazel and furze were most highly prized for the heat they gave and for the residual ash. This ash, after raking from the oven while still very hot, was shovelled into the ash pit immediately below the oven to cool. The partial collapse of the oven floor in two places presumes the collapse of the ash pit roof underneath, and thus the existence of the ash pit must be accepted although not at present visible.

The residual ash was an important ingredient in the economies of earlier times. Being rich in potash, it was helpful as a fertiliser before the age of the agricultural chemist. It was also used as a scouring and cleaning agent, and was added to hard mutton fat (Glyceryl Stearate) and caustic soda in limited quantities to make the only soap (Sodium Stearate) then used by ordinary people.

It is possible the large open hearth will be reopened. It will be interesting to see if the Proving Cupboard is also preserved here. This feature was associated with the bread oven, and usually built into the wall of the open hearth. It provided a warm place in which to hasten the working of the yeast or barm in the unbaked bread before placing in the oven.

Mr Richard Warden drew the attention of the writer to this interesting relic of daily life some two centuries ago. A visit followed, resulting in the above observations. There must have been many such ovens in the parish formerly. Two such fragments of different dates remain at Send Court Farm embedded in the walls, and members will remember the long discussion which took place over the primitive bread oven in the small house from the mediaeval village of Hangleton reconstructed at the Open Air Museum and visited last year.

Send Grove Lodge has been recorded by the Buildings Group. The report appears in Newsletter 27/10.

P.S. The byproduct of the action of caustic soda on mutton fat is glycerine.

J. Oliver

Editorial Note: The above notes were received in time for publication in the previous edition of the Newsletter, but were held in reserve as they did not appear to be related to anything particularly topical. It was not realised at the time that a "Chronicle" television programme on the removal of the Walderton Cottage to the open air museum at Singleton was about to be shown. Members who saw the programme should now be in a much better position to appreciate these notes on the bread oven at Send Grove Lodge.

WILD FLOWERS - SURVEY IN SEND 1981/82

The survey of wild flowers in Send commenced in March 1981 and finished in March 1982. The area covered included, initially, part of the River Wey Navigation between the Tannery and Papercourt Lock, but because of dredging operations, was transferred, except for minor excursions, along the stream commencing near Boughton Hall Cottages and ending at Prews Farm. The survey also included the hedgerows of Tannery Lane, the banks of the

"lake" immediately North East of Prews Farm and the reservoir and pump house just South of Prews Farm, the latter constructed by Mr A. W. Secrett and now disused. These areas are covered by the 25" Ordnance Survey maps, TQ 0256-TQ 0356 and TQ 0255-0355. The approach to the surveyed areas was primarily by public footpath except for the banks of the lake near Prews Farm, which was observed by kind permission of Hall Aggregates Ltd.

The area is now open farmland, being light sandy soil on sand or gravel and may once have been part of the extensive common or heath land. Most trees are associated with enclosure hedges of the 18th and 19th centuries. The hedges are populated by a few mature oaks, although the elm trees, which form the basis of the hedgerows in Tannery Lane, have now all but disappeared and have been replaced by hawthorn, and crack willow. More detailed study of the hedgerows is required.

A comprehensive 6-page list has been compiled, indicating when and where the plants were first seen in flower, which is accurate to within a few days in each month. Greater accuracy, of course, is not required as there is a wide variation in the flowering time of any particular species depending upon its location and growing conditions, etc. Any guide to wild flowers will give the approximate length of the flowering season of each species.

The principal flowering period is from April, rising to a peak in June and July. After August there are virtually no plants producing new flowers, apart from the Corn Marigold, which was observed on the Guildford Bypass, and was probably later than usual due to the seeds being exposed to the recent landscape work to the new roadway. September through to November are the months when the flowers produce seed, and of course in December and early January most plants are dormant.

Apart from the occasional excursion elsewhere, the survey was confined primarily to hedgerows, open field footpaths and stream banks, and therefore will not include species which prefer woodlands, chalk downland, clay soil and bogland habitats. In spite of this, a surprising variety of wild flowers was observed and photographed in areas which, initially, looked rather unpromising.

A small library of colour slides has been compiled of the wild flowers in this survey, and is available for reference and identification purposes.

