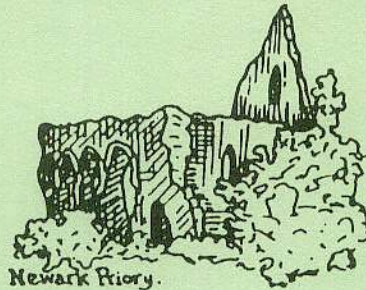
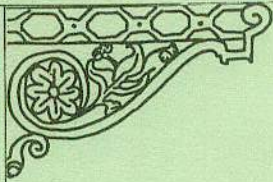
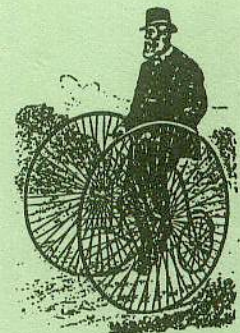
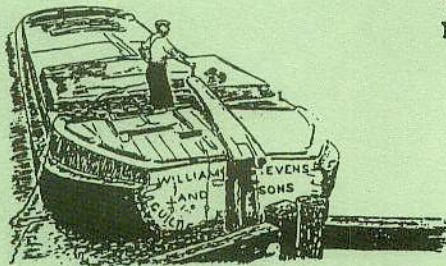


Send & Ripley History Society



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Newsletter No. 73

March/April 1987



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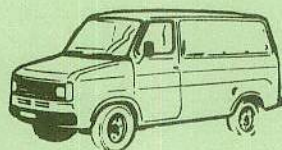
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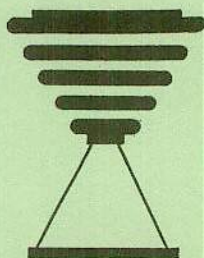
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Cover Illustration: Horsley Towers, built by Sir Charles Bury 1820-9, and added to in a highly personal and eccentric style by Lord Lovelace in the 1850s (see page 3). This drawing is reproduced by kind permission of John L Baker, taken from his book "A Picture of Surrey", published in 1980 by Robert Hale Ltd.

SEND BARNs HOUSE, SEND BARNs LANE, SEND Ref TQ03254

Report on an Inspection on 15 May 1986

by Les Bowerman and John Slatford

Send Barns is a large property standing at the corner of the Send Barns Lane lay-by and Fell Hill (figure 1). It is a house of many builds and the new owners, Dr & Mrs Naylor, have undertaken extensive modernisation.

During this work the house was damaged by fire, which, had prompt action not been taken, might have destroyed the entire building.

Subsequent to the fire, by arrangement with the architect, Mr Roy Gosney, and Mrs Naylor, a visit was made by Les Bowerman and Bette & John Slatford to study the evolution of the house.

The fire destroyed part of the roof in the front central area. Tragic though this was, it provided a bonus for the study, in that much that became exposed would not otherwise have been seen. It was in this area that vital clues were found indicating the early sequence of building.

Invariably in properties of this kind, ie many builds, the central area is found to be the earliest. In Send Barns this is not so. Although not apparent when viewed from the front, the oldest part is that to the right of the centre, the present kitchen and service area. It was not possible to determine the original extent of this early build, but it was probably a house of four bays of which only the central two now remain.

Prior to the repair of the fire damage, it was possible to see clearly where the roof structure of the later central build had been joined onto the original roof of the early build. Figure 2 indicates the conjectural sequence of construction of Send Barns.

The dominant feature of the timber-framed early part is in the roof area where an eight feet wide central bay is heavily soot encrusted. Being significantly wider than a normal smoke bay, this is considered to have been a transitional version of an open hall, ie partly floored to provide additional upstairs space over the hall. The upper floor is now open to collar level. The roof construction is clasped collar purlin with curved braces to the principal rafters. The outside walls, like the rest of the house, are mainly brick skinned with much tile hanging to the upper floors. The brickwork contains both English and Flemish bond. According to one of the builder's staff, they had, during the work, discovered in the SW wall a complete unglazed window with diamond section wooden mullions, but at the time of the inspection, this had been covered over by the new plasterwork. It is considered that this early house dates from around 1550.

The second build in the central area appears always to have been a brick structure, but it has been much altered and repaired. To provide extra rooms in the roof space to the rear, there are side gables along both sides. Many of these rooms were provided with an interesting patent fire escape apparatus, consisting of a harness attached to a rope which was wound onto a fiction drum. The idea was that one strapped oneself into the harness and simply climbed out of the window; to be lowered gently to the ground as the rope was allowed to unwind by the friction device. The brickwork of this part is English and Flemish bond with some evidence of a flint rubble foundation. It is considered that the central area of the house is late 17th/early 18th century.

