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"WORK IN THE HOUSE"

Reminiscences of Miss May Baigent and Miss Winnie Blakeman

From a very early age Miss Baigent, like many other Send and Ripley girls, was quite used to helping in the house. She and her sister had jobs to do to earn their pocket money, such as doing the washing up, rolling spills from newspapers to keep in the jug by the hearth, planting potatoes against the marked stick, helping make the pudding in the big iron pot on "Stir up Sunday", cutting up newspapers and stringing them for use in the privy. They had two flat irons always on the bricks at the side of the range, and how she hated the scratchy sleeves of her dresses, which she learnt to starch.

May's first job (see Newsletter No 62) was as third housemaid at Sendhurst Grange where there was a staff of over 15, all with their own jobs and own uniform. Her uniform was a pale blue dress which was down to her ankles, and a white cap and apron with a crossover bib and linen buttons. This was changed daily and sent off to the laundry in a big wicker basket. The Head Housemaid wore black, the Head Parlourmaid wore blue with starched white cuffs, and the scullery maid was dressed in purple.

Her first job in the morning at 6 am was to take cook her tea. She dare not be late, nor slop any in the saucer. She was terrified of this formidable person in her white flannel night dress and mob cap. Cook never came out of her kitchen, and even the mistress went into her daily.

Her next job was to clean the downstairs rooms. The Oak Room, with its panelling and minstrels' gallery, had to be polished, the fires cleaned out and black-leaded before the handy man brought in the logs, and the carpets turned back and swept underneath.

After the 9 am breakfast, she cleaned out her own attic room, which she shared with the scullery maid, then washed all the dusters, trying to remove all trace of the Zebra blacking. Sometimes a group of them would clean the brass, but the silver was always done by the butler.

The meals were in the servants' hall, and they always had too much. She had never seen so much meat (she hated it when they were given pheasant). They all had their own place and hers was at the bottom of the table.

One of the nicest jobs was to take old nanny her tea at 3 pm, as she had a fund of good stories, but it was the second housemaid who did nanny's bedroom. She never saw the main bedrooms, and it was the butler and the parlourmaid who saw the visitors and waited at table. In fact she seldom saw the mistress of the house, though Mr Wilkinson occasionally read the staff morning prayers, instead of the parlourmaid, and he always had a few kind words with them when they went up for their monthly wages (£3 a month and a tablet of soap).

When the war came, Miss Baigent went into the Women's Royal Air Force as batwoman until she was old enough to train as a nurse or "technician". Once again she took round tea, but this time it was in buckets. She was in a quandary when Queen Mary came on a visit, but she finally managed to borrow a teapot from the Officers' Mess.

Miss Winnie Blakeman, like Miss Baigent, had an early training in housework. She and her sister used to work for Mrs Allenby, in her house behind the chemists shop, before school, in the lunch hour, after school, and all day Saturday, in return for which they had most of their meals there and five shillings a week

pocket money. Not surprisingly they were often late for school; what was surprising was that one year Miss Blakeman had the highest marks and won a book prize, "Little Women" (by Louisa M Alcott).

Her first job on leaving school, was, like that of Miss Baigent, in a large household - in Ripley Court School. Although there was companionship, she said she felt lost there, and was glad to come home for her afternoon off. In 1929 she became cook general for Lady Bray at Ockham, quite a nerve-wracking experience for someone aged 18. The fluctuation of temperature of a range made cake making difficult, and when she spoilt a batch she had to make another. She remembers bursting into tears the first time her souffle sank. As Lady Bray liked her food crisp and brown and her husband liked it almost raw, she had problems grilling over the open range. Often in the morning she would be presented with a cutting from the newspaper with a new recipe to try out. The evening meal always consisted of soup, meat, fish, sweet and savoury courses, even when there were no visitors.

In 1934, now very experienced, she became cook-general to a household in Chilworth, a journey full of hills, she found, when she cycled home for her day off, and she was glad to be back in Ripley to work first for Mrs Macintyre at Elm Tree House, then with Mrs Methold opposite the Jovial Sailor.

In 1940, Miss Blakeman became housekeeper to the Reverend Morgan Evan Thomas, the Vicar of Ripley, whom she was with for the next 25 years. In addition to the normal duties of a housekeeper, such as the household accounts, the shopping and the cooking, this position held many more responsibilities. The vicarage was a very busy place, the Vicar was a bachelor, and it was wartime, so that little additional help was available.

Living in the house for nine years until she died was the old housekeeper, who gave her what help she could.

Miss Blakeman found herself involved in most of the vicarage functions. The Sewing Guild meetings were held once a week, and the chairs had to be brought over across the busy Portsmouth Road from the Church Hall. The Mothers' Union meeting was held in the drawing room, of which she was an associate member, and she had to get the room ready and give them tea.

The house was always full of people, and when Ripley Court became a maternity hospital, four of the six students were housed in the vicarage, so that telephone calls from the hospital had to be answered day and night.

Frequently she acted as caretaker to the church hall, getting out the chairs for the evening meetings, lighting the boiler, and tidying and cleaning up afterwards. If necessary she acted as temporary church cleaner and has often scrubbed the porch and the steps. She also delivered the parish magazines.

In 1953 when the Vicar retired to a house outside Guildford, Miss Blakeman continued to look after him. Here, too, Mr Cartwright, Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council from 1929 to 1960, made his home after he was widowed, and she continued looking after the two of them until their deaths.

Despite all the hard work, Miss Blakeman remembers it all with pleasure. For her it became home.

Recorded by Jane Bartlett

MISS BUSH'S SWEET SHOP, HIGH STREET, RIPLEY

Many members will know that Miss Bush's has recently been acquired by the former owners daughter, Margaret, and her husband, Graham Field.