It is hoped that further programmes of observations will be carried out in other parts of Sand and Ripley.

In the next Newsletter we hope to comment on the comparison between the wild flowers collected by Dorothy Challen in July/August 1925 and the survey carried out in 1981/82.

K. H. Bourne

ILLUSTRATED TALK BY MARY ALEXANDER
MUSEUM ASSISTANT OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM
ON THE DOMINICAN FRIARY SITE AT GUILDFORD - 18 MARCH

The Friary is situated where the present Friary Shopping Centre is, just outside the medieval town boundary. Friars preferred to build their houses in towns, but presumably in Guildford there was no room for them, so they built it just outside on an area of land between Woodbridge Road and the river.

We are not quite certain when the Friary was founded, but we think it must have been at the end of 1274 or the beginning of 1275. At the end of 1274, in October, the King, Edward I's, son died in the Castle. He was aged 7 years and had been ill for a long time, and during his illness the household

records mention all sorts of things that were done to try and bring him back to health. There is, however, no mention of Friars praying for him and we think that if the Friary had been there, the Friars would almost certainly have been asked to say Masses for him. Friars were very popular at this time, and it was believed that their prayers were very effective. In March 1275 we know they were given a road to enlarge their area, so we have settled on the date of 1275 as its foundation. The Friary was founded by the widow of Henry III, the mother of Edward I and grandmother of the little boy who died. She normally founded Franciscan Friaries, but in this case we think she founded the Dominican one because her daughter-in-law, the boy's mother, Eleanor of Castille, preferred the Dominicans.

As there is sometimes a little confusion about Friaries and Monks, may I explain that Monks renounce the world and live in Monasteries, usually in the country, far away from habitation, spending their lives praying and meditating. The Friars, on the other hand, aim to preach, and teach people, so they settle near centres of habitation. The buildings are similar to those of a Monastery with a church on one side and domestic buildings round a central cloister.

not

The Dominicans were/the first to occupy this site as excavations uncovered the remains of fairly substantial, but unfinished, earlier buildings. These may be connected with the short-lived order of friars called the Friars de Ordine Martyrum who were given permission to build a house in Guildford in 1260.

The Friars didn't eat meat, but were allowed to eat it if they were out on a preaching tour, and it would be inconvenient to their host for them to decline. Their normal diet consisted of pottage, (a kind of soup), with vegetables and bread, and in England they drank beer and wine. They were originally supposed to beg each day for the food they needed just for that day. In fact it soon became clear that this was rather inconvenient, so later they were allowed to beg or be given as much food as they needed for a year. The Franciscans, who were founded shortly after the Dominicans, were much more strict about poverty. The Dominicans saw poverty as a means to an end; their primary aim was to teach, and if poverty helped in teaching then that was fine. They had two meals a day in summer, but one meal a day in Lent, which lasted from the Feast of Holy Cross in September until Easter, so it was virtually half the year. Novices were allowed two meals a day throughout the year. The meals were served in the Refectory above the kitchen and were taken in silence as in monasteries, with one of the friars reading to the others while they ate. They were served by Lay Brothers who joined the Order to do manual work. The Franciscans thought that manual work was very important to their way of life, but the Dominicans thought that studying and preaching were far more important and so used Lay Brothers to carry out the manual work whilst they went out preaching.

Although several Services were said each day, unlike Monks, they did not have to attend every Service if they were away preaching or doing other important work. However, at the end of the day the one Service they could not miss was Compline.

The excavations revealed the foundations of the choir stalls and the night stair and also a little chantry chapel alongside the chancel. It is thought that this is a memorial to the Prince who died in Guildford. He was buried in Westminster, but his heart was kept in the Friary. Among the foundations of the choir stalls were discovered several items which no doubt were dropped by the Friars during the Services. A mass of things was found, small things like the ends of belts and decorations from books, pins, etc. A small piece of the buttress to the little chantry chapel gave a clue

to the type of construction that was employed on the Friary. It shows that the walls would have been constructed from chalk blocks in the corners and infilling of flint. The roof was tiled with red clay tiles. Many tiles were found when excavating.

