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Send & Ripley History Society

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Cover image:
Detail of Ockham Women's Institute party - see article *James Wicks, Tenant Farmer of Slade Farm, Ockham* on page 16

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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

Hopefully it is not too late to wish all of our members a Happy New Year. I have been looking back at what I wrote at this time in 2025, at the start of our 50th anniversary year and said that we were keen to mark this milestone by creating a new website. As you know, we achieved this goal and are pleased by the results so far, with a steady flow of comments and questions being sent, books bought and memberships paid for online.

I then asked members to please let your committee hear your thoughts about where the SRHS should be going in the next ten years, if not the next 50. No responses received... Please come to the AGM on 11th March and share your ideas and enthusiasms. My committee colleagues would really appreciate your input as we don't have all the answers.

When reflecting on the changed composition of our membership I commented that fewer members are writing for the Journal, contributing to our occasional books or helping with the interviewing of older local residents in order to record and preserve their memories. Unless this changes soon and some younger members join our committee, the Society will not be able to continue in anything like its current form for very much longer. We need a new honorary secretary, help with the museum stewarding and exhibition planning, Journal distribution, managing book sales (making up parcels and taking them to the post office), manning the stand at Farmers' Markets and just helping out here and there and contributing ideas.

Turning to matters over which we have even less control, just as we thought that the junction 10/A3 roadworks were reaching the end we have been told that they still have to install a roundabout on the new Wisley Lane to allow the five thousand or so new residents of 'Upper Ockham' to get in and out of their new homes, so will be spending the next four months making the necessary changes.

Meanwhile we were alerted in December by one of our members that the land around Newark Priory has been ploughed. This came as a surprise to Historic England as much as to us as the Priory is listed as a scheduled monument partly because of 'the archaeological remains and environmental evidence known from partial excavation to be contained within the monument'. You cannot plough there without permission. They promised to look into it.

Finally I am sorry to have to report the recent deaths of members Iain Abbot, Margaret Bland and Michael Giles.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

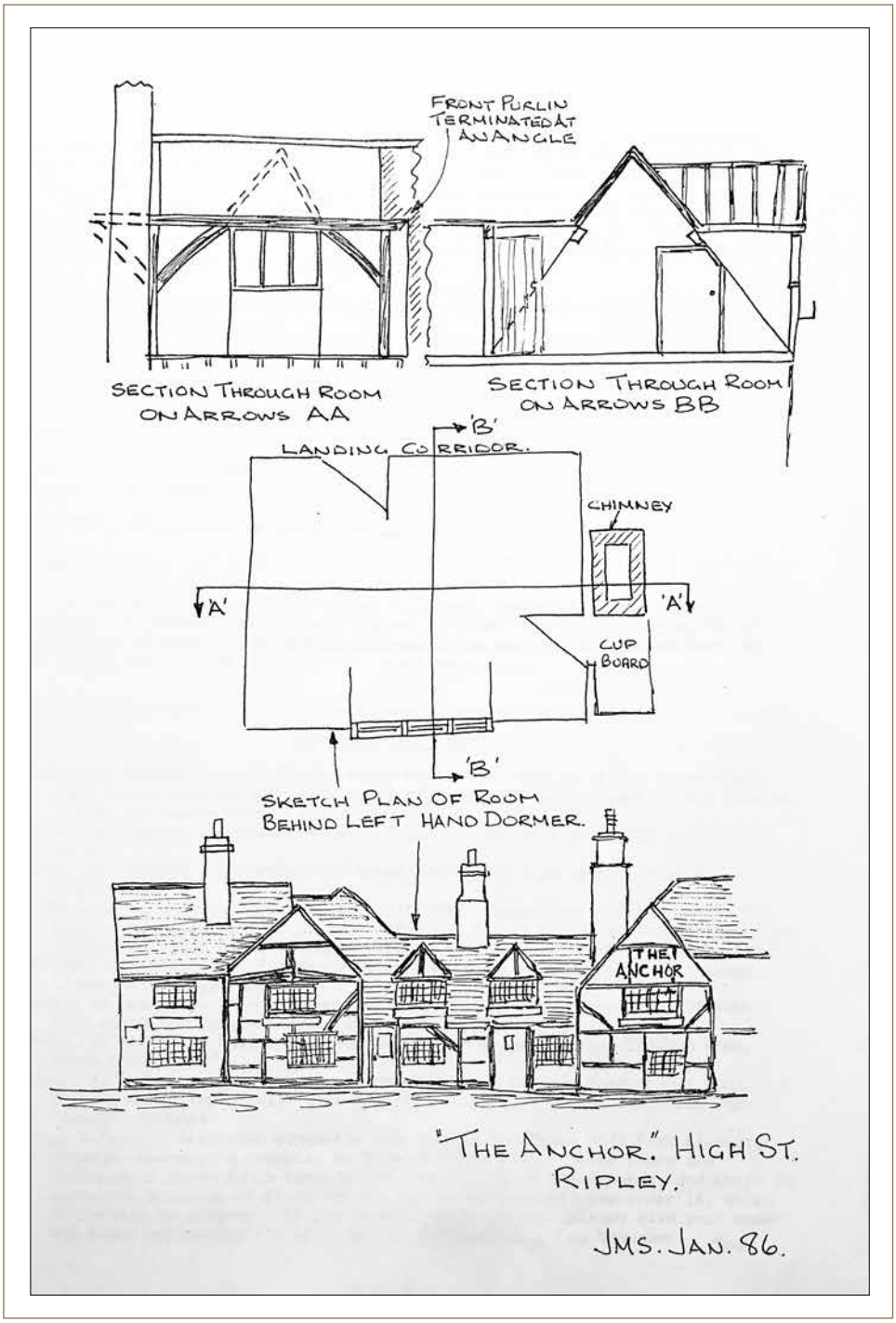
Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th February 2026.

cmb@aappl.com

40 YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN

In Journals 299 and 300 we featured articles by Bette Slatford and Les Bowerman from Newsletters 58, 59 and 60 about the Anchor in Ripley. The research was concerned primarily with the evidence enabling us to conclude that the building was originally built as an almshouse after the dissolution of Newark Priory in 1539. In Newsletter 66 of January 1986 we have found this article by the original authors and John Bartlett, concentrating on structural aspects of the building.



THE ANCHOR, RIPLEY BUILDINGS GROUP REPORT

In Newsletter 60 we wrote about the documentary history of this delightful and unique building, finishing with the suggestion that it was originally a timber-framed almshouse of the early 16th century. It was the subject of John Baker's 'Seeing Eye' report in the *Surrey Advertiser* of 1st October 1978. Following J Hassell in 1820, it has been drawn by many topographical artists and has been the subject of countless picture postcards.

In February 1984, when the roof was stripped for re-tiling, closer examination of the structure was possible; this was an advantage which had been denied to John Baker. A study was made of part of the inside and of the roof of the left hand cross-wing. Viewed from the road, the building can be seen to have evolved from the central low-level part. The cross-wings on either side were subsequently added at different times and the brick extension to the left was built even later, around 1800.

The construction of the centre section is of through side purlins with diminishing rafters; no collars were visible. In the room behind the left-hand dormer window (the only

upstairs part that has been studied) are four nicely curved braces (see drawing). The front purlin has been cut off at the left hand end, strong evidence that this low building once continued where the left hand cross-wing now is.

The central chimney is in what may have been an inserted smoke bay or hood, there is conflicting evidence for this. Certainly there was seen to be much soot encrustation over the whole central section, on rafters and the chimney itself. Adjacent to the left of the chimney was a soot-encrusted wattle-and daub partition, but there was no such partition to the right of the chimney. It is possible that the soot resulted from leaking flues and the occasional chimney fire.

The dormers would have been added when the upper floor was constructed, for this part would certainly have been built as ground floor only and open to the roof. The left hand dormer has been reconstructed in softwood with a ridge board but that on the right is probably as built, with oak rafters, lapped and pegged, with no ridge board.

The present centre section appears to have been built as two bays, each about 12' 6" long. The smoke bay and chimney were constructed in the right hand one of these two bays.

It is concluded that the central section was built as a long, low building with ground floor only and open to the roof. It had three bays and possibly more. The braced side purlin, diminishing rafter construction suggests a build of the first half of the 16th century.

The smoke bay or hood was probably added soon after. A possible confirmation of this conclusion arises from a report in a journal called *The Graphic*, of 3rd October 1891, which said that 'a few years ago' a fire-back bearing the date 1598 was discovered in the course of alterations; 1598 may therefore be the date when the brick chimney was inserted.

The left hand cross-wing, of which only the front one and a half bays remain, is basically a self-contained unit standing adjacent to the shortened original building. This can be determined from the two upright posts standing only a few inches apart. Construction is of elm with through purlins, non-diminishing rafters and a central queen strut. A 17th century date is suggested.

The right hand cross-wing was not seen from inside and nothing can be added to John Baker's findings that this was an 18th century addition of poor quality, non-free standing construction. The manner of joining it to the central section, as John Baker observed, suggests that the latter also extended to the right. This cross-wing may be the addition to the almshouse built with money bequeathed for that purpose under the will of Burney Fenn, dated 1709.

The brick extension adjacent to the car park entrance has a roof of sawn softwood with a ridge board. It is unlikely to have been added before 1800, but was certainly there in 1820 when Hassell drew the building (see *Then and Now*, page 59). It is curious that Hassell drew most, but not all, of the timbers now exposed, whereas later pictures up to about 1920 show the facade completely rendered.

Our findings on the structural side are not inconsistent with our conclusions from the documents. We believe it to have been built as an almshouse around the time of the dissolution of Newark Priory, which was in 1539.