During the extensive refurbishing which they are still undertaking, they invited the Society to look over the house and establish something of its history. John and Bette Slatford and John Bartlett took advantage of the invitation with the expectation that some of the gaps in the history of this part of Ripley might be filled. Although the house has a typical mid 18th century brick frontage, it had previously been believed that this concealed an earlier timber-framed building. Its neighbour, "The Ship", was shown to be just this following a survey carried out in 1983 (see Newsletter No 51). The front of Miss Bush's shop carries a dated brick marked "J V 1763", half behind the upper sign. This certainly confirmed the date of the brickwork and it is known that a James Vincent owned the Ship, died in Ripley in 1767 and was buried in Pyrford.

It is also known that the sweet shop, as it now is, was once closely associated with the Ship. This was confirmed by the discovery of a fireplace in the passage of the latter that is now incorporated into the bar area. The large chimney to this fireplace is in fact situated entirely within the sweet shop.

Preliminary examination of the house failed to reveal any evidence of timber framing and it was therefore concluded that the front is part of an original brick house and that the 1763 date must be genuine. Contrary to the belief that a gap originally existed between the Ship and the sweet shop, it was immediately apparent that the latter was built onto the Ship and that the dividing wall is to a large extent the original timber framing of the present pub.

Closer study reveals a situation not uncommon with houses of this general period fronting onto a main street. Although this was, perhaps, not a house of particular note, the builder took the trouble to fit good quality windows and front door to present a smart appearance.

Inside the house the story is very different. The joists supporting the upper floor were, and still are, perfectly adequate for the duty. However they were to be concealed by the ground floor ceiling and never expected to be seen; the builder used cheap hardwood of every shape imaginable. Go into the shop now and one can see where the new owners have exposed all of these joists. They present an intriguing view and one has to wonder how on earth the carpenter got them to lie flat in the first place!

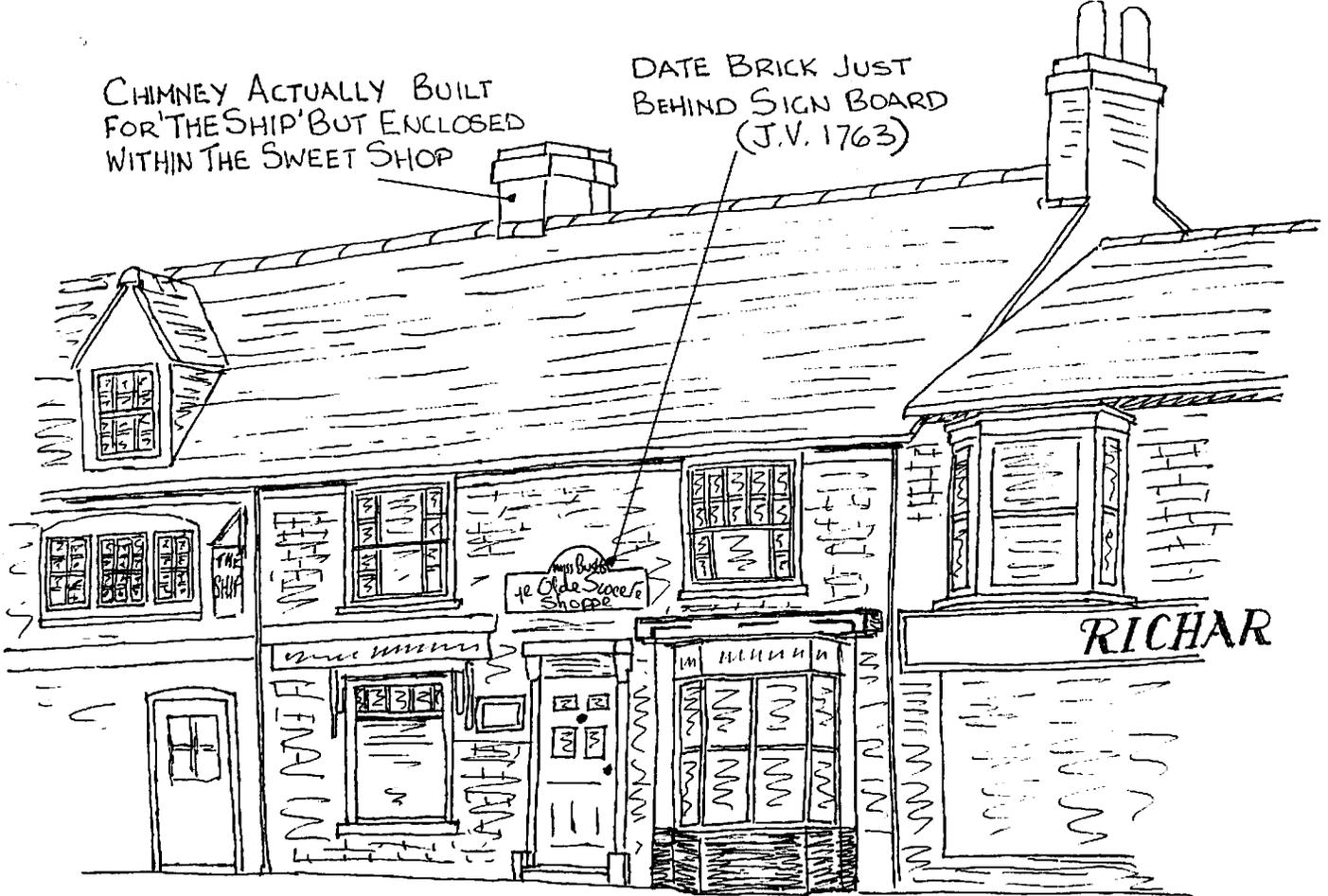
The roof construction tells a similar story and reflects considerable skill by the carpenter in assembling so many odd pieces of timber in a coherent form. It is very much a transitional roof, combining softwood of uniform scantling in the principal rafters with rough-cut hardwood for the purlins and intermediate rafters.

There are two full bays with not-in-line butted side purlins. All of the intermediate rafters are morticed into the purlins and lapped and pegged at the apex. Adjacent to the Ship there is also a narrow bay enclosing the aforementioned large chimney. The roof of the rear Victorian extension is all softwood with a ridgeboard.