St Dominic, the founder in 1216, was very keen on everything being as plain and simple as possible and the buildings were originally limited in height to 30 feet. As the Friars became more popular and more people attended the Services, they had to build bigger buildings, and it was found that furnishing the interior was important, as paintings or images could be used for teaching.

People thought very highly of friars because of their lack of concern for worldly goods and wanted to be buried in Friary Churches when they died, as they thought the friars' prayers would assist them to get to Heaven quickly. So there was much competition to be buried there and this led to a lot of ill feeling with the parish churches who had, until then, the sole rights to bury people, which involved a fee. In fact the Dominicans were not supposed to bury lay people, but it is quite clear that in spite of regulations forbidding this, that burials went on and in Guildford the nave was crammed with graves.

The floor of the cloister and the church were tiled with decorated and glazed tiles arranged in intricate designs.

Quite a number of the burials were excavated, in fact altogether there were the bones of about 112 individuals, not all complete skeletons. To the South of the church there was a churchyard and several burials were found in it. They were not in good condition as the area had become a garden in the 17th century and had been levelled, disturbing many of the skeletons. All were arranged lying on their backs with hands crossed and resting on their stomachs. The only evidence of coffins was a series of nails, the wooden coffins having long since disappeared.

One brick tomb was found, with the body lying to one side. This was probably one of the table tombs within the church. We believe that this tomb was opened up after the Dissolution to remove a lead coffin and in the process the bones were thrown outside. There was some evidence that other lead coffins had been similarly disturbed. A stone tomb was discovered containing a lead coffin. Originally we think there would have been a tombstone on top of it, or perhaps a brass. The bones from this coffin were of a girl aged between 18 and 22. There were just a few fragments of baby bones with her and also some indication of diseased bones in the pelvic area, so we suspect she died either while she was pregnant or in childbirth. Her name was scratched on the lid of the coffin: this was discovered later when it was being preserved in Portsmouth. Her name is Margaret Daubeney. The lettering on the coffin is thought to date around 1450, but we do not yet know precisely who she was.

In one grave in the churchyard five skeletons, all buried at the same time, were uncovered. We thought possibly they might have died during a plague; perhaps there were so many deaths that there wasn't time or the manpower to dig five separate graves. In this case there was no trace of disease left in the bones and the only thing different about them, apart from the fact that they were buried together, was that their bones were all rather more slender than others buried in the Friary. In the church there seemed to be two groupings, two areas in which the skeletons had similar characteristics. These may have been family groupings.

Christians obviously do not go in for grave goods, but some small articles were found with the skeletons. In one grave was found a small

brooch or buckle and in another a ring which was found on the finger of a youngish child. Often priests in the Middle Ages were buried with the Communion chalice and paten, but none were found on this site.

The Friary was dissolved in 1538. By that time there were only seven friars left, the Prior and six Friars. It was never a very large Friary, the most they ever had was 24, and in fact 12 was originally the number, but in the 16th century things had got rather slack. People then seemed to have lost interest in the religious life generally and there was very little fuss in the South of England anyway, when the monasteries were dissolved. We have no record of any protest in Guildford about the Friary going. Because they owned no property the Friars had no pensions, unlike the Monks. We do not know what happened to any of the Guildford Friars. They may have been involved in teaching boys in the town and some may have continued to do so. The Royal Grammar School was founded in the early 16th century and the Friars were involved with it.

After the Dissolution the Friary stood empty for about 100 years. It seems to have been robbed during that time by people using the stone for building. In 1605 the King ordered an inquiry into it and a local jury said that it was almost all in ruins. The next year Sir George Austen leased it to Sir George Moore who might have built a house there. Certainly another mansion house was built in about 1630 by the Earl of Annandale. This was a typical 17th century mansion house in chalk, with wings on either side, using some of the foundations of the Friary. It was called Friary Mansion and was in private hands until the end of the 18th century when it became used as a barracks, forming the Officers' Mess. There were wooden barrack buildings built in the grounds. It was pulled down in 1818 when no longer needed. Since then a variety of buildings appeared on the site, the most notable being the Friary Brewery of course. Eventually in 1973 or 1974 the brewery was demolished and now the name survives in the new Friary Shopping Centre.

Notes recorded by K. H. B.