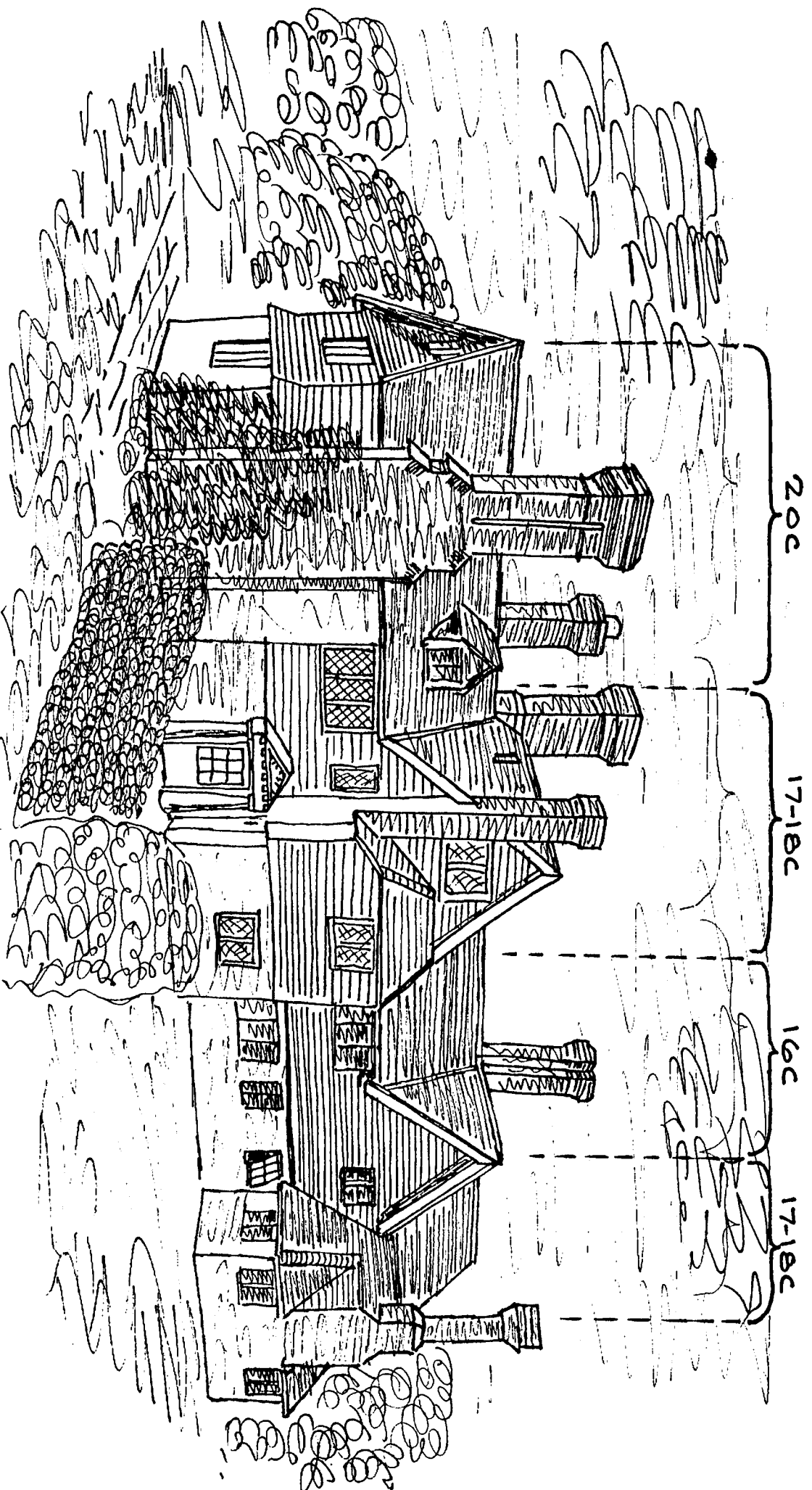


FIGURE 4. THE HOUSE VIEWED FROM THE FRONT.

SEND BARNS. SEND BARNS LANE. SEND.

JMS. MARCH 1987

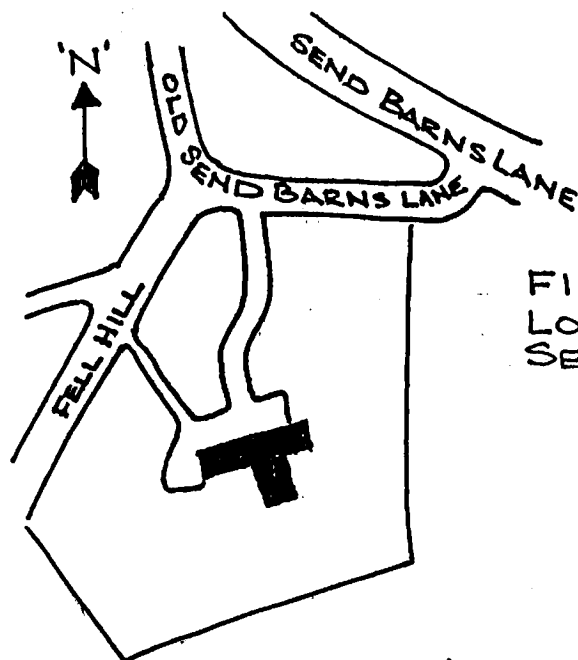


FIGURE 1.
LOCATION OF
SEND BARN'S

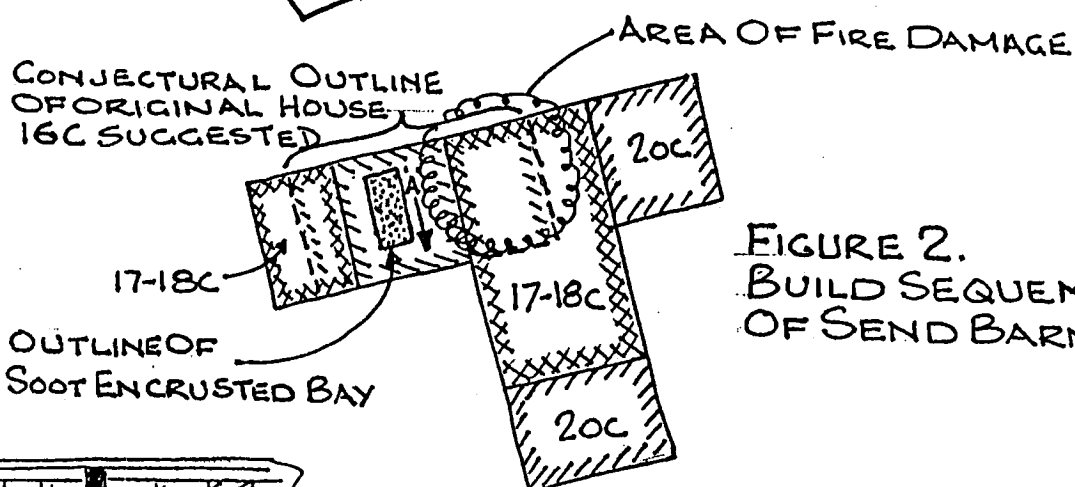


FIGURE 2.
BUILD SEQUENCE
OF SEND BARN'S.