Alterations to the ground floor area of the shop have revealed inserted fireplaces across the righthand (West) end and in the rear corner of the lefthand (East) end. These have now been made features of the shop. Also discovered were the footings of an earlier wall running from front to back and adjacent to the chimney of the Ship.

CHIMNEY ACTUALLY BUILT FOR 'THE SHIP' BUT ENCLOSED WITHIN THE SWEET SHOP

DATE BRICK JUST BEHIND SIGN BOARD (J.V. 1763)



ORIGINAL TIMBER FRAMED ENDWALL OF 'THE SHIP'

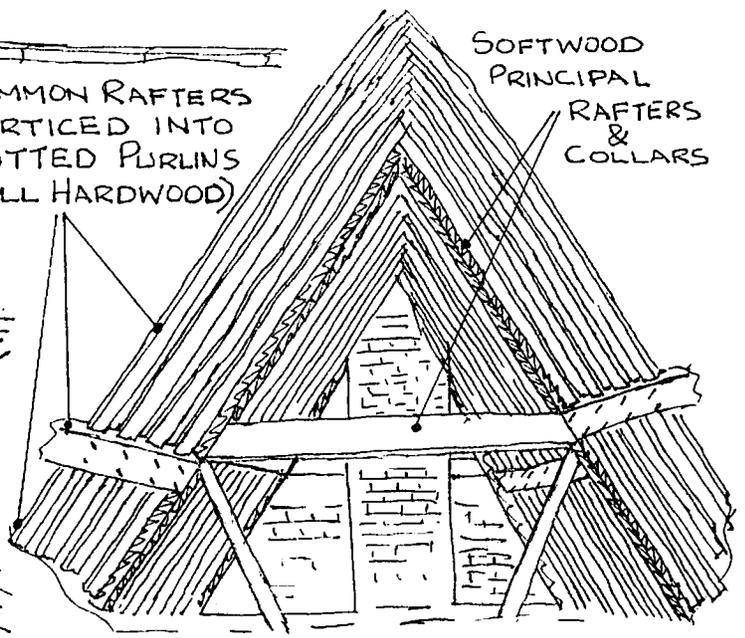
INSERTED CORNER FIRE PLACE REVEALED DURING ALTERATIONS

COMMON RAFTERS MORTICED INTO BUTTED PURLINS (ALL HARDWOOD)

SOFTWOOD PRINCIPAL RAFTERS & COLLARS

OUTSIDE OF CHIMNEY BELONGING TO 'THE SHIP'

ALL JOISTS MADE FROM ROUGH CUT TIMBER



VIEW LOOKING ALONG ROOF TOWARDS RICHARDSONS.

CORNER OF THE SWEET SHOP ADJOINING 'THE SHIP' AS IT APPEARED DURING THE ALTERATIONS IN MAY 1985.

MISS BUSH'S YE OLDE SWEETE SHOPPE.
HIGH STREET. RIPLEY.

JOHN SLATFORD
JULY 1985.

Within the plan of the original house (27' long by 14' in depth), there is no evidence of a stairway (the present staircase, a relatively recent addition, is in part of the Victorian extension). There is, however, some exposed timber in part of the rear extension, which suggests that there was a lean-to extension with a catslide roof at the rear. It is fairly certain that access to the upper floor would have been here.

We are told that a cellar exists beneath the house, but at present the entrance to this is blocked. This would have been excavated when the house was built, as in Ryde House (see Newsletter No 54). The new owners hope eventually to open up the cellar.

The upstairs front windows and the front door frame (if not the door itself) appear to be original. The former are double sash without horns and with five glazing bars. A number of these bars are now missing, resulting in the necessity of fitting larger glass panels.

Examination of the roof where it joins the Ship revealed some interesting features of the latter not hitherto visible. These will be reported separately.

The conclusions about this house are that it was built in brick in 1763 as an infill between the Ship and what is now Richardsons Supermarket. There may have been an earlier building here, but since the site is thought to have been part of the Frame Plot (see Newsletter No 51), it is also quite likely to have been an open space.

Our thanks are due to Margaret and Graham Field for letting us crawl all over their house. We hope they will find this report of interest.

John Slatford

DOCUMENTARY GROUP PROGRESS

In this, our tenth anniversary year, it is perhaps appropriate to record the progress made with the documentary history of the district and the effort by various members in achieving this.

Recent work on the Parish Registers means that transcribing is virtually complete up to 1837, although a certain amount of typing remains to be done. Much of the earlier work in transcribing was done by Bernard Watts, Janet Tice and Maureen Shettle, as well as myself. More recently Sue Jennings, Muriel Millar and Janet Hill have done valuable work with the typing. Betty Batten has completed the indexing of the baptismal register.

In order to be better equipped to trace local families, we are now planning to bring transcribing and indexing of the registers as up to date as possible. Audrey Sykes in particular is helping with this work.

One of the most important sources of information about people and places is in the Court Rolls of the three manors within our parishes. We have written previously about the transcribing of the earlier rolls, which were recorded in Latin. Since completion of this, work has continued with the later rolls, written in English up to 1924 when the copyhold system finished. Mavis Lake, Jane Bartlett, My wife Bette and myself have laboured on with this and it is now approaching its end. Bette and Les Bowerman have made a lot of progress with indexing names and places, but much remains to be done.

It is important to record the churchyard monumental inscriptions, so that at least the details are known, even when the stones themselves become worn,

weathered or even lost. Ripley Old Churchyard was in fact done by Cliff Webb of the West Surrey Family History Society some years ago and we have a copy. We have been doing Send for some time now and we hope to finish it soon. Bette and I did much of the earlier recording, helped by Bob Claydon, Dreda Dodd and Barbara Tinkler. More recently Rose Onslow and Betty Batten have taken on the burden and are making steady progress with this difficult task.