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP REPORT

A meeting of the Natural History Group was held on 23rd March 1982 at the home of Derek & Jull Bromley, when about 18 people welcomed Judy Medhurst who is a Committee member of the Hants & Isle of Wight Trust for Nature Conservation.

Her subject was principally the wild flowers of The Burren, an area of special interest botanically and geologically, occupying some 200 square miles overlooking Galway Bay to the Aran Islands and the Mountains of Connemara. The area was thickly populated in prehistoric times, and Judy's slides showed some of the remains of stone forts, dolmens and early monastic settlements. Her flower slides showed a wide variety of plants which grow in the area - plants which are rare in Britain including some orchids, saxifrages and other alpines. The strong prevailing westerly winds have caused some plants to become low growing and compact, particularly well illustrated by a yellow burnet rose, flowering freely in a shallow "gryke" (or cleft in the limestone) and about 8 inches tall as opposed to its usual 3-4 feet. These grykes can be anything from a few inches to several feet deep, and are a feature of the limestone plateau of The Burren. Erosion by water over the centuries has caused a system of underground lakes, and streams which can disappear into potholes or swallow holes.

Finally, Judy Medhurst showed some slides of flowers to be found in her own area around Selborne.

Ken Bourne expressed the thanks of the Group for a very interesting talk and excellent slides. He asked for suggestions for future field and indoor meetings. Judy Medhurst offered to lead a walk for the Group and this offer was enthusiastically accepted.

After thanks to Derek & Jill Bromley for their hospitality, the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

Miriam Truphet

MANOR COURT AT STOCKBRIDGE - 25th MARCH 1982

The recent visit to the Manor Court at Stockbridge has necessitated some notes on the Manor and this small, ancient borough. The writer would refer members to two distinguished articles by the present Lord of the Manor, Professor Rosalind Hill, in the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society Volumes 32 (1976) and 33 (1977), and he realises that it would be presumptuous of any commentator to attempt a precis of these papers.

Stockbridge, or Sumborne Alba, in Somborne Hundred, is a pre-Norman settlement built on an artificial causeway or platform of chalk across the flood plain of the River Test; constructed in Saxon times and quarried from the deep scar on the Eastern scarp above the Old Church. This chalk causeway was broad enough to carry the existing wide street used for markets and the ancient fairs and is flanked by houses on each side. A surprise awaits the historian when he realises the causeway does not extend farther than the curtilages of the houses, and that beyond are the grazing marshes of the Manor.

The Domesday entry of 1086 proves the Manor to have been highly developed by that date, mentioning in addition to the usual details, "nine houses of burgesses who pay twelve shillings and two pence". (Burgesses enjoyed special privileges in the small community of the Manor, being excused many services in return for money rents on their burgage plots, and also being allowed to trade with certain freedoms.)

It is understandable that this manor should have been a Royal possession during most of its existence (John of Gaunt had a huge deer park here, until in 1824 the Duchy of Lancaster sold to Joseph Barham, M.P. for the borough, which, however, was to be extinguished in 1832 with the passing of the Reform Bill. Barham had bought to gain electoral advantage over his political rival, Lord Grosvenor, but had died in 1832 whence the manor passed from a succession of inconspicuous owners to Hicks Lancashire who purchased about 1890. He was quickly at odds with the inhabitants of Stockbridge who in 1893 were successful in the House of Lords in litigation to preserve their rights. This action so impoverished Lancashire that he pawned the manor and courts ceased to be held. The mace, seal and hayward's staff were providently saved by the Steward and hidden till better times. The Crier's bell has recently been retrieved from an antiques shop in Surrey and was used during our visit, but less happily the ducking stool is now in the possession of a Hampshire lady who refuses to allow it to be repurchased on behalf of the manor. When last heard of, it stood in her drawing room, rendered somewhat more comfortable by a cushion covered in chintz.

From these 30 years of vicissitudes the Manor was redeemed in 1920 by Sir Norman Hill, a Liverpool solicitor with a great interest in local history who had retired to Stockbridge. With his death in 1944 the Manor passed to his son, Gray, who was killed on active service a few weeks later. Since he was unmarried the Manor descended to his sister Rosalind, who became the

ninth woman since 1232 to hold the Manor. (Four of these nine ladies were Queens Regnant of England, holding the title of Duke of Lancaster.)

