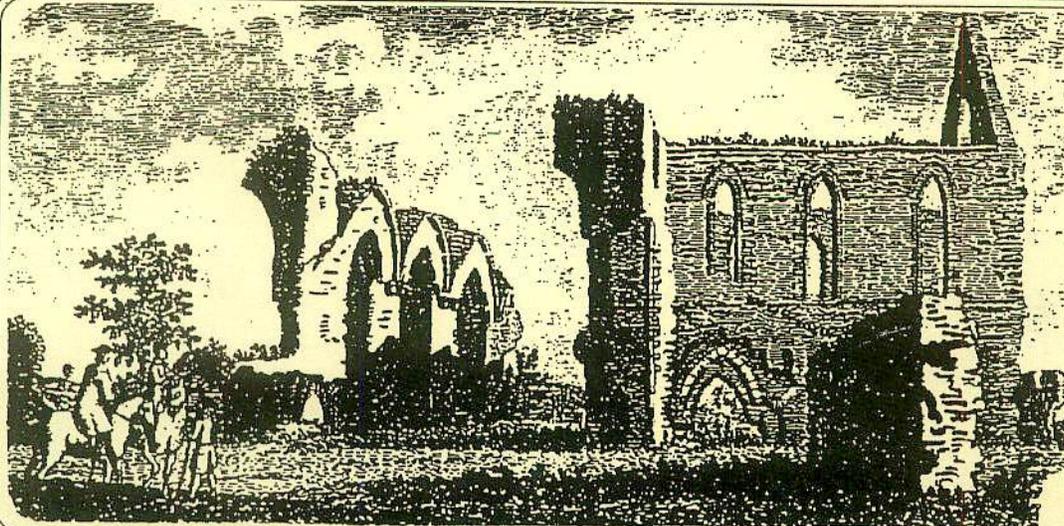


Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

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NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 5 No. 176

May/June 2004



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Cover illustration – Presentation of Anchor Cyclists Visitors Books, page 9. Photo by Ken Bourne.

Editor's Comment

There is a vacancy for the position of **membership secretary**, which due to pressure of her work has been relinquished by Cate Davey. For the time being, Les Bowerman has agreed to carry out this important function but any member who wishes to apply for this position will be cordially welcome.

Equally important but perhaps involving less time is the role of **museum steward** and again volunteers to join this happy team for the occasional Saturday morning would be very welcome. For more information on either vacancy contact Les Bowerman on 01483 224876.

As many local residents in Ripley will be aware the area behind Ripley Transformers in the High Street is being redeveloped as offices. A few weeks ago a skeleton was found buried about five feet below ground level. The find was duly notified to the county archaeologist by the developer, and apart from the information imparted to the editor and John Slatford by the developer, that the skeleton is mediaeval, and it has been reburied, there is no other information available. Such a find is of tremendous importance bearing in mind the proximity of the skeleton to the old almshouses (now the Anchor) and also the church of St Mary Magdalen, we therefore await the archaeologist's report with much interest.

Two Surrey Village Schools: Addendum of Pupils Names

This is a list of names of pupils who were not included in the original Pupil Lists in the S&RHS publication '*Two Surrey Village Schools*'.

The names have been gathered from a variety of sources, some having been submitted by family members, some by contemporary school friends, and some names came from an old Send Parish Magazine dated 1892.

Also, the 1901 census returns for Send and Ripley were searched for the names of children whose fathers' occupations meant that they would have attended one of the schools.

These sources were not available when the book was published in 2002. It should be emphasised that the date given by each name does not imply that the child started school on that date. It is just an indication that a child of that name was attending the school in that year. The letters S and R after the name denote either Send school or Ripley school

Dates and names, other than those from printed sources, are only as reliable as the memories of the people who kindly submitted the information, but nevertheless the authors are very grateful to them for doing so.

Copies of the addendum are obtainable *free of charge* at the Send and Ripley History Society Museum in Ripley High Street (Saturdays 10am-12.30) or by sending a stamped addressed A4 envelope to the address below.

Sheila Brown,
12 Winds Ridge, Send, Woking, Surrey GU23 7HU

The Broadmead Appeal for photographs or articles

The next edition of this journal, in July, will feature an article on '**Flying on the Broadmead**' in the 1920s and 1930s by Henry F Cooper of Old Woking. Does anyone have photographs of aircraft of this period or before, and/or stories associated with using this area as a landing-strip. If so please contact the editor Ken Bourne or Les Bowerman at the addresses on page 1.

Notes from a very amateur House Detective
By Clare McCann

You might remember that last year I was trying to research details relating to my house, 'Cricketshill House'; due to a disaster with my computer and inertia things ground to halt. I thought the New Year was a good time to resume my investigations but here we are in March! Well, I expect it is New Year in some culture or other.

