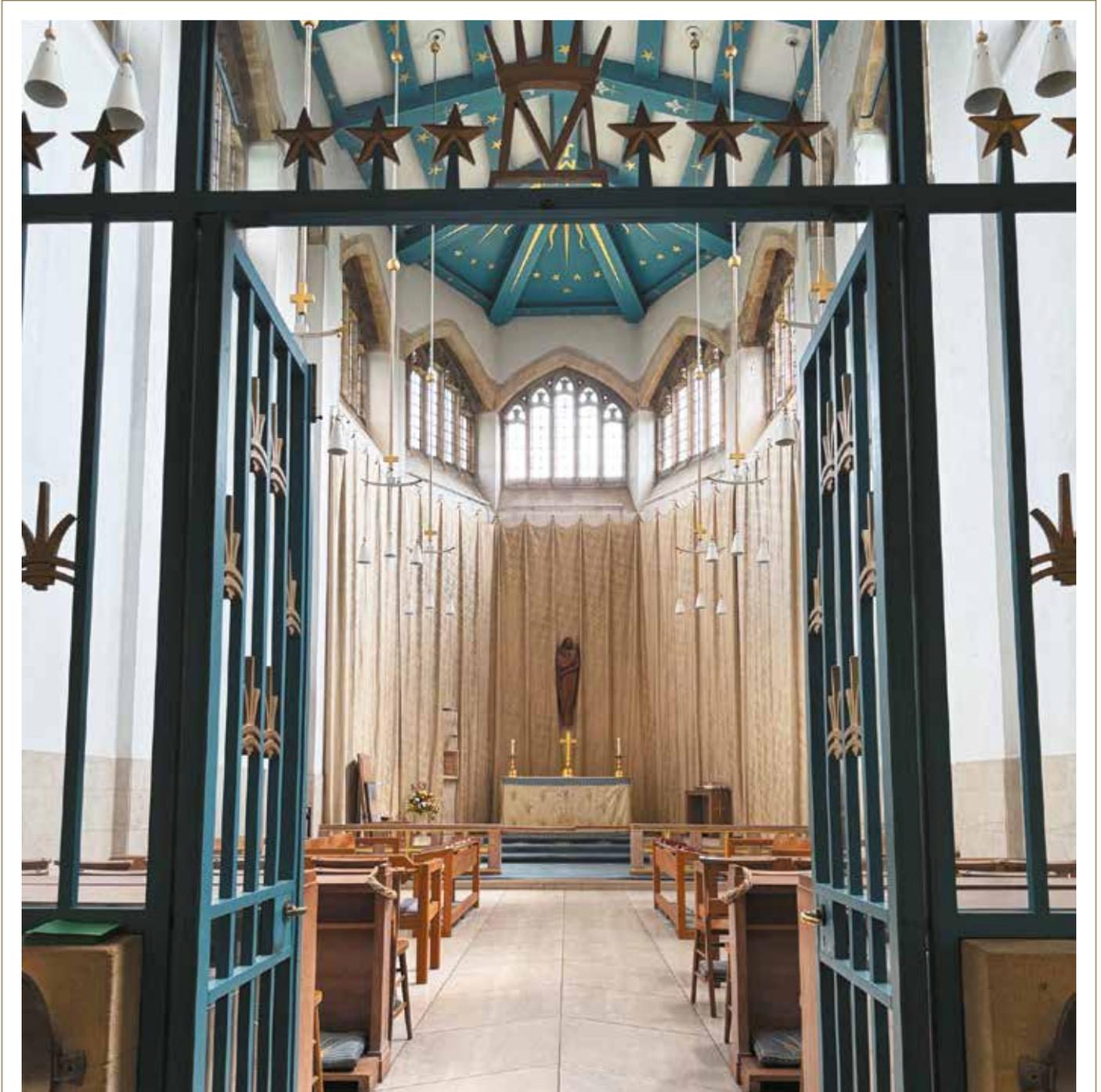


No. 303
July 2025

Send & Ripley History Society



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— A MYSTERY

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Cover image:

The Lady Chapel, behind
the altar of Guildford
Cathedral - see article
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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

At the time of writing we are ‘enjoying’ the third heat-wave of the year with temperatures above 30 degrees (approaching 90 in old money). Unfortunately we had to cancel the guided walk around Ripley on 1st July as the U3A group who had booked it didn’t think there would be sufficient shade (probably correctly...).

It was a disappointment too for around thirty of our members that our planned outing to the Wey & Arun Canal in June had to be cancelled at the last minute – because there was no water in it. Sadly this had been caused by vandalism with extensive damage to one of the sets of lock gates, which resulted in the emptying of this stretch of the waterway.

Adding insult to injury it transpired that this was the second recent occurrence and followed a similar event in April 2023 which resulted in costs approaching £60,000 for the Wey & Arun Canal Trust which manages the canal. Electrical control equipment for pumps was destroyed and padlocks on canal locks removed to release the water. These two incidents have delivered quite a financial blow to the charity, a volunteer-led organisation which does not receive any regular support from public funds. Money to repair the damage will have to come from donations given to restore and improve the canal itself. We sincerely hope to be able to have our trip next year!

One of the positive aspects of the major construction work going on around here is the archeological studies

which have been undertaken around the M25 Junction 10 works and at Burnt Common. I mentioned over a year ago that the remains of a late Bronze Age or early Iron Age settlement of at least five roundhouses had been uncovered during the building works on the left hand side of the A3 between Junction 10 and the Painshill exit. They were built at different times, but all around 3000 years ago. Once the team have completed their report we will know more. The finds at Burnt Common have been much less dramatic. Beth Tucker, supervisor of the excavation works for Thames Valley Archaeological Services reports that the site was relatively poor in terms of finds with only pottery, quern stones ^[1] and a small amount of animal bone found – ‘although we did recover a rather nice almost complete late Roman vessel.’ A PDF of the complete report is available from the museum if anyone would like a copy.

^[1] Circular stones used in mills for grinding grain for flour

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th August 2025.

Authors of illustrated articles should submit high resolution (300 DPI or higher) jpgs to the editor by email to ensure best reproduction in the journal, but no more than 20 MB in any one email

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PAT CLACK AT THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE-DAY CELEBRATIONS

CAMERON BROWN



Pat and her daughter Valerie can be seen to the right of this picture finding their seats in the cathedral for the service

Our member, Pat Clack, was the only centenarian honoured in person at the 80th anniversary of VE-Day celebrations at Guildford Cathedral on 11th May 2025 in the presence of the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey. The service was lead by the Very Reverend Bob Cooper, Dean of Guildford and the preacher was the Right Reverend Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford.

The afternoon started with the procession of the World War II veterans led by Pat Clack (with daughter Valerie) the only one present, the other gentleman being too ill to attend.

Pat is mentioned in the day's official programme: 'Mrs Pat Clack was born in February 1925, joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1944 and demobbed in 1946. She trained as a wireless operator and served at multiple sites including Biggin Hill and Bletchley Park.'

Later on guests were invited to take refreshments with the Lord-Lieutenant and be entertained by the band of the



Pat, guest of honour, at the front of the troops after the service

Royal Army Medical Service.

It seems that Pat's invitation came about thanks to the connection with the Deputy Lord Lieutenant who had met and chatted with Pat at the 50th anniversary of the History Society dinner earlier in the year. Pat's son Michael told us: "Mum had an absolute ball as the guest of honour, as you can imagine!"

40 YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN



Boughton Hall in the 1930s, viewed from the South (i.e. not from Send Marsh Road)

This brief article entitled *The Boughtons – The Rise of a Yeoman Family* appeared in Newsletter 62 of May 1985. It was written by John Molyneux Child, Lord of the Manors of Papworth and Dedswell and author of *The Evolution of the English Manorial System*. It is timely to reproduce this piece now as the old hall which he describes has been demolished and a new nursing home is about to be opened on the site on Send Marsh Road.

The wide gap between lord and villein ^[1] that had characterised the feudal manors of Dedswell and Papworth was filled up from the 12th century onwards by the yeoman class ^[2]. With the steady process of extinction of the villein in the Middle Ages villeins became polarised between becoming yeoman farmers, or else landless labourers.

The arrival of this increasingly prosperous middle class is instanced in Papworth by the Boughton family, who had held, in 1518, a tenement known as Griggs and some neighbouring land with Robert Boughton as copyhold tenant ^[3] of the manor of Papworth.

In the Elizabethan Musters, which listed both arms and men available for mustering in the event of invasion, a later Robert Boughton, in the 1572/3 list for Send, is described as one of the seven ‘Bowe men of ye beste sorte’. In the 1583/4 list he is shown as a pikeman.

The Papworth court roll of 1741 shows Robert Boughton the younger and William Boughton both holding extensive freehold and copyhold tenancies and the Boughton family also held land in the neighbouring manor of Send & Ripley. By 1773 Robert Boughton had become a churchwarden and had been allocated seat no. 1 in Send Church. Boughton fortunes were growing and the court roll of 1780 lists numerous properties, with Robert as foreman of the ‘homage’, or jury, at the court baron.

The Send & Ripley Inclosure Act of 1803 gave Robert Boughton the elder and Robert Boughton the younger parts of the manorial commonland, whilst the Tithe Apportionments in 1845 show Frances Boughton as a very significant landowner.

By about 1820, Griggs had been renamed Boughton Hall, a sure sign of the rising fortunes of this yeoman family; significant rebuilding had been carried out on the site. Much of the present Hall, now a private hotel, dates from Victorian times ^[4].

The view of Boughton Hall from Send Marsh Road is, of course, the rear aspect. The main facade was to the South, looking over the private drive the Boughtons had constructed across the fields to a gate to the South and a lodge constructed by the Portsmouth Road, close to the

present Burnt Common roundabout. Perhaps this could be seen as a piece of one-upmanship, as the Boughtons' lodge was placed on the opposite side of the highway to the Earl of Onslow's lodge at the gates of his private carriageway. The Earl's thoughts on the new-found grandeur of his copyhold tenant are not recorded.

The Hall, by 1870, had ceased to be occupied by the Boughton family and by 1884 the estate belonged to Robert Boughton Smith, a retired sea captain, who adopted the name of Boughton. Most of the land was sold for housing in 1907.