Another valuable source of genealogical information is in the Census Returns of the 19th century. The Society now has copies of the 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1881 returns for the district. Indexes for the 1851 and 1861 have been given to us by the West Surrey Family History Society. Rose Onslow has recently completed an index for the 1881 and Janet Hill is currently tackling the 1871. We also have a copy of the Ockham churchyard monumental inscriptions which was done by Ros Downing.

There are, of course, numerous other sources of information which have to be researched if we are to succeed in our aim of building a detailed history of people and places in our district. Much of this is held in our local record offices and the staff at these have been most helpful at all times. Much still remains to be uncovered.

We have been helped tremendously in a number of cases by present owners of houses which we have studied. This is because they have produced old title deeds and documents for us to examine. How nice it would be if everyone was able to keep these documents after they have ceased to be needed. Sadly it is not often the case today. In particular Mrs Henderson of Ryde House, Mrs Powell in Rose Lane, Mr Rudkin of Potters Lane, John Paul of Apple Trees and Peter Conisbee have been very helpful. We will be most grateful if any member reading this who may be aware of the existence of other such documents will tell us so that our knowledge may be further extended.

Finally I would like to apologise to any other helper in the past whose assistance I have not acknowledged; also to say that we are still in need of helpers willing to undertake some of the many research tasks still outstanding, or to assist with typing. Our group meets to discuss progress and plan further work. I will be very pleased to hear from any member who would like to join us.

John Slatford

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Tenth Anniversary Dinner at Clandon Park

A party of 66 from the Society took over Clandon Park for the evening of Friday, 24 May, as an extra special celebration of the anniversary.

Sir Richard Onslow, called by Cromwell "the fox of Surrey", because of his shrewdness in walking a careful tightrope between the conflicting loyalties of the King and Parliament, bought the Clandon property in 1641 from Sir Richard Weston of Sutton Place. There was a Tudor mansion on it at that time, built by the Westons in 1531 when they obtained permission to impark. Sir Richard Onslow's grandson, also Richard, became the second member of the family to become Speaker of the House of Commons, a position he held from 1708 to 1715. In 1712, while still Speaker, he acquired the Manor of Ripley and Send, and it is still owned today by the family in the person of the 7th Earl. Speaker Richard Onslow was created 1st Baron Onslow in 1715. It was his son, Thomas, the 2nd Baron, who had the Tudor mansion demolished and commissioned a Venetian architect, Giacomo Leoni, to build the present Clandon Park in the Palladian style. The accepted date for its

building is 1731. Historically, therefore, this was the ideal place for the Anniversary Dinner, and the knowledge that we had exclusive use of it for the evening gave great satisfaction. The house has had its ups and downs since 1731, as detailed in the National Trust Guide Book, including the period of 43 years prior to 1870 when Arthur George, the 3rd Earl, left it empty. In about 1950, William Arthur Bampfylde, the 6th Earl and father of the present Earl, moved out with his family to a house in the park. After it had stood empty again for a few years, Lady Gwendoline Guinness, Countess of Iveagh (who as a daughter of the 4th Earl had lived there as a child), bought the house and seven acres surrounding it from her nephew and donated it, with a suitable endowment for its upkeep, to the National Trust. In a sense, therefore, it does actually belong to all of us.

On arrival the party was welcomed in the Marble Hall by Mr C G Allen, who has recently taken over as administrator. He divided us into two groups, which were conducted around the house by experienced guides, Mrs Molly Liddell and Mr Derek Maine. This is not the place to describe the house and its contents in detail, except for the following random notes. The Marble Hall, being 40' square x 40' high, is a perfect cube, which is a feature of the Palladian style. The fireplaces in the hall are by Rysbrack. The hanging banners in the hall are those of the 4th and 5th Earls. The ceilings, particularly those in the Marble Hall, are one of the glories of the house. They are the crowning achievement of two Italians, who did other similar work for Leoni elsewhere.

Clandon Park is the perfect setting for the Gubbay Collection of furniture, porcelain, jade, metalwork, textiles and carpets, which was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1968 by Mrs David Gubbay. The outstanding feature of the collection is the unique assortment of 17th century and 18th century Chinese birds.

It is one thing to tour the house as an ordinary visitor armed with the excellent guide book, but it is another experience altogether for a group interested in local history to have the individual attention of an expert guide.

An excellent buffet-style dinner was eaten in the basement restaurant, followed by a few admirably short speeches.

All Day Outing to Chawton and New Alresford in Hampshire

On Sunday, 9 June, three dozen members of the Society travelled by motor car to Hampshire to visit the Jane Austen Museum at Chawton, to look around New Alresford and to travel on the Mid Hampshire Steam Railway.

Readers will recall the basic facts of Jane Austen's life in that she was born in 1775 at Steventon, near Basingstoke, where her father was rector. Her first 25 years were spent there until his retirement in 1801, and her first novels (and probably the third) were originally drafted there. In 1809, Jane, her mother and sister, both named Cassandra, settled near Alton in Chawton Cottage, owned by her third brother, Edward Knight, who had been adopted by the owner of Chawton Manor Estate and assumed his surname under his will. Here she prepared for publication "Sense and Sensibility" and "Pride and Prejudice" and wrote "Mansfield Park" and "Emma", all of which were published while she was at Chawton, and "Persuasion", "Northanger Abbey" and "Sandita", which were published posthumously after moving to Winchester in 1817, due to ill health, and dying shortly after. She never married and was only 41 at her death. She is, of course, accepted as one of the greatest English novelists. Sir Walter Scott referred in 1826 to "the exquisite touch which renders ordinary common things and characters interesting from the truth of description".

The Cottage, which is quite substantial, was apparently built as an inn, possibly around 1700. The curator, Mrs Bowden, kindly allowed some members of our Buildings Group to inspect the attic and roof space. From this it appeared that the cross wing had been enlarged by stages, but the different builds were not readily apparent from outside, as the side wall had been faced with mathematical tiles to simulate bricks all of one kind.