(March 25th was the beginning of the New Year in this country until 1752-editor)

I thought I would look at the census returns as we have photocopies of these with an index, in the museum, so they are accessible to all the members and anyone who is interested. The earliest census is 1841 and does not give a lot of detail and is often rather imprecise but from it I have gleaned that Cricketshill was occupied by:

John Elliss age 53, farmer

Mary Elliss age 50

William (agricultural labourer) age 20

2 daughters Elizabeth age 20, Caroline aged 10

Labourer - James Percy aged 20 Ag Lab

William Langford age 15 Ag Lab

Harriott Denyer age 13

James Watson, ag. lab age 60

Susan age 20

Ann 15

Hannah 14

Hannah Frogly 15

Mary Bullen age 60

Maria Bullen age 40

Richard Greenfield age 50, which ties in with the Tithe Map, which shows John Ellis as the tenant of most of the land but Richard Greenfield as owning field 808.

It is not clear where the occupants of Cricketshill stop and those in other properties start. They may have been all at the farm or of course there could be other cottages on the farm or adjacent which are now lost.

By 1851 Cricketshill farm was occupied by Henry Eade, age 66, farmer of 96 acres, his wife Sarah, aged 56, Sarah Chandler, a servant aged 16 and 4 labourers, unnamed. There seems to have been a complete change of occupation but as yet I do not know why, perhaps events on the Weston's estate at Sutton Place had a bearing. As my earlier researches showed that the Westons had owned most of the land at the time of the Tithe Map.

By 1861 things had changed again. James Harden, aged 60 was farming 96 acres with his wife Kate and daughter Elizabeth and grandson James Woods. Also mentioned are Albert Puddick, a 16year old shepherd, John Gunner, a carter and an agricultural labourer, Joseph Munroe and his wife Rachel. Presumably they were living in separate accommodation on or near the farm but it is not possible to tell.

1871 is even harder to fathom as it now seems to be listed simply as Crickets Hill Farm Cottages and we have William Styles, a 35year old farm labourer living here with his wife Harriet and their 4 children and a lodger called Henry Thorn. Nearer to Send Court Farm was a cottage called Crickets Hill Road cottage, occupied by Samuel Lee, a gardener, and his family; there is no clear mention of Cricketshill Farm. It could be, that the land had been sold and the buildings were being used by farm workers in the area but in view of the 1881 census it seems more likely there has been an omission.

In 1881 Cricketshill has 2 entries, one is for Henry Reed, aged 52, a gardener and his wife Hannah and their 3 children and the other is for Thomas Shears a 32 year old farmer of 165 acres and his wife Sarah, their 3 children, Edmund, Agnes and Sarah and he was employing 5 men and a boy. Clearly the farm was still going strong and the acreage has increased. There was also mention of a Birdsnest Cottage, which had not appeared before and could be the addition I identified from the 1896 map and later called **Halfway House** – (photo right, taken about 1965).

On the 1891 census the Cricketshill Laundry was mentioned, which I knew existed from the previous owners of Halfway House. I think this was linked to Sendholme and some of the buildings on the site were used for staff at the Big House. There is no mention of Birdsnest Cottage but next to the laundry is Send Cottage, which suggests it has been renamed and it was occupied by David Strudwick, a jobbing gardener, his wife and 7 children. The farm itself had changed hands again and was occupied by William Butt, originally from Edgeware in Middlesex, his son Edwin and a servant.



The most recent census to be published is the 1901 census and again the farm had changed hands and William Hounsham, his wife Eliza and their 2 sons were in occupation, he is listed as farm bailiff, which would suggest the property is now part of the Sendholme estate. This leads on to what I had previously discovered from Kelly's Directories (also at the museum) where the occupants from 1907 to 1922 are given as bailiffs to A.H.Lancaster, owner of Sendholme.

Change in Ripley
"Whitehammer", the High Street
by Andy Jones (slightly amended on proof-reading)

Over a period of weeks in the summer of 2003 various alterations were made to the appearance of this property. I first observed that the square wooden panel covering the porch supports had been removed, revealing green-painted carved wooden pillars. There may have been four originally but the two on the left were missing, possibly due to damage. All four supports were later re-covered with wooden panels and painted white. The next alteration was that the brick wall shielding the house from the road was lowered from about five feet six inches to about three feet, thus letting in more light and exposing to view the flowerbed. These changes improved the appearance of the frontage.

The new owners, Anna Arthur Associates, Solicitors, have changed the name of the house from "Whitehammer" to "Fieri Facias House" (Fieri facias is a writ meaning literally *That you cause it to be done*). A brass plaque on the door has the firm's name. At the time of writing there is a temporary house name sign on the left pillar. I understand the original house sign is in storage.