^[1] A feudal tenant entirely subject to a lord or manor to whom he paid dues and services in return for land

^[2] Landowning farmers, considered a middle class group, situated between the gentry and labourers



Boughton Hall

^[3] Copyholders worked the land but did not own it outright; the lord of the manor retained ownership and the copyholder held the land 'by custom', an arrangement which often included specific rights and obligations – such as working some time for the lord unpaid

^[4] This refers to the recently demolished building

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CHARLOTTE AND THOMASINE SMITH – A MYSTERY

CLARE McCANN

An enquiry came in via the website from Dale Smith about her ancestors, Charlotte and Thomasine Smith, two unmarried sisters who ended their days in Send.

Apparently their father, John Baird Smith Esq, born in 1772, was from Woking but the girls were born in Bradninch in Devon – Charlotte on 23rd July 1821 and Thomasine on 13th December 1822. They had an older sister, Elizabeth, and a younger brother, John Francis, who was born in 1824, from whom Dale descends. She is unsure what John Smith did but he seems to have been prosperous and travelled so she speculates that he may have been a merchant of some kind.



Fromefield House, in all probability the institution they attended

She then traced them to Croydon where both were governors of a finishing school in the early 1880s, then going on to own an establishment of some sort. Below are the details taken from an advertisement for their finishing school and Dale thinks it is possible that they may have been tutors to the royal family at some stage:



Charlotte and Thomasine

Dale commented that these two women were no doubt impressive back in their day. They completed teacher training as apprentices in Frome, Somerset, at Fromefield House.

Miss T Smith, teacher of English, French, German, Music, Harp, Piano, Drawings etc wishes to form an engagement with a gentleman's family as daily or occasional governess.

Terms for attending the best part of every day, 60 guineas per annum. Three times per week, 30 guineas.

Miss R Smith will likewise receive a class of 6 young ladies at her own residence for the purpose of giving them instructions in the French language. Also, a class of 6 for writing and arithmetic. Terms: one guinea for each class. Lessons to be 3 times per week.

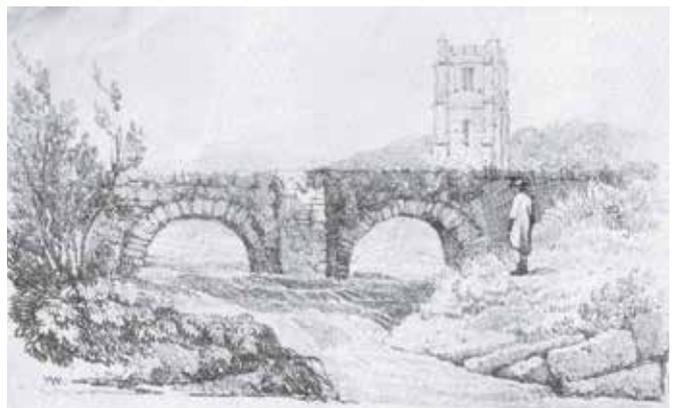
Dale has notes that they composed music, wrote poetry, did many sketches and drawings and much of the artwork is owned today by various family members.

Thereafter Dale found them on the 1889 census in Send where they lived until their deaths. Charlotte died March 1904 and Thomasine in December of the same year. They remained spinsters and seem to have been well to do. Dale thinks John Smith may have been a substantial property owner.

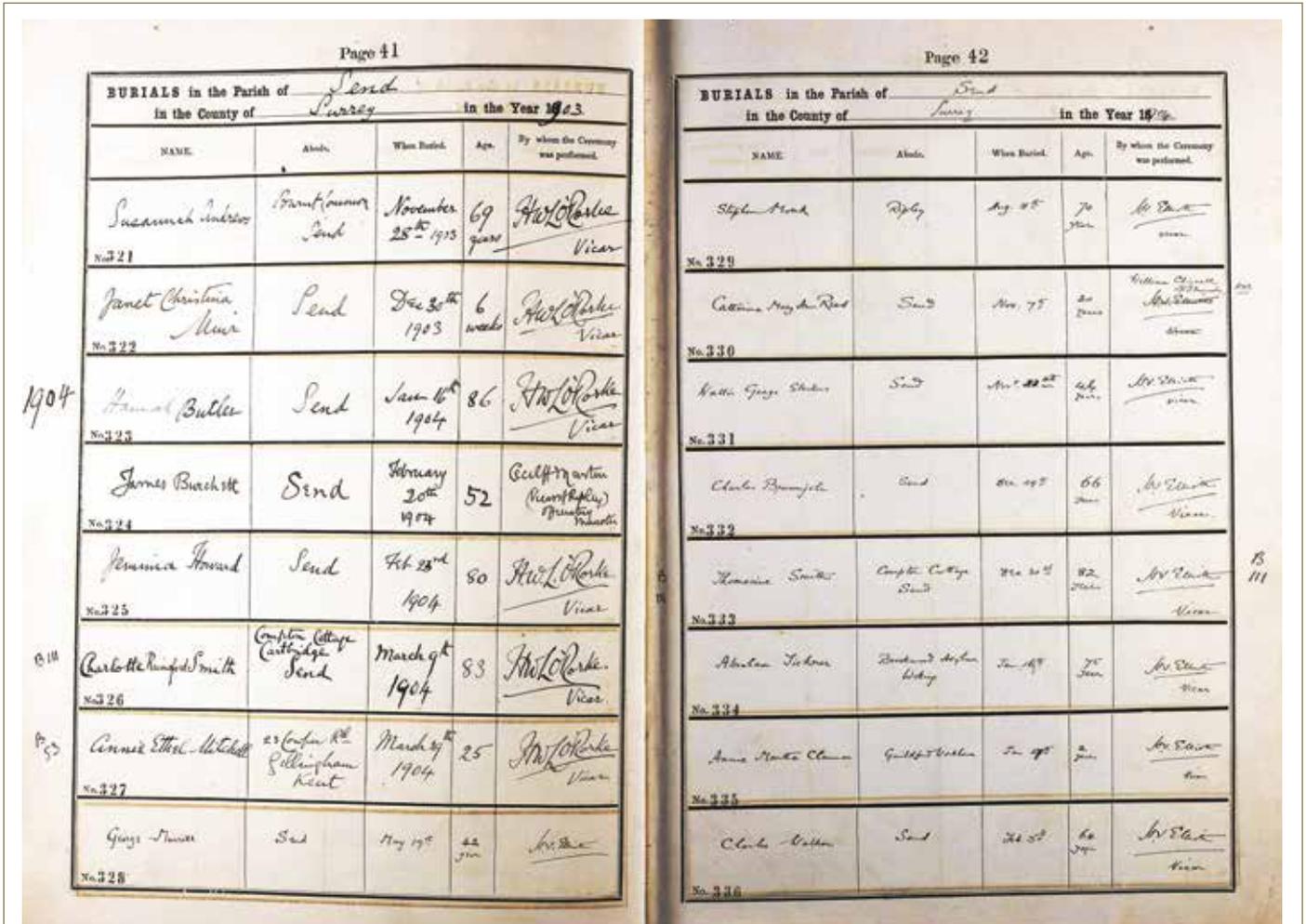
We have been able to work out that their property Compton Cottage was almost certainly the one now called The Cottage, at Cartbridge. It is also satisfying that the sisters' gravestone is still standing in the churchyard – though rather more worn than in

Administrative Details		The enumerated House or tenement within the boundaries of the Parish of <u>Send</u>										Page 12	
Old Parish	Substantial House	Household	Number of Inhabitants	Number of Rooms	Number of Windows	Number of Chimneys	Number of Cottages						
66	Buckingham Cottage	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
67	" "	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
68	Dun. Cottage	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
69	" "	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
70	Uthman. House	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
71	Uthman. Lodge	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
72	Blackbird. House	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
73	Uthman. House	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
74	Compton Cottage	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Total of Males and of Females			51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51

The sisters' entries in the 1889 census



Examples of the sisters' art work



Thomasine and Charlotte's death certificate

NORTH-WESTERN, OR CHERTNEY DIVISION

Polling District of Ripley (T)—Parish of Send and Ripley, in the County Electoral Division of Ripley—contd.

Occupation Voters (Division 3.)—County Electors only.

No. of Voters	Names of electors	Place of abode	Class of Qualification	Description of Qualifying Premises
1 496	Fulford, Miss	Ripley	House	Ripley green
1 497	Fulford, Marjolin	Highgate Hill, Send	House	Highgate Hill
1 498	Francis, Sarah	Ripley	House	High street, Ripley
1 499	Fryer, Charlotte Elizabeth	Ripley	House	Ripley green
1 500	Fudge, Fuchsia	Ripley	House	Ripley green
1 501	Furze, Martha	Ripley	House	Ripley green
1 502	East, Elizabeth	Ripley	House, joint	Ripley green
1 503	East, Sarah	Ripley	House, joint	Ripley green
1 504	Edwards, Helen	Ripley	House	High street, Ripley
1 505	Edwards, Jane	Ripley	House	High street, Ripley
1 506	Edwards, Mary Ann	Ripley	House, joint	High street, Ripley
1 507	Edwards, Rose	Ripley	House, joint	High street, Ripley
1 508	Edwards, Charlotte	Cartbridge, Send	House, joint	Cartbridge
1 509	Edwards, Thomasina	Cartbridge, Send	House, joint	Cartbridge
1 510	Edwards, Caroline	Cartbridge, Send	House	Cartbridge
1 511	Edwards, Elizabeth	Ripley	House	Ripley green
1 512	Edwards, Caroline	Ripley	House, joint	High street, Ripley
1 513	Edwards, Helen	Ripley	House, joint	High street, Ripley
1 514	Edwards, Harry	Ripley	House	High street, Ripley
1 515	Edwards, Sarah	Ripley	House	Send
1 516	Edwards, Martha	Ripley	House	Send
1 517	Edwards, Elizabeth	Ripley	House	High street, Ripley
1 518	Edwards, Elizabeth	Ripley	House	High street, Ripley

The sisters in the electoral register of 1889



Compton Cottage, now just The Cottage, Cartbridge

this handsome photo on the right. What we don't know is what brought them to Send to retire – it seems likely they had friends or family here.