The museum contains numerous objects either directly connected with Jane Austen or contemporary with her. There are similarly objects connected with her two brothers, who both became admirals, and all the various editions of her works.

At New Alresford John Slatford outlined the history of the town, which members of the party then explored individually or in groups. The first reference to Alresford is in a grant to the Church at Winchester by Kenwalc, a seventh century King of Wessex. Godfrey de Lucy, Bishop of Winchester from 1189-1204, constructed a substantial dam across the River Alre at Alresford to provide sufficient headwater to make the Itchen navigable from Southampton. The dam created Old Alresford Pond, which is now a nature reserve. A causeway across the dam still carries the road B3046. Below the Great Weir are extensive water cress beds. There were two mills and a fulling mill. The basic structure of the fulling mill remains, a picturesque timber-framed building under a roof of thatch. New Alresford has been destroyed several times by fire. Broad Street, which has a predominantly 18th century look about it, was made wide enough to take market stalls.

The Mid Hampshire Line of the London & South Western Railway was opened in 1865. It ran from Alton to Winchester with intermediate stations at Ropley, Alresford and Itchen Abbas. Medstead Station, later renamed Medstead & Four Marks, followed three years later. It was subsequently part of the Southern Railway and eventually British Railways, which closed it in 1973 and moved all the track.

The line from New Alresford to Alton was subsequently purchased by the privately-owned Winchester & Alton Railway Company, which relaid the track, renovated the stations and other equipment, and now runs the "Water Cress Line". The locomotives and coaching stock come from a variety of sources, principally the L & SWR, SR or BR. Most of the party from Send and Ripley caught the 1412 from New Alresford. As from this year, the stretch from Medstead to Alton has opened, so we travelled to the latter and back^{up} and down the unusually steep gradients through delightful countryside. Some of the party inspected the engine sheds at Ropley. Although the railway was busier than it probably ever was originally, nobody had to stand; there were enthusiasts with cameras inside the train and at all vantage points along the route.

Evening Visit to Brooklands

Sixty-five members and some friends took part in the visit to Brooklands on Wednesday, 19 June. Miss Morag Barton, Curator Designate of the museum which is being set up there, briefly addressed the party, which was then shown a film of the history of the track. Insofar as it covered the same ground as that covered by Mr Jack Chinn when he spoke in Ripley in April, it served as a refresher to what Brooklands was all about, but it is not proposed in these notes to repeat what was recorded in Newsletter No 62 after the talk.

Brooklands was the cradle of motor racing in this country and it enabled the British motor industry to catch up and surpass its Continental counterparts through the opportunity, which previously did not exist, of testing machines at extreme speed over long distances. The 24-hour races, however, which originally continued through the night, had to change to two 12-hour daytime stints soon after opening in 1907, owing to complaints from the residents of nearby

St George's Hill. The spot where the cars were sealed up overnight was pointed out.

The site served the same purpose with flying as it did with motor racing, enabling much of the early experimental and development work to take place, and providing training for the First World War pilots, who were the first to take part in aerial combat.

Motor cycle and bicycle racing also took place at Brooklands. Although mention was not made of the fact, the first modern massed start cycle race when the Guildford-based Charlotteville Cycling Club staged a World Championship Trial in June 1933 was held here.

A walk onto the banking near the railway was particularly interesting. The width of one hundred feet is surprising to any who have not previously been onto it, and the banking on the outside edge is frightening to walk on due to its steepness. Although the track was camouflaged during the Second World War (present among the party was one member who had been responsible for that task), there still exist traces of the original yellow paint which defined the upper limits of the track, beyond which it was not safe to drive, and for which drivers were penalised for crossing. Speeds of 120-125 mph took drivers to the top. Notwithstanding the racing penalty, some half-dozen drivers did go over the top. The concrete surface having been laid on sand, the track had a certain amount of movement in wet and frosty conditions. This continually led to cracking of the surface. Broken concrete was crushed and then relaid, and Mr Alan Jeffcoats of Brooklands, who gave the conducted tour, in his own inimitable way pointed out where this had been done. One had to reflect that even in its heyday, the Brooklands surface could hardly have been up to modern motorway standards. The banked bridge over the River Wey was demolished on 4 September 1968 to relieve the pressure caused by flooding which had the Club House under seven feet of water.

One of Barnes Wallis's "Grand Slam" bombs stands outside the Club House, which will form the centre of the museum. The bomb was designed to penetrate 60-70 feet of natural rock to damage the Nazi submarine pens in the Second World War. Also outside is the memorial to A V Roe, who, among other achievements, was the first British passport holder to fly abroad from Britain. Many of the original buildings were looked at and a number of early aircraft.

The evening finished with coffee and biscuits in the Club House. Our thanks are due to those at Brooklands who gave up their evening to show us round with such enthusiasm.

Membership

We welcome the following new members:

Mr and Mrs K Reilly, 1 Oxford Cottages, 32 Potters Lane, Send.

Mr and Mrs M Shaw (rejoined), Baytrees, Iron Lane, Bramley, Guildford.

Mr and Mrs J K Marshall, 2 Marlyns Close, Burpham, Guildford.

Mr and Mrs R Wilcox, 20 Kevan Drive, Send.

Mr and Mrs P Gilby, 64 Send Barns Lane, Send.

Mrs B. Gomme, 4 Hurst Way, Pyrford.

Total membership now stands at 97 double and 88 single subscriptions.

Buildings Group Evening Visit to Shamley Green, 26 June

Nine members of the Buildings Group spent a fascinating evening looking at the old buildings of Shamley Green. It is an unusual village, formerly a hamlet in the parish of Wonersh. It consists of a series of triangular-shaped greens with

houses around the edges. The first documentary references are in the 16th century when it is spelled variously as Shambley, Shamleigh and Shamlee. Cricket has been played on the largest of the greens for over 150 years, but as that green is smaller than Send Marsh Green, neighbouring properties are subject to bombardment by cricket balls. A chapel of ease was built here in 1865, since the parish church at Womersh was too full, and Shamley Green became a parish in its own right in 1881. Originally, it consisted principally of numerous small cottages, and there are something like sixty old houses worth looking at. The coming of the railway in 1865 meant the arrival of wealthier people from outside the village and the building of larger houses. The railway was closed by the Beeching axe exactly 100 years later in 1965.