Fieri Facias photo K Boume

SURREY'S HISTORIC FISHPONDS

Some notes by Les Bowerman

Derived from an article by Christopher K Currie
in Surrey Archaeological Collections No. 90

Although not part of Send or Ripley, Bolder Mere is close enough and impressive enough for our members to be curious as to its origins. This 22-page article in the splendid latest issue of the Surrey Archaeological Collections goes a long way towards explaining it and indicating how it compares with other similar ponds in Surrey.

The article sprang from a field study of fishponds and earthworks connected with former fishponds in the Puttenham area. The best known of these is, of course, at Cutt Mill. There are actually five large ponds on the Cut Mill stream between Cutt Mill itself and Totford Hatch a mile to the north. Cutt Mill already existed in 1273. Its original millpond may have been extended to serve as a fishpond. The other four, formed by damming the stream, were created between 1770 and 1800 as landscape features and for angling. That was not typical of Surrey fishponds. There are four other pond sites at Puttenham, one of which was in existence by c1210. General's Pond, which can be visited, is more typical of Surrey as it is on common land. It cannot be traced with certainty before 1765 but it was probably much bigger and much earlier.

The Great and Little Ponds on Frensham Common (100 and 47 acres respectively) were part of an extensive system of fishponds operated by the medieval bishops of Winchester on their various estates. The Great Pond existed as far back as 1210-11 and is likely to have been old even then. The Little Pond was either repaired in 1245-6 or created at that date.

Nearer to home, there are five possible historic pond sites on Chobham Common, of which only Gracious Pond, made in the early 14th century has been positively identified as medieval. It was a dammed pond of almost 50 acres.

No fewer than six pond sites have been identified on Wisley and Ockham Commons and Chatley Heath. Bolder Mere at 15 acres is the bigger surviving one. Its dam runs into the A3. It certainly existed by 1594. Purple Pond, originally 2 ½ acres, still exists in minimal form south east of Bolder Mere on the east side of Old Lane. This was formed by damming springs in a damp natural hollow. By far the biggest of the local ponds was Wisley Pond at 50 acres. It is shown on Norden's map of 1594. It was drained in the early 19th century to create Wisley Pond Farm. The dam, 435 yards long and nearly six feet high, still survives. Like Bolder Mere there have been suggestions that it was associated with iron mills, but these claims are to be treated with caution. Culverlake Pond (four acres) was on Chatley Heath west of Pointers Road and practically under the M25 near Junction 10. A large dam or retaining bank 160 yards long and 6 feet high survives despite being partially destroyed by the M25. The fifth site is that of Wemere Pond near Hatchford End to the east of Old Lane.

280 CHRISTOPHER K CURRIE

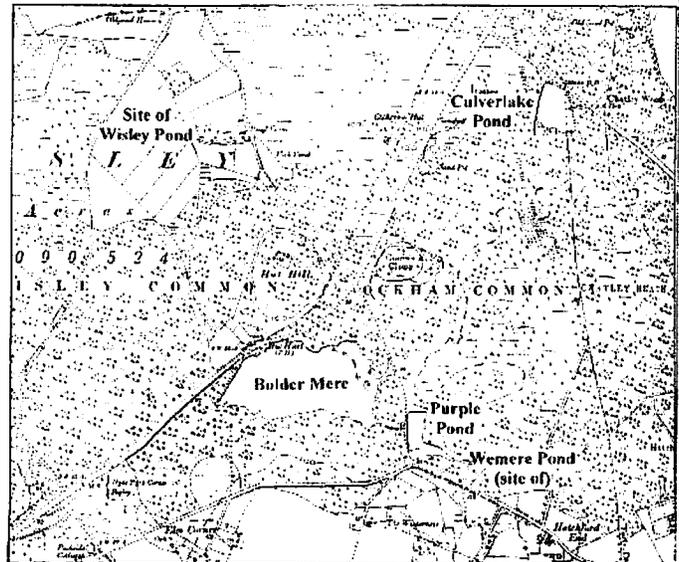


Fig 1 Historic fishponds on Wisley and Ockham Commons from OS E10,569 map 1897, reduced to 2:1 E.S.C.

The fifth site is that of Wemere Pond near Hatchford End to the east of Old Lane.

Wemere was mentioned in the 14th century bounds of the manor. It survives as a damp hollow. The sixth was the two acre Chatley Pond but little is known of this one.

The article details further sites at Epsom and Mickleham Downs. It is also reasonable to suppose that others locally might be Kingfield Pond, and Brittens Pond at Jacobs Well. All of the ponds in the Send and Ripley area, apart from millponds and decorative ponds, have formed as a result of relatively recent mineral extraction as detailed in earlier Newsletters.