Since the initial enquiry I have been trying to find out more about the father, John Baird Smith. Although information points to his coming from Woking, I could not find his baptism record, although there was one for 16th February 1772 in Godalming, with the parents listed as Charles (1747-1785) and Jane – hard to be sure if this is the correct one. The records also suggest that he was married twice – firstly to Jennifer Cochrane in Devon in 1814, by whom he had a daughter, Jane Cochrane Smith who only lived to be ten. After his wife died he married Elizabeth Charlotte Raynsford in Wales, in 1817. This might explain why their last child, John Francis, is listed as being born in Pembrokeshire. At some point John Baird Smith emigrated to South Africa, as did his son, John Francis. The next report I found was of his very violent death. It states:

‘The story of this family starts with the birth of John Baird Smith in Woking, Surrey, in 1772, the youngest son of a well-to-do family. He married Elizabeth Raynsford in England and emigrated to South Africa about 1806 or 1819 or 1820 (there are conflicting reports on this). It is thought that he was an 1820 Settler, but there is no trace of his name in the official records. Little is known about his life, but the following item appeared in the *Grahamstown Journal*, issue dated 12.6.1852, page four, column one, in the Cory Library, Grahamstown: *Friday (11.6.1852) Information has come in of a savage murder committed by four rebel hottentots on the person of an Englishman, formerly in very opulent and respectable circumstances, named John Baird Smith, aged 82 years. The poor old man resided on the farm ‘Buckner’ in Oliphant Hoek, belonging to Mr E. Hugh, and was at the time attacked hoeing in the garden. The marauders rushed upon him unperceived, wrested the hoe from him and with it dashed out his brains...*

There is a reference to John Baird Smith in ‘*The roll of the British Settlers in S.A.*’ by Morse Jones (p.78): ‘John Smith, killed 11th June 1852 at Oliphants Hoek’ and in ‘*In the land of the Settlers*’ a booklet published by the 1820 Settlers’ Association: ‘Smith, John Baird - murdered by Hottentots on the farm ‘Buckner’, Oliphants Hoek, 1852’. (To avoid the same fate, his son John Francis and daughter-in-law Elizabeth (born Cannon) fled with their family to Grahamstown.)’^[1]

It seems improbable that he emigrated as early as this article suggests as his children were all born in the UK.



The sisters' gravestone, then and now

There seems to be an extensive private family tree (The Shaw Family Tree) on Ancestry so hopefully Dale will be able to access this in due course and learn more. Meanwhile, if any of our readers can tell us more about these two local ladies it would be lovely to add to the story.

^[1] From <https://journals.co.za/doi/abs/10.1>

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OUTING TO GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL

CAMERON BROWN



Our group and the view towards the altar with the stained glass window of the descending dove above it

On 22nd May around 20 of us enjoyed a guided visit to Guildford Cathedral. For most members it was not the first visit and we have, of course, had several articles in past journals involving the cathedral (75, 108, 166, 291) but for the majority it was an opportunity to learn much more about the architect, Sir Edward Maufe and his vision for this monumental work.

The idea of a cathedral for Guildford emerged when the diocese of Guildford was established in 1927. Before this, the area had been within the diocese of Winchester. The decision to build a new cathedral was both practical and symbolic, reflecting the growing population and the need

for a spiritual centre for the new diocese. The brief given to architects competing for the commission was more or less to build a cathedral able to seat 1500 worshippers with a view of the altar and within a budget of £250,000! The site, perched atop Stag Hill, commanding a prominent position overlooking the town and the surrounding countryside was substantially donated by the Onslows.

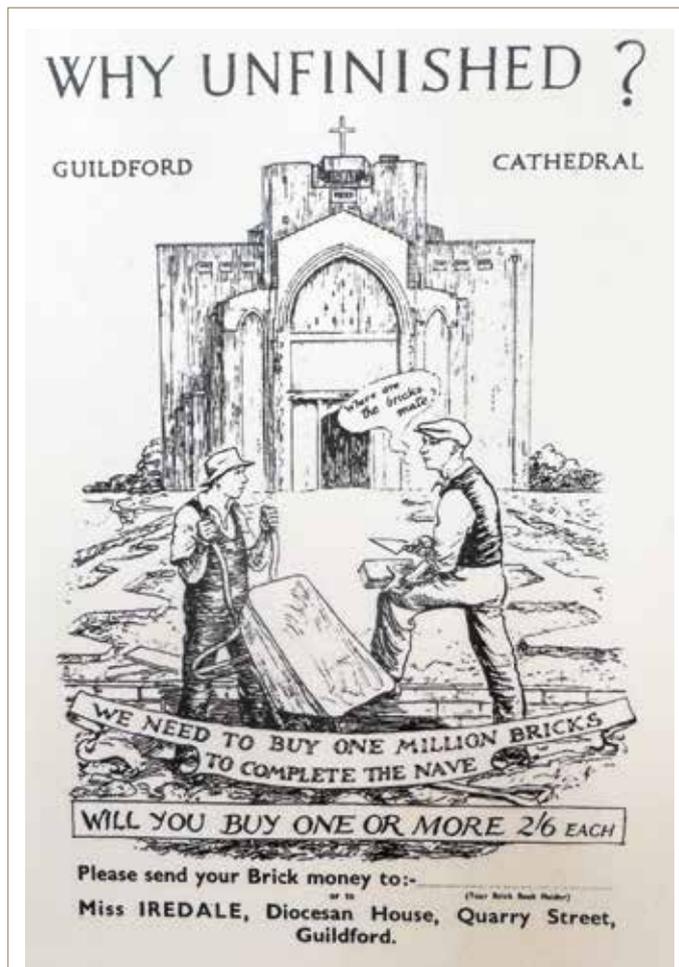
Our guide began by commenting that for most visitors the exterior of the building elicits an immediate negative reaction – followed by surprise on entering the space and seeing for the first time its light-filled size and experiencing its atmosphere of quiet calm. This, we

were told, was at the heart of Maufe's vision. He was known for his blend of traditional and modernist styles and set out to create a structure that was dignified yet accessible, embodying the spirit of the 20th century while respecting ecclesiastical architectural traditions. Maufe's design used clean lines, simple forms and restrained ornamentation, giving the building a sense of serene monumentality. The cathedral's distinctive red brickwork and tall, narrow windows are key elements of its aesthetic and are certainly typical of the times. We were shown photographs of, inter alia, Battersea power station as comparable examples.

Construction of the cathedral began in 1936 but was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II and did not resume in earnest until the 1950s. Financial constraints and post-war shortages meant that progress was slow and the completion of the cathedral relied heavily on public donations. In an innovative and community-driven effort, thousands of people (including some of our group) bought bricks in the 1950s and 60s for half a crown (12 ½ pence) each, many of them inscribing their names or those of loved ones on them. This initiative not only raised much-needed funds but also created a sense of communal ownership. Guildford Cathedral was finally consecrated on May 17th 1961 by Bishop George Reindorp, in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II.

The building is cruciform in layout, with a central nave, transepts and chancel. However, unlike medieval cathedrals, Guildford's plan and elevations are simplified and more geometric, reflecting the modernist restraint which the architect set out to achieve.

The nave is long and high, supported by plain columns which form graceful pointed arches with uniquely narrow aisles. Interestingly the columns are finished in plain white except for the sides facing the congregation which are faced in thin layers of Portland stone, harking back to the look of the medieval cathedrals and churches that we are used to. Portland stone is also used for detailing around the windows and doorways. The ceiling, lined with white plaster and decorated subtly with ribs, draws the eye upwards, creating a sense of height without the use of any elaborate decoration. Our guide was very keen to point out the clever use of the early English – or gothic



Flyer inviting the public to buy a brick

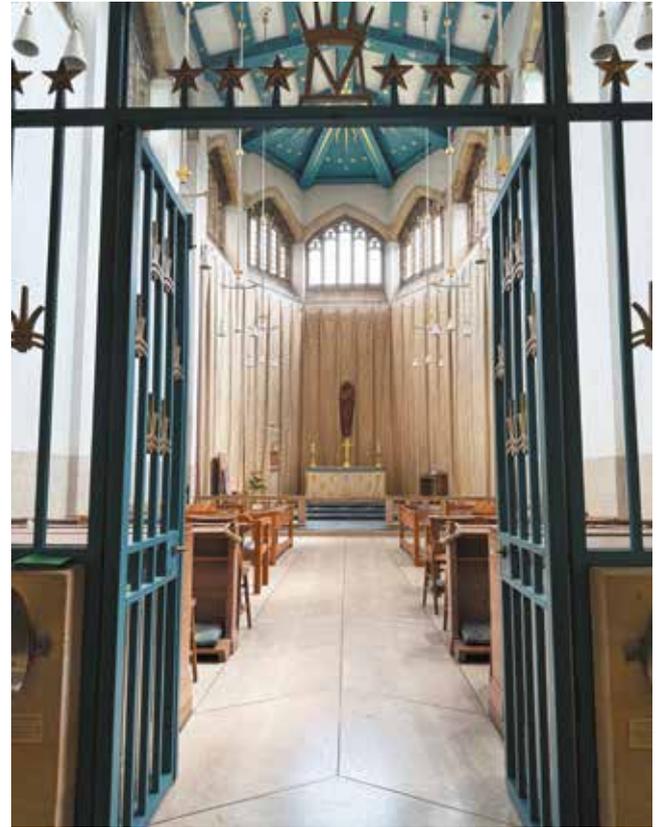
– pointed arch visible throughout the building in varying shapes and sizes, to draw and direct the gaze of the visitor. This uniformity creates a quite different feeling to that which we experience in an ancient church which preserves the tastes of many centuries in its differing architectural styles. Here the unadorned plainness of these high central columns emphasises their height as there is no decoration or structural feature to distract the eye.

One of the most distinctive aspects of the cathedral is its choice of building materials. These are primarily reinforced concrete and red brick made from clay dug from the hill on which the cathedral stands. This is claimed to give the building a warm, earthy tone and root it physically in its landscape.

Our guide spoke with much enthusiasm about the merits of the exterior but I fear did not convince all of us... The



View towards the entrance of the cathedral and our guide pointing out the clever use of early English arches



The Lady Chapel, behind the altar, demonstrates the use of a limited colour palette and the simplicity of design which creates harmony throughout the building



The use of very limited colour ranges is exemplified here in the wall-hanging behind the altar, with its subtle repeated pattern of the dove descending and in the carpet

bricks were handmade and do offer a cohesive aesthetic but whether that will survive the test of time is perhaps yet to be seen. Portland stone is used for detailing externally too, particularly around the windows, doorways, and the tower, offering a pale contrast to the red brick and adding visual relief.