Among the interesting buildings were the old Post House, which appeared to be a 15th century building with apparently a crownpost roof, and the timber-framed cottage in which W O Bentley, the motor car manufacturer, lived for 35 years. Other well known residents have been Alfred Hitchcock, the film producer, in the 1930s, T S Elliott in the 1940s, P B H May, the former Surrey and England Cricket Captain, and E H Shepherd, the illustrator of the A A Milne books.

The climax of the evening was a visit to Potters, a house of about 1400, into which our former members, Jennifer and Brian Finley, moved from Send Marsh Green just six weeks earlier. The group was able to inspect the roof thoroughly. It was totally smoke-blackened and was of pre-crownpost construction, consisting of rafters coupled only with collars and with no braces or purlins at all.

We are very grateful to our two guides from the Shamley Green History Society, Edna Thompson and Rosemary Garvey, and, of course, to Jennifer Finley, who not only gave us a free run of the house, but also provided refreshments.

Evening Visit to Godalming, 10 July

Some three dozen members of the Society enjoyed a delightful and instructive evening on a conducted tour around Godalming under the expert guidance of John Janaway, Senior Local Studies Librarian for Surrey. It was originally a Saxon settlement. In 1300 a charter of Edward I gave it a fair and a market, but being based on a variety of industries, it was always more of an industrial town than a market town. The market was always fairly insignificant.

One of the industries was cloth, from mediaeval times right up to the end of the 19th century. In 1589 William Lee made a knitting frame for the production of woollen stockings. Elizabeth I did not approve and wanted one which would make silk stockings. Lee duly obliged in 1598. Fleecy hosiery became a speciality. Clothiers in the 17th century did clothmaking and framework knitting. By the 18th century knitting was a major industry in Godalming.

Another industry was the quarrying of Bargate stone, of which so many houses and walls in the area are made. It was exported to as far away as Leicester. The Castle Keep at Guildford is constructed of Bargate and it was used by the Romans at Binscombe. Between the Wars it was crushed for road metalling. The Second World War killed off the industry.

From Bury Meadow by the River Wey it can be seen that the town is on a small plateau between the flood plain and the hills which are topped with Bargate. The town bridge was called East Bridge in 1532, so there must have been another bridge at that time. Moss Lane began as a footpath. It was named after John Moth, who was a leaseholder there in the 16th century. The workhouse was on the corner of the lane until 1830 when, under the Union Act, the large workhouse at Guildford took its place. There is still a small market every Friday.

Many of the High Street buildings are 16th century with 18th century brick fronts. Angel Court is the site of one of Godalming's seven coaching inns and parts of the inn remain. With the Portsmouth Road passing through, it is in some respects similar to Ripley, although the High Street is extremely narrow by comparison. The Angel was there until the early 1930s. Croft House is a plain brick house on the corner of South Street. It had a small garden at the front originally with a very extensive one at the back, reaching right up to the summer house, which can still be seen in the distance. The large timber-framed building in the centre dates from the 15th century and was the Antelope and later the White Hart until 1932.

The Pepperpot or Pepperbox was built in 1814 by John Perry, a local man. The town was run by a warden and eight approved men until 1836 and the Borough Council met in the Pepperbox until 1908. There had been a market house here since the late 15th century. At some stage the ground floor had been bricked in to form a urinal, but that was removed in 1958.

The railway reached Godalming in 1849 and the station was the terminus for ten years. In 1859 a new station was built, which is the existing one. The coming of the railway started the decline of the inns. The oldest surviving domestic building is opposite the church. It is Deans Place and was built in about 1450 as a Wealden house, possibly one of the most Westerly of its kind. The church is predominantly of Bargate stone. It started as a Saxon building, and different parts have been added through the ages. The Victorians did not alter it too much. Church House has fine barge boards. The vicarage is 16th century with Bargate and galleting in the mortar between the stones.

In Westbrook a generator was set up to provide the first electric street lighting in the country. This was from November 1881 to 1884, after which it reverted for a while to gas. There was a major tannery on the little River Ock, and Godalming was also a centre of brewing. It used to be thought that the centre of framework knitting moved from Godalming to Nottingham and Leicester, but the 1861 census shows that some people in this trade moved the other way. Hatch Mill was one of three mills in Godalming Manor. It is 18th century from the outside, but probably earlier inside. There is an early Friends' Meeting House in the street now called the Mint, which previously had a vulgar name. The Rose and Crown nearby is of about 1500. A three-storey cottage was a framework knitter's house, as the large window in the top storey indicates. The Salvation Army Chapel was formerly the Wesleyan Chapel. The town's first purpose-built cinema, with its corrugated iron roof, still exists, but has been converted. In this area is a cleared slum in which literally hundreds of people lived.

Back in the High Street the National Westminster Bank occupies a very fine timber-framed house. A building opposite has Dutch gables of the 1660s in brick and Bargate. A murder in one of the houses resulted in the last local execution, when thousands of people came to watch the two convicted murderers hung in the Lammas Lands. The Little George Inn was next door but one to the Great George Coaching Inn, in the end of which liquor is still sold in the Victoria Wine offlicence. Lloyds Bank occupies the building which was Godalming's own bank since the early 19th century. The Skinners Company building represents an early High Street development. Cullens has original shutters on an original shop front.

The King's Arms Royal Hotel is an enormous coaching inn with blue headers forming an attractive decoration in the brickwork. In 1698 Czar Peter the Great of Russia stayed here. He and his entourage occupied the whole hotel and it is said that they ate all the food in the town. The Woolpack is next to it with the King's Arms Tap behind. From the late 18th century the Sun was a great brewery - the building in Bargate stone is still there. There was also Baverstocks Brewery and two others, as well as William Else Holland's Malthouse.