Fishponds elsewhere in the country had water management techniques which were often highly complex. The medieval builders succeeded in creating stable dams with a long life span in contrast to the dams of more recent ornamental lakes and ponds. One of the characteristics of the Surrey ponds is the absence of more evolved water management. Another is the lack of diversion leats which enabled Hampshire ponds to be drained for netting fish and repairing sluices and banks. Yet another Surrey characteristic is that very large ponds were frequently sited on manorial commons and often in natural hollows that were damp such as Wisley and Gracious Ponds. Because there was so much common land with poor soil in Surrey it was unnecessary to use fertile land. Using poor land may have been less productive of fish, but it is thought that some mediaeval lords may have been satisfied with the status of owning fishponds rather than being too concerned about the size of the catch.

The author has shown that ponds were originally made to supply high-status food for special occasions rather than mainly for Lent as was formerly believed. He has also shown that early ponds were not made by monks but by wealthy laymen, and subsequently granted to monasteries. The high status associated with fish passed from the Roman Empire to Charlemagne's Holy Roman Empire and thence to England with the Normans. The Anglo-Saxons had not been interested and fishponds were rare in England before 1066. The Normans began building them almost immediately.

Nuthill Farm, Send and the Philpott Family by John Slatford

The site of Nuthill Farm lies off the southbound carriageway of the A3 just opposite the Potters Lane junction on the northbound carriageway. It would appear that Nuthill ceased to be a working farm after the 1880s until the name was revived in the 1970s with the successful Nuthill PYO Fruit Farm. More recently it is known as the site of the A3 Car Boot Sale. Today there are modern farm buildings and houses on the homestead site and its still called Nuthill Fruit Farm.

The name Nuthill occurs regularly in the Send and Ripley Manor Rolls starting in the year 1540 and continuing through to 1750, spelt variously as Nuthills, Nuttells and Nettells. The entries mostly refer to a close of land of about 12 acres although, on some, a messuage is also mentioned. After 1750, there are no further references to Nuthill in the manor rolls. On the 1843 Tithe Apportionment, the Earl of Onslow is listed as the owner of Nuthill Farm with William Smallpiece as the occupier.

William Philpott, who had come to Nuthill as the farmer of 148 acres by 1851, was born at Losely near Ewhurst in 1817, where his father, also William, was a farmer. In 1843 William junior married Harriet Court and was then at a property named Germany, still in Ewhurst. There were six children born in Ewhurst before they moved to Nuthill when two more, Francis in 1852 and Mary in 1855, were born and baptised in Send. William died in 1855, aged 37, of liver disease and is buried in Send Churchyard. His memorial is just behind the tower - photo opposite.



Photo by J Slatford

William's widow Harriet continued to farm at Nuthill but by 1861, William's younger brother Francis was also there working as Farm Bailiff. Some time after this Harriet left Nuthill and had moved to a farm at Cuckfield in West Sussex. Francis had taken over the tenancy by 1865 and on the 1871 census was shown as the farmer there with his wife Eden Charlotte, whom he had married in 1867, and two children, Eden Charlotte born 1869 and Archibald Ashby born 1870, both in Send.

Having seen his elder brother die at Nuthill aged only 37, Francis also died relatively young in 1874 aged 45. A family story relates that he was killed resulting from a tin bath falling upon him but he actually died in Brookwood Hospital of 'general paralysis'. He was buried in Ewhurst. His widow and children then left the farm and moved away to Tonbridge in Kent.

After Francis's death, Nuthill Farm may have been absorbed into the neighbouring Gosden Hill Farm, which between 1871 and 1881 grew from just over 100 acres to 800 acres. From 1881 through to 1901 on the census returns, Nuthill Farm Cottages were occupied only by farm carters and agricultural labourers. During Francis Philpott's time at Nuthill, he suffered two major catastrophies, one most tragic, which was reported in the Surrey Advertiser in 1865. This was described as 'cattle disease' (possibly foot and mouth disease) and affected many farms in Surrey including Francis Philpott's Nuthill and Jury Farm (on the Ripley border with West Horsley) then farmed by Jesse Jay. The other, an inquest following an accident at Nuthill with a threshing machine, was reported in graphic detail. Transcripts of both are reproduced here.

Quite independently, another member of the Philpott family lived in Ripley for a time in the 1840s. He was Harvey Philpot (spelt with only one t) from Sussex, a cousin of Francis and William of Send. He was described in the 1841 census as a draper lodging with Philip Daws, then a butcher (and later a farmer), and his wife Elizabeth at what is now Cedar House at the corner next to Rose Lane. In 1846, Harvey was married in Ripley to Mary Daws, the elder daughter of Philip and Elizabeth. They later moved to Thames Ditton where Mary died in 1854 after having three children. Harvey later remarried and his second wife had three more children. Harvey and both his wives were buried in the same plot in the churchyard of St Mary's, Long Ditton.

We are grateful to Russell Philpott, a great-great-grandson of Francis, for writing to us about his family and for his permission to use part of the Philpott history in this account.