The building's most commanding feature is its central tower, rising 160 feet (49 metres) above the crossing. Crowned by a gilded angel designed by William Pickford, the tower serves as a beacon visible for miles. The angel itself, standing 15 feet tall, is made of gilded

aluminium, chosen for its durability and lightweight properties and symbolises divine guardianship. At the eastern end one of the statues is of Lady Margaret Beaufort, known to us locally from her time at Woking Palace, but celebrated here as an important benefactor of Guildford.

Windows are tall and narrow, often filled with clear or subtly tinted glass rather than traditional stained glass. This, together with the position on top of a hill, allows an abundance of natural light to fill the interior, emphasising the clean surfaces and heightening the spiritual atmosphere. The East window, however, contains a striking piece of stained glass by Moira Forsyth, depicting the Holy Spirit in the form of a descending dove, surrounded by angels and light – a dramatic focal point in the otherwise understated sanctuary.

One of the architect's guiding principles (and that of his wife who worked very closely with him on all of his commissions)

was to use a very limited colour palette, centred here on beige/gold and light blue. This is seen also in the fabrics and furnishings within the building, all of which came under the strict control of Sir Edward and his wife, who happened also to be a director of the London store Heals, who were contracted to supply the fabrics. Two examples of this are the massive wall-hanging behind the altar in an almost monotone golden hue and the blue and gold carpet with red highlights on the floor and altar steps of the chancel (both illustrated on the opposite page). The Lady Chapel too is an essay in blue and gold.

The fittings reflect the same blend of tradition and modernity. The altar, font, pulpit, and bishop's throne



The south elevation showing the brutal shape of the cathedral (shame about the car!)



The angel on the tower © Chris Finden-Browne



The statue of Margaret Beaufort is the second one from the left at the top of the NE corner



The bust of Sir Edward Maufe in the cathedral

are crafted in stone and wood, designed with minimal decoration but great attention to form and proportion. Light oak wood is used throughout the choir stalls and seating, contributing to the warmth and simplicity of the space.

The pervasive theme of the decorative details is the Holy Spirit, the symbols for which are the dove descending from heaven, and flames. This is the only cathedral in England formally dedicated to the Holy Spirit rather than an individual saint.

Photographs by Ditz unless otherwise credited

THE LIFE AND ANCESTRY OF TALBOT BASHALL – PART THREE

ALAN COOPER



The Manor house, opposite The Anchor – birthplace of Talbot



'Biz' Bashall, in his paraffin dealing days



Faircot today (left of picture) with the new properties (right of picture) which replaced the building destroyed by bombing

TALBOT HENRY BASHALL

Talbot Henry Bashall was born 19th July 1926, the third of John Talbot Bashall and May Bertie Dibble's four children. But first, some memories from his younger sister, Audrey Hunt (née Bashall) who recalled:

“Talbot was born in the Manor House, opposite the Anchor pub. My parents moved and I was born at No. 1, Wentworth Cottages. Next door at No. 2 lived the village school headmaster, Fred Dixon. It was from here that my father dealt in paraffin oil, which he stored in the shed. Tankers would arrive and unload it into large containers (oil drums). The shed was next to the house and constructed, I believe, of asbestos. A terrific hazard when you think about it! He took it around the village in a handcart and sold it to anybody who wanted some.”^[1]

Audrey explained that, although not certain, she believed her father's nickname 'Biz' or 'Bizzy' came about because his mother referred to him somewhat cruelly as always being “busy doing nothing!” Audrey then added: “I remember the wartime bombing. My grandmother Dibble owned and lived in Faircot, a house beside the old forge. The property on the other side took a direct hit from a bomb and was completely destroyed.

I also witnessed a dogfight between a Hurricane and a Messerschmitt 110 which later crashed at Long Reach, West Horsley. The pilot was killed, and the surviving airman was driven to Dr Creet's surgery in Ripley for treatment.”

Talbot's memories were a little more dramatic – in his diaries he recalls that the airman was followed by a less than sympathetic crowd from which cries of “hang the

bastard” rang out loud and clear. With a bullet wound to the foot, the terrified airman’s blood-soaked flying boot was paraded around the baying crowd to collect money for the war effort.^[2]

Audrey adds: “During WW2 my father was in the ARP (Civil Defence) and I used to cycle along the A3 to the cinema at Cobham. Uncle Aubrey and I shared the same birthday, hence me being named Audrey. Someone said they thought he died of the Spanish flu. I gather from these conversations that he was not a strong, well man but he did ride motorbikes, as did my father who held a record for the hill climb at Brooklands. After my elder brother was born, Harriett (my father’s brother’s wife) was called ‘Auntie Me’ – she used to say to him “come to me” and from then on that’s what we all called her.”^[3]



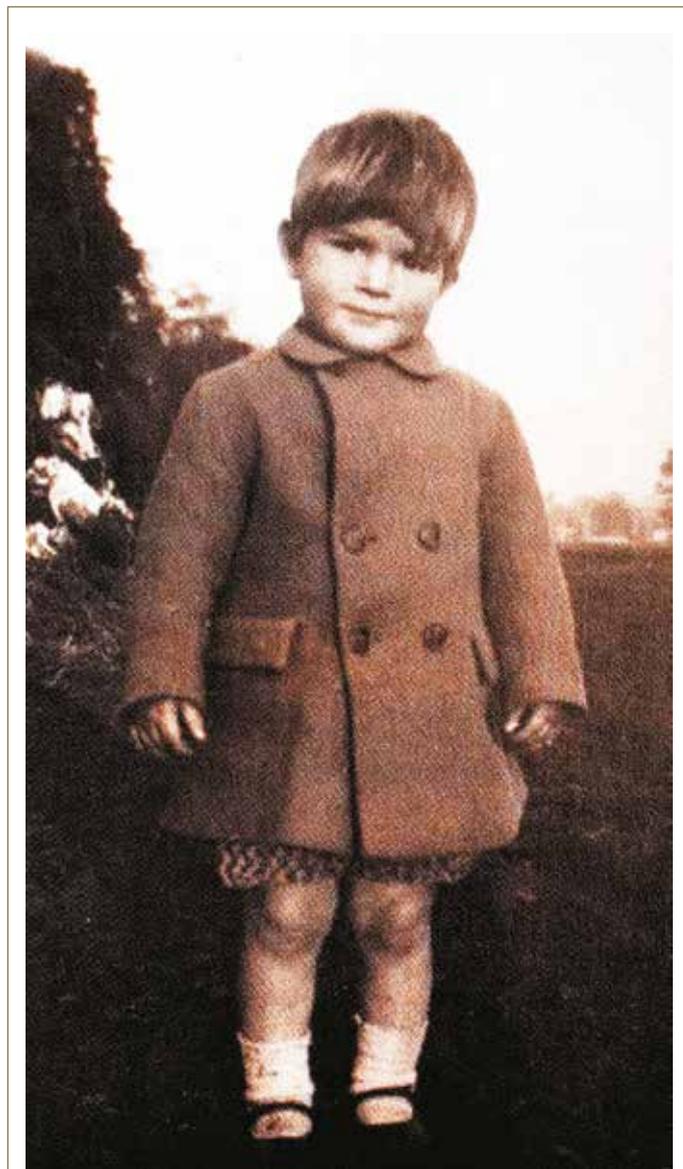
Elm Tree House School – the playroom



The school, as viewed from the tennis lawn to the rear



Elm Tree House School - the dancing room



Talbot aged circa two years

Talbot attended Elm Tree House pre-primary school in Ripley, followed by two terms in the village Church school before finally attending an independent preparatory school in Cranleigh. The first three years were spent in junior school with the planned three years in senior cut short by WW2. Turning 17 in 1943, he defied his parents’ wishes, left school and volunteered for RAF aircrew for which he was told to re-apply when aged 18. During 1943 he joined the Ripley Home Guard; however, most of his time was spent “doing my bit for food production”



Ripley Home Guard – Talbot is to the left of the picture without a uniform

working at RHS Wisley where he met his wife-to-be Cynthia Glegge Thomas.

1944 dawned but the RAF no longer needed aircrew, and so, on Thursday, 17th August 1944 Talbot joined the army. Wearing his home guard uniform, he travelled to an infantry unit at Fulford barracks, York, to commence six weeks of primary training. This was followed by a further four weeks of training at Cameron barracks, Inverness, after which about a dozen, Talbot included, received an invitation to attend a War Office Selection Board in Edinburgh. Successful, he was selected for an OCTU ^[4], passing out on 5th September 1946 at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Three weeks on attachment at New Hall barracks, Oswestry, Shropshire followed before receiving a posting to Italy.

Reaching Italy was achieved by a two-day train journey through Germany. Everywhere civilians were starving as a direct consequence of Hitler's regime and Talbot, along with most of his colleagues threw their packed lunches to them as they stood begging beside the railway track.

By January of 1947 he was overseeing the repatriation of thousands of Italians desperately fleeing persecution in Yugoslavia. He was based about six miles from Trieste on the Slovenian border where the Central Mediterranean Forces he was part of were the only reason a Communist



Talbot, upon joining the army in 1946

takeover was prevented. Talbot grimly summed up this situation stating in his diaries, “At 20 years of age, I was certainly receiving an apprenticeship in the field of human relations and indeed, the deviousness of politics”.

April 1947 saw Talbot ordered to Venice for what would become a life-changing experience, guarding accused war criminals awaiting trial. It was here that he was tasked with being the personal escort and bodyguard of Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, who, in 1940, had planned and directed most of the Luftwaffe bombing attacks on London and other English cities. As he chaperoned Kesselring to and from court each day, an inexplicable friendship developed and, when finally his death sentence was passed, the Field Marshal presented him with a book *Umkämpftes Römisches Land (Struggles on Roman Soil)*, by the German war artist Wilhelm Wessel. It was personally inscribed ‘To Lieutenant Talbot Henry Bashall with many thanks for the comrade-like and friendly attitude towards me’.