In 1908 the new Borough Halls were tacked onto the old public halls. In 1764 the Godalming Navigation opened from Guildford to Godalming. Timber was brought from the South - oak bark for tanning and iron hoops. Coal came in and out, corn came in to be made into flour, and Bargate stone went out. This was the most southerly part of the main canal network in England. The tour finished after looking at the 1782 Town Bridge, built as a County Bridge by Gwilt. It was widened in 1930.

It will be appreciated from the foregoing notes that there was no shortage of appropriate accommodation in which to refresh our guide after his mammoth speaking tour. In this connection we had been told that at one time the local men regarded it as a challenge to try to drink a glass of beer in every hostelry in the High Street, starting at one end and finishing at the other. It is said that nobody ever succeeded.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Monday, 5 August ... Documentary Group Meeting at 8 pm at Kevan Cottage, Clandon Road, Burnt Common.
- Tuesday, 10 September ... Committee Meeting at 8 pm at Heath Farm, Tannery Lane, Send.
- Wednesday, 18 September ... Open meeting at 8 pm at Ripley Village Hall, when our member, Anne Watson, will give an illustrated talk on the history of Ockham.
- Tuesday, 15 October ... Open meeting at 8 pm in the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, when Chris Howkins will talk about "The Place of Oaks in the Local Landscape".
- Wednesday, 23 October ... Local Memories Group Meeting at 8 pm at the Manor House, Send Marsh.
- Wednesday, 30 October ... Buildings Group Meeting at 8 pm at the Manor House, Send Marsh.
- Saturday, 16 November ... SLHC Symposium at Surrey University on the theme of "Road, Air and Rail".
- Wednesday, 20 November ... Open meeting at 8 pm in Ripley Village Hall, when Mrs Sylvia Lewin will give an illustrated talk on the history of Pyrford and Wisley.
- Tuesday, 17 December ... Christmas Social in the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send.

Closing Date: Material for the next edition of the Newsletter should be in the hands of the Editor by Monday, 2 September.

Les Bowerman

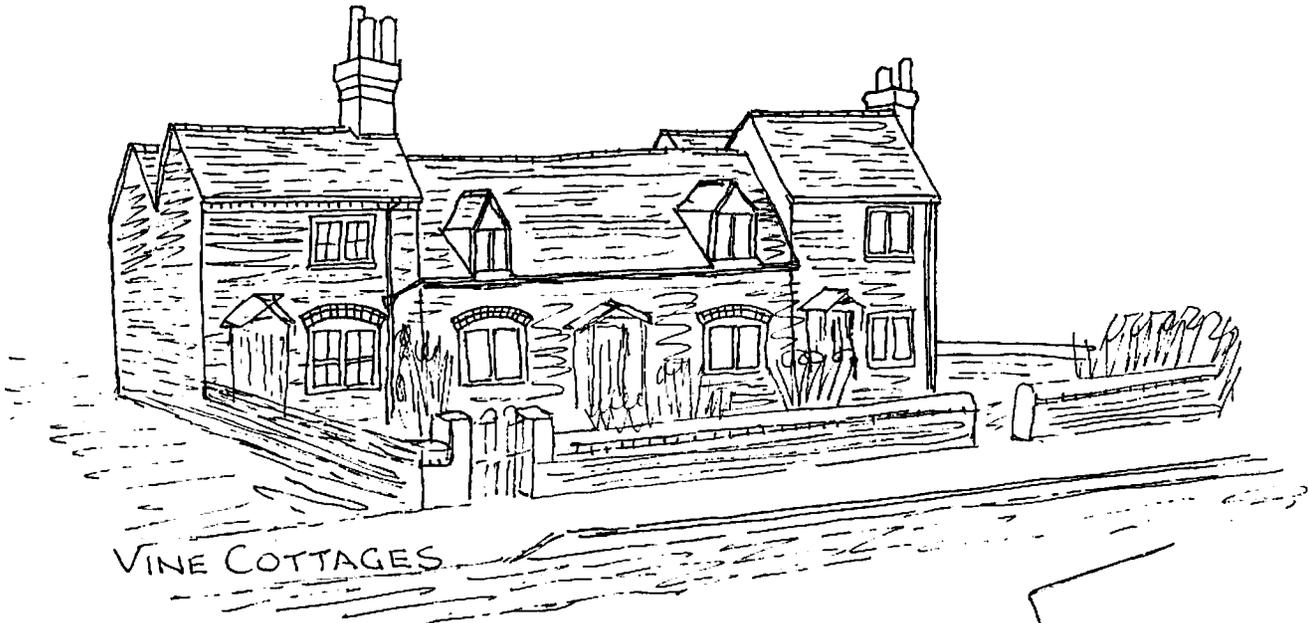
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VINE COTTAGES, NEWARK LANE, RIPLEY