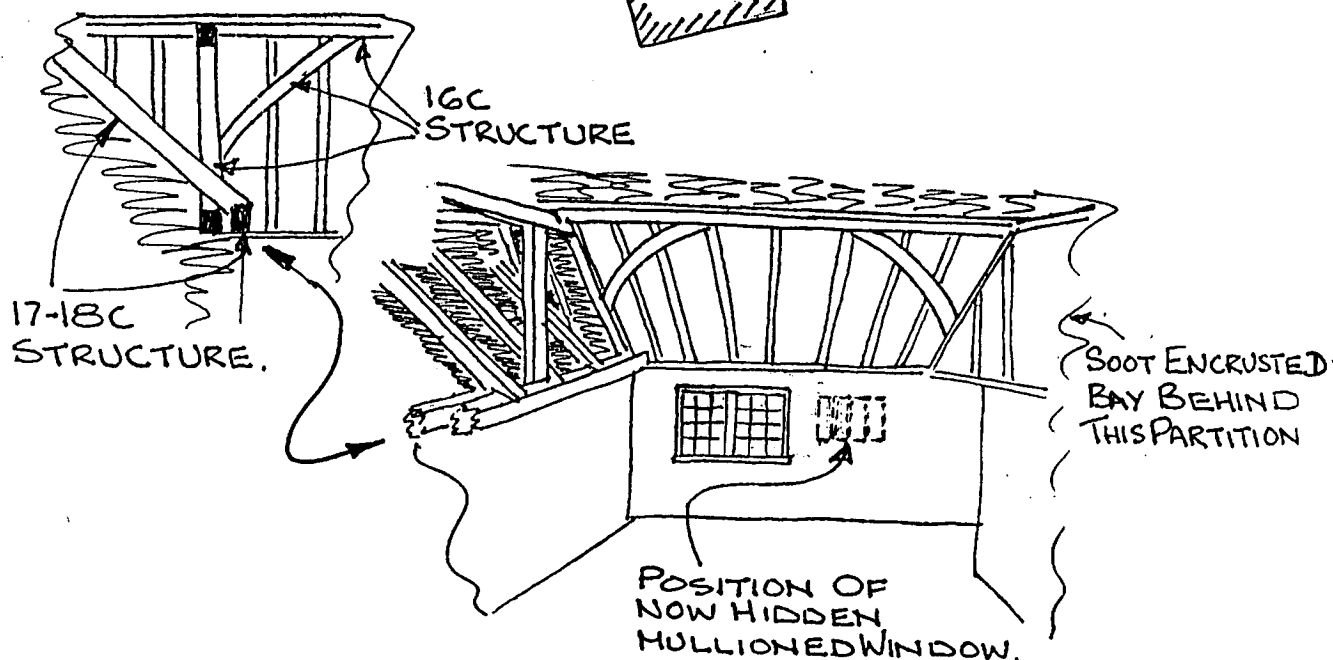


FIGURE 3. SKETCH SHOWING INTERFACE OF
16C & 17-18C BUILDS (AS
VIEWED FROM ARROW 'A' IN FIG. 2)

SEND BARN'S. SEND BARN'S LANE. SEND

JMS. JAN 87.

Figure 3 illustrates the junction of the two early parts of these two areas and shows how part of the wall plate of the later build was placed over a tie beam of the earlier one. There is evidence that the older build originally extended over the space now occupied by the central part, but by how much cannot be determined.

At the rear of the house and to the left at the front, construction is modern, but this blends well with the earlier parts. Figure 4 is a general view of the NW facing front. Around three sides of the central entrance hall is an impressive staircase with heavy turned balusters. Overall the development of this house does seem somewhat unusual in that the main core is not the oldest part as is, for example, the case at Dunsborough in Ripley.

Our thanks are due to Mrs Naylor for giving us permission to view the house, and to Mr Roy Gosney for making the arrangements.

LORD LOVELACE - HIS LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

An Illustrated Talk by Mr Stephen Tudsbery-Turner

Notes by Tony Medlen

The history of the Lovelace family and their estate at Ockham begins in the early 18th century with Sir Peter King who became Lord Chancellor in 1725. Sir Peter bought the manor of Ockham from the Weston family when he was made Lord Chancellor. At the same time he was created 1st Baron of Ockham. Sir Peter had five sons and two daughters, and most of the sons inherited the estate in turn. The family consolidated the estate through prudent marriages and its value grew.

The 8th Baron Ockham, William Lord King, later to become the 1st Earl of Lovelace, was a most extraordinary and gifted man, and he was to exert a tremendous influence in our part of Surrey, much of which can still be seen today. Anyone who has driven through East Horsley on the road from Leatherhead to Guildford cannot fail to have been impressed by the unusual polychrome-Gothic buildings to be seen, in particular the entrance to Horsley Towers (see cover illustration). These buildings were designed by William, Earl of Lovelace, 1805-93.

Educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, William, who spoke several languages fluently, became a promising diplomat. This career was brought to an abrupt end with the death of his father in 1833. He was then aged 28 and became the 8th Lord King. Two years later in 1835, he married Ada Augusta, the only legitimate daughter of the poet Lord Byron, who had died 11 years earlier. Ada Augusta brought with her £30,000 in cash and the promise of vast estates in the Midlands. Perhaps even more useful was her relationship to the Prime Minister of England, Lord Melbourne, to whom she was a cousin. In 1838, on the accession of Queen Victoria to the throne of England, William King was created Viscount Ockham and 1st Earl of Lovelace. In 1840 he was created Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, the highest social and political position to which a man could aspire in English County Society, and he was virtually to "rule" Surrey until 1893, when he died.

Lord Lovelace was an enlightened landowner, agricultural reformer and educationalist and was years ahead of his time. He was much influenced by his mother-in-law, Lady Byron, and her educational ideas, which were based on those of the Swiss reformer, Fellenburg. In 1836 Lord Lovelace and Lady Byron created the Ockham Schools. This was a school where ordinary working class children would be educated to fulfil their probable role in life. However, education was not restricted to the 3 R's, as tended to be the case in the Church and National Schools. The Ockham Schools had several innovative facilities which were many years in advance of their

time; a gymnasium, a plot of 3 1/2 acres for agriculture, a printing press, carpenters' workshop, etc. Lord Lovelace had travelled widely and started to build in the popular style of the time, which was Gothic. He was particularly fond of the Swiss style of building with large overhanging eaves and steeply pitched roofs. "The Hautboy" at Ockham is a good example of the Lovelace style and was based on a German hunting lodge.

It was not until the 1860s that the estates of his first wife came his way and then he entered on a large building programme, although all this time he had been carefully buying and selling land, consolidating his estate in Surrey.

His personal life up until 1847 had been fairly happy. He was a strict martinet, but had produced three children, Byron, the eldest, Anabella and Ralph. His wife, Ada Augusta, had inherited some of the Byron genius and was a gifted mathematician. Together they devised a "foolproof" system of backing horses, which, however, proved to be flawed and they ran into mounting financial difficulties. The Earl soon abandoned this scheme, but, unknown to him, Ada Augusta continued to lose large amounts of money and this naturally put a great strain on their marriage, which never completely recovered. Ada was also in poor health and she died of cancer four years later in 1852. Ada's mother, Lady Byron, had settled her daughter's debts, but she blamed Lord Lovelace for letting her daughter fall into the hands of unscrupulous money lenders and refused to speak to her son-in-law whose children were one day to inherit much of her family (the Wentworth's) fortune by marriage settlements.

In 1840 Lord Lovelace purchased the manor of East Horsley from the Currie family. The Currie home, East Horsley Place, had been built by Sir Charles Barry, in the Tudor revival style. Lovelace moved from Ockham Park, which was now rather dilapidated, to East Horsley Place in 1846. Ockham Park was let to Dr Stephen Lushington, legal adviser to Lady Byron. Lovelace now proceeded to embellish East Horsley Place and the surrounding village in his Rhenish Gothic style with polychrome brickwork, flint and round-headed windows. He also built a great banqueting hall, using arched wooden trusses that had been bent to the appropriate curve by the application of steam heat, the first application of its type in England and admired by the great Victorian engineer and designer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel. East Horsley Place was renamed appropriately Horsley Towers. Lovelace was also a Fellow of the Royal Society, an Associate of the Institute of Civil Engineers, a Governor of the Royal Agricultural Society and the author of many learned papers on associated topics. However, although he was successful in so many fields, his personal life was not a success and he lost the affection of all his three children by his first marriage. Byron, born in 1836, ran away to sea and died in tragic circumstances in 1863. Ralph, the younger son, had been placed in the care of Lady Byron in 1848, and she had agreed to provide for his education and made him her principal heir. Naturally he had been affected by the family feud and sided with his grandmother to the extent of taking her family name, Milbanke. Thus Lovelace certainly had no say in the upbringing of his second son, who was one day to become the 2nd Earl of Lovelace. Anabella probably left her father's house four years after his second marriage in 1865. She married Wilfred Scawen Blunt, the Victorian poet, in 1869.