When his death sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment, a decision supported by many, (including Winston Churchill), they continued to communicate via letter and this endured until Kesselring’s death in 1960, having been released on compassionate grounds in 1952 suffering from throat cancer.



Wedding photo of Talbot Bashall and Cynthia Glegge Thomas in 1948

Finally, Talbot’s battalion was sent as a peacekeeping force to Palestine in June 1947, where he stayed until November of that year before returning to Woking to be demobilised, followed by the very short journey home to Ripley.

Now free from the army, Talbot and Cynthia were married on 4th December 1948 and relocated to Kent where he took a job with the Forestry Department. A two-year residential course in Norfolk followed and, in 1951, a job provided with accommodation materialised in Chiddingfold, Surrey. The following year, accepting that

forestry was not a viable career choice, a job advertised in the national press caught his eye – a position in the prison service in Hong Kong. After a short period of training in Wakefield, Yorkshire, Talbot, Cynthia and their two small children set sail for Hong Kong in June 1953.

Having learnt German whilst at school, Talbot was well prepared for his postings in the army but now, along with Cynthia, he had to learn Cantonese. As the colony’s first expatriate prison officer, he worked at the maximum-security Stanley Prison for four years, before taking on the training of new guards.

The year 1963 saw him made Commandant of the Cape Collinson Training Centre for delinquent youths and, in October 1969, he became Commandant of Hong Kong’s Hawker Control Force with 500 staff under his supervision. It was not an enjoyable job, but he persevered until it was disbanded in 1979 whereupon he was appointed head of the newly-established Refugee Control Centre. This was timely, as the exodus from Vietnam that began four years earlier was now reaching a critical juncture.

In the 20 years following the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, 800,000 ethnic Chinese people fled the country by sea and many died due to storms, pirates and overcrowded boats. They headed for Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, where they were housed in camps before being dispatched to settle permanently in other countries.

In Hong Kong, Bashall led the Herculean task of processing them all and seeing them off safely. It was, he said, “a challenging and demanding job - but a deeply satisfying one. We didn’t turn a single boat away during my posting and I was there for three and a half years, day in and day out. I am very, very proud of that fact.”

One of these ships, the *Skyluck*, carrying 2600 asylum seekers, approached Hong Kong in February 1979 but was refused permission to dock. Its engines were disabled by the Hong Kong Marine Police and it remained anchored in the West Lamma Channel. The refugees, believing



April 1979: the 98ft vessel *Ha Long*, built for 30 passengers but eventually arriving in Hong Kong containing 571 refugees, earning it the name the 'Sardine Ship' in the press

they had been abandoned, were desperate, cut the anchor chains and began to drift. Just another day's work for the Refugee Control Centre and recorded in Talbot's diary simply as. "In office at 07:45 and then at 09:30 it all started: *Skyluck* cut her anchor chain and drifting. The proverbial hit the fan and we were off."



Becky, Talbot, Cynthia and Paul following the award of the Imperial Service Order at Buckingham Palace



Muhammad Ali meets the refugees

All British Colonial staff qualified for six months leave every 2 ½ years, with first-class passage for the entire family aboard P&O passenger-cargo ships or similar value flights, resulting in much world travel. Trips to the UK were essential for overseeing the children's education – Paul at Cranleigh Prep School and Becky at Tormead Independent Girls School, Guildford – and for visiting relatives. One such trip entailed the purchase of a house in Guildford, although never to be lived in for any prolonged period of time; another, a visit to his grandmother's nephew, William Bashall Gabriel in Ludham, Norfolk. In his diaries, he gleefully informs us that William was a world-renowned rectal surgeon, cheekily known throughout the profession as 'the arse angel Gabriel!' ^[5]

Talbot was summoned back to England and on 17th October 1979, in recognition of public service in Hong Kong since 1953 and was awarded the ISO (Imperial Service Order), personally bestowed by the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

During the 1993 reform of the British honours system the British Government decided to make no new appointments to the Imperial Service Order; Talbot was the last recipient.

Later that year, one visitor to one of the refugee camps really impressed Talbot and enthralled the refugees with his charisma – the outstanding boxer, Muhammad Ali. On 22nd December 1979 Ali, on a diplomatic visit to China to help overturn a 20-year ban on boxing in the country, decided to drop in on Hong Kong. The reason for the visit carried much relevance due to his refusal in 1967 to fight in Vietnam, prompting his famous words "Man, I ain't got no quarrel with them Viet Cong."

With the surrender of Hong Kong to China imminent, seeing no future in remaining there and with retirement

beckoning, in November 1982, Talbot and Cynthia finally put down their roots for the last time, in Perth, Western Australia. Daughter Becky decided to remain in England, but son Paul found his career path also in Australia.

In describing the Hong Kong refugee crisis, the *Daily Express* journalist James McMillan wrote: 'For me, the British contribution was best summed up by one Talbot Bashall of the immigration service. To see his patient, unemotional, yet crisp handling of the Vietnamese boat people who had just arrived in Hong Kong was to experience British colonialism at its immaculate best. The underplaying of the drama was masterly. Bashall demonstrated the only compassion worth a damn – doing something practical to help. Cool, calm deliberation is the best of British.'

Having intentions of fighting against Hitler and Nazism, he also held a very genuine fear of the spread of radical Muslim teachings believing that, under an all-powerful caliphate a real threat to world peace would always be present. Some may assess this attitude as outspoken and alarmist but, from an early age, a world-weary man of seemingly much older years foresaw something of the future with alarming clarity.

In 2008, Cynthia was diagnosed with dementia and spent three years in a local nursing home. She died in early 2011 aged 86. Talbot died 6th September 2020 aged 94. A true hero – from Ripley.

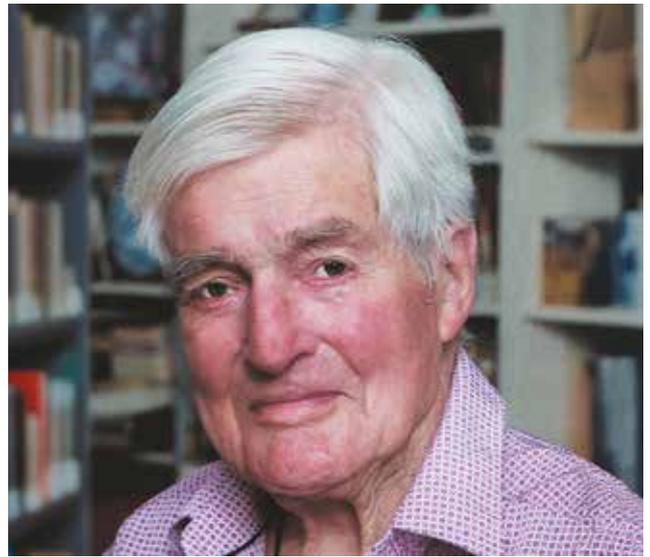
^[1] With his racing days behind him, the 1939 register states his occupation as dealer in paraffin oil – a far cry from the playboy lifestyle adopted by so many of his racing contemporaries today! Likewise, his brother Harry is described in the 1939 register as a retired traveller

^[2] *Local memories* - Margaret (Peggy) Methold (née Parrott) whose father, Police Constable 197 Herbert Parrott, stationed at Ripley, was tasked with the collection of the German airman and delivering him to Dr Creet's surgery in the village for treatment (see also articles: J285 - part 1 and J286 - part 2)

^[3] Interview with Audrey Hunt (née Bashall) in 2021

^[4] OCTU - Officer Cadet Training Unit

^[5] Following his retirement in 1961, Fred Dixon, Headmaster of Ripley School and next-door-neighbour of Talbot's parents eventually moved to nearby Normandy. He still visited Ripley on a regular basis and frequently wrote to John Hutson. One such communication, recently donated to the Society, has Fred enthusing about a letter received from Talbot, in which his dry sense of humour



Talbot in retirement, Perth, Western Australia

and skills as an after-dinner raconteur were clearly evident. Despite the miles separating them, Fred and Talbot remained firm friends, staying in touch with each other until Fred's death in 1995

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER):

Ken Salmon: whose father was a work colleague of Talbot's during his tenure in the Hong Kong Prisons Department and who kindly informed us of his passing and put me in touch with daughter Becky

Paul Bashall: Talbot's son, for permission to quote from his father's memoirs, gleaned from his vast collection of diaries compiled over many years and to use images contained within them

Audrey Hunt (née Bashall): Talbot's sister, for chats and amazing photos

Becky, Talbot's daughter: for putting me in touch with Audrey

All photos c/o Paul Bashall collection except:

'Biz' Bashall photo and all racing and army photos included in Part 2: courtesy Audrey Hunt (née Bashall) collection

Home Guard photo: Alan Cooper collection

Elm Tree House, Faircot and Manor House photos: Send Ripley History Society archives

Special mention to Peter Houghton, chairman of Leyland Historical Society who kindly provided the photo of Farington mill and confirmed the historical accuracy of the 'Lancashire' element contained in Part 1 of this 3-part article

WOKING PALACE AND HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

CLARE McCANN

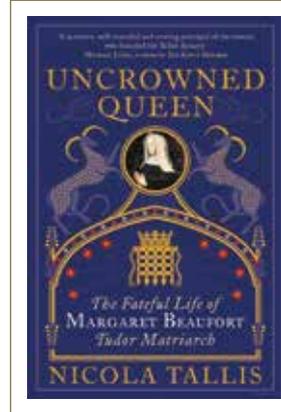


Water colour of Woking Palace by Jack Hoar

Member Peter Hoar came into the museum earlier this year with a painting of Woking Palace done by his nephew, who is a professional water colourist. He worked from models that were constructed following digs at the site.

With Heritage Day just around the corner it seemed a good moment to show it off in the journal as the site is so rarely open and, as Peter says, it is amazing how few people even know of its existence today.

Peter writes: 'Wochinges manor is recorded in the Domesday Book in 1068. It was owned by Edward the Confessor. Wochinges is the Anglo-Saxon name for the town now known as Old Woking. It stayed in royal ownership until 1189 when Richard I granted the manor of Woking to Alan Basset of Wycombe. It reverted to the crown in 1327 and Lady Margaret Beaufort, the great-grand-daughter of John of Gaunt, was awarded the manor in 1466. She was quite possibly one of the most influential women in British history and gave birth to the future Henry VII at the age of 13. Despite marrying four times, he was her only child and her prime objective in life was to ensure her son's route to the throne, a task she admirably achieved although she found time to found two Cambridge colleges amongst other things. Various books



have been written about her, including *The Uncrowned Queen* by Nicola Tallis^[1].