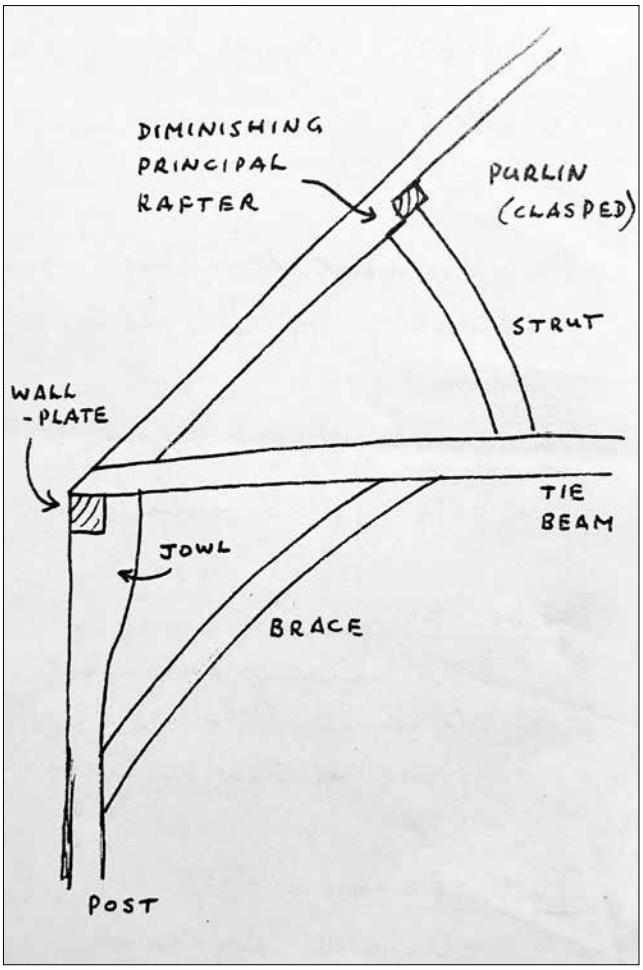
The unusually long single storey building of good quality original construction is in line with other institutional buildings such as almshouses or poor-houses, although later surviving examples are usually of brick construction. Surrey examples, drawn by Hassell and reproduced in *Surrey Archaeological Collections Volume 75*, are, or were, Chelsham, Sanderstead and West Molesey.

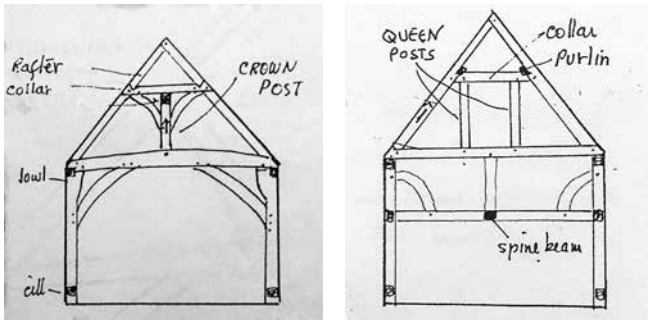
GLOSSARY

I am conscious that our buildings reports from the early days of the Society often use terminology which may be unfamiliar to many of our members today. Some is explained in our revised edition of *A Walk About Ripley Village*; some used in this article about the Anchor is explained here.

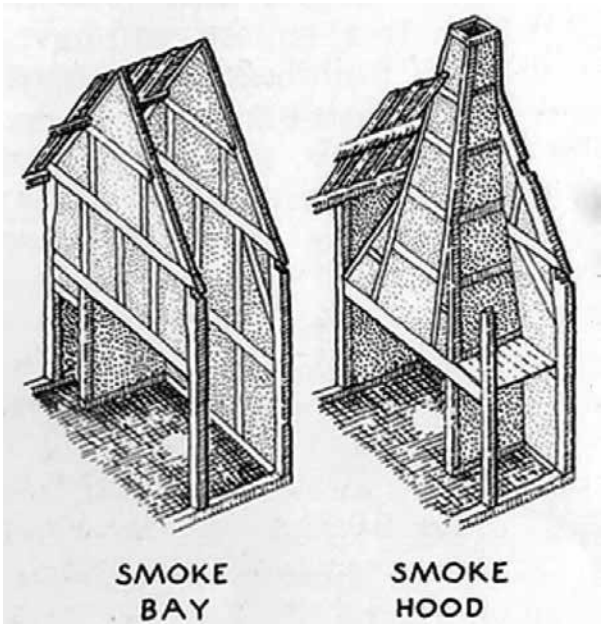
Brace (or windbrace): timbers fixed diagonally between upright posts and horizontal beams to stabilize the structure of the frame

Collar: A horizontal timber joining a pair of rafters on opposite sides of the roof at any point above plate (eaves) level





Left: Crown post roof. Right: Queen post roof



Crown post: A vertical post set at the centre of the tie beam in the roof space between the tie beam at wall plate (eaves) level and the collar. If the post extends to the ridge it is known as a king post, often with braces from the centre of the post to each end of the collar purlin and/or principal rafter. These were generally used before circa 1500

Diminishing rafter: a rafter, the upper part of which, usually above the purlin, is of reduced thickness

Purlin: a horizontal roof timber, running along one side of a roof, supporting the rafters. If it consists of a single piece of wood it may be described as a 'through side purlin; if supporting one or more diminishing principal rafters and joined to a strut, it is a 'clasped purlin'

Queen post: used after circa 1500, replacing the crown post. A pair of upright posts joining the collar to the tie beam

Ridge board: a plank running the length of the ridge of the roof to each side of which the rafters are secured. These were not used prior to the mid 1500s with the roof structure being stabilized by purlins, collars and braces and the rafters being pegged together at ridge level

Smoke bay (or hood): a narrow bay, usually about five feet wide and central, with lath and plaster sides – used before chimneys were generally affordable and designed to help the smoke to rise and exit the house without entering the upper rooms (or not penetrating them quite as much) – used from around 1550-1600

A SHORT HISTORY OF OCKHAM TO 1900

GILLIAN LACHELIN

PREHISTORIC TO 1600

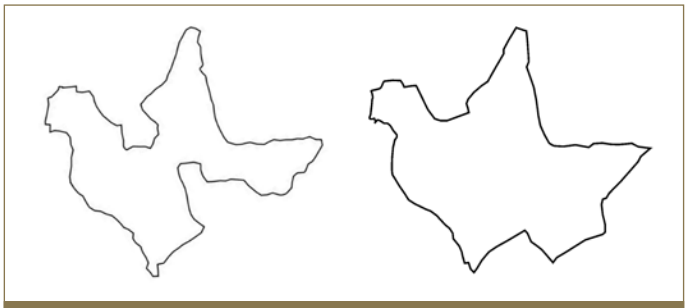
Ockham has been an entity from the early Middle Ages and probably much earlier; it has long been a community of small hamlets, scattered over more than 2000 acres. The presence of a Roman bath-house at Chatley Farm on the River Mole and of Roman pottery sherds in neighbouring parishes, indicate that Ockham was farmed during Roman times. A boundary change in 1883, when parts of Wisley parish were added, altered its shape from a rather scraggy bird to a much plumper one.

The heathlands of Ockham, Wisley and Cobham may have resulted from over-farming in prehistoric times.[1] A hoard of six middle bronze age axes, armlets and finger rings was unearthed at the Hautboy in 2013 but it is not known when it was deposited.[2]

The first known document relating to Ockham is a charter of 1035 in which Thored, the Danish landlord of Horsley, gave land to the Archbishop of Canterbury, including parts of East Horsley and the eastern part of Ockham (the Ockham tithing). In the 1086 Domesday Survey of Ockham manor, the western part of Ockham, which Almaer (the landowner before the Conquest who was, exceptionally, permitted to retain some land afterwards) had held, the church, two fisheries and 11 people are mentioned along with several hundred acres of land. About 300 acres would have been under cultivation; most of the rest was heath and woodland supplying timber for building, fencing and firewood, as well as land for grazing and turfs.

After the Conquest Ockham manor and all Almaer's holdings in Surrey were given to Richard Fitz Gilbert de Clare, one of William the Conqueror's most powerful confederates.[3] Manorial courts would have taken place every few weeks to deal with civil and criminal matters. These were probably held in the building that preceded Ockham Court, where 32 substantial shell-tempered pottery sherds from one 36cm diameter 12th/13th century pot were found during drainage works. [4]

Some time before 1170 Ockham manor was acquired by William de Dammartin, whose relatives came with the Conqueror and became tenants of the de Clares. They built or improved several churches on their estates. Pyrford and Wisley churches were rebuilt at this time



Ockham parish boundaries in the tithe map of 1840 and Ordnance Survey map of 1959/60

The Ockham hoard, discovered in 2013 (courtesy Surrey Archaeological Society)

and William de Dammartin probably commissioned the building of All Saints' Church at Ockham.[5]

The Ockham tithing was under a different system; as a leased property of the priory of Christ Church, Canterbury, it would have been managed at arm's length. In 1207 King John exiled the Christ Church monks and confiscated their property. In 1211 the reeves of the East Horsley and Ockham (William of Upton) tithings testified that they had received two loads of barley and 100s 8d in legal dues. The two reeves presumably reported together because the Ockham tithing was under Horsley at that time and the Ockham reeve would therefore have reported to East Horsley.

Ockham manor belonged to the Dammartins until 1224, when Odo de Dammartin granted it to James Hansard, the younger son of a Little Bookham family. He remained lord of the manor for nearly 50 years. Amongst his possible works was the construction of a watermill,

a major undertaking that involved digging a millstream from the Wey and coordination with Newark Priory.

The 13th century was a time of relative prosperity. The population of Ockham increased to 300-350 and more land was cleared and cultivated resulting in a scatter of small groups of dwellings. This non-nucleated pattern persisted into modern times. The family which took the name 'of Ockham' first appeared in 1225 when Nicholas of Ockham, a freeholder in Ockham, lost a dispute over land at the circuit court. The Ockham family produced at least four important clerics – another Nicholas, an eminent theologian at Oxford; Thomas, Benedictine steward at Chertsey Abbey; John, Baron of the Exchequer and William, all 'of Ockham'. The most famous was William who was born circa1285. He is considered to be one of the three most influential medieval thinkers alongside Thomas Aquinas and Duns Scotus. Popularly he is best known for Ockham's Razor which has been taken to mean 'make as few assumptions as possible'.[6]

The last great magnate of the de Clare line, Gilbert the Red, Earl of Hereford and Gloucester, died in 1295 leaving his vast estates to his young wife, Princess Joan of Acre, daughter of Edward I, and after her to their infant son, also called Gilbert. Towards the end of his life, Gilbert senior had recovered control of Ockham manor from the Hansards.

The 13th century closed on a relatively hopeful note. The long reign of Edward I saw the restoration of England's position abroad and domestically trade and agriculture were flourishing. Ockham manor was in the hands of Joan of Acre whose power guaranteed her tenants protection from outside interference. The Ockham tithing was in a similar situation under the supervision of the Prior Henry of Eastry.

Unfortunately, the accession of Edward II in 1307 brought a time of trouble that lasted for 180 years. Joan of Acre died in 1307 and her son Gilbert was killed at Bannockburn in 1314. Ockham manor was inherited by Gilbert's sister, Margaret and her husband, the king's hated favourite Piers Gaveston. After Gaveston's execution in 1317 the estate passed to Hugh de Audley and then, in 1336, to Margaret de Audley who was kidnapped and married by Ralph Stafford. Ockham then became part of the Stafford possessions.