The Lovelace buildings all have slight variations of the same unmistakable style, flint with bands of brick quarterfoils and polychrome round-headed windows. All his buildings carry the Lovelace coat of arms inlaid somewhere in the brickwork. Not all Lovelace's contemporaries approved of his buildings and the Victorian diarist, A J Munby, speaks of Lord Lovelace's eccentricities.

In March 1865 Lovelace married Jane Crawford, the widow of Edward Jenkins of the Indian Civil Service. Jane was nicknamed "The Indian Widow" by her husband's first family. She had a son by Lord Lovelace in November 1865. He was Christened Lionel Fortescue King-Noel.

There is much more to say about Lord Lovelace's effect on the Surrey countryside, but for an authoritative account, the reader is referred to Volume 70 1974 Surrey Archaeological Collections, "William, Earl of Lovelace 1805 - 1893", by Stephen Tudsbery-Turner. An off-print of this excellent article, from which I have drawn, provides a permanent reminder of a most interesting evening on Tuesday, 27 January. Other sources of reference are Newsletters 17 and 65.

MARY, COUNTESS OF LOVELACE

by Peggy Aldridge

Over the last few months a great deal of interest has been taken in Lordships of the Manor, both locally and in a wider sphere at the London Auction Rooms. Therefore it might be of interest to readers to hear about the very keen interest that Mary, Countess of Lovelace, took in the manorial duties, or rather what she considered to be her moral duties, in this respect.

In 1880 Mary Caroline Stuart-Wortley, then 32, had married Ralph Lord Wentworth, a title he had acquired by Petition to the House of Lords following the death of his brother, Byron Viscount Ockham.

In 1893 Ralph's father, William 1st Earl of Lovelace, died and he became 2nd Earl of Lovelace. He and his wife, Mary, were now the owners of the Ockham Park Estate and those in Somerset and Leicestershire. Until 1893 Mary and Ralph had lived at Wentworth House, Chelsea, a property built for Ralph by a member of the Pollen family, who were friends of Ralph and his sister, Lady Anne Blunt.

Following his inheritance, much of the work required to be attended to on the estates was carried out by Mary Lovelace - Ralph was far too busy sorting family papers in defence of his grandmother, Lady Byron. His work culminated in the writing of a book on his much revered grandmother.

In 1906 Ralph died, leaving his wife, Mary, as tenant for life of his estates. She took her work seriously, dividing her time between Wentworth House, Ashley Combe (Somerset) and Ockham Park, with the occasional visit to Kirkby Mallory in Leicestershire.

Mary Lovelace was a faithful administrator of these large estates. She visited tenants regularly, and kept herself informed of their well-being at all times. Following the death of her husband, she found it necessary for restoration and renovation works to be carried out on many of the estate buildings; for this purpose she had decided to increase her interest in architecture and she commenced studies in the offices of C R Ashbee of Chelsea and practised making working drawings under the guidance of Ernest Goodman.

She formed the Ockham Building Industry and gave employment to many of her tenants. The estate workers' cottages began to show signs of improvement and from then on buildings sprang up here and there around the estate. Lady Lovelace considered a "good larder" was not only a necessity but an asset to all! The little houses in Ockham (bungalows) were built for the use of widows of estate workers and run by three trustees, one of whom had to be the local incumbent of Ockham Church. Whether this was necessary to help in their bereavement or not, we shall never know!

The Ockham Park Estate was surrounded by woodland. There were a number of woodmen employed to care for the woods, which were a source of great joy, not only to Lady Lovelace, but also to her late husband, Ralph. It was known as the "Oak Hamlet" and certainly lived up to its name, derived from the many oak trees

abounding the fields and woods. Lady Lovelace knew the names of all the woods and copses, she knew which men were employed in each area and regularly took drives in a pony and trap to see they were well cared for; the hedges had to be kept neat and tidy; likewise the ditches were dug out and the water free running. There was never any litter left lying around (the plastic bag thankfully had not then been invented!). There was in addition a local roadman who kept the grass verges neat and tidy (also possibly one of the duties of the Lord of the Manor).

The gamekeepers walked in the woods in those days keeping their eyes open for poachers, although I cannot recall there being many of these. Most had their favourite round which they carried out Summer and Winter. One well-worn track was from the "Big House" through Holly Lane to Buckingham Lodge, out on through Brickwall Fields and down to the Ripley Woods and over the stream. From there up the lane and through "Laundry Copse", then on to Kiln Lane through "Onion Copse" (proper name Garlic Arch Copse), skirting the field to the corner of the Isolation Hospital. From there up past Holryde Farm through Shepherds Copse into Roborow Wood and out on the Ripley Lane.

Much of the woodland and tracks mentioned have all disappeared, and with them possibly the duties, both moral and otherwise, of the Lord of the Manor. It is, however, pleasant to recall, nearly sixty years on in time, that there are such people who contributed greatly to the well-being of all who lived and worked within a feudal system of large landed estates.

HEATH FARM FROM 1936 ONWARDS - PART 2

by Peter Rixon

Now a little about the crops. Being a market garden, most salads and vegetables were grown - radish, lettuce, spring onions, spinach, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, rhubarb, parsnips, marrows, carrots, beans (French and runners), sweetcorn, brussels and leaks. Also there was beetroot and a harvest onion for main crop. In the early days he grew a lot of soft fruit, such as strawberries and raspberries, but when war started, Mr Secrett did away with soft fruits to make way for root crops.

At the side of Heath House were two greenhouses and the cold frames. The large greenhouse next to Heath Farm had an anthracite boiler which also supplied the heating and hot water to the house. The other greenhouse was smaller and this had a single coke boiler for heating. Later on another large greenhouse was built, but this was oil-fired. A large double bank coke boiler for the cold frames - I'd better explain ... although called cold frames, a pipeline was dug just under the surface to raise the ground temperature to bring on early cuttings, lettuce, chicory and some flowers, such as freesias and daffodils. The large greenhouse was for tomatoes and lettuce.

At the back of Heath House, in the field which runs down to the River Wey, he used to grow asparagus, for which he was well noted. Another thing he grew was the Jerusalem artichoke, but the amount of fuel used for the greenhouse meant it was more economical to have the coke and the anthracite delivered to the sidings at Clandon Railway Station. This was ordered at the slack time of the season. The trucks which held an average of 10 tons each - usually 2 of coke and 1 of anthracite - were pulled into the sidings. The market lorries were used to collect this from the station. Each driver would take a mate to help and it had to be shovelled by hand from the railway trucks and again shovelled by hand from the lorries, as they were not tippers.