In 1503 Henry persuaded his mother to give him Woking manor and set about

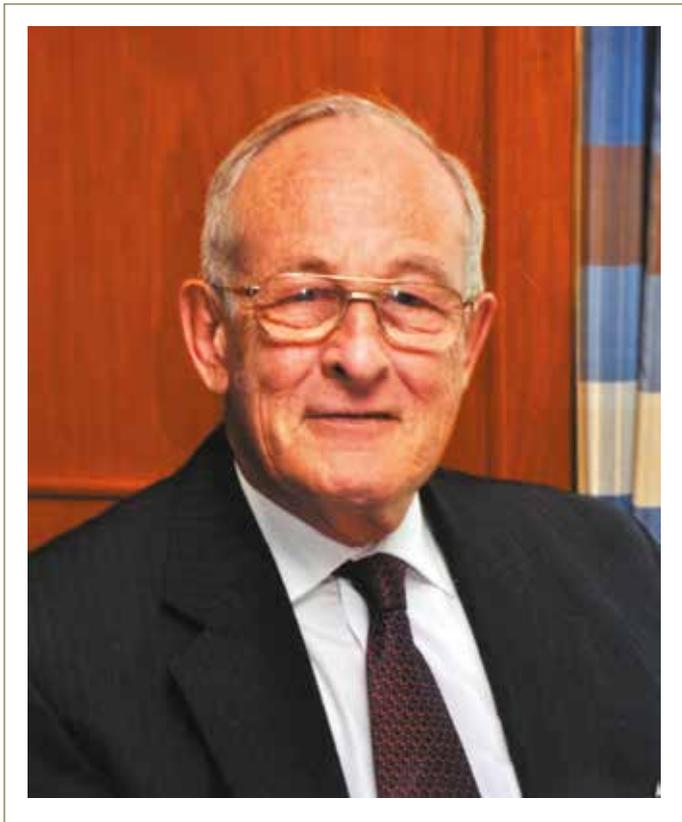
changing the existing manor house into a royal hunting lodge, or a minor palace, fit for a king. He built a new great hall in the centre of the site and added other buildings. On succession his son, Henry VIII, continued to rebuild and update the buildings. One of the remaining walls

resembles the real tennis court wall at Hampton and may have been built by Henry VIII. In addition to the buildings, the palace comprised gardens for fruit and vegetables as well as a large fish pond. It was surrounded by a moat, much of which can still be seen today. After Henry VIII, royal interest waned and King James I granted the palace to Sir Edward Zouch who demolished most of the buildings, using some of the stones to build his manor at Hoe Place, now part of Hoe Bridge School. It is believed much of the remaining rubble was used in the construction of local buildings. A small 18 x 30 foot building, some walls and foundations are all that remain today. Many of the finds from excavations are housed at the Surrey History Centre. Despite the destruction of most of the buildings it is still worth a visit on one of the Heritage Open Days.'

This year's Heritage Open Days run from the 12th – 21st of September. Please consult the website to check the opening times for Woking Palace. <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

^[1] Available for members to borrow from the museum library

OBITUARY – JOHN ANDREW CREASEY, 1939 – 2025



John Creasey was born on 28th April 1939 in London, but grew up in Portsmouth. He attended St John's College in Southsea and later boarded at St Peter's College in Bournemouth.

On leaving school at 18 he applied to the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth with a view to a career in the Royal Navy. He was accepted but unfortunately failed the medical because of an eye condition due to measles which he contracted in infancy.

Determined to have a career in shipping he joined Fraser and White, coal merchants in Portsmouth, who had several ships transporting coal to various ports. At this time he started studying to become a shipbroker.

John married Hazel (née May) from Portsmouth in 1963 and then moved to work for Cunard in Southampton where he was involved in sales and supervising the

embarkation of passengers – particularly for the old Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth. Whilst with Cunard he achieved his wish of going to sea as cruise staff. In 1966 he was seconded to Frankfurt where he handled ticket sales for cruises and passage to America and learned to speak German. Following the seamen's strike in the 1960s John realised that redundancies were coming and decided to move on.

He joined Kuwait National Petroleum in London in marine operations. After several years he was relocated with Hazel and his sons Shaun and Mathew to Kuwait for three years, whilst daughter Saron stayed in England at boarding school.

They returned in 1981 when John joined shipbrokers Davies and Newman. After about nine years redundancy was looming again so John began to work for himself as an oil industry shipping consultant with clients in the USA and Italy.

In 1993 when an opportunity to work in Malta came up John and Hazel relocated there for three years and John continued to work with shipbrokers until retirement, which gave him time to take up hobbies including woodturning and volunteering at Brooklands Museum.

In 2004 they moved to Send, where he and Hazel also joined the Send & Ripley History Society and for some years John looked after journal and online advertising sales.

John made many friends during his life and always had a sense of fun which often got him into trouble! As an example of this: John challenged his grandson Billy, whilst they were both volunteering at Brooklands Museum, to get down the steps of the VC10 with neither of them allowed to use their feet. As grandad was in his 70s this was not a great success for him!

John is survived by Hazel, their three children Sharon, Shaun and Matthew and six grandchildren.

MEMORIES OF RIPLEY GUIDES AND BROWNIES

JACKIE STRANGE

CLARE MCCANN WRITES:

Member Jackie Strange has written up some memories of her long involvement with the Guides and Brownies in Ripley and let us have a number of photographs. We are sure that other readers will have similar material and thought we should try to pull together as much as we can to ensure that it is preserved for future researchers.

In 1967 when my daughter Michelle wanted to join the Brownies, Mrs Robins, who worked at the International Stores in Ripley, ran both the Brownies and the Guides but, when she retired, both groups closed. Fortunately it was not for long, as when Lord Robert and Lady Patience Baden-Powell moved into Chapel Farm in 1969, Lady Baden-Powell reopened the Guides and Brownies. When she was the Guide Leader I took on the Brownies. Later she became District Commissioner for Worplesdon District, having given up the 1st Ripley Guides, and then Chief Commissioner of the Girl Guide movement in 1975.

Margaret Griffin was my assistant leader and we had many happy times together with the Brownies, attending quite a numbers of Guiding events. For example a Jubilee fair as remembered by one Brownie: "On the 11th July 1970 we went to a Diamond Jubilee Fair at Shalford Park. There were many stalls with games to play at and a trampoline. Our Brown Owl gave us all six pennies and we had to try to earn more on the stalls or by collecting waste paper or litter. The afternoon was hot and very sunny and we were able to enjoy our picnic tea; after that we had a camp fire and many songs which we all enjoyed very much".

We were very lucky to have the World Chief Guide, Olave Lady Baden-Powell, come to some of our meetings. In 1970 I picked her up from Chapel Farm to take her to the Worplesdon District Girl Guides' Diamond Jubilee Service held at St Peter's Church, Stoke Hill, Guildford.

Bonfire night was always memorable – we had floats in the Ripley Bonfire parades in which we sometimes came first, leading us to the shout "We won the cup!".

We met in the old church hall, which was opposite the old vicarage, now flats. On July 7th 1972 I remember we saw the Queen Mother on her return journey from an engagement in Shottermill. Her Rolls stopped by the hall for a moment and she came forward, smiled and waved and we were all delighted. Not everything was that positive – the church hall was often broken into by vandals, taking anything they could. I lost count of the brooms I lost. My husband, Ted, repaired the windows at the back of the building and eventually he just boarded them up after one of the toilets had been smashed. When the new Victory Hall opened, we transferred to it.

Following some fundraising the girls planted a beech tree on The Green on March 7th 1972 and I am pleased to report that it has thrived. I also recall the Brownies' Revels of September that year when we won a hobby-horse competition with Penny Pearson on it.

Another occasion that will stay long in the memory was an unexpected late call to attend a Jamboree in Denmark with the Guildford District Guides & Scouts. My daughter, Michelle, had already been chosen to go but when another Guide leader had backed out at the last minute, I had to get a passport at short notice and borrow equipment. What a camp that was! Rain, mud; I did all the cooking on a wooden platform, with wet wood. The toilets were awful, a metal dustbin in a toilet tent, which we Guide leaders emptied late at night. Still - we had some good times and laughs. When the Jamboree was over, I went to spend time with a family in Randers. They were a lovely family and I could recover from the muddy camp – even managing to get my hair washed at the local hairdressers. Quite an experience but I was glad to get back home.

One of my Brownies, Penny Pearson, would not go up to Guides. I asked a senior Guider, Miss Smith, what I should do? Open a new Guide Company was her reply. So Margaret and I opened the 2nd Ripley Guides so that for a while Ripley had two Guide Companies and one Brownie Pack.

This 2nd Ripley Guide company was opened on 11th September 1973 with 20 Guides and registered in September 1974.

My first memory of the World Chief Guide was at the Surrey West County Day at Highlands School, Westfield, in November 1969 where, as a very new Guider, I was so impressed with the great lady, whose warmth and affection was an inspiration to me. She shook hands with every Guider in turn as we all filed passed her, with a cheerful word to all. I said to myself "what a wonderful leader".

I have already recalled the occasion in 1970 when I accompanied her from Ripley to Guildford for a surprise visit to the Worplesdon District Girl Guides' Diamond Jubilee service. Such a wonderful surprise for all the Guides to learn that the World Chief Guide would be present. As you can imagine I was very apprehensive as I waited for her to arrive in Ripley to show them the way, but I should not have worried. The great lady had the wonderful ability to put one at ease and we were soon chatting away as old friends.

In the spring of 1976 Lady Patience Baden-Powell asked me to take two Brownies – one from each of the packs, 1st and 2nd Ripley, to the nursing home, Birtley House, Bramley, where the World Chief Guide had made her home. Two very nervous little Brownies approached the magnificent oak staircase in anticipation, not really taking any notice of my reassurances. As soon as the door was opened into her room the World Chief Guide greeted them so warmly that they were immediately at ease. The occasion for this special visit was for them to be photographed with the great lady for the signing of the millionth copy of the *Brownie Guide Handbook*. What beautiful photographs they all turned out to be. After an hour or so there she looked for a gift for them. Having only diabetic chocolates, she gave them a box each but they were thrilled with their gift. Two little Brownies and one Guider had a day to remember forever.