The Black Death arrived in Ockham in 1348 and the rector died the following year along with many of his parishioners. Fortunately he was replaced by Walter Freeland, a local man of considerable ability, who was a rising star in the Stafford administration and used his

Sketch of William of Ockham from a manuscript of his *Summa Logicae*, 1341

The stained glass window in All Saints' depicting William of Ockham

Memorial brass of Walter Freeland, rector from 1348

A memorial brass in All Saints' Church of John Weston and his wife Margaret

wealth and influence to benefit the church and community of Ockham. He is commemorated in All Saints' Church by what is probably the earliest priest's brass in Surrey.

Several wealthy and locally influential families emerged in Ockham in the early 15th century. Two of the most important were the Westons and the Freelands. In 1406

The Weston arms

John Weston of Ockham, whose father John was also 'of Ockham', took part in an agreement relating to property in Send, Ockham, Cobham and East Horsley. His property in Ockham passed to his cousin, William Weston, the grandfather of the John Weston of Ockham who died in 1483 and who is depicted with his wife in another memorial brass in All Saints' Church. Records from the early 15th century show that the Westons and other landowners increased their landholdings at the expense of others.[7]

Prior to 1400, apart from the church, there are few traces of the more than 50 houses and other buildings that must have existed in the parish. Most would have been made of wood and wattle and daub, with shallow foundations. After 1400 some more substantial homes were built and evidence of some of these survives. The medieval part of Upton Farm was probably built around 1415 and the hall and service bay still survive. Dendrochronology gives a construction date of 1469 for the timber framed five-bay hall house at Church End, which is now divided into two dwellings: Church Gate Cottage and Ashlea. A chimney and fireplaces were introduced in the late 16th century and an eastern extension was added later. Another house probably dating from the 15th century is Yarne.

Following the defeat of Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, became Lord of the Manor of Ockham. He was executed in 1521 and the manor was granted to John Bourchier, Lord Berners of West Horsley, who travelled with Henry VIII to the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520. He died in 1532 and the manor was granted to Henry Courtenay who was beheaded in 1538 for treason. Two of the ceiling bosses in the 16th century wooden nave roof of All Saints' Church depict a Stafford knot, three others a Bourchier knot and one the Weston arms. Ockham manor remained under the control of the Crown until 1560.

The Tudors reformed the system of government and from the 1530s until the 1830s the parish was the basic unit of local government. The parson and churchwardens were responsible for the governance of the parish. The parish constable reported regularly to the Justices of the Peace at the quarter sessions on matters such as blasphemy, drunkenness, murder, sedition, suicide and theft. Surveyors

The east window seen from inside and outside of All Saints' Church

of the highway supervised the roads and later on overseers of the poor distributed poor relief. Vestries met, as still happens today, around the time of Easter and made by-laws on many subjects. Until the late 19th century the churchwardens levied a rate on all parishioners, posted on the church door; they also reported to their archdeacon on the attendance at church of all parishioners.

In 1534 Thomas Cromwell initiated the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* to determine the value of the assets of all ecclesiastical benefices; this was followed by the dissolution of the monasteries. It is possible that the beautiful east window in All Saints' came from Newark Priory at this time. The Crown added the Ockham tithing to its holdings in 1538 and in the same year Thomas Cromwell directed that every parish must keep a register of baptisms, marriages and burials. The extant Ockham records from 1568 onwards allow study of several families who lived in Ockham for many years such as the Westons, Freelands and others.

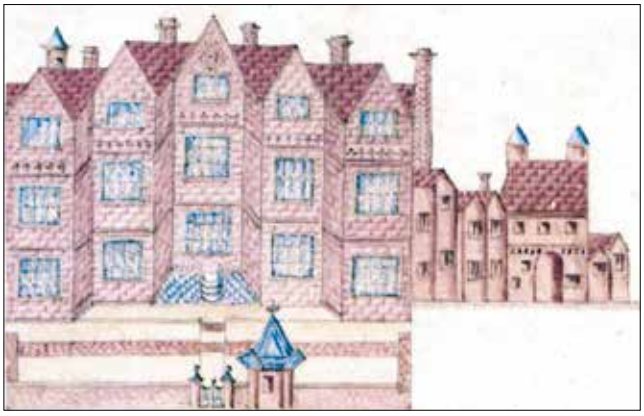
A 1548 document titled *The Survey of Surrey Manors* still exists. It gives the names of 11 free tenants and five copyholders in Ockham and the names of some of their properties. Unfortunately the identification of buildings and fields is complicated by the practice of continually renaming them and only three can be identified (Upton, Bachelors and Kneppes – probably Bridgefoot Farm) with some certainty. This document shows John Weston paying the most – 2s 10d (two shillings and ten pence) and a pound of pepper, and John Williams the least – 1d and a red rose – for a toft (the site or plot of a house) and thirty acres of land.

The 'lay subsidies', so called because the clergy were taxed separately, were the main form of taxation from the 13th to the 17th century. In 1558 the tax for Ockham was 2s 8d in the pound on land of £1 or more; 1s 8d in in the pound on goods of £3 or more and 1s in the pound on goods of £20 or more. Twenty-two names are mentioned in the Ockham assessment in 1558 including John Weston and seven Freelands.

The probate inventories also give insight into life in this period. The 1561 will of Christopher Lamboll, a yeoman of Ockham, shows that he had two flockbeds (10s) and six pairs of sheets (10s); apparel (6s 8d); four chests and an old cupboard (5s); a pewter vessel (6s); two cauldrons and three pans, a pot and a posnet (£1 2s); various kitchen implements and brewing vessels, five iron wedges and a scythe (4s 6d). He had five cows, three bullocks, four horses and seven hogs (£6 10s) and four acres with corn on the ground (7s).

The rector, Robert Gregory (also known as Cleybroke) had more possessions and would have been expected to provide hospitality for visiting clergy. In 1573 he had four bedsteads, two feather beds and two flock beds with sheets, bolsters and bedcovers (£4 13s 4d). He also had kitchen, dining room and garden equipment (£2 16s 6d); 12 cattle, four horses and 24 ewes and lambs (£16 6s) and various 'pultry and duckes and a stale of bees' (5s 4d). He also had three acres of rye (£1 10s), wheat and malt in the house (£2 6s), 'hodges and pidges' (£1), a saddle, a bridle and an old cart (7s 4d) and 2s 8d in his purse.

In 1560 the Ockham tithing was granted by Elizabeth I to John Agmondisham and it remained with his family until 1777. In 1561 she granted Ockham manor to Anthony Crane, one of her courtiers, who sold it in 1566 for the use of Lady Ann Knivett and John Vaughan, her third husband, with remainder to her heirs. Lady Ann's first husband was Sir Francis Weston, son of Sir Richard Weston (of Sutton Place), a staunchly Catholic family unrelated to the Westons



Henry Weston's house in what became Ockham Park

of Ockham, discussed previously and below. Sir Francis Weston was indicted as one of Anne Boleyn's lovers and executed in 1536. In 1582 the manor passed to Henry Weston, son of Sir Francis Weston and Lady Ann. He died in 1592 and was succeeded by his son and then his grandson, Richard, in 1613. Richard Weston spent several years in Flanders and introduced many agricultural improvements into England such as crop rotation of flax, turnips, oats and clover and he instigated the construction of the Wey navigation. In 1621 he sold Ockham manor to Henry Weston *of Ockham* to help finance his innovations. This meant that for the first time the Lordship of the manor was in the hands of a family who were long-term residents of Ockham.

Under Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I all men aged 16 to 60 were liable for military service, armed with their own weapons and armour, according to their income. The 1583 muster rolls for Ockham and Wisley give the names of 41 men available for service as pikemen, bill men, archers and gunners. A series of bad harvests, severe epidemics, discontent and opposition to enclosure in the 1590s triggered the passage of the Elizabethan Poor Laws of 1597 and 1601 which ordered the election of overseers of the poor who distributed relief to the poor from rates set by the parish vestry. The 1706–1735 records for Ockham still exist and are discussed later.

Elizabeth I re-established the Protestant Anglican Church and recusancy laws were passed that targeted Catholics who refused to attend Church of England services; non-attendance was punishable by fine or imprisonment. In 1603 Ockham had 151 communicants with no Catholics or Dissenters.

1600-1900

The Westons *of Ockham* played a significant part in the life of Ockham and the county of Surrey in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries and increased their holdings considerably during this period. The John and Margaret Weston depicted in the 15th century brass in All Saints', Ockham, had several descendants called John. One of these was the father of Henry Weston, who became Lord of the manor in 1621.

The continuing acquisition of land by a few families is demonstrated by the fence lists, which were kept with the Ockham parish registers. The custom whereby parishioners were responsible for the upkeep of the church fence, in lengths proportional to the acreage of their holdings, was widespread at the time. The total length of the All Saints' fence was about 540 feet. In 1609 Henry Weston was responsible for the longest length (125 feet). The list also includes Sir Richard Weston, Lord of the Manor at the time (47); Elizabeth Agmondisham (Ockham tithing, 44); Thomas Freeland of Bachelors (71); John Freeland of Hyde (10); John Freeland of Kneppes (10); John Freeland of Brownes (9); William Freeland (8) and twenty others. Comparison of this list with that of 1759 shows how the land was increasingly taken over by a few families.

Henry Weston built a large house on the site now known as Ockham Park. He died in 1638 and it was found he held Ockham manor, the watermill, the advowson of All Saints' 30 acres of land and other land and properties in Ockham and neighbouring parishes. He also held Papercourt manor and property in London, Sussex and elsewhere and the advowson of Speldhurst in Kent. His brother, the Reverend Edward Weston (rector of Speldhurst) was his heir. He died in 1641 and his son Henry succeeded him as Lord of the Manor of Ockham; he married Kathryn, daughter of Sir William Forde of Harting in Sussex; they had seventeen children between 1640 and 1660.

The period from 1640 to 1660 was one of the most turbulent in British history. Most of Surrey supported Parliament in the Civil War. Charles I was beheaded in 1649 and the Commonwealth persisted until the accession of Charles II in 1660. Under the Hearth Tax of 1662 every hearth was taxed at two shillings per year. Forty three people are listed but it is not known where most of them lived. Henry Weston had 17 hearths and the rector eight; most people only had one or two. In a census in 1676 there were 136 conformists in Ockham, which would fit with there being 45 or more dwellings.

The wool industry was of great importance in the Middle Ages but declined in the 17th century because of foreign competition. In 1678 an Act stated that corpses must be buried in sheep's wool, with a penalty of £5 if someone was buried in anything other than wool.