The Cattle Disease **Surrey Advertiser 23rd September 1865**

We regret that we cannot report a diminution of the disease. Every day seems to add to it's intensity, and the worst of the matter is, that whilst the evil increases, the efforts made to remove it seem to be comparatively hopeless. Scientific and practical men differ exceedingly as to the curability of the complaint, some maintaining that the disease is fatal to every animal attacked, others maintain that if remedies are applied at an early stage the disease can be cured. We find amongst recent sufferers from the disease in this district Mr Keams, ofHorsell, and Mr Street, ofSutton. The loss by the plague in the neighbourhood ofWorplesdon is very severe. We regret to say that Mr Brumbridge lost seven cows on Thursday last, making his loss now 14 animals within the last 14 days. Mr Wells, living in the same parish, has lost 2 animals, and had on Thursday others attacked by the disease. Mr Fumival, also ofWorplesdon, has lost one or two fine animals, and several are at present suffering from the complaint. Professor Symons arrived at Mr Fumival's on Thursday.

We have thought it desirable to obtain some statistics as to the progress and effects of the disease in the Guildford district, and the following is submitted to our readers as the result. We remark, however, that the table is made up to the 1st September instant. The subsequent progress of the disease we shall endeavour to give in a future number.

Names	Occupation	Parish	Total cattle at outbreak	Attacked	Killed	Died	Healthy animals slaughtered
Gatton	Farmer	Thursley	9	3	0	3	6
Mitchell	Labourer	Thursley	3	3	0	3	
Court	Labourer	Thursley	1	1	0	1	
Parker	Labourer	Thursley	1	1	0	1	
Denyer	Miller	Thursley	5	3	0	3	
Phillpot	Farmer	Send	7	7	4	3	
Lushington	Farmer	Ockham	8	8	3	4	
Smithers	Farmer	Wisley	11	11	2	4	
Jay	Farmer	Ripley	30	30	0	15	2
Arthur	Farmer	East Clandon	5	5	0	5	
Arthur	Farmer	West Clandon	10	9	0	3	
Bowyer	Farmer	Stoke Mill	16	9	9	0	4
Burbury	Farmer	Ripley	18	18	0		
Herley	Farmer	West Horsley	12	7	2		
Shotter	Farmer	Bramley	17	17	7	9	
Perryer	Labourer	Ewhurst	2	2		2	
Strret	Farmer	Cranley	7	7	5		
Elma	Farmer	Cranley	10	7		4	

Shocking Accident with a Thrashing Machine
Surrey Advertiser 13th May 1865

A terrible and fatal accident took place at Mr. Philpot's farm, Nut Hill, Send, on Saturday, by a steam thrashing machine. Ebenezer Allnut, a young man in the employ of Mr. Philpot, was engaged in assisting to work the machine in thrashing a wheat rick, and was placed by his master to cut the bands of the sheaves as they were thrown from the rick, previous to their being put in the drum of the machine. By some means his foot and leg were caught by the drum, and in five minutes the left leg was beaten to a pulp, and notwithstanding prompt medical attendance he gradually sank, and died about three hours after the accident. An inquest was held on Monday last before Mr Bridger, Deputy Coroner, when the following evidence was adduced. Mr. Francis Philpott deposed that the deceased Ebenezer Allnut was and had been in his employ for eighteen months previous to the accident, and was sober at the time of the accident, and was while in his employ a temperate and well-conducted servant. He was employed in throwing the sheaves of corn to the man who fed the machine; the witness was also upon the rick just previous to the accident. The deceased had sharpened his knife for the purpose of cutting the bands, and although the witness did not see him slip into the machine, he had no doubt that he inadvertently stepped too far back and fell, and slipped into the drum. Witness's attention was first called by the peculiar noise made by the machine, and when he looked around saw what had occurred. John King Eager, Esq., M.R.C.S., Ripley, deposed; "I was summoned to attend the deceased; I found him lying on a bed, and on examination the following appearances were presented. The whole of his left leg, with the exception of his toes, was crushed to atoms, or almost beaten into a pulp, and also the condyles of the thigh bone. He was in a state of complete collapse. I called Mr. H. Taylor, M.R.C.S., in consultation with me, and we both agreed that nothing but amputation offered a chance of saving the life. We waited an hour and a half, when a slight rally took place in the man's condition.

We administered chloroform and I amputated the limb, but he could not rally from the effects of the accident. The operation lasted about two minutes, and during it very little blood was lost. The chloroform had no effect in causing the death; but he gradually sank, and died about half-an-hour after the separation. I feel bound to recommend after inspecting the machine, some protection a few inches in height on the rick side of the drum, with which the present accident would not have occurred." Mr. Shoobridge, of Guildford, the proprietor of the machine, stated that the machine was manufactured by the best makers on the most approved principles, but thought Mr. Eager's suggestion worthy of being carried out. After the evidence had been ably summed up by the Coroner, the jury returned a verdict of 'accidental death'.