And thus it happened that at Lady Day, 1982, members of our Society were graciously welcomed by the present Lord of the Manor, Professor Rosalind Hill, to be present at the enactment of a piece of English historical procedure which has continued uninterrupted, except for the period 1890-1920, for almost a thousand years.

J. Oliver

THE COURTS BARON AND LEET OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKBRIDGE

"Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! All manner of Persons that do owe Suit and Service to these Courts draw near and give your attendance, and answer every man to his name at the first call, and save your Fines. God save the Queen and the Lords of all Manors!"

On Friday the 26th March a group of members were privileged to witness in the ancient Town Hall of Stockbridge an annual ceremony which has been performed virtually unchanged since the time of the Norman Conquest. Watching and listening to the proceedings enabled one to visualise the scene which took place annually, possibly on the first floor of the crosswing at Send Court, in the Manor of Send & Ripley over a period of at least 400 years as recorded in the Rolls (of which there remains a virtually unbroken run from 1533 and which the Society is having transcribed). Members will recall from Newsletters 35, 36 and 38 that our courts were concerned with matters relating to copyhold property within the Manor and the conduct of the Lord's tenants. The courts in Stockbridge are concerned with the duties and rights of the burgesses over two pieces of land - the Down and the Marsh. The proprietor is now the National Trust, but what happens there is still very much within the jurisdiction of the court. Professor Rosalind Hill, Lady of the Manor, presided, but the procedure was controlled by the Steward, Mr G. H. Davies, a solicitor, from Andover. The Bailiff called the court to order with the proclamation recited above. The Lady announced "Burgesses of the Borough and tenants of the Manor of Stockbridge, I have caused these courts to be summoned in accordance with the customs of the Manor", and invited the jury after it was duly sworn to determine the rates to be charged for grazing, to elect the officers, to determine the date of the opening of the Marsh, and to "consider any other matter you wish to bring to the notice of the courts". The shooting of rabbits, pasturing of sheep, and walking of dogs on the pasture were other matters to be discussed, although it is doubtful whether the last is a right of any antiquity in a rural area.

Whilst the jury was out it was possible to examine the insignia of office. The mace is a fine piece of silverware bearing the name of Charles II and the date 1681, apparently given originally as a Parliamentary bribe. The seal is of about the same date on a half of 14th century steel and capable of being used as a "blunt instrument". The 6' wooden hayward's staff with highly decorative paintwork bears the dates 1676 and 1786, and was used originally for directing cattle. The bell, retrieved in the recent past from an antiques shop, is inscribed "Borough of Stockbridge. C. Fishop. Bailleff (sic). 1786."

On the return of the jury, the foreman, using a form of language appropriate to the occasion born of long years of practice, announced the opening and closing dates, a charge of £15 per head for depasturing of animals except for pigs and geese which are barred as being not commonable. There is a fine of £1 per day for staying beyond the closing date. It has been a perennial problem as to what to do about "they old moles". The Bailiff, Sergeant at Mace, and Hayward were nominated and subsequently sworn in, being charged with the custody of the seal, the mace and the staff

respectively.

The formal business concluded by the Bailiff thus: "Oyez! Oyez! oyez! I now declare the Courts Baron and Leet duly closed. God bless the Queen and Lords of all Manors."

John Slatford and Les Bowerman

SEND & RIPLEY AND THE ONSLOW FAMILY

The Falkland Islands Crisis has indirectly reminded us of the Onslow family and connections with the parish which commenced early in the 18th century and have continued until the present day. Mention of this family calls to mind the name of Sir Arthur Onslow (1691-1768), the dignified and blameless Speaker of the House of Commons for 33 years during the Augustan age of British history; the great period of expansion of the Empire, the galloping progress in the Arts, Architecture, Literature and Music. Sir Arthur, apart from being the best known of the three Onslow Speakers of the Commons, is not alone in public service. Numerous cadet members of the family have been prominent in their service to this country in many forms, as the mural memorials in Send Church testify. This is by reason of their long association and residence at Send Grove and their landed interest at Fell Hill, Send Barns, Dedswell, Tithe Barns, Papercourt and Broadmead.