Henry Weston died in 1666. The manor passed to his oldest living son John, born in 1651, who had eleven children. He became Receiver General of Taxes for Surrey

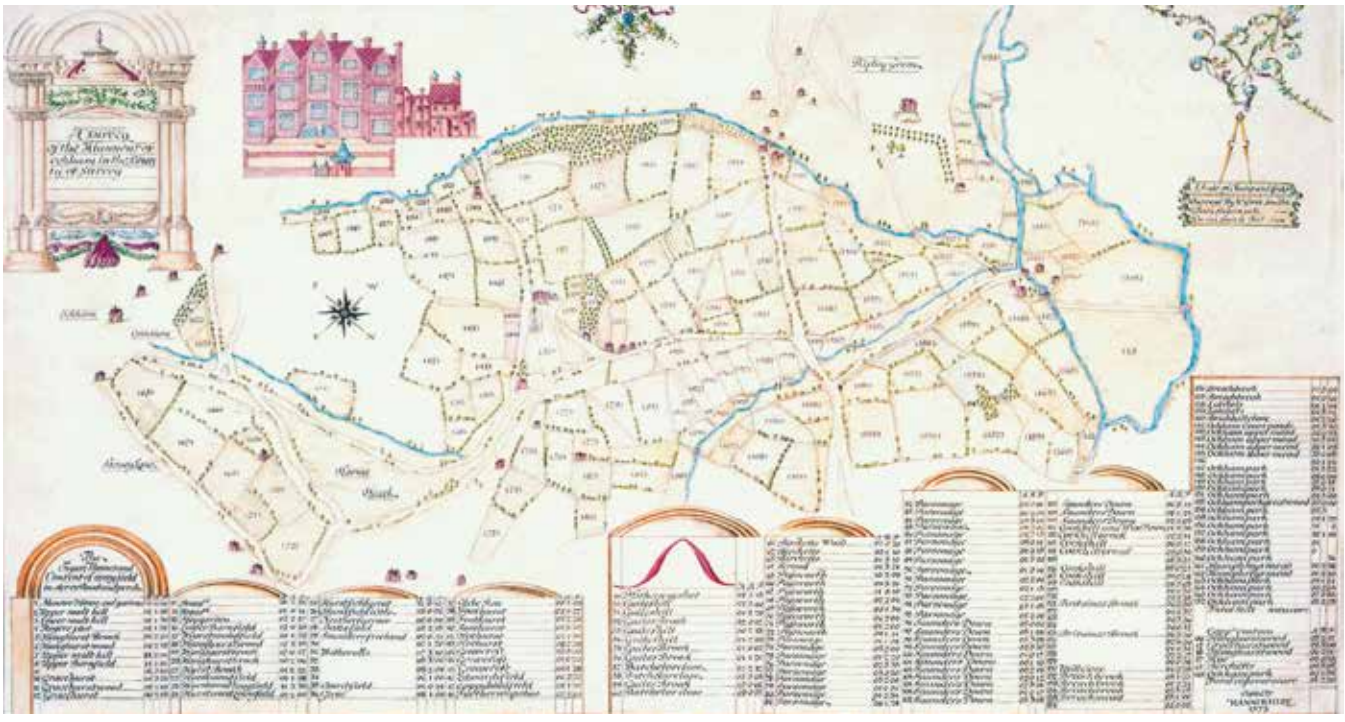
in 1703. Unfortunately his fiscal dealings plunged him into debt and he was imprisoned for debts of £20,000 due to the Crown. His son Henry sold Ockham and Papworth manors, the advowson of the church and other lands to Sir Peter King in 1710 for £18,326 to liberate his father from prison. The 1706 *Survey of the Manor of Ockham* was probably prepared with a view to the sale of the Ockham estate: it is the earliest known detailed map of the area and provides information on the names and pattern of the fields.

The original register of the overseers of the poor for Ockham for 1706–1735 still exists in the form of a small leather bound book held at the Surrey History Centre. It gives details of the rates set (usually about 6d for six months), the amounts collected and the disbursement of the money. Interestingly, the lists of people are divided into those in Ockham manor and those in the tithing. In 1706 John Weston and Henry Hanford (of Bridgefoot Farm) paid the most in the manor half and John Fielder the most in the tithing. The money was distributed to poor people in the parish and payments were made for cutting several thousand turfs for the poor.

One of the main beneficiaries between 1706 and 1724 was Henry Taylor, born in 1648. He was given 2s to 3s 6d per week and some clothing. In 1706 he received a waistcoat (5s 6d); breeches (4s 6d); a sheet and a shirt (7s 6d) and stockings. In other years he sometimes had a coat (13s 11d) or a pair of shoes (4s) or a mixture of items. He died in 1724 and was buried in the churchyard. The overseers paid for his shroud and for 'laying him forth' (4s), for his coffin (8s) and for bread and beer for the funeral (7s) and received £14s 10d for his goods. The register shows that many families lived in Ockham for a long time and reveals a community looking after the poorer inhabitants, according to the intentions of the Poor Laws.

Sir Peter King established the family seat at Ockham Park and Nicholas Hawksmoor advised him on the modification of the house built by the Westons. On the accession of George I he was created Lord King, Baron of Ockham and took some part in the affairs of Ockham, signing the Overseers' accounts in 1713, 1719, 1720, 1722 and 1723 and he attended parish meetings in 1721 and 1722. He was made Lord Chancellor in 1725 and died in 1734. He is commemorated, with his wife, by the renowned Rysbrach monument in the King chapel in the church. Four of their sons succeeded him; their fourth son, Thomas, becoming the 5th Baron King. His son Peter was the 6th and was succeeded by his son, also Peter, as the 7th Baron King, in 1793.

In 1770 a letter addressed to Richard Holford in Blackfriars, from John Spong, a carpenter in Ockham, reads: 'This day I have loaded two freights of round elm to come to your yarde; in one barge 65 ends (954 ft) and in the other 56 (940 ft)'. An entry in Salmon's *Antiquities of Surrey* 1736 states that the River Wey was navigable from the Thames to Guildford, brought coal to Ockham Mill and carried their timber and hoops, made of hazel, of



The earliest known detailed map of Ockham, from 1706

The monument to Lord King, first Baron of Ockham, in All Saints' Church

which many loads go off from there. Clearly considerable amounts of timber and underwood were being exported from Ockham by water in the 18th century.

Viscountess Lanesborough, who held the Ockham tithing from 1701 to 1719, bequeathed her Surrey estates to her grandson James Fox who was succeeded by his brother Sackville and then his son James. The East Horsley manor, including the Ockham tithing, was later acquired by William Currie, son of a London banker, in 1784. In 1820 he commissioned Sir Charles Barry to build a house, which became the core of Horsley Towers. He died in 1829 and the manor passed to his son William.

The Kings continued to accumulate land in Ockham as shown by the fence lists. In 1759 the King family were responsible for more than 280 ft and in 1799 for more than 380ft (circa 70%). By 1759 Sackville Fox was responsible for only 32 ft and the Freelands for only 26 ft.

The Quarter Sessions Land Tax Returns also give an indication of the amount of land owned by the Kings and others in Ockham. From 1781 to 1831 the rate was fixed at 4s in the pound. In the early 19th century the Kings paid approximately 70% of the tax. They owned most of the most valuable properties including Ockham Park, Guileshill, Bridgefoot Farm, Stratford Farm, Southend Farm, Bachelors, Upton Farm, Passworth and also Ockham Mill and Ockham Court. The Geylls family (coopers and victuallers) owned the Hautboy and Fiddle Inn. It was later occupied by Henry Page, the blacksmith, who had his forge there, and is now called Bridge End Cottage. Apparently the stocks, feet-restraining devices used for punishment and public humiliation, were also situated there. The later Hautboy Hotel was built at a different location.

Peter, 7th Baron King, was succeeded by his son William, 8th Baron King, in 1833. In 1835 William married the wealthy Augusta Ada Byron, the only legitimate child of Lord Byron. Unusually for a girl at that time she received a good scientific education and became a talented mathematician. She collaborated with Charles Babbage, the inventor of the Difference Engine, a sophisticated mechanical calculator and provided vital input for his more advanced Analytical Engine. She is often described as the first 'computer programmer'. William was created Viscount Ockham and Earl of Lovelace in 1838, at the time of the coronation of Queen Victoria. He was Lord Lieutenant of Surrey during most of her reign and a staunch Whig. William bought the East Horsley estate - including the Ockham tithing - from William Currie the younger in 1840, thus uniting the two halves of the parish of Ockham – the manor in the west and the tithing in the east – under one overlord. He was interested in agricultural improvements and wrote about crop rotation on his land in Ockham, in relation to mangold-wurzels, beans and cabbage and allocated a few acres for the use of agricultural labourers at a low rent, giving prizes for the best-kept plots. William lived at Ockham Park while Horsley Towers was being rebuilt, until 1846. He acquired the Ockham brickworks in Long Reach and in 1851 won a medal for brickmaking at the Crystal Palace Exhibition. His decorated brickwork adorns several buildings and walls in Ockham. He rebuilt Ockham Mill in 1862 and built the Hautboy Hotel in 1864 as well as several buildings nearby.

Ada decided to build schools inspired by the Swiss educational reformer von Fellenburg who founded a school in Switzerland in 1799 that combined agricultural and academic instruction, to improve the lot of poorer children. The Ockham Schools were built in 1836 in what is now School Lane; several of the buildings are still standing. There was an innovative industrial school for the children of farmers and shopkeepers and a parish day school for the children of labourers. In 1841 there were 14 boarders, rising to 75 in 1871 with many more boy boarders than girls.

Lord Lovelace and Ada moved to Horsley Towers in 1846. Ada died in 1852 and Lord Lovelace remarried in 1865. Ockham Park was let to the judge, Dr Stephen Lushington, who represented Lady Byron in her separation from Lord Byron and Queen Caroline in

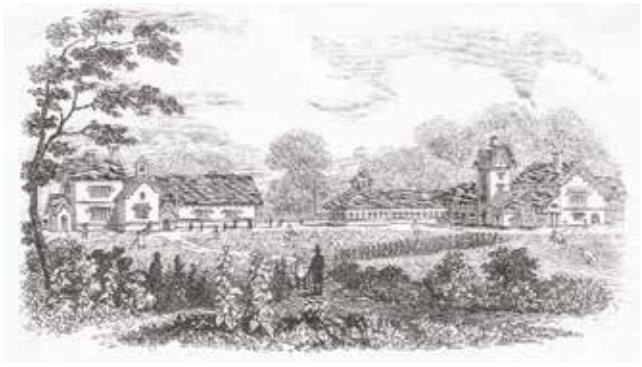
George IV's divorce proceedings against her. He lived at Ockham Park for 26 years and his daughters supervised the children at the schools. The children in the industrial school had 5½ hours of lessons a day, on a wide range of subjects and 1½ hours work either in the house or outdoors. They were taught carpentry and basket-making and there was a printing press and a gymnasium. The fees in 1860 were £16 a year for boys, £15 for girls and 5 shillings for weekly boarders. Labourers paid 2d per child for their attendance at the parish day school.