The Anchor Cyclists Visitors Books

Mission Accomplished!

Summary by Ken Bourne

In journal 167/9 Nov/Dec 2002, our chairman, Les Bowerman, gave a detailed account of the extraordinary events that led him to eventually acquire six volumes of some dozen or so Visitors Books which had belonged to The Anchor, Ripley. A brief summary of this account is as follows:

Being well aware of the existence of some of the books, for many years previously, and realising their importance to Ripley's history, and also being given to understand that they would be offered to Send and Ripley History Society, Les was disconcerted to say the least to learn that they had been put up for auction at Bonhams, London, on 21st April 2002 and were purchased by Sheikh Al-Thani of Qatar. They are for the years 1881, 1882 (2 vols), 1885, 1892 and 1893/'95. As luck had it, six other volumes later came to light and Les was offered these directly by the new licensee of the Anchor, Mark Smith. These volumes were bought by Les, at some personal financial sacrifice at the asking price of £6000.00. These were for 1883, 1884, 1887, 1888, 1890 and 1891. The missing volumes for 1886 and 1889 may yet come to light but they are at present feared lost.

In journal 174 Jan/Feb 2004 Les informed us that Maggie Vaughan-Lewis, the County Archivist at the Surrey History Centre, Woking, had agreed to purchase these volumes and that half of the cost, i.e. £3000.00, would be forthcoming from her acquisitions fund but the balance would have to be raised by the Surrey History Trust from voluntary contributions. An appeal was set up by the latter, to which the response was very satisfactory. A sponsored cycle ride by the Surrey History Centre staff and former Managing Director John Smith and Manager Bob Bryson of Dennis Bros netted £300. Send and Ripley History Society donated £250. The Veteran-Cycle Club added £500, with another £1000 raised by the Ripley section of that Club. Within a few months, the balance had been raised.

Thus, on Wednesday 21st April the ceremony of handing over the books took place at The Anchor. Les is seen in the photograph on the front page of this journal having handed over the books to Heather Hawker, Chairman of The Surrey History Trust. Maggie Vaughan-Lewis, County Archivist is behind the 'Ordinary' bicycle, as is Mark Smith. Among others present were Send and Ripley History Society members Anne Bowerman, Clare McCann and President Ken Bourne. From Charlotteville Cycling Club, Harold Coleman, President and Roland Masset, Past President. Brian Kington President representing the Veteran-Cycle Club, and several members of the Ripley Section.



Heather Hawker receives books from Les Bowerman
Photo by Ken Bourne

The books are a unique and fascinating record of the names of cycling visitors (who formed the majority of the customers) to what was, in the late Victorian era, considered 'The Mecca' of cyclists. There are many famous names well known to the cycling fraternity, as well as national figures such as H G Wells, G B Shaw (possibly) and John Dennis of Dennis Bros, Guildford. After passing through the conservation process the books will be available for study at the History Centre Woking.

It must have been particularly gratifying for Les to see a satisfactory conclusion to many years dogged persistence that at least ensured that half of these books now remain in this country (indeed in this county) where they belong. Let us hope that those that were bought at auction may in time be reunited with the others at Woking.

I am sure I echo the wish of all who took part in fund raising, as well as the cycling fraternity and the members of Send and Ripley History Society, by recording our thanks and appreciation to Les for all his efforts which have happily resulted in a successful outcome.

William Short (Died 3rd Dec 2003)

By David Porter

It is with sadness that I report upon the death of William Short, who was headmaster, during the 1950s, at St. Bede's Secondary Modern School, Send. His teaching staff included Constance Rosanna Ayre, (deputy headmistress and teacher of Mathematics), Mona Simmonds (Needlework), Peggy Packer, Lesley Newton (English Language and Domestic Science), Alan Streeter (Geography and Music), Walter Waghorn, (recruited from industry by Mr Short, to teach Woodwork) and Mr Swan, an active beekeeper at the school. Sporting activities were encouraged, many pupils' fathers playing against the teachers in football and cricket. During the 1950s this activity was held on the playing field behind the school building only.



In spite of living within sight and sound of the school during my childhood, I did not meet Mr Short. Only on 'Speech Day' when as a Primary School pupil did I catch a glimpse of him in conversation with my headmistress Stella Perrin. There was a close working relationship between the two schools which enabled the Primary School to hold its sports activities, 'Speech Day' and stage performances, etc., at St Bede's, and my sighting occurred when, at the age of 6years, I was on the stage at Christmas 1955.