Penny Pearson, 2nd Ripley and a newspaper caption referring to the photograph

When a bright young Brownie wrote to 'Jim'll Fix it' asking to met the World Chief Guide, the recording was made not at Bramley but at Chapel Farm in Ripley, the home of Lord Robert and Lady Patience Baden-Powell. I helped with refreshments for the TV personnel and we were all amazed at the energy of the World Chief Guide. The recording was completed in record time.

Olave, Lady Baden-Powell died on 25th June 1977 peacefully in her sleep aged 88 years. I was so privileged to have met her, also to attend her funeral at the village church in Bentley. Lord Baden-Powell read the lesson to a packed congregation and we then returned to Chapel Farm to do the teas. Her ashes were flown to Kenya to be buried in her husband's grave at Nyeri.



Carolyn Bigwood, 15 years old, 2nd Ripley Girl Guides, 10th December 1974 at the old church room



Jackie Strange and Lady Baden Powell unveiling plaque at new Guides HQ on 12th November 1983



Jackie Strange and others at the new Guides hut 12th November 1983

I had another proud moment in 1972 when my daughter Michelle gained her Queen's Guide Badge. She had transferred to Jacobs Well Guides, as it was difficult for her to be in Ripley Guides where I was leader. In 1973 we went with the Jacobs Well Guides to camp at Shere. Fortunately we had lovely weather and I gained my Quartermaster Certificate and the Jacobs Well leader her Camper's License. We had three more joint camps and my husband, Ted, drove a Barrett's lorry full of camping equipment whenever we camped locally.

The 2nd Ripley Guides also participated in an International Mixed Scout & Guide Camp at Roker Farm Guildford in 1974. Scouts & Guides from Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, France and Norway took part.

Another highlight that year, on December 10th 1974, Carolyn Bigwood received her Queen's Guide award from Lady Patience – a first for 2nd Ripley.

As well as my company in Ripley, I was given the responsibility as a hostess in charge at Heathrow Airport for the World Conference in 1975. I met Guiders in arrivals and sent them to the different terminals to meet Guiders from across the world who were attending the World Conference.

Another less good memory from that year was a joint camp with Burpham at Dudsbury Guide Camp near Bournemouth, where we had the guy ropes cut by someone during the night and the Union Jack flag stolen.

My last camp was at Pax Hill, Bentley, in May 1986. We were able to visit the house where the founder and Lady Olave had once lived. Helen Pullen, who was taking over the 2nd Ripley Guides, was with me. The 2nd Ripley Guides Company won the camping competition

in September 1986 and then the district competition that same month. Helen later went on to become the Worplesdon District Commissioner.

I retired from Guiding in 1986 as I felt I was getting a bit out of touch. I was given a wonderful send off, with a party and a lovely cake. Lord and Lady Baden-Powell came as well as the Worplesdon District Guide Leaders, our Supporters' Committee and some of my old Guides. I received a beautiful cut glass vase from the Guides, the Brownies and supporters and many more presents and was delighted to receive them.



Jackie Strange – Queen of the Camp – at her last Guides camp at Pax Hill, Bentley, home of Lord & Lady (Robert & Olave) Baden-Powell



Jackie Strange's retirement 1986 - with Lord and Lady Baden-Powell



Jackie Strange with her farewell presents at Papercourt Lake in 1986

I hope these memories will trigger recollections from other Guides and Brownies.

NOTES ON PERSONNEL OF RIPLEY BROWNIE AND GUIDE LEADERS/HELPERS

1st Ripley Brownies	Janet Pullen	Edna Millis	Then June Crane
2nd Ripley Brownies	Ann Maynard	Mrs Brenda Blakey & June Crane	Then Pauline Scholey
1st Ripley Guides	Ann Walden	Then Mrs Iris Watts	Then Mrs M Rainer & Mrs S Conisbee
2nd Ripley Guides	Mrs Jackie Strange	Mrs Margaret Griffin	Then Mary Woods & Sonia and Helen Pullen

WHERE IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

A VIEW FROM JUST BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR ONE – WHERE WAS IT TAKEN?



WE ASKED IN JOURNAL 302 WHERE THIS QUIANT LOOKING SHOP WAS AND WHAT IT IS NOW.

This shop was in Rio House, Ripley High Street – next to St Mary's church. The building has had many different uses over the years, but most villagers will remember it as Ripley Transformers. It is currently a beauty therapist and cosmetic tattooist business, Kerry Emma Cosmetics.

Correctly identified by: Tony Dollin, Audrey Smithers, Jackie & Ted Strange, Vernon Wood

WHAT IS IT? ALAN COOPER



ANOTHER OFFERING FROM OUR MEMBER PETER SMITHERS TO BAFLE AND AMUSE! WHAT IS IT AND FROM WHICH COUNTRY DOES IT ORIGINATE?



WE ASKED IN JOURNAL 302 WHAT THIS STRANGE LOOKING ITEM, WHICH CAME FROM OUR MEMBER VERNON WOOD WAS AND IF IT COULD HAVE BEEN A RING OR SOMETHING WITH A MORE DEADLY PURPOSE.

This item is used to remove a shotgun cartridge that has become stuck in the gun's breech.

Correctly identified by: Ian Mason, Annie Oakley – AKA Audrey Smithers!

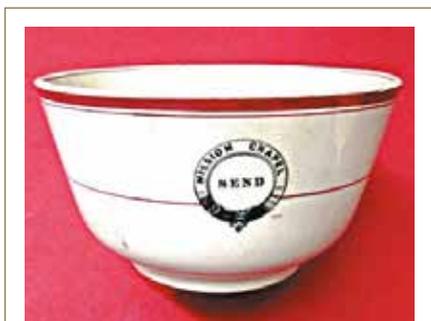
MISSION ROOM, BURNT COMMON

JANET TICE

It was when we were doing research into the men from Send who had served in World War One that we first came across the mention of a Mission Room in Send. An article in the *Surrey Advertiser*, 5th May 1917, gave an account of the gift of a silver cross in memory of two brothers who had been killed earlier in the war. They were Sgt Major Alfred George Webb, killed on 7th May 1915 and Sgt Robert Harry Webb, killed on 8th September 1916. They were sons of James Webb who had grown up in Send but had moved to London. The article continues:

‘At the back of the base [of the cross] is an inscription which reads: ‘To the glory of God and in memory of Sgt Maj Alfred Geo Webb and Sgt Robert H Webb, who died while serving their country and their God.’ The cross replaces one that was presented to the church by the father of Messrs J and W Webb many years ago. The older cross will be placed in the Mission Room.’

There was a similar article in the *Woking News and Mail* but that recorded that the older cross would be placed in the Church Rooms. At the time I assumed that the *Surrey Advertiser* had made a mistake but then a few years later, when helping curator Clare McCann with some conservation work



A small sugar bowl inscribed Mission Chapel

at our museum store, I spotted a small sugar bowl inscribed Mission Chapel. I needed to do some research!

I began with the bound set of Send Parish Magazines in our museum research library and they proved to be a mine of

information. The first mention came from the vicar, Rev G C Allen, in the April 1910 edition:

‘There are many things which are in my mind that might be done, and ought to be done; and I trust if God spares me in health and strength to see some at least of them accomplished in the next few years. One is already within measurable distance, a small Mission Room at Burnt Common. Services, as you know, have in times past been

occasionally held there; and the time seems now to have come when some permanent building should be erected, where regular ministrations may be held for those whose distance from the Parish Church and Church Room makes attendance there a matter of great difficulty. Lord Onslow has very kindly granted a site for building and by the time this is in your hands I hope a start will have been made.’

When the vicar writes that ‘services have in times past been occasionally held there’ he is referring to services and meetings being held in private homes in the Burnt Common area during the winter months. In the magazines of 1893 – 1895 we learn that fortnightly services were held at ‘Mr Barton’s cottage, Hazlehurst, Mrs Hersey’s cottage at Burnt Common and Mr Mitchell’s Gosden Hill House’ between November and April. In 1902, 1904, 1905, and 1907 meetings are listed at Gosden Hill, Tithebarns and Burnt Common ‘beginning in October for this winter as last year’.

A fund must have been set up to pay for the new room because in May 1910 it is recorded that an entertainment was given at Send Schools on 15th March in aid of the fund when £6 was raised and in later months further donations from individuals were mentioned in the magazine.

In July it was recorded that the Bishop of Guildford had dedicated the building on Thursday, 23rd June. The building was then described as follows:

‘A Mission Room has been provided at Burnt Common to meet the requirements of that part of the large and straggling Parish of Send, which lies between London Road and West Clandon. It will accommodate about 30 people and will be served by the vicar of Send and the Lay Reader.

The building is constructed entirely of wood and presents a very neat appearance. It is approached from the road from West Clandon to the London Road by a gravelled path, while a rustic bridge – the materials for which were Lord Onslow’s gift – spans a ditch near the building. The

green and white painted exterior, with the brown painted roof, surmounted by a bell and wooden cross, harmonises well with the surrounding coppice. Inside the Mission Room is well furnished, nearly all the requisites for the conducting of services being provided. Gifts of service books have been received from Mrs W Maling Grant and Miss M White ... It may be of interest to know that the bell from the Mission Room came from Cranleigh School ... The cross on the roof is the St Cross cross of Winchester. It is the badge of Cranleigh School and is quartered in the school arms. The small gilt cross over the altar is made of oak from the roof of Winchester Cathedral and is probably at least 1000 years old. The Communion Chalice and Paten came from Russia...'