In 1851 Harriet Martineau, a well-known social reformer, asked Lady Byron if William and Ellen Craft, fugitive Afro-American slaves from Georgia, could be accommodated as teachers of 'cabinet making and sewing' at the schools, in return for being taught to read and write and receiving tuition from the Misses Lushington, and Lady Byron agreed.

Three of William and Ellen's children were baptised in All Saints'. [Three of their American descendants visited Ockham recently and were greatly amused by the Yorkshire 'pudding' served at a local pub, having never heard of it before.] Dr Lushington, a lifelong opponent of slavery, was visited at Ockham Park by many famous people such as Benjamin Jowett, FD Maurice, William Rossetti, Elizabeth Gaskell, William Holman Hunt, Thomas Woolner and Edward Lear. He is buried in the churchyard and commemorated in All Saints' Church by a brass plaque. After his death in 1873 the school became an ordinary National School.

Tithes were originally payments in kind of animals, crops, milk, wood, wool etc by parishioners for support of their church and clergy. In 1836, under the Tithe Commutation Act, cash payments were agreed and recorded in the tithe apportionment accompanying the parish tithe map. The Ockham map (1841) is very large and with the apportionment gives a detailed record of the hamlets, houses, outbuildings and fields and their ownership as well as the size and usage of the several hundred parcels of land, their state of cultivation and the amount payable. Approximately 70% of the land was owned by Lord Lovelace and he paid 90% of the tithe. He renamed many fields and this makes it difficult to match them with earlier documents. The amount payable to the rector, the Reverend Charles Weston of the Weston family, was assessed at £318, made up from 302 bushels of wheat, 536 of barley and 770 of oats. He built what is now called the Old Rectory in about 1830.

The number of dwellings in Ockham more than doubled from the 17th to the 19th century but has not changed much since. In the 1662 Hearth Tax there were 45 householders. In the 1801 census 473 people were living



The Lovelace-built Ockham Schools (from an old engraving)

William and Ellen Craft

in 92 houses and in 2001 384 in 158 houses. In 1851 more than 40% of people in Ockham were born in Ockham and another 20% in nearby villages; those not born in Ockham include the school boarders and most of the servants. By 1901 only 30% of people in Ockham had been born in Ockham and there were people from all over the country and abroad. Many longstanding families from earlier centuries had been replaced.

In the 1851 census there were 14 farmers and more than 60% of employed males were agricultural labourers. There were 16 servants, five gardeners and four teachers. Occupations with two or three representatives included bricklayer, brickmaker, butcher, carpenter, charcoal burner, coachman, grocer, groom, housekeeper, laundress, miller, miller's carter, sawyer, shoemaker, wheelwright and woodman. There was one baptist minister, basket maker, butler, coal merchant's man, curate, dairyman, farrier, general dealer, horticulturalist, judge, nurse, police constable, school agent, smith, strawplaiter, tax collector, teacher, tile maker, victualler and also one castrator! Clearly Ockham was self-sufficient in many ways. The judge was Stephen Lushington.

The arrival of the London to Southampton railway at Woking in 1838 opened up this part of Surrey to London

and the outside world. It was increasingly fashionable to convert agricultural dwellings into country houses and to explore the countryside on foot or on the newly popular bicycles. Several poor harvests from 1875 onwards caused a major slump in agriculture; farms failed, land values plummeted and farmhouses and labourers' cottages became available at bargain prices, making them attractive to town-dwellers.

The Lovelace estate was the largest employer and next in order of economic importance were the larger farms, which were all tenancies of the Lovelace estate. They provided employment for up to 50 men and 20 boys. Residences such as Ockham Park House, the Rectory and the new middle-class homes provided increasing employment for domestic staff, many from outside the parish. The replacement of the Hautboy & Fiddle Inn, by the Hautboy in 1864, was aimed at the growing tourist trade. It was made newsworthy by the famous legal case resulting from the hotelier's refusal to admit Lady Harberton in her cycling unmentionables (bloomers – named after Amelia Bloomer, an American women's rights advocate) in 1898. [8]

By the late 1870s rents had fallen and the great estates were in difficulty. Lord Lovelace was keen to have a railway line running through Ockham and several controversial schemes were proposed; eventually, after a gladiatorial fight in Parliament, Lord Lovelace supported his neighbour Lord Onslow and the line going through Horsley and Clandon was built and opened in 1885. The presence of a station at Horsley led to expansion of the Horsleys and Ockham remained 'unspoilt'.

Ockham Park was rented out until 1893 when Ralph, 2nd Earl of Lovelace moved in. The Reverend Seymour Neville, rector of Ockham from 1869 until 1899, devoted his time, energy and private means to the needs of the parish. He spent the equivalent of hundreds of thousands of pounds on the reconstruction of the church and the support of charitable projects such as the village school. The Vestry continued to administer the civil as well as the religious business of the parish until the Local Government Act of 1894 separated civil and ecclesiastical jurisdiction at parish level. Up till then wardens and officers were mostly drawn from the principal tenant farmers and master craftsmen but professional men began to replace them. The first chairman of the civil parish council was the sitting churchwarden Henry Bashall, who wrote a book about Ockham – *The Oak Hamlet.* [9]

The new century dawned with a relatively new lord of the manor, Ralph King-Milbanke, 2nd Earl of Lovelace, resident at Ockham Park, a new rector and a new parish organisation.

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[1] Currie CK 1989 *An evaluation of the Archaeological and Historical Landscape of Wisley and Ockham Commons* Eastleigh: CKC Archaeology

[2] Williams D 2013 A Middle Bronze Age Hoard from Ockham *Surrey Archaeological Society Bulletin 441*

[3] Lachelin GCL and Primrose RC 2013 *A History of Ockham to 1900* Surrey Archaeological Society

[4] Lachelin GCL and Watson A 2012 Medieval Pottery from Ockham Court *Surrey Archaeological Society Bulletin 431*

[5] Lachelin GCL 2021a All Saints' Church Ockham through the last millennium *Send & Ripley History Society Journal 277*

[6] Lachelin GCL 2019 The Life of William of Ockham *Send & Ripley History Society Journal 266*

[7] Lachelin GCL 2021b The Westons of Ockham *Send & Ripley History Society Journal 278*

[8] Also see article Hautboy Memories by Ditz Brown in *Send & Ripley History Society Journal 300*

[9] See Alan Cooper's article about the Bashall family in *Send & Ripley History Society Journals 300, 301* and *303*

For more detailed information please see *A History of Ockham to 1900* (Lachelin and Primrose 2013), available in the museum library

Unless otherwise credited illustrations are by the author or from her book *A History of Ockham to 1900* (Lachelin and Primrose 2013), or public domain

OBITUARY – HILARY COWAN, 1953-2025

Born on 29th September 1953 in Clacton-on-Sea, Hilary moved with her family to Surrey in early childhood and was educated at Rowan Prep School, Claremont School and Malvern Girls' College. Fluent in French from a young age, she later worked as a legal secretary at Macfarlanes solicitors before settling in Walton-on-Thames. In 1981 she married Michael Cowan, with whom she raised three children.

In 2002 the Cowan family moved to Sendholme, the Grade II listed Victorian house built in 1863. They became only the ninth owners of the property and together embarked on a sensitive extension and comprehensive refurbishment that respected the building's architectural heritage. They also made significant contributions to the grounds; most notably, they introduced a cascading water feature that flowed from the house level down through the woodland toward the lakes below, enhancing the landscape while remaining in keeping with its historic character.

Hilary devoted many years to family life in Cobham and Send. Alongside her role as a mother, she completed the London to Brighton Bike Ride and, after two decades of determined study, earned a degree in modern languages and arts from the Open University in 2010. A keen gardener, enthusiastic bridge player and proud grandmother, she became a familiar and well-liked presence within the local community and was a member of the Send & Ripley History Society for many years.

She was also deeply committed to philanthropy. Together with Michael, she supported numerous cultural and charitable organisations, including the Yehudi Menuhin School, Grange Park Opera, Medical Detection Dogs, CHASE Children's Hospice and Churchill College, Cambridge. Following Michael's death in 2023, she continued and expanded their charitable work, focusing especially on supporting special educational needs provision locally.

Hilary faced her final illness with remarkable courage and resolve but sadly lost her battle in the early hours of 14th October 2025 with her three children by her side. Her legacy will endure and be felt through both her family and the many institutions and individuals she supported.

JAMES WICKS, TENANT FARMER OF SLADE FARM, OCKHAM

ALAN COOPER

Examples of Season's Greetings cards which were sent out by James Wicks and his family

Portrait of James Wicks Snr

As you will be reading this journal shortly after the festive season, it appears appropriate to feature these highly unusual Christmas cards of Slade Farm, Ockham, which give a rare glimpse into a lost period of rural life in Edwardian England.

Many proprietors of businesses gave away advertising postcards, often of themselves and promoting their businesses, but it was far less common to do this in the form of a personalised greetings card. In this case, the cards were produced for James Wicks, the incumbent tenant farmer of Slade Farm, Ockham, at the beginning of the last century. Slade Farm was one of several owned by the Lovelace estate which was sold by auction at the Stoke Hotel, Guildford on 21st & 22nd October 1958.

James Wicks was born in Overton, Hampshire, in 1836. His wife Mary (née Childs) was born in Evershot, Dorset, in 1840 and the couple married in 1865. First working as an agricultural labourer, by 1871 James and Mary were living in Weybridge, Surrey, where James worked as a railway signalman. Come 1891 his family had moved to Slade Farm where he put to good use his previous experience from his formative years working in farming.

The two carthorses enjoy a well-deserved drink

James Wicks died in 1907 and is buried in the churchyard of All Saints', Ockham. His youngest son, Charles, took over the running of the farm aided by brother James, a wheelwright by trade.