Years passed, and in 1992 and 1993 two very successful reunions were held at St Bede's, with which I became closely involved, still blissfully unaware of Mr Short who was still living locally. This was no doubt because, when I was a pupil at St Bede's in 1960, Sidney Baxter had taken over as headmaster. This omission however was soon to be rectified.

When it was decided to write a book on Send and Ripley schools, it initially included St Bede's but was later excluded. During this period a chance chat with local villager and garage owner Ray Challon, revealed Mr Short's address. I lost no time arranging to meet him and, although we had never met, I was greeted with the words 'but you are one of Miss Perrin's boys.' I was warmly welcomed and treated to a viewing of many old photographs of St Bede's, some of which I was able to borrow to copy for the S&RHS archives. When the book was published I presented Mr Short with a complimentary copy, which was warmly received.

My lasting impression is of a man who is best described as an 'English Gentleman'. He was a pleasure to meet and talk to. No doubt his memory will live on among all those who knew him especially in connection with local education.

The photograph of William Short is taken from the obituary in the Surrey Advertiser published on 19th Dec 2003, - Editor.

Fairground Organ for Restoration

By David Porter

Exactly 50 years after making its final appearance at Send Fair, held at the recreation ground in 1952, the Irvin family's 89 key VB (Violin Baritone) 'Marengi' fairground organ was sold to a Yorkshire-based enthusiast during the summer of 2002 whereupon restoration work continued.

Built between 1905 and 1908 by C H Marengi et Cie of Paris, the organ was purchased new by Midland showman Pat Collins who was based at Walsall and Bloxwich. It is believed that the instrument travelled in the centre of a steam driven 'Switchback'. However, no photographs exist and further research is ongoing.

Purchased by the Irvin family of Ashford, Middlesex circa 1911, the organ travelled with their galloping horses until the ride was sold to an enthusiast in 1997. It remained at Ashford until 2002.

One of only a handful of organs to survive after World War Two, the organ received a major overhaul by Chiappa Ltd of Eyre St Hill, London, circa 1948. Known to many as 'The Italian Cockney' Victor Chiappa had worked for Charles Marengi in Paris in his younger days.

After 1952 the organ and ride continued to be a regular attraction at Ripley Bonfire Night Fair, however by the late 1960s the organ was once again in need of attention. A further ten years were to elapse before this work began. The work was carried out, by Page and Howard, at the time newcomers to the organ scene, who also had a business in London. Some of the work was done by the Irvin family themselves ably guided by John and Judith Howard. Judith, was well known for her restoration of organ pipes and the 'voicing' of them.

The organ made its debut at Hampton Court Easter Fair in 1980 and was once again in fine voice. Re-decorated and looking resplendent it was playing even better at Ripley Bonfire Night Fair the same year after further tuning. This is when the opportunity arose to photograph the organ during a quieter moment on the Saturday afternoon.

Thankfully the organ escaped damage in the horrendous M1 accident with an articulated lorry in 1988. The centre truck of the Roundabout was totally destroyed, seriously damaging the horse packing truck. Broken horses were scattered all over the motorway!



photo by David Porter

Absent from Ripley in November 1988, '89 and '90, the ride returned in 1992 built around a new centre truck but without the cut-glass mirrors which had been damaged with the carved centre drum (which revolves with the ride) in the accident. These are being restored at the time of writing.

The organ was still playing well, but it was not destined to travel with the carved figures of a bandmaster and two pairs of musicians each side. Further attention was paid to the organ pipe-work between 1992 and 1997, the work being in the main carried out by the Irvin family with the help of Peter Davey of Cranleigh.

Peter and I spent many hours at the key-frame of this fine organ at Ripley Bonfire Night Fair, during the period prior to the sale of the roundabout into private preservation in 1997. This was the last commercially operated fairground organ to be heard at fairs, both at Send and Ripley.

David Porter is a member of the Fair Organ Preservation Society.

More news on the Fairground Organ and its Horse Ride

Repairs by C H Sex and Son

By David Porter

During a recent conversation between myself and Billy Irvin (at an organ recital), Billy recalled being told by his father George Irvin to go to the local blacksmith during a visit to Send in the 1950s. Taking a pattern with him, Billy asked Ron Sex of C H Sex and Son if new steps for the horses could be made. Send Forge were willing to oblige! There are 36 galloping horses on the roundabout mounted three abreast. How many new steps were made is not known.

The final appearance of this ride was at Send Fair in the early summer of 1952 when the fair remained on the recreation ground for two full weeks instead of the usual one. It was therefore most likely that it was in this year that the horse steps were renewed.

The steps have three important safety functions on the ride. Basically 'Z' shaped they locate the horse (or mount) onto the brass 'barley twist' centre support rod, the former being attached to the rod from the bottom during build-up. When the step is engaged in the rod the horse is lowered 25 to 50 mm onto the step where it locates into a machined groove in the belly of the horse. The step takes the full weight of the rider (or riders on a 2-seater horse) and prevents it from rotating round the rod. It also functions as a step to aid the riders in mounting and dismounting a horse.