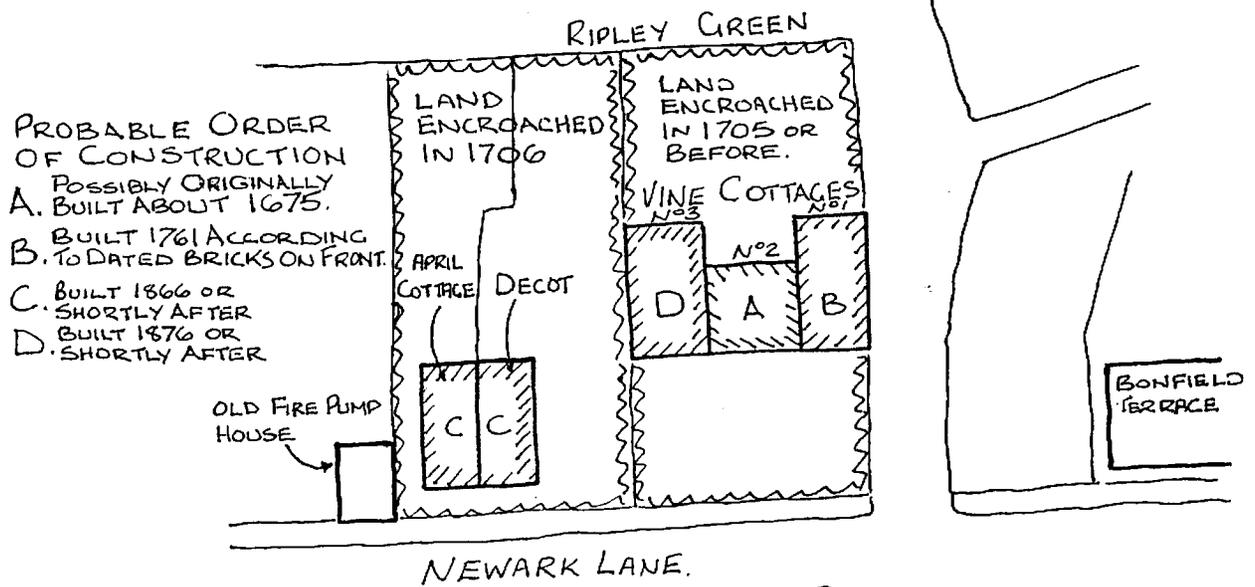
The first reference to the property now known as Vine Cottages, Ripley, is found in the Court Rolls of Ripley and Send in 1705 when William Westbrooke of Ripley, wheelwright, encroached upon the waste of the manor and built a small messuage, formerly an old shop, and also enclosed a parcel of land containing 8 rods near the pond called Gravel Pit Pond.

In 1706 the Lord of the Manor granted the messuage and lands by copy to William and his heirs for ever. The rent was 6d per annum.

By 1738 William must have been short of money, for he surrendered the property (one messuage and one wheelwright's shop and a parcel of land containing 8 rods) to Thomas Burchett of Ripley, mercer, upon condition that if William paid Thomas Burchett £42 then the surrender was void.



VINE COTTAGES



NEWARK LANE.
PLAN SHOWING DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE

VINE COTTAGES.
NEWARK LANE, RIPLEY.

JOHN SLATFORD
JULY, 1986.

William paid back Thomas Burchett his £42 in 1743, but (still short of money?) immediately made a new surrender to James Goodchild for £50.

Poor William could never have managed to pay this back, for in 1785 James Goodchild died and in his will left the property to his son - another James Goodchild.

This James died in 1822 and the property went to his brother, Thomas Goodchild. He too died and the property passed to Thomas Goodchild Oakley of Clapham - the son of a William Oakley.

In 1836 Thomas Goodchild Oakley surrendered the property to Edward Langrish, wheelwright, and thirty years later Edward surrendered to James Woodger of Ripley, labourer, "all those two messuages"; so by now 'the little shop' had been converted to a cottage. This James had a farm at Hatchford, Ockham, which failed; so he sold up and bought the two old cottages in Ripley. He had two more cottages built there on his land.

Under the Copyhold Act in 1867, the Earl of Onslow granted the freehold to James.

James died in 1876 and, by his will, the estate was put up for auction. Two of his sons, Henry and James, were the highest bidders.

James bought the two new cottages and Henry bought the two older ones.

Henry built another cottage onto the end of these two old ones in 1874-6, making three cottages en bloc. He moved into No 2, which is the middle one. These are known as Vine Cottages today.

Henry was a haulage contractor, carting all materials to and from Woking Station for the Woking Papermill Company Limited (in 1888 the paper company went bankrupt).

Henry married Elizabeth Osgood (Lizzie). She had jet black hair, was short and stocky, very active and a worker. She had two sons and five daughters, and when Henry died in 1881, her youngest daughter was unborn, but was born three months later.

Her eldest son was Henry James Woodger, who was only 12 years and 10 months old when his father died, and the only one working to maintain the family. All the property went to him as the eldest son, as his father died intestate (before the Married Women's Property Act was passed in 1883).

Henry James kept the cottages and let his mother have the rent from them for the rest of her life, which she did until 1921 - forty years. He maintained the cottages himself, for she had no money apart from the rents.

The end old cottage had a baker's oven, and it was said that the occupier baked and sold bread. There was also an old chimney corner with seats by the side of an old hearth turf fire. There were no services in Ripley then and the tenant had to collect water from a well in the garden.

In 1883 Companies water came and Henry James had it laid on tap over a sink in each cottage, and the following year he had a new front built on the middle cottage and had a scullery built on the new cottage (ie the end one of 1874-6), as it had only four rooms.

Ripley was sewered in 1905. Henry James had water laid to the water closets in the garden for flushing, old seats taken out and new ones fitted, cisterns and drains, etc, put in to connect to the sewer.

In 1950 Henry James gave this property (ie the present Vine Cottages), by Deed of Gift, to his nephew, Mr Stanley Osgood Rudkin . He still owns it today and the cottages are in the process of being thoroughly modernised and restored.

The two new cottages, which his uncle, James Woodger, bought, were sold in 1899 to James and Owen Hugh Tedder of Ripley, grocers. In 1922 Owen Hugh sold his share back to James Tedder. When James Tedder died in 1928, he left them to William Byron Tedder, who sold them back to Owen Hugh Tedder.

In 1951 Owen Hugh sold them to Mr Rudkin, so the original land was once again under one ownership.

Mr Rudkin sold one of the pair of cottages in 1964 (then called Julie Cottage) to Mrs Anne Davies of Cobham. Julie Cottage is now called "April Cottage".

Mr Rudkin still owns the other one, which is called "Decot".

Researched and written by Bette Slatford (July 1985)

Editorial Notes.

A further Buildings Group report on Vine Cottages to complete the picture has had to be held back due to lack of space, but will appear in the next Newsletter.

The following should be added to "Forthcoming Events":

Wednesday, 25th September...Buildings Group meeting at 8 p.m. at 11b Kevan Drive, Send.