The onset of WWI saw many young men going to fight overseas and successfully running the farm clearly presented issues with the lack of manpower and by 1915 Charles and James were gone, being

This postcard shows haymaking. Close examination of the haycart reveals the initials JW (James Wicks) on the rear panel and a lady passenger in fine attire

Two horses being led side by side

This postcard shows a labourer sitting on a small stool apparently sorting stones into same size piles whilst a small boy views his labours with interest. This is taking place in front of the adjacent property, Bramble Cottage, then a farm labourer's dwelling associated with Slade Farm

replaced by Alfred Andrews as the new tenant farmer.

Charles continued to work in agriculture at Frieze Farm, Water Eaton, Oxfordshire, as a farm bailiff. He remained in that area and died in 1959 in Deddington, Oxfordshire.

The new century saw many technological advances and farming was deeply affected. Eldest son James, the wheelwright, now saw his future with a very different type of horsepower. He married Caroline Emma Hughes in 1911 whilst still at Slade Farm. They then moved to Godalming, where they lived at No. 26 Charterhouse Road and James worked for Victoria Motor Works (Godalming) Ltd as a motor body builder. Established in 1900, this fledgling company, located in Queen Street, began producing the Victoria tourer with a 10/12hp

The two horses with a different cart, contents unknown. This time the configuration (one animal in front of the other) is known as a tandem hitch. This was used when a narrow path or track needed to be negotiated and where a side-by-side team wouldn't fit. The horse closest to the cart was known as the wheel horse and the horse in front as the lead horse

Fafnir engine in 1907. [1] In 1918 they employed 18 males and 12 females. Note the number of women employed in automobile manufacturing, a direct result of most men being away fighting in the war. [2]

The Victoria was considered by many to be underpowered; hence it was unpopular and would appear to have had a very short production run. Victoria Motor Works (Godalming) Ltd continued in name until shortly after 1918, but the premises continued to be utilised as a garage for many years thereafter.

James died 11th February 1934 aged 62 and is buried in Eashing Cemetery, Godalming, Surrey.

As you head towards East Horsley from the direction of Ockham, Slade Farm sits back from the road on the left, shortly before the crossroads by the Drift Golf Club. The tenant farmers would come and go on a regular basis and shortly before it was sold, Mr JM Hazell, the sitting tenant, allowed the Ockham Women's Institute to use its extensive lawns for entertaining.

The grave of Charles Wicks in Deddington

A 1908 Victoria tourer with a 10/12hp Fafnir engine manufactured by Victoria Motor Works (Godalming) Ltd

Victoria Motor Works (Godalming) Ltd premises today, part of the successful Italian restaurant chain Prezzo

Doreen Hewlett, of Church End, Ockham playing the piano accordion, seen entertaining guests from Rotherhithe, London, at an Ockham Women's Institute party held at Slade Farm. This photo dates to 1957/8 and, since the farm was sold in 1958, it could well have been the last such event to be held there

Inside Prezzo, the original iron roof trusses, wood paneling and glass roof lights have been retained to stunning effect

Originally built in the late seventeenth century, the farmhouse achieved Grade 2 listed status ln 1985. More recently, the four barns which were once the working element of the farm were refurbished to a very high standard and repurposed as residential accommodation. [3]

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[1] Fafnir-Werke AG were an Aachen (Germany) based company, producer of cars and engines and provider of engines for many overseas constructors such as Victoria Motor Works

[2] www.gracesguide.co.uk

[3] www.savills.com

James Wicks photo c/o Sue Mcdonnell

Car photo c/o www.wordpress.com

Grave photo c/o www.findagrave.com

Doreen Hewlett photo c/o Steve/Tim Hewlett collection

All other photos c/o Alan Cooper collection

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OUR MEMBER SHEILA BROWN WRITES:

I read with interest the article by Jackie Strange (J304, September 2025) about the years she devoted to running Brownie packs and Girl Guides in Ripley and am sure that there are many former Guides who remember the happy days and good friendships they enjoyed in these groups.

My family home was in New Malden and I joined the Girl Guides in 1941 when I was 11 years old. Wartime restrictions limited much of the freedom of guiding and we only met during daylight hours at the weekends. It was a real pleasure to me learning about the great outdoors and to recognise birds and wild flowers, in addition to learning first aid and the morse code; all so different from school where we only learned the three Rs. Every Guide meeting was to be full of formal and informal activities under the leadership of the Captain and her two Lieutenants.

At that very first meeting I found that a group of Guides were going the next day to Epsom Downs to attend a Boy Scout rally and I could join them. Our transport dropped us in Epsom High Street and we had to walk uphill to the Downs, which was packed with hundreds of uniformed Boy Scouts. In the distance we could see a raised platform where a small figure in full uniform was addressing the boys. We were too far away to hear any words but there was silence as he was speaking.

We were told that this was the World Chief Scout Sir Robert Baden- Powell. I knew who he was as my father had been in one of the first companies to be formed in Scotland (where Dad lived) in 1908. He was a very keen Boy Scout and based his life and conduct on the ethos of *Scouting for Boys* which Baden-Powell wrote as a weekly paper. My father had bound his copies into a book when they were complete. Sir Robert Baden-Powell was a hero of the second Boer war and wrote on how he managed a besieged town, Ladysmith, by training young lads as messengers or scouts. It was from this experience that the Scout movement was formed.

When I returned from the rally I told my father that BP had been there and he said that it was his regret that in all his scouting years he had never even seen BP and that I was to be envied for seeing him on day one!

I stayed in the Guides until I was 16 but missed a year when I was evacuated to South Wales for the last year of the war. On returning home in 1945 I was pleased to find that my uniform still fitted me and I could not wait to meet up with my friends again. At 16 I moved into a newly formed group called Rangers. This gave girls an equal right to continue Guiding, as the Boy Scouts had always been able to move into being Rovers. We were in fact senior Guides but we wore a different uniform and were expected to help with local Guide companies as well as to attend church parades. I stayed with the Rangers until I was 19 and then the world of work took over.

However, I was lucky enough to meet the World Chief Guide Lady Olave Baden-Powell, wife of Sir Robert. That was in 1948 and there was an international rally of Girl Guides who were camping in Hampton Court Park and a group of us had cycled up to welcome the visitors. To our delight and surprise, Lady Olave was visiting that day and I watched as she greeted the visitors and spoke to them in their own language. We were also introduced to her and shook hands with the great lady.

Some years on I was married and, with our son Christopher who was now nearly two years old, my husband and I moved to a bungalow in Send, where we still live.

I was constantly asked if I would start a Guide company for a nearby village but, with a small son and no car, it was not possible. However, when Christopher was eight years old, a new Cub pack was started in Send as so many boys wanted to join and I agreed to be a Cub helper in the new pack, along with my friend Jean Munro who also had two sons wanting to join. We soon found that we were expected to go to Woking on mid-week evenings and Saturdays for training purposes and to attend church parades. In fact it was almost a full time job and it was fortunate that Jean had her own car to take us to these venues.

I stayed with the Cubs for four years and left to start training as a teacher. An outpost of Gipsy Hill College in London was set up in Guildford to attract women, who were already settled in the area, with children at local schools. The times of attendance were flexible to allow mothers to drop off and pick up their children from school. It was a full time course of three years, funded by the government as they were desperate for teachers in the Guildford/Woking area. My time with the Send Cubs helped me to get a place at the college and, after qualifying, I was a primary school teacher for fifteen years until retiring in my 60s.

However, my Guiding days were my happy times and I

hope that our Guide Captain got as much pleasure in leading us.

Thanks are due to all volunteers such as Jackie for giving their time over the years to keep the organisation going.

OUR MEMBER PAT CLACK WRITES:

I was so surprised to see the picture of Send's horse bus on the cover of Journal 305 - I have been on it!

My dad had an office in Woking and sometimes he went out at lunchtime, which is where he met the owner of this horse and cart. They used to meet for a drink once in a while and that is how he got to hear about me. He then said to Dad that he shouldn't let the 'little maid' (me) stay in a busy town like Woking – we should move to the country instead; he then suggested Send and said he would take us all out to have a look!

Hence, in 1927, we all had a ride in the vehicle, were shown the little village shop and a house called 'Poynings' wherein lived a builder-cum-carpenter. In between these two buildings was space for another house. This cost £600, Dad negotiated to pay in instalments and we moved in in 1928 which meant that I would have been about two years old when I had my first ride in this horse and cart. I can remember the chickens, which he also carried, making such a noise; there were also parcels etc which were transported to and fro, but I can't remember what was charged.

Nor can I recall the name of the driver of this vehicle, but I knew he lived somewhere in Send and, after he either moved or died, a lady took over and sold small items like pieces of china, but didn't continue for very long. She used to come in for cups of tea with Mum.

There were several different owners of the shop before it returned to private ownership; I still have visits from one of them who now lives in Cornwall - she was at my 100th birthday party with her two boys that I used to baby-sit and they are now in their 30s.

Alan was so clever to find this old postcard – I was so pleased to see it!

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: PLEASE KEEP YOUR LETTERS COMING!

RIPLEY AND SEND IN THE VICTORIAN ERA 1837-1901

CLARE McCANN

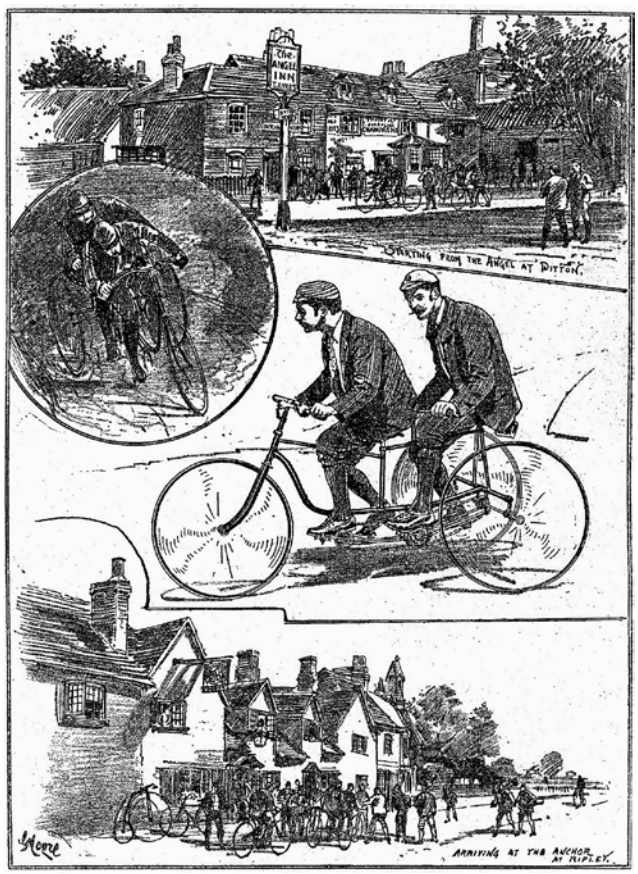
The recent Victorian exhibition was an opportunity to reflect on how different things might have been if the railway had come to either Ripley or Send. As it was, its arrival in Woking was still a game changer for both villages. In Ripley the coach traffic on the busy Portsmouth Road declined, gradually dwindling to almost nothing. The quiet but well maintained road proved to be perfect for cyclists from the 1870s until about the turn of the century.