In addition to the farm at Send, A W Secrett hired a farm at Cobham. This was mostly trial grounds and hot houses. Among the achievements at Cobham was the Cobham Green Lettuce, which can still be bought to this day. Also grown there were quite a few herbs, such as mint, parsley and thyme. There were peach and nectarine houses; there were flower and orchid houses. Though this was a trial ground, most of the produce from the hot houses was sent to Covent Garden. The fuel for these boilers came via Cobham & Stoke d'Abernon station, unloaded by his own men the same as at Send.

I mentioned earlier there were two box repairmen plus one full-time glazier to look after the greenhouses and cold frames. All the produce was sold at Covent Garden. On average two lorries went to Covent Garden each day, six days a week. They would leave about two o'clock in the morning and be home again about midday. In the summer when the crops were in full swing, sometimes you would do a "morning gathered" load. This meant the lorry would leave about 10.30 the night before and go to Covent Garden and pitch its load and come back to the farm at first light, about 3 to 3.30 in the morning, when the men and women would be waiting for it to get light enough to start cutting. By the way, I am talking about lettuce. There were 24 lettuce in a crate and on average about 400-450 crates to a lorry. In the peak of the season you could have two pitched loads in market and three loads standing - five loads in all. Sometimes, when demand was greater, outside contractors were used to ferry the stuff to market. With all this produce coming off the land, something had to be put back and this one thing A W Secrett believed in. After each crop was cut, the land was dunged with farmyard manure. He was a great believer in the old method rather than artificial fertilisers, although he used a certain amount of these.

I, too, worked for A W Secrett for a while. I belonged to the farm as a maintenance man, repairing some of the old barns and helping out with some of the box repairs. I also helped on the farm and liked it. I suppose it was in my blood.

On each side of the stream they had planted small willows, and each year these willows were trimmed and the trimmings taken off and tied into bundles and stacked and allowed to dry out that year, and the following year, a fortnight before the cropping started, they were soaked in a tank to make them pliable again, as quite a few of the products from the farm were tied with a willow tie, eg asparagus. Sometimes the rhubarb was bunched and tied with a willow tie, which worked out quite economical.

Several types of boxes were used for the produce. The one most used was a crate which held 24 lettuces, 24 bunches of radishes, or spring onions, round beetroot in bundles of five, about 20 lbs of rhubarb or 14 lbs of leaks. The next size up was a bushel box. In the old days most farm produce was weighed out in bushels, which was probably why a box became a one bushel box, then there was a two bushel box. The one bushel box was used for beetroot - after the main crop came on, the tops would be screwed off and the beetroot would be put in loose, on average about 28 lbs to a box. The two bushel boxes were used mostly for cabbage and cauliflower. After the main crop of cabbage came on, the cabbage would be netted. These nets were made out of cocoanut fibre - very hard on the fingers - and when stacked and packed, averaged 56 lbs a net.

The main beet crop, the long beet, used to be clamped and could be dug out through the winter months to help make up market loads. Also the harvest onion was pulled and left to dry on top of the ground, the natural way, then harvested and stacked in the barns, and this also helped to make up the market loads in the winter.

That's about the general working and crops on the farm. By this time I had seen a great deal of change on the farm - most of the horses had gone now and tractors had taken their place, together with artificial fertilisers and chemicals. I had

largely lost interest in the farm as it was then, so I left. After a while my father died and at that stage I'd lost all interest in the farm.

It seems somewhat ironic really that A W Secrett had moved to Send because the Ham River Sand & Gravel Company had dug into his farm and made it uneconomical to farm. Now, after A W Secrett's death, Halls Pit Sand & Gravel buys his farm and then Ham River and Halls Pit joined together to become Ham Hall Sand and once again another market garden bites the dust.

100 YEARS AGO - SOME EXTRACTS FROM "BICYCLING NEWS"

Contributed by Les Bowerman

The Earl of Albemarle is often said to have dubbed Ripley the "Mecca of All Good Cyclists", but we have not previously succeeded in tracking down when he actually said it. "Bicycling News" of 19 February 1887 comes very close to giving the answer: "Lord Bury describes Ripley as the Mecca of all good cyclists, and says that Mr. Nairn's description (presumably his 1881 article as reproduced in N/L 70) and George Moore's sketches in 'Bicycling News' have set him longing to go there. He wants the Civil Service C.C. to get up a run to the sweetest village in Surrey some Saturday afternoon in the season, when we will accompany them."

Lord Bury was at that time President of the National Cyclists Union and of the Civil Service CC. He succeeded as the 7th Earl of Albemarle on 21 February 1891.

5 March, 1887 Extract from an account of an "Editorial Trip" of 3 days on a "Premier" Safety Bicycle. "From Guildford the roads got better and better to Ripley. Here we stopped for some time at the Anchor, hearing with deep regret of the continued illness of Mrs. Dibble, whom, we are sure, all wheelmen will wish a speedy recovery. We placed our name in the book, over 400 having already signed it, of whom over 100 signed on Sunday, Feb. 27th. Accompanied by George Dibble (Mrs. Dibble's son then aged 25), we went into the church to inspect the Cortis memorial, which looks very appropriate - quiet and in keeping with the surroundings."

12 March 1887 "It is with the deepest regret that all frequenters of the Ripley Road will hear of the decease, at 1.20 a.m. on Saturday, March 5th, of Mrs. Harriett Dibble, the respected proprietress of the Anchor at Ripley. The sad news spread rapidly, and deep regrets were expressed on all sides. Mrs. Dibble has been unwell for a considerable time, and the death at Ripley of her son William last year shook her a great deal. After several attacks of illness, she slowly sank and passed away quite quietly from exhaustion. Kindly and ever attentive to the multifarious wants of the thousands of wheelmen who have visited Ripley within the past few years, Mrs. Dibble had earned their respect and esteem, which she shared with her children, whom she delighted in having associated with her in the management of the house. The villagers of Ripley have also lost a warm-hearted and generous neighbour, who was always willing to lend a helping hand in case of trouble. The last time we saw Mrs. Dibble she was busying herself about the despatch to a sick neighbour of a doubtless welcome gift of creature comforts, and the residents of Ripley, as well as that generation of wheelmen who can remember Mrs. Dibble as actively superintending the affairs of the Anchor will, we are sure, share in the general feeling of sorrow at the loss the village has sustained, and join in an expression of the deepest sympathy with the Dibble family in their time of trouble."