In November 1910 the vicar writes about items donated [Editor's note: the capital letters are as used by the vicar]:

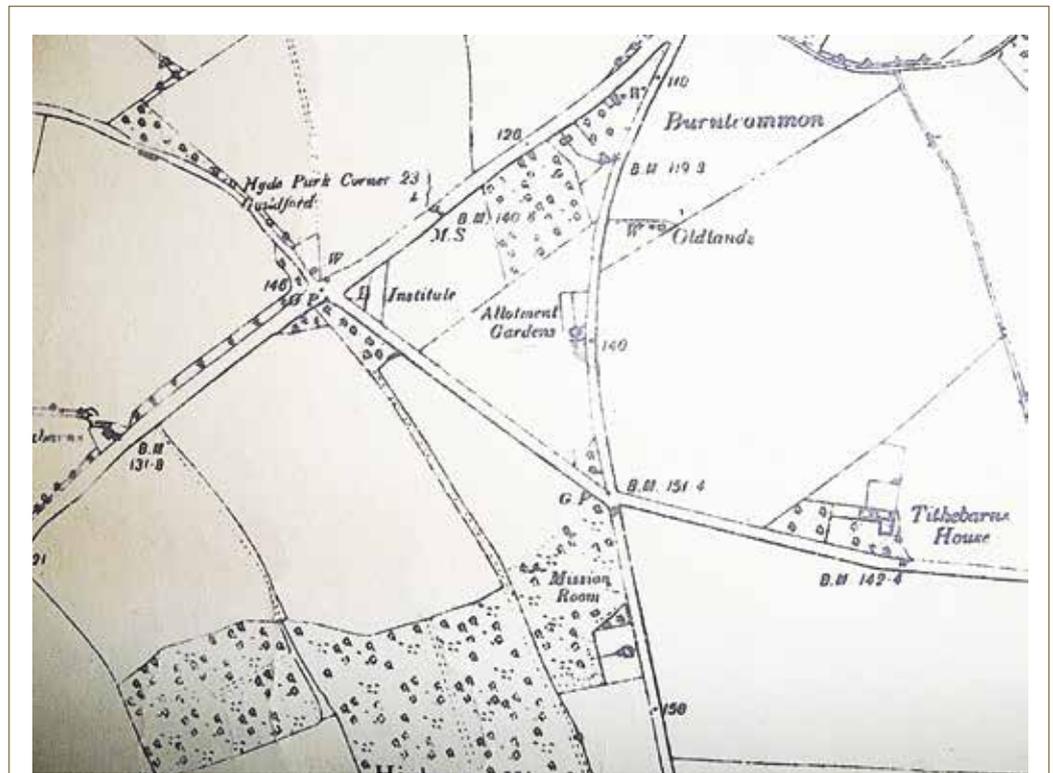
'Gifts included from Mrs Grant a Desk Prayer Book; from Miss White, Altar Service Book; from Mrs Allen, Curtain and Rod, she also provided and worked the Altar Cloth, Desk Frontal, Alms Bag, and Communion Linen; 10s 6d from Mrs Boorman. There are some small outstanding items, but the Balance Sheet as it stands, is to my mind extremely gratifying and I cannot thank too warmly all those who have so heartily seconded my efforts to supply the much-needed accommodation.'

In the Mission Room expenditure account published in the same magazine is the entry:

'Mr Tice's account for removing, fixing and painting £25 17s 8d'

This would have been the Send builder Charles Tice^[1]. However, there seems to be no expenditure for actual wood to construct it, so were the 'removing' expenses for Mr Tice to remove an existing wooden building from somewhere?

Unfortunately, we have no photograph or drawing of the Mission Room and none of our older members remember



Section of an OS map dated 1920 showing the Mission Room

ever seeing the building. We do however know exactly where it was located as it appears on the 6-inch OS XXIV NW map, dated 1920. This shows it roughly opposite where the slip road now goes down to the A3 from the Clandon Road. It was to the right of the two cottages that are there today.

Dates for services at the Mission Room were regularly published in the monthly parish magazines until April 1917. Then, in May 1917, it was reported that at the Easter vestry meeting held in April 1917, the vicar, then the Rev Morgan-Jones, mentioned the possibility of certain changes in the services which might be rendered necessary owing to the response of the clergy to the appeal for National Service. He did not anticipate that these changes would be very great but would probably involve the closing of the Burnt Common Mission Room.

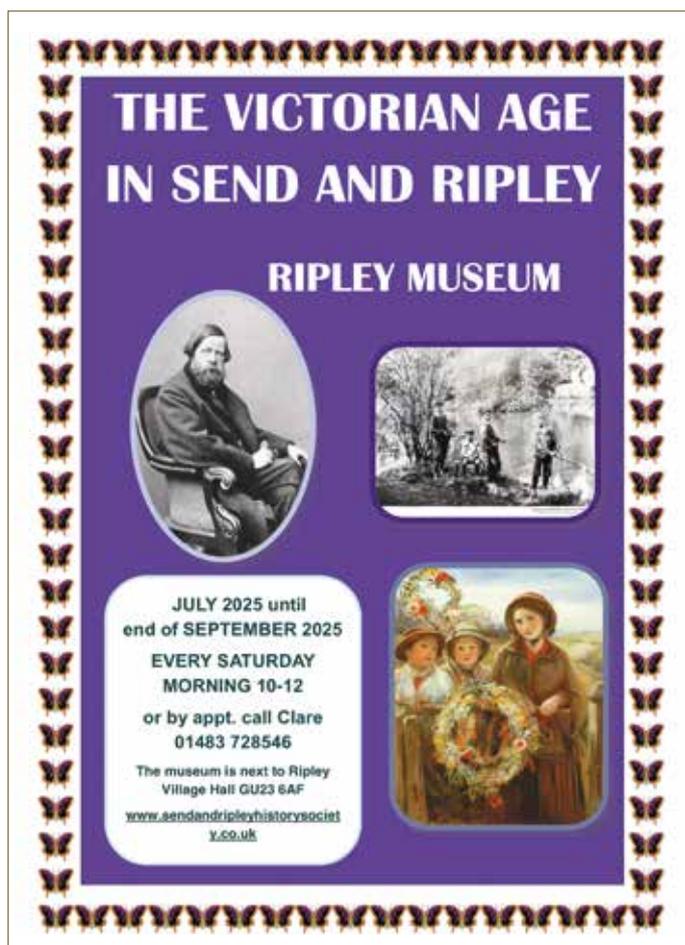
This is sadly ironic as in that same month, May 1917, was the article in the *Surrey Advertiser* about the gift of the new memorial altar cross and the removal of the existing cross to the Mission Room that started this research.

NOTE

^[1] Charles Tice was the great-great-uncle of the author's late husband, Trevor Tice. Charles had no children of his own to pass his building firm on to so it went to his nephew, Frederick, Trevor's grandfather

MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN

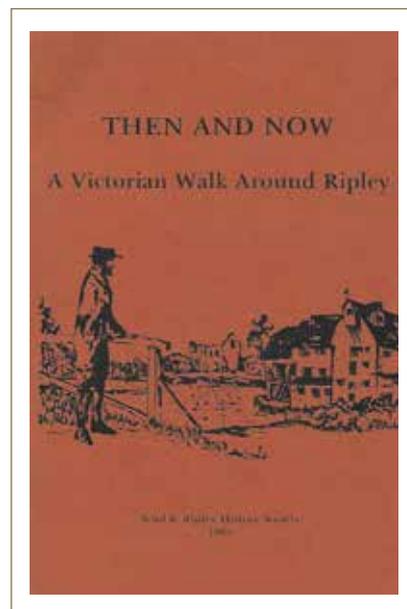


The new exhibition at the museum is called ‘The Victorian Age in Send and Ripley’ and was the idea of committee member Andy Jones. Andy is a keen metal detectorist and some of his local finds will be featured. Come and discover the difference between a bun penny and a veil penny.

In addition you can learn how the coming of the railway (or the lack of the railway) shaped Send and Ripley.

Much of what we know is illustrated by the delightful Victorian diary of AJ Munby, written when on a visit to Ripley in the 1860s. The diary will be on special offer at the museum at £1 per copy.

If you have an idea for an exhibition, then please let me know on 01483 728546 or cricketshill@hotmail.com



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Ripley Village Hall. Doors open for all evening talks at 7.30pm for an 8.00 start. Tea/coffee and wine available. NB – payment by cash only.

DATES	EVENTS
Sunday 17th August	Summer barbeque (members only 12.30)
Wednesday 10th September	Niki Tottenham talk: <i>History of Osteopathy</i>
Wednesday 8th October	Diana Laffin talk: <i>Guildford High Street in the 1900s</i>
Wednesday 12th November	Chris Ranstead talk: <i>Bomb Disposal in WWII</i>
Wednesday 10th December	Christmas Party

Further details can be obtained from Helena Finden-Browne helena_findenbrowne@compuserve.com

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS



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you wish to help in the museum

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Bygone Days, Send and Ripley Remembered		£9.99
Frank Brown, Ripley to Rothesay – Journeyman Painter		£5.00
History Colouring Book (price includes felt tips and a carrier bag)		£5.00
Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life	Reprinted 1998/2006	£10.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.00
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£2.50
Ripley and Send – Looking Back	Reprinted 2007	£9.00
A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£2.50
Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2012	£4.00
The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£4.00
Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures	New Edition 2017	£5.00
Two Surrey Village Schools – The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools		£10.00
The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey		£2.00
Memories of War		£5.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
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Send and Ripley Walks (revised edition)		£7.50
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£5.00
Special Offer: Purchase Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£5.50
Heroes All		£20.00

All the publications are available from the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk, the museum on Saturday mornings or email srhistorysociety@gmail.com. A selection is available from Pinnock's Coffee House, Ripley



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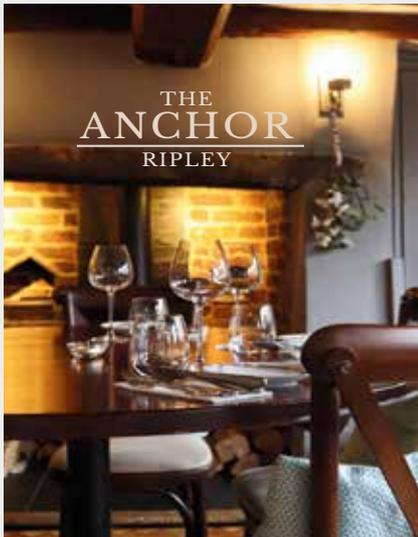
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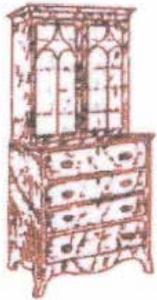
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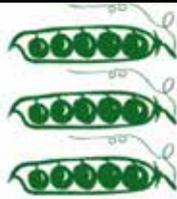
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