They swarmed out of London to Ripley in their hundreds and, on occasions, thousands. There were cycle clubs meeting at the Talbot but the main focus was the Anchor, run by the Dibble family – Lord Bury giving the village the accolade: 'Ripley, the Mecca for all good cyclists'.

Another impact of the new railway in Woking was a change in postal services, Ripley having been an important village in this context, as local post, including from Woking, had been brought to the Talbot to catch the Royal Mail coach which stopped there to change horses. The railway's arrival in Woking meant the roles were reversed and the mail had to be taken there instead. Posting became easier for locals when the pillar box was introduced in 1852. Send still has a Victorian example.

The village of Send also felt the impact of the railway but in a totally different way. Send is an unusual village in that it dates back to pre-Norman times (it features in the Domesday Book) but looks comparatively modern. There were ancient settlements round the church and at Send Marsh but the coming of the railway made the route through Send far more important and development followed not only along the main road but also in the surrounding area.

Send and Ripley were still largely agricultural areas at the start of the Victorian era but of course wealthy landowners had homes in the area. In Ripley there was Dunsborough Park on the edge of The Green and in Clandon there was the impressive residence of the Onslows. Send had Send Grove, near the church but, as the village was still evolving, there were not a lot of substantial dwellings. Easy access to London via the railway changed all that. Professional people and wealthy industrialists could afford to have a country house.



Old etching illustrating the 'Race between Houses', i e between the Angel in Thames Ditton and the Anchor in Ripley

Notably there was Sendholme, built in the 1860s and Sendhurst Grange in Vicarage Lane.

The increase in wealthy middle class households meant that working in service was a very common option for young women and, to a lesser extent, an alternative employment for young men – as footmen, gardeners and so on. Large households

The Victorian pillar box on Send Marsh Road

were common up until the First World War.

The Victorian era saw an increasing emphasis on education for all, rather than just the elite. A series of Education Acts culminated in the 1870 Elementary Education Act. In this important Act (the Forster Act), the government finally accepted responsibility for the education of the nation's children. It was, however, only the start of a process which would take more than twenty years to complete. It made provision for the elementary education of all children aged 5-13, and established school boards to oversee and complete the network of schools and to bring them all under some form of supervision.

Boys fishing on the bank of the Wey

In Ripley there had been a school in Rose Lane but the National School was built on what is now Church Row and the building remained there until its demolition for housing in the 1980s. In Send the school, which is still there as a private house, was on Send Hill and was a development that assisted in the growth of the modern village of Send.

Sendholme

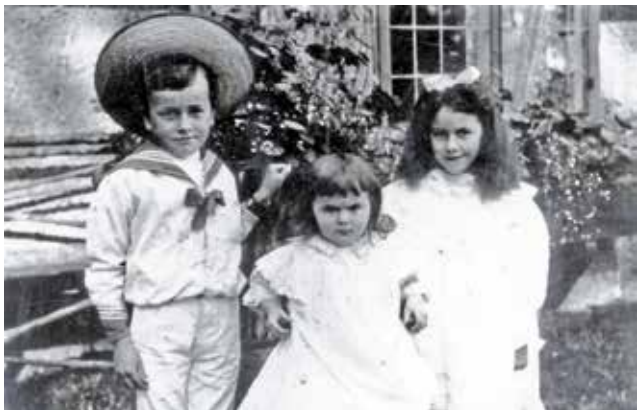
When not at school Victorian children did not have TVs, radios or screens, therefore a lot of time would have been spent playing outside. Boys swam in the Wey and skated when local lakes and ponds froze. Those who could afford to hire a boat could row on the river – the Grove family had boats for hire in Send.

Fishing was another activity that the river afforded and then there was the common pastime of collecting bird's eggs. Boys played at marbles, collected cigarette cards and stamps. Books for children were becoming more available. One or two little lending libraries sprung up from time to time.

Old etching of Ripley Church and the National School

Most girls would not have participated in the more vigorous pursuits but no doubt also played on The Green, collecting and pressing wildflowers. Dolls were often very precious if bought, but were more often homemade.

Some children had slates with a wooden edge to chalk on, skipping ropes, wooden hoops and sticks, wooden



Victorian children

The Congregational Church at Cartbridge

tops with string to whip them round. Girls were also more likely to be the ones to sew and knit.

There were also quite a few changes to local places of worship. Of course churches had existed in both villages for hundreds of years but the Victorian period was one of remodelling them. St Mary Magdalen in Ripley was extended and altered in 1845 and again in1869.

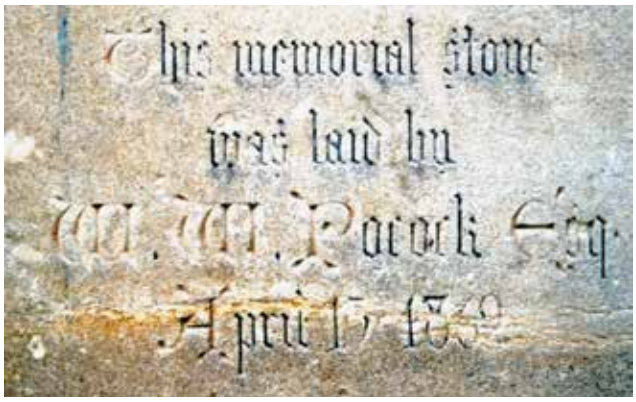
The Congregational Church at Cartbridge was built during Victorian times. The congregation had raised £800 for a permanent building. In May 1875 the foundation stone was laid by James Spicer JP and it was opened in October of that year. The church flourished and a Band of Hope and Temperance Society was started. Visiting lecturers gave talks and an adjoining coach house was provided for their convenience. This building was later converted into classrooms. There was a successful Sunday School and the nearby printing works, Unwins, helped to swell the congregation. Mr Whitbourn, the manager of Unwins, was for many years the loved and honoured Superintendent of the Sunday School. Another notable Superintendent was Mr Thomas Burt, whose passing moved the then vicar of Send to say, "I am here on my own behalf and on behalf of the members of my Church to do honour to a good man. Cartbridge has lost a dear friend and leader, the whole district has lost a Christian neighbour…".

St Marys Send lost its box pews in favour of more 'modern' ones – shown here in a Hassell painting dated 1827 and then after remodelling. Another major change was – in 1863 – the relocation of the vicarage from Church Lane to what is now Vicarage Lane. The house is now called Cedar House.

Ripley Methodist Church closed in August 2002 but it had been a place of worship for over 140 years. In April 1869 the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was built at a cost of £200 and financed by Mr W Willmer Pocock. He was an architect and lay preacher who helped to build and finance several churches in the southeast and also wrote a history of Methodism in the area.

St Marys, Send, before and after remodelling

Methodism had been slow to catch on locally and small groups often met in private houses. The Ripley 'supporters' held their early meetings in a tin shed on a local farm until the chapel was built. Originally Ripley was part of the Cobham circuit but after 1894 it became part of the Woking one, sharing a minister and a pool of lay preachers. In 1895 a schoolroom and kitchen were added. The money was



Wesleyan Methodist memorial stone

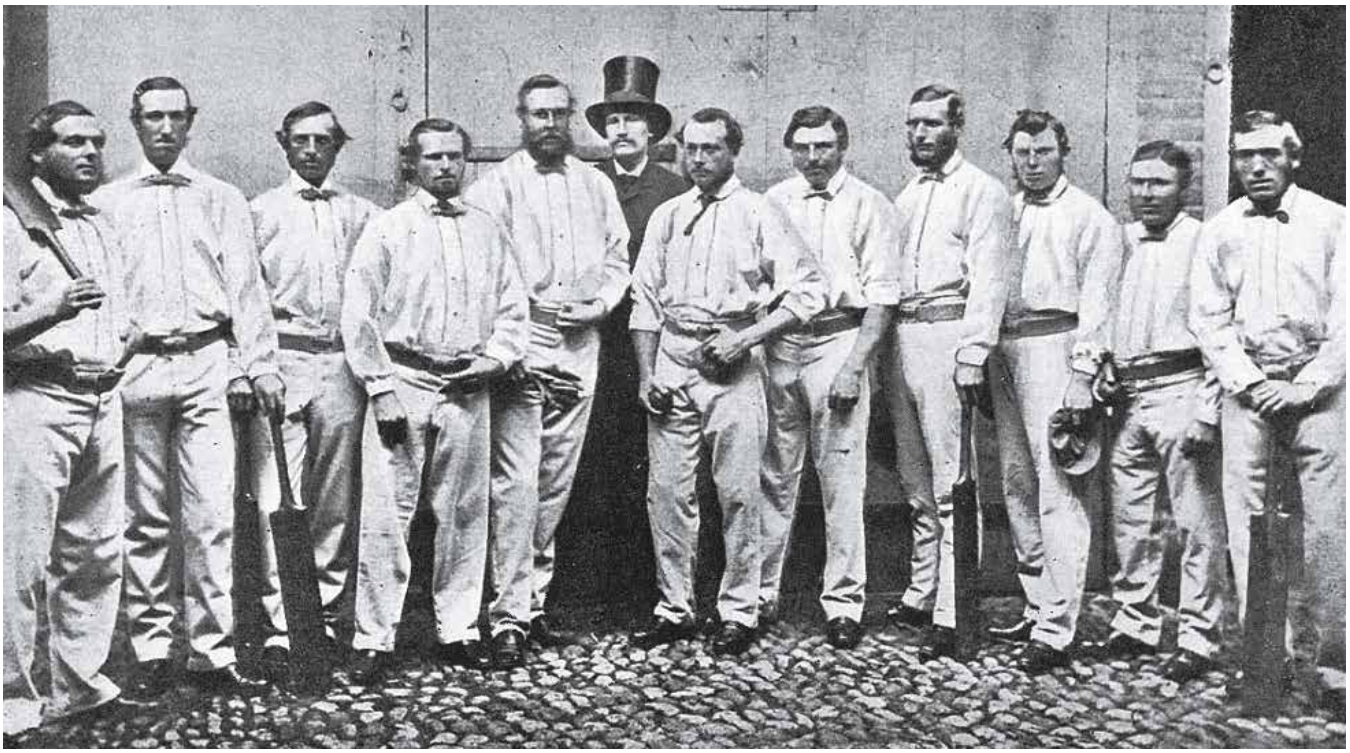
mainly raised by local people and supplemented by rummage sales and bazaars. A porch was built in 1897, when a magic lantern show and a 'fruit banquet' helped the funds.