12 March, 1887 "Ockham and the Hautboy Hotel have often been heard of and have often been the wished-for destination of a run in Surrey by the writer of this, but never until last Sunday has the desire been gratified. As we know many of our readers have been to this place we think, perhaps, a par. on the subject may not

be out of place. As every Ripley Road rider knows, Ockham lies south of Wisley Pond and Ripley, and the usual way to it is to take a turning to the left just before the Pond is reached, where a clear but not very artistic signboard denotes that the Hautboy and dinner may be found by the hungry traveller journeying down that road. The surface of this road was not by any means good last week, but no doubt it is as a rule. After travelling a couple of miles, crossroads are found, and a turn to the right is taken. This, after a little distance, lands one in the village of Ockham, if such a place exists, and at the doors of the Hautboy. The hotel looks old, but isn't in reality, which reflects great credit on the owner and builder for the taste displayed. It is built of red brick, with a quaint design running all through, of moderate height, and lighted with a number of smallish square-paned windows. The front of the house contains the dining-room, the billiard-room and bedrooms; the back, the hall and the kitchens. Perhaps the hall is the most attractive portion of the house, for Mr. Strake, (?Sprague - LGB) the landlord, has expended no little trouble and expense on it, and has turned out a highly artistic, comfortable room suitable for concerts, dances, and the like, for which uses, we understand, it is often in request. A big garden with grassy walks around, a tennis ground, good stables, and ample accommodation make this house one of the nicest we have ever visited, and judging by Sunday's dinner a good cook is amongst the staff. It is sometimes dangerous to recommend a nice place when cyclists are known to go into its neighbourhood, but we have no hesitation in saying what we think of the Hautboy: for we do not think it will have attractions for the scorching division, the jolly Bank Holiday class, or the one feed a week young man: and those who will be welcome and will appreciate everything will be the quieter men who have a liking for solitude, and those who take their sisters and wives out tricycling, and like to get far from the madding crowd. Let no one think we are drawing comparisons between Ockham and Ripley. Ripley will always be an attractive place for us, but Ripley is far nicer in our opinion on week days and in the evenings than Ripley on Saturday and Sunday, at which times give us Ockham and the Hautboy."

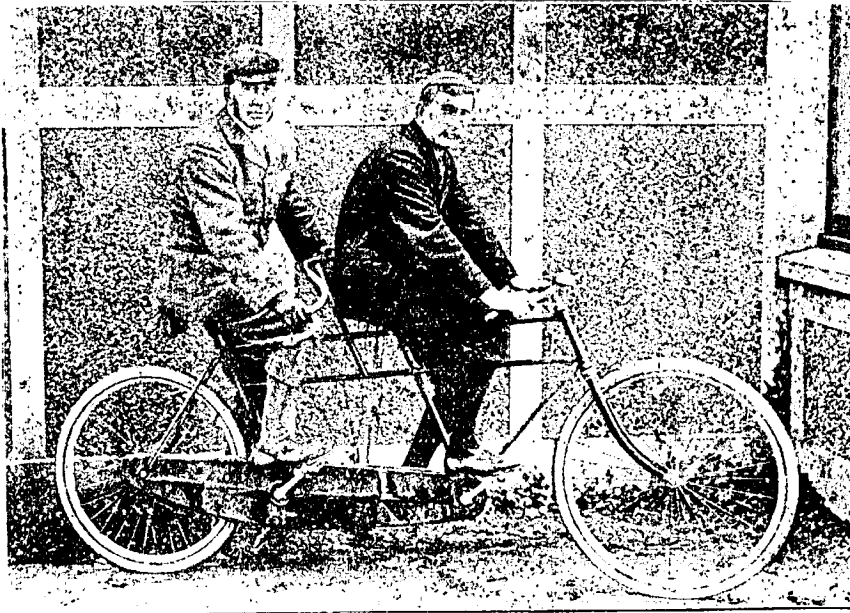
C. A. "BATH ROAD" SMITH

A Comment by Les Bowerman on Basil Howard's Letter in N/L 72

Basil Howard's contributions always make compulsive reading as he has the ability to bring alive the time about which he writes; but memory can play tricks and he would be the first to agree, I am sure, that what he writes has not been researched or checked. It was good to be reminded of that great cycling character, "Bath Road" Smith, and it is correct that he often came to Ripley, but not in his eighties. He died in October, 1944, aged 77.

The first record I have of him visiting Ripley was 100 years ago when, aged 33, he tied for first to arrive at the Anchor in the unofficial competition to be first there on New Year's Day, 1887. By 1889 he was featured in "Bicycling News" as a celebrity due to his racing and hard-riding feats. 1892 was his best year, during which he won outright the Bath Road "100" Cup. He took over the White Lion at Cobham in January 1896 and it became the country headquarters of the Bath Road Club, of which he was successively Secretary and President. He was a great practical joker, but could also be prickly, and twice resigned from the BRC. The Ripley Roadmenders Dinners held from 1890 to 1907 were originally his idea. The nickname came from his close association with the Bath Road Club, and was no doubt a convenient way to distinguish him from the many other Smiths who were active in cycling at the time.

Although he was fined 20/- for "furious" riding at Ditton in 1898 at the time of the Police persecution of cyclists in the Kingston area, and was still pedalling stylishly in the 1940's when in his 70's, it would not have been "with his nose nearly on the front wheel". That is a myth trotted out from time to time by those not in the sport to describe anyone who rides fast. In fact, in his obituary in



TWO FAMOUS BATH ROADERS.

THE MARQUIS OF QUEENSBERRY AND C. A. SMITH

At the back of the White Lion, Cobham, 1895

naked knee should meet the naked eye, it would beget much fume and fret and raise a hue and cry."

Footnote to Mr Howard: It would be interesting to learn more about Mr Lacy and his copper tricycle referred to in his letter. For what was it specifically famous?

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL 16 DECEMBER 1986

The 1986 Christmas Social, held in Ripley Village Hall, was again well attended by members and their guests. Continuing the high standard of catering for which the event is renowned, Audrey Sykes, assisted by Mavis Lake, Rita Goldup and Anne Bowerman, produced an excellent buffet rounded off by a superb selection of sweets. Liquid refreshment, other than coffee, was ably dispensed by Alan and Barbara Tinkler.

The other highlight of the evening was the performance by nine members of the Guildford Harmony Singers, a female group who gave a delightfully entertaining performance of "Barber Shop Singing". This group devotes all of its fees to charity. On this occasion Eileen Fowler initiated a collection which raised £47, including £20 from our Society funds. (The Proceeds were donated to "The Guildford Crossroads" - a care and attendance scheme for those in need of help. Anyone wishing to hire this group of singers should contact Isabel Cockram on Byfleet 45859.)

"Cycling", he was described as "a beautiful pedaller" of low gears, which indicates a position on the cycle well behind the bottom bracket. It would seem from "The Bath Road News" of March, 1908 that Smith was very much against the shorts which were then beginning to be worn (Baden-Powell had his experimental Boy Scout camp in Brownsea Island the previous year). Their reporter called in at the White Hart on his way down to Ripley and interviewed "Bath Road" on the subject, subsequently reporting it thus: "What're you wear he doth declare must lock below the knee. For if the shameless

Bob Gale once again exercised our minds by digging into the past with a quiz on archaeology, and John Slatford was responsible for the raffle. The many excellent prizes were donated by members, to whom the Society is most grateful, as it also is to everyone who helped to make this event such an enjoyable and memorable evening.