Wherever Britain was active the Onslows were to be found; in colonial government and administration, in the colonial judiciary, as well as with the Navy and the Army. So it is with interest we are reminded that a lieutenant J. J. Onslow R.N. led the contingent which landed on the Falklands in 1830 to reaffirm the British claim to the islands first raised in 1770. Coming to the present time the recent resignation of the Foreign Secretary and his two Parliamentary assistants have led to the appointment of Cranley Onslow, M.P. for Woking, as Parliamentary Undersecretary Foreign Office in place of Sir Richard Luce (a member of the distinguished West of England cloth manufacturers at Westbury, Wilts), and this, together with the part taken by the present Earl in debate in the House of Lords, shows the Onslow family still to be active in the affairs of the country.

J. Oliver

Mr FRED OLIVER

The sudden death of Fred Oliver, the President's brother, occurred on 6th April 1982 in Wales.

Fred came to Send Court in 1933 and with his family helped to renovate and modernise the farm. As well as a farmer Fred was an engineer and among his achievements was the building of a graindrier at Cricket Hill Farm. He also enjoyed taking part in the Send May Day celebrations.

He joined the R.A.F. at the outbreak of the War and became a Pilot Instructor; one of his escapades was to fly under the Bristol Suspension Bridge.

About ten years ago Fred bought a farm in Wales and realised an ambition to raise a herd of Pedigree Friesians. He found the Welsh people very friendly and enjoyed the slower pace of life. As a friend of many years he will be sadly missed.

J. A. Richardson

VISIT TO MARSHCOURT - 26/3/82

As a sequel to the visit to the Lutyens Exhibition at the Hayward Gallery in January, interested members were able to visit Marshcourt as part of an evening outing to Stockbridge. The Buildings Group were also due to visit several Lutyens houses in Surrey on 18/4/82, so this was an excellent opportunity to have a glimpse at the work of the genius before the "Surrey tour".

Marshcourt was built between 1901 and 1904 for Mr Herbert Johnson, sportsman and man about town. It is one of Sir Edwin's most spectacular houses and shows the versatility of his design. It was built to reflect the extrovert nature of his friend and client and has been described as a "Tudor extravaganza in chalk". The skilful use of the local white chalk, which was especially quarried nearby, is blended with knapped flint, red brick and tiles to give a most pleasing effect.

In plan it is H shaped and is approached from the North through a rectangular forecourt. A gabled porch is embraced by deep wings and presents a symmetrical facade. It is not until the house is viewed from the South that the extravaganza is really seen. Sir Edwin has run riot with a Tudor facade in chalk surmounted by a most elegant and delicate brick chimney, reminiscent of Hampton Court Palace. The building complements the spectacular site on which it is built, overlooking the valley of the River Test.

We were most fortunate in being allowed to view the inside of the house where amongst many notable features is the billiard table, which has been carved from the bed-rock chalk.

Marshcourt is now a boarding school and we thank the Headmaster and his wife for kindly allowing us to look round inside.

Patricia Medlen

BUILDINGS GROUP TOUR OF LUTYENS BUILDINGS IN SURREY - 18/4/82

Surrey is the birthplace of Sir Edwin Lutyens and where he first began to develop his architectural skills under the careful eye of Gertrude Jekyll, the famous gardener. Miss Jekyll was able to introduce him to her circle of friends and the influential people in the county. The story of their successful relationship and the wonderful buildings and gardens which resulted from this are a fascinating story in themselves and many books have been written about them.

Edwin Landseer Lutyens was born in Thursley in 1869 at "The Cottage", Thursley and this was where we began our pilgrimage. Thursley is a delightful village and Lutyens has done work there. From the churchyard we had an excellent view of "The Cottage" where the Lutyens family of 14 children spent their happy childhood. In the churchyard are the graves of his mother and father and also a nephew, Derek, killed in the First World War.

Early work by Lutyens in Thursley includes "The Corner", a row of cottages which he redesigned to form one house in 1888/90, when he was only 19 years old. Also "Prospect Cottage" which was built as a village institute in 1900. Thursley contains many other timber-framed buildings and mention should be made of the Church of St Michael which contains a massive oak belfry. It also has two Saxon windows with their original timber window boards which were discovered in 1927.