Of course sport, like religion, was nothing new but changed and evolved during the Victorian period. Football was played in both villages and Merrow still had a racecourse. There was a local shooting club and hunting was still popular. However, the standout sport locally was undoubtedly cricket. Ripley's was one of the earliest cricket clubs and predated the Victorian period. As we know, the club continued to flourish.

The greatest local cricketer of this period was George Griffith, born in Ripley in 1833. He was an English first class cricketer, known by his nickname 'Ben' or the altogether more stirring 'Lion Hitter' and was a high-quality all-rounder. Left-handed both as a batsman and bowler, he could bowl either fast roundarm or slow underarm and was also a fine fielder. He was on the first overseas tour to Australia in 1861 and, after retiring, he umpired 24 first-class matches between1869 and 1876 and ran the Talbot Tap public house, adjoining the Talbot Hotel in the High Street, Ripley. Sadly he took his own life when only forty-three.

In the early Victorian period the Send Cricket Club ground had been in Vicarage Lane near Sendhurst Grange, the home of a wealthy tea merchant, Maling Grant. However, the Lancasters at Sendholme had other ideas and lured the club up to a new ground on their estate. The story goes that Maling Grant was so put out that he grew some tall trees so that he didn't have to look towards the new ground.

Another memorable moment in Victorian times occurred in 1851 when Queen Victoria opened the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park in London. This was designed to show off the latest technology and industry from Britain and around the world. There were all sorts of strange



The First England Eleven, photographed before their departure to Australia in October 1861. Back: Mr W B Mallam. Front: Mortlock, Mudie, Bennet, Lawrence, H H Stephenson, Caffyn, Griffith, Hearne, Iddison, Sewell, E Stephenson (public domain)

Unwins printing works

and exciting things on display such as a garden seat made out of coal, a giant steam engine and the world's largest diamond. Over six million people went to the Great Exhibition, no doubt some from Send and Ripley.

The Victorian age saw many revolutionary inventions like metal, steam-powered ships; photography; cinema and the motorcar. Locally there was not a lot of industry. There was Unwins printing works at Old Woking and the tannery in Send. Around Send and Ripley sand and gravel extraction took place as it had done prior to the Victorian era and was only mechanised in a big way in the 20th century.

Horse power still being used on the land

This period saw a marked change in both road and river traffic. Gradually goods switched from barge to railway and later to roads. Over a period of time the River Wey and the Navigation became more and more used for leisure purposes.

New machinery was creeping into agriculture but in large part life on the land was still reliant on agricultural labour supported by horse power and local deliveries were by horse and cart. Send in particular was well known for market gardening and growing cornflowers. The latter were taken by cart to Clandon and put on the train to London to be sold at Covent Garden. I say Clandon but maybe Ripley did have a railway station after all...

RIPLEY'S LOST RAILWAY

Our member Bob Wood drew my attention to a Gazetteer of circa 1911 that listed local railway stations and seemed to indicate that Clandon station was once Clandon and Ripley. I wondered if this could possibly be true, especially as it was followed by the entry of Horsley, Ockham and Ripley. Not knowing where to find the answer I turned to that font of local knowledge, David Rose. In no time flat he came back with the following:

'As noted in the book, *Branch Lines Around Effingham*, by Vic Michell and Keith Smith, the routes between Leatherhead, Guildford and Hampton Court Junction opened in February 1885. The term 'Guildford New Line' was applied to the latter two places and is still in use today.

A huge book by the now late Harold Mallinson, *Guildford via Cobham - the Origins and Impact of a Country Railway*, gives more details. He writes that, when the line opened, Clandon railway station was named Clandon & Ripley and in 1910 it became just Clandon. For a while (he doesn't state for how long) it was then called Clandon for Newlands Corner.

Neither does he say when it reverted back to just Clandon. Mallinson also mentions that Horsley was once named Horsley for Ripley.

Clandon for Newlands Corner railway station

Woking railway station

Railway stations having their names changed has happened throughout the past 200 years.

Woking was originally named Woking Common and Guildford was for a time called Guildford Junction. The stations in a line with the five Ws were once Walton-on-Thames, Weybridge, West Weybridge, West Byfleet and Worplesdon. However, that changed in 1962 when West Weybridge was renamed Byfleet & New Haw. And we won't get started on stations on the London Underground that have been renamed! '

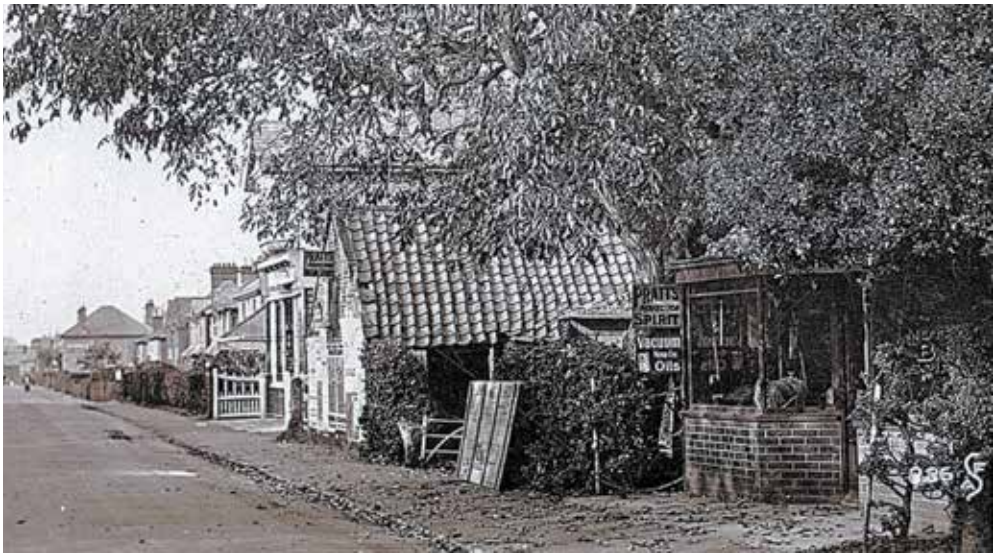
So maybe I need to modify my premise that Ripley never had a railway station.

Unless stated otherwise all photographs are from the collection of the Send and Ripley History Society

WHERE IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

ANOTHER POSTCARD VIEW OF A LESS THAN BUSY ROAD. WHERE WAS THE PHOTO TAKEN AND CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE SHOP ON THE LEFT?



WE ASKED IN JOURNAL 305 WHERE THE VIEW ON THE EARLY POSTCARD WAS TAKEN FROM AND WHAT THE BUILDING WAS CALLED.

The building was C H Sex & Sons, Blacksmiths, in Send Road.

Correctly identified by: Pat Clack, Michael Morris, June & Andy Moth, Audrey Smithers, Peter Smithers, Jackie Strange, Maureen & Barry Taylor and Jean Turner

WHAT IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

FROM OUR MEMBER BILL HOUGHTON COMES THIS UNUSUAL WOODEN OBJECT WHICH MEASURES CIRCA 6X9 CM. WHAT WAS ITS PURPOSE?

IN JOURNAL 305 WE ASKED WHAT THIS VERY HEAVY WOODEN OBJECT, A LITTLE LARGER THAN A CRICKET BALL WAS CALLED AND WHAT ITS PURPOSE WAS – IT HAD COME FROM A HOUSE CLEARANCE FRIEND IN CORNWALL.

Depending on where in the country you are, it's a Chug or Chog. Made of lignum vitae, it was used for the tethering of horses, being threaded onto a rope and acting as a counterbalance to allow the horse to move around in its stable without getting tangled in the tethering rope.

Most people thought that, coming from Cornwall, it had a nautical use. However, it was correctly identified by Ian Mason

MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN

The Farming and Market Gardening exhibition was well-received by visitors although numbers were somewhat disappointing, not helped by our having to cancel our children's activity due to illness. Still, it was a good opportunity to show off some of our many farm implements and two recently-acquired paintings of Newark Mill and Send Court Farm.

And now for something completely different…

DESSIE AND DUNSBOROUGH

Member Audrey Smithers suggested an exhibition about Florence Desmond, the actress and cabaret star, who lived with her husband Charles Hughesdon at Dunsborough Park. I thought this an excellent idea and it seemed a good opportunity also to look at the house and its various occupants. The current owners, Baron Dolf and Baroness Caroline Sweerts de Landas Wyborgh have been most helpful and both given and lent some items for the exhibition. I am hoping the Baroness will write a piece for the journal about their time in Ripley and in particular the significant changes to the gardens.

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.

2026 DATES	EVENTS
Wednesday 11th February	Anna Cusack talk: *The Festive Year in Early Modern England*
Wednesday 12th March	AGM: Cameron Brown talk: *St Mary's and the Ripley Almshouses*
Wednesday 8th April	Andy Jones talk: *History of Metal Detecting* plus new video by Chris Finden-Browne
May (TBC)	May Outing (TBC) Walking tour of Gomshall
Wednesday 24th June	June Outing (2pm) Wey & Arun Canal Boat trip: £20-£25 per person
July/August	Society BBQ TBA
Wednesday 9th September	TBA
Wednesday 14th October	Julian Pooley talk: *Photography in Surrey Hospitals*
Wednesday 11th November	TBA
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas Party

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

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS

THE MUSEUM IS BEHIND VICTORY HOUSE AND TO THE RIGHT OF THE NEW VILLAGE HALL

OPEN: SATURDAY MORNINGS 10.00 – 12.00

We can arrange to open at other times by appointment

Please contact Clare McCann on 01483 728546 or cricketshill@hotmail.com for further information or if you wish to help in the museum

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS		
Ghosts Along The Wey, a Rural Childhood in Send		£10.00
Bygone Days, Send and Ripley Remembered		£10.00
A Walk About Ripley Village	New, extended edition 2025	£5.00
Frank Brown, Ripley to Rothesay – Journeyman Painter		£4.00
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	£5.00
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£2.50
Ripley and Send – Looking Back	Reprinted 2007	£5.00
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		£5.00
Memories of War		£5.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£6.50
Heroes All		£20.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.00
The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey		£1.00
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£4.00
Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£4.50

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