Ken Bourne

MISSING PHOTOGRAPH - An Appeal by Peter Rixon

A photograph which I lent to the Society for copying, almost three years ago, has regretfully gone missing. It shows a two horse-drawn corn cutter and baler, with a young man (Mr R Tidy) and woman (Mrs Boorman) standing in front of it.

I would like to ask members (and any persons known to members) who have about that time also lent photographs to the Society, to check whether mine might inadvertently have been included in the ones returned to them.

If you do come across my photograph, please return it to me (12 Rose Lane, Ripley), Jane Bartlett (Little Ripley House, High Street, Ripley), or any member of the Committee.

SOCIETY LIBRARY

At its first meeting, the new Committee decided that it would be a helpful, interesting and useful service to members to seek to build up a library of local history books which will be readily available to all members. Since the start of the Society 12 years ago, archive material, mainly in the form of photocopies of original documents, has accumulated firstly at the expense of individual members and latterly purchased by the Society through the Documentary Group. Some of this, more particularly the Census returns and the Court Rolls, is still available for study at the home of the Secretary at Send Manor, and there are borrowing copies which are mostly out on long loan to those who have most occasion to refer to them. Much of the later archive material is kept at the home of John Slatford, leader of the Documentary Group, at Kevan Drive, where access may be had to it by arrangement. In addition, some members, notably John and Bette Slatford, Ken Bourne and Les Bowerman, have built up moderately comprehensive libraries of local history books, which, again by arrangement, may be consulted and sometimes borrowed. What is now envisaged is that the Society should, over a period of time, buy or encourage donation or loan of inexpensive local history books for the benefit of those members who do not wish to commit themselves to acquiring their own copies. This would include newcomers, casual browsers, and those not in a position to invest. The books in mind are those such as the Shire Publications booklets on subjects like "Old Farm Machines" and the similarly inexpensive "Discovering" series incorporating titles like "Discovering Timber-framed Buildings". Others to be acquired might include a full set of this Society's publications, Matthew Alexander's books on Guildford, John Jannaway's on Godalming, etc, and Ian Wakeford's on Woking, all of which one is encouraged to buy for oneself. As a first step, the Society's copy of Martin Tupper's "Stephan Langton", a 19th century historical fiction, locally based and containing the first account of King John and the maiden at The Silent Pool, has been deposited in the library, as has "Captain White's River Life", recently published by Nancy Larcombe, and a bound volume of our N/L's 1-36. The books published by our member Chris Howkins, who writes occasional articles for the "Surrey Advertiser", are likewise good candidates for personal purchase or for our library. As regards location and accommodation of the library, Kate & Chris Smith have very kindly offered shelf and reading facilities in their study at Yew Tree House, High Street, Ripley. Access is available at most reasonable times, but it would be advisable to check first by phone (Guildford 224150).

Donations of suitable books for the library will be gratefully received. A list of existing books is given below.

"The English Reformation"	A G Dickens
"The Straight Furrow"	Fred Dixon
"Notes on European History - VOL II The Reformation and the Ascendancy of France 1495-1715"	William Edwards
"Britannia - A History of Roman Britain"	Shepperd Frere
"English Roots and the Derivation of Words from the Ancient Anglo Saxon"	Edward Newenham Hoare
"The Crown for a Lie" Novel about Queen Anne	Jane Lane
"Captain White's River Life"	Ed by Nancy Larcombe
"England in 1685"	Lord Macaulay
"Our Island History - An Elementary Study in History"	Sir Halford Mackinder
"See England First"	S P B Mais
"Letters from the Right Honorable Lady Mary Wortley Montagu 1709-1762"	
"Raleigh and the British Empire"	D B Quinn
"Bible Doctrines Explained for Children"	B A Ramsbottom
"People of Cobham - The Pyports Connection"	David C Taylor
"Stephan Langton or The Days of King John - A Romance of the Silent Pool"	Martin F Tupper
"William, Earl of Lovelace 1805-1893"	Stephen Turner
"The Groundworks of British History - Part II from the Union of Crowns to the Present Day"	G T Warner & C H K Marten
Others	
Send History Society Newsletters Nos 1-36 1975-81	
"The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Send Surrey" - Pamphlet	
"Then and Now - a Victorian Walk Around Ripley"	
"Then and Now - The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life"	

Bette Slatford, Kate Smith and Les Bowerman

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership

It is with great regret that we record the death of our member Sid Larcher. He and Doris had been members of the Society for some years, and were regular attenders at our functions. We extend our sympathy to Doris.

I am unable to give meaningful membership figures as a number of subscriptions remain unpaid. If yours is one of the unpaid, please use the form at the foot of the covering letter to bring yourself into line. We are pleased to welcome the following new member:

Mr Vincent J Tickner, 24 Crown Gardens, Brighton, East Sussex

The Annual General Meeting

Forty-eight members attended the 12th AGM held in Ripley Village Hall on 26 February, and there were 16 apologies. Ken Bourne Took the Chair and reported that the usual programme of meetings, visits, research and participation in fetes and exhibitions had taken place. Additionally, there had been a new publication, "The Straight Furrow" by Fred Dixon, which is selling well, and the churchyards of both parishes had been restored by volunteers from the Society. Another innovation had been photographic exhibitions in both Send and Ripley. All concerned were thanked, in particular the owners of old buildings visited by the Buildings Group, the catering team and the owners of houses where Committee and Working Group meetings had taken

place, Peter Spindler for help and advice in drawing up the accounts for presentation, Patricia Medlen for the work she put into her first year as Treasurer, Bob Gale likewise for his first year as Newsletter Editor, Jane Bartlett for talks on Local Memories, the Committee, and Group Leaders.

A written report from Patricia Medlen, the Treasurer, was read. The accounts, which included a balance sheet for the first time, were adopted. Although they appear to show a healthy balance, the surplus comes mostly from the sale of publications, but that surplus is required as a reserve to finance future publications and to cushion any loss which could at some time be made if a publication is unsuccessful. The Society hopes one day to have a local history museum, and funds would also be necessary for that.

As Secretary, Les Bowerman observed that the churchyard restorations had been carried out by the Society as the Churches and their yards are the main centres of local history in the villages. If the work has benefitted the churches and the villages, so much the better. The Society can also take pleasure in showing visiting societies around the restored churchyards. Thanks were accorded on behalf of the Newsletter Editor to Chris and Geoff Parker, John Slatford and Ken Bourne for their substantial assistance in producing the Newsletter.

As anticipated, subscriptions remain the same at £2 for individuals and £3 for couples.