Tigbourne Court near Witley is said by Pevsner to be Lutyens' gayest and most elegant building, a representative example of Sir Edwin's Surrey vernacular style combined with a classical portico. It was built of Bargate stone, red brick and tile in 1899 for Sir Edgar Horne when Lutyens was only 30.

At Busbridge we inspected the Jekyll family tombs and War Memorial at the Church of St John. Inside the church is a fine wrought iron screen designed by Lutyens.

We then visited Munstead Wood. This is the house built by Lutyens for Gertrude Jekyll in 1896 and is where he really established his reputation, together with Gertrude Jekyll's wonderful gardening talents which were to play a large part in his future success. We were able to go inside and inspect the house by courtesy of the owners, Sir R. A. and Lady Clark. We were shown many of the special features of the house including examples of Gertrude Jekyll's marquetry and the marvellous oak gallery. The house is truly delightful, built of Bargate stone, it seems to grow out of its surroundings, a characteristic of Lutyens' skill in blending the building into the scene so that the house appears to have been there for hundreds of years. Orchards, built from 1897-1900 was the next house we visited and we were shown around the outside by kind permission of Mrs Champ. This house is one of Sir Edwin's very best houses and has a garden of walls, hedges, steps and flowers, one of the best made by Lutyens and Jekyll. Hopefully the house and garden will be fully restored.

Our last visit was to Milmead House, Bramley, built between 1904 and 1907 for Gertrude Jekyll as a building speculation. It is small, L shaped and is screened from the road by a high garden wall. The main part of the house, overlooking the garden at the rear, is almost classical. Traces of the Jekyll garden still exist, but the owners, Mr & Mrs Townes, made us aware of some of the problems. In the words of an old gardener, "She may have designed the garden, but she never pushed a wheelbarrow."

Tony Medlen

"THE MARY ROSE"

Notes Taken at an Illustrated Talk Given by

Lt. Cdr. R. C. Whitehead on 15th April

Three days after HMS Invincible left Portsmouth Harbour on her way to deal with the current problem in the South Atlantic, some 110 members and visitors heard Lt. Cdr. R. C. Whitehead, Surrey Area Lecture Co-Ordinator for the Mary Rose Trust, speak about an earlier ship which had been the pride of Henry VIII's Navy and which had likewise left Portsmouth "in the pursuit of diplomacy by other means" as "The Times" puts it. The Mary Rose was Henry's favourite. It was his No. 2 flagship, 150 feet long and of 600 tons capacity, built between 1509, when he came to the throne, and 1511. It was a clinker built carrack and as such could only sail downwind, as opposed to the later galleys which could be rowed into the wind. Originally it had only one deck. Soldiers, some armed with guns, would have been accommodated in the castle. In 1536 it was rebuilt in Portsmouth. Another deck was put in to take more soldiers with guns. The lower gunholes were only 18 inches above the water line. There were breech loading wrought iron guns made of longitudinal staves held together with bands, and bronze guns, possibly cast in Italy, although Henry developed a foundry in London.

In 1545 relations between the English and French were strained, and an attack by the French was expected. Sixty ships had gathered in Portsmouth, but the French came with 200 and landed on the Isle of Wight. Southsea Castle had been equipped with new guns, and Henry stood there as his ships engaged the French. A shot was fired and it is believed that the soldiery on the Mary Rose moved towards one side, causing the vessel to sink as water poured into the opened gunholes. A contemporary print at Cowdray House depicts the scene.