To pave the way for an application for the Society to be registered as a charity, extensive changes to the Constitution were proposed by the Committee, and these were all passed with one small addition. Although the old objects of the Society of "promoting an interest in, and an understanding of, the history of the two parishes" were preferred by most, it was necessary to change this to "educating the public in the history of the parishes" if registration is to be achieved. In order to provide scope to go outside the narrow borders of the parishes if need be, the words "and of any neighbouring parishes" have been added. A new official position of Vice-Chairman has been created. The Society's financial year will in future end on 31 December rather than 31 January, in order to give the Treasurer more time to prepare the accounts. Although unlikely, one hopes, to be used, a provision is included for disposal of the Society's assets if it should ever have to be dissolved. Further amendments to the objectives and certain other rules will not in future be able to be made without approval of the Charity Commissioners.

The advantages from registration as a Charity are exemption from direct forms of taxation, a good public image, eligibility for help from other charities, and a saving on rates if the Society should be successful in acquiring property for a museum. Disadvantages are that the Commissioners have some controlling powers and can ask to see the accounts.

Ken Bourne, Les Bowerman and Patricia Medlen were re-elected as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. With one more nomination than there were places available on the Committee, the need for a poll to eliminate one candidate was avoided by a decision to fill the new post of Vice-Chairman, John Slatford being elected unanimously, thereby creating an additional vacancy on the Committee. Bob Gale, Gloria Henson, Mavis Lake, Valerie Lewis, Tony Medlen, Bette Slatford, Kate Smith and Audrey Sykes were re-elected to the Committee. Anne Bowerman, Eric Ferris Beryl Comme and Iris Watts were voted in as new members of the Committee in place of Pam Ellisson, Duncan Jennings and Barbara Tinkler, who were all thanked for their past services.

Local Memories - An Illustrated Talk by Jane Bartlett

The AGM was followed by a delightfully evocative and excellently illustrated talk by Jane Bartlett, based on the researches of the Local Memories Group. Characterising Ripley as a "public" village in contrast to the more "hidden" nature of Send, Jane alluded to the historical developments of the two areas over the past 100 years or so through a delightful selection of slides from the Society's photographic collection. The illustrations were linked with interesting and humorous anecdotes and commentary. Jane brought out the essentially agricultural life of Send as compared with the relative prosperity, provided by trade and commercial activities, in Ripley due to its position as a village on a highway.

The earliest available photographs are of the late Victorian period, and Jane's talk thus commenced with references to its fame as the "Cyclists' Mecca", when on weekends and holidays the visiting wheelmen must have far outnumbered the inhabitants. A charming 1920's photo showed Dolly Grace in an extremely smart cycling suit which she called "rational dress", but which was a very far cry from the "exceedingly baggy knickerbockers" of the original Rationals in which the Viscountess Harberton had been refused coffee lounge service in 1898 at the Hautboy. Other photos, to mention a few out of many, included the Send Manor Estate staff taken, apparently, just before the 2nd World War, and several of the Great Danes and their handlers at the Send Manor Kennels during the 1930's. Others showed Arthur Lancaster at Sendholme, market gardening activities at Mr Secrett's Heath Farm and Derby Charabanc outings. Regrettably it is not possible to mention any more in the space available here, but plans are afoot for a carefully edited book of local memories.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Monday, 13 April ... Committee Meeting at 8 pm at The Manor House, Send Marsh.
- Tuesday, 21 April ... Open meeting at 8 pm at Ripley Village Hall, when Mr Ken Halls will give an illustrated talk on the History and Current Developments on the Basingstoke Canal.
- Thursday, 30 April ... Buildings Group Meeting at 8 pm at Muir House, Brooklyn Road, Woking.
- Sunday, 3 May ... Meet at 9 am sharp at Send Marsh Green for an all-day outing to Woodchurch, near Tenterden, Kent, an archetypal Wealden village around a green. Museum of rural life; restored working windmill with a panoramic view; large 13th century church; two miles from Romney Marsh.
- Saturday, 16 May ... Buildings Group outing to the Weald & Downlands Open Air Museum at Singleton, Sussex.
- Thursday, 28 May ... Evening visit to "The Village Workshop", a museum of bygones, at Millbridge, near Frensham, Farnham. Start from Send Marsh Green at 7 pm, or meet there at 7.45.
- Thursday, 25 June ... Evening tour of Historic Guildford, conducted by Mr Matthew Alexander, Curator of the Museum. The tour will include the Castle, the Church of St Mary, with its Saxon origins, and the river area. Meet at 7.30 pm sharp at the entrance to the Castle Keep on top of the mound.
- Wednesday-Saturday, 15-18 July ... For information - "The Toe-tapping Twenties" at Claremont Landscape Garden. A National Trust extravaganza.
- Saturday, 8 August ... West Surrey Family History Society One-Day Conference at Ripley Village Hall. The theme is Transport and Movement in Surrey. John Slatford will speak on "Send & Ripley - a History of the Environment".

NEWSLETTER - AN EDITORIAL NOTE

I hope members agree that the debut of the new Newsletter marks a significant improvement in the presentation and quality of production. (This note is being written, of course, before the finished product is available, so I am sticking my neck out!)

Probably the most striking new feature is the cover. It is proposed to use a different illustration in the lower panel on the front cover for each issue, related if possible to one of the articles inside. On the other hand, it is intended, at present, to retain the design in the upper panel for the first year at least and perhaps thereafter. The elements of the layout denote the local scene.

Newark Priory, which dates from about 1200, probably presents the most well-known image in the area. It has, moreover, appeared for some time on the Society's letter heading as an unofficial logo. The history of Send is closely associated with the Wey Navigation which had its origins in the 17th century. Stevens' barges continued to ply the waterway up until the end of the 1960s. Ripley, in contrast, situated on the Portsmouth Road, is most appropriately identified with wheeled traffic and more particularly with the early history of cycling with its amazing popularity towards the end of the 19th century. The illustration depicts a Humber Roadster tricycle ridden by Viscount Bury, Earl of Albemarle, the first President of the NCU, to whom is attributed reference to Ripley as the "Mecca of all good cyclists" (see Les Bowerman's article earlier in the N/L).

It is hoped that the combination of these three images encapsulates the local area in which the Society's activities are based.

I would like to thank those who have supported the Society by taking advertising space in the Newsletter. Their contributions are most welcome in helping to offset the publication costs. May I also thank my colleagues, Tony Medlen and Chris and Geoff Parker, for all the time and effort they have put in on the new Newsletter.

Bob Gale

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NOTICES

Next Open Meeting: An illustrated talk to be given by Mr. Ken Halls on the "History and Current Developments on the Basingstoke Canal" at 8.0 p.m. on Tuesday, 21st April at Ripley Village Hall.

Society Visits: Members should take particular note of two attractive visits in May - an all day outing to Woodchurch in Kent and an evening excursion to the Village Workshop at Millbridge near Frensham. For details see Forthcoming Events.

Reminders: Any raffle prizes or donations would be most welcome. Please see Patricia Medlen at open meetings. Contributions for the next Newsletter should be submitted to the Editor by 15th May, 1987.