Within a year Venetian salvage experts removed the masts and rigging. Three hundred years later, in the 1830's, some guns were raised by divers. Then Alexander McKee obtained access to the Cowdray print, did a great deal of research and eventually found timber and a ship-shaped wreck. Since the talk, two "Chronicle" programmes on television have detailed the underwater excavations, the work of the Mary Rose Trust, and the plans for raising the wreck later this year, its preservation and eventual display. Among the specific finds which were illustrated in the talk were gold Angels which were one third of the value of a sovereign and represented a day's pay for an admiral or a month's pay for a sailor, a complete leather shoe and wooden bowls. Two hundred of the 400 soldiers aboard were longbowmen and scores of longbows have been found, whereas none have ever been found elsewhere. They required a pull of 100 lbs. The skeletons show that the average height was much as now, but the bowmen had developed chests of 48 inches after being trained from the age of 8 years. Only one other arrow of the period is known to exist elsewhere, but thousands have been found here in their ammunition boxes in bundles of 24 - the right number for a quiver. Other finds are a shaun, the predecessor of the oboe, a slate protractor, a pocket sundial, various shot, rigging blocks, the surgeon's chest containing his equipment including jars of ointment with thumb prints still showing. The oldest recorded seaborne gun on its trolley has been raised.

The wreck, which was the first wooden-walled ship to fire a broadside, is to be docked initially near the "Victory". There are already five galleries of Mary Rose exhibits in the old Southsea Castle.

Margaret Rule was curator of the Romano-British Fishbourne Palace. She joined the Mary Rose project and learned to dive at the age of 43. She was appointed a Director of the Trust and has been Archaeological Director ever since. As such she has been responsible for the whole programme of underwater recording by sunken grid, recovery of finds and their preservation. The Prince of Wales is President of the Trust and has from time to time dived the 40 feet to the seabed. A great deal of money is required to complete the project. A sum of £69 was raised by those attending the talk.

L. G. B.

FOR SALE

Good quality cine-film and slide projection screen - "The Half a Moment" special linen screen by E. G. Turner of London. Condition as new. Boxed with pull-up and push-down frame. 48" wide by 40" high. £25 (at least £100 new). Mrs Jacob - Guildford 223009.

MARCH/APRIL BIRD REPORT

Summer migrants returning to England were hampered by North winds, and clear night skies meant that many birds coming in went straight to their breeding areas.

On 13th March winter visitors were still in evidence at Papercourt - 300 black-headed gull, 8 lesser and 1 greater black backed gull, 9 goosander females and 2 shoveler. On the 27th there were still no migrants showing, the shoveler were still present with 2 goosander and a female sparrowhawk. Ripley Sewage Farm held 2 green sandpipers and a pair of mandarin duck. The following day a little ringed plover passed through, and in the evening of the 31st a dunlin in winter plumage also passed through.

On 9th April 4 sand martins were present, also another little ringed plover and a pair of shoveler. On the 24th a ringed plover was present and a summer-plumaged dunlin. The following day a lesser whitethroat was singing in a hedge in Papercourt lane and a cuckoo called somewhere: blackcaps sang by the Tannery and there were 2 redshank, a common and a green sandpiper and 2 little ringed plover, also heron and whitethroat.

Over the Bank Holiday weekend I went to Norfolk where there were few summer visitors - the consensus of opinion was that they had either gone straight over South England or they were still South of the Channel. However, we did see stone curlews, crossbill, fire crest, turtle dove, golden pheasant, tree pipit, wheatear and seven species of warbler.

D. Nurney

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday, 20th May ... Evening walk around Ripley, architecturally one of the most interesting villages in the county, with its wide range of vernacular buildings. Meet in the car park at the Old School at 7 p.m.
- Sunday, 6th June ... All day visit to the historic Meon Valley. Please see John Slatford's note on page one for details.
- Thursday, 17th June ... Evening visit to the 14th century St Catherine's Chapel, Artington, Guildford. Meet at 7 p.m. at Send Marsh Green, or at 7.20 p.m. at the Ship Inn near the chapel.
- Friday/Sunday, 10th/12th September ... Flower Festival at St Mary the Virgin, Send, on the theme of the history of the Church.
- Thursday, 23rd September.... Open meeting at the Church Room, Send Road, when Mrs Daphne Grimm will speak on aspects of "The Inside of a Victorian Cottage", including cottage industries with exhibits.
- Thursday, 21st October ... Open meeting at the Church Room, when Ken Dawson will give an illustrated talk on "Wild Flowers along the Local Waterways".
- Thursday, 18th November ... Open meeting, when Bob Claydon will give the second half of his illustrated talk on "Farming Through the Ages".

CLOSING DATE for the submission of material for the next issue of the Newsletter will be Monday, 5th July.