The roundabout was built in 1892 for showman J T Danter of Newport, South Wales by Frederick Savage of Kings Lynn, Norfolk and was acquired by the Irvin family in 1904. I personally assisted with the build up of this ride at the Ripley Bonfire Night Fair just prior to its sale into preservation in 1997.

William (Bill) Smith

Formerly of Newark Lane

By John Purser

Bill Smith, who died in March 1999, was a dear friend to our family for over 60 years and an extra uncle to me. He was born in Dovercourt, near Harwich, during the Great War. His father died in action in France, never having seen his only child. Despite this tragedy, he grew up a very normal child, attending the village school in Dovercourt. He was devoted to his mother, and she to him. He left school at 14 and went to work at a naval tailors in Harwich as general assistant and office boy. Tragedy struck for a second time when in 1938 his mother died of, I believe, diphtheria. Her death stunned him, of course. He recounted many times a vision he had had of her just before she died, assuring him he would be looked after and that she was safe.

Greatly distressed, he went to stay with his aunt and uncle in Newark Lane, Ripley. It was 1939 and rumours of another war were rife, but his aunt pointed out a small firm of agricultural engineers, J Gibbs, that had just started up in the village and was advertising for a storeman.

Bill went to meet the manager (my father, Philip Purser), they got on well, and Bill started work the next day. He immediately organized things and took over some of the bookkeeping, but some months later war broke out. With no possibility of extra staff, and a huge workload from War Ag to maximize farm output by getting every farm machine into service. Bill worked long and hard. He was particularly proud of his chart of 'whose shares fitted what plough'. With sporadic deliveries, he could keep a Ransomes machine working by fitting Massey shares, and vice versa. Bill was still young and despite strenuous efforts to keep him by Philip Purser and the Gibbs family, he was called up into the RAF in 1943, but after an injury was transferred to the Army. His active service was spent running a Technical store as part of a garrison in Austria.

On his return to England after the war, he met and married Joyce, who came from Leeds. His old job at Gibbs was open for him and they bought a caravan to live in at Warren Farm, Pyrford, and a tandem for transport. Joyce worked as a cashier in Gammons department store in Guildford. They did not have a family but became expert baby-sitters for my brother Martin and me, and for their many other friends. Joyce wanted to be a little nearer to her own family and in the mid-fifties they moved to Ashwell in Hertfordshire where they spent the rest of their lives.

Bill was devastated when Joyce died. Yet he struggled to keep busy and was a wonderful companion to his old chief and friend of nearly 60 years, Philip Purser, whom he helped to nurse until he passed away. He was a constant friend to many others as well. I am proud I had the opportunity to know him.

The above is taken from an obituary, which John wrote for the minister of Bill's church in Ashwell. Having written it five years ago, John, who now lives in Suffolk, came across it recently and wondered whether it might be of interest to Send & Ripley History Society. - Les Bowerman.

Thank you John, many of us also remember your father (Phil) Purser at Gibbs and as churchwarden for many years at St Mary Magdalen, Ripley, - editor.

Ripley Methodist Church

By Les Bowerman

At a Guildford Borough Council Planning meeting held at Millmead on 11th May approval was given to an application by Roy Gaynor and his wife, who have purchased the disused church, to convert it into offices, with a flat above, and storage at the back for Send & Ripley History Society. This will ensure that the structure of this attractive 133 year old church building will remain basically unaltered, that it will be well maintained, and that it will continue to serve a community purpose in helping this Society with its work.

Keith Taylor Mayor of Guildford

Keith a Send councillor, resident and long time member of Send and Ripley History Society was sworn in as Mayor of Guildford for 2004-05 at the annual meeting of the borough council held at the town's Guildhall on Wednesday 5th May 2004. Keith's theme for the year is youth and technology. Congratulations and best wishes for a happy and successful term of office from all at S&RHS.

Letters

To the Editor from **Peter Spindler**,

I have been 'tidying' up some of the vast amount of paperwork I have at home and as a result wonder if you might care to put the following into the next journal:

Newsletters/Journals (Nos. 77-167, Jan/Feb 1987 to Nov/Dec 2002) are available to any interested member or friend – no charge but suggest a nominal contribution to the Society would be appreciated. I can be contacted on 01483 224223.

West Surrey Family History Open Day Saturday 6th November 2004

This open day for family historians has been an increasingly popular annual event for a number of years. More recently the venue has been at the Woking Leisure Centre. Last year our society decided to take part and this was a very successful. There was a great deal of interest shown from visitors with local connections; our archive files were in constant demand and many of our books were purchased. So we have decided to have a stall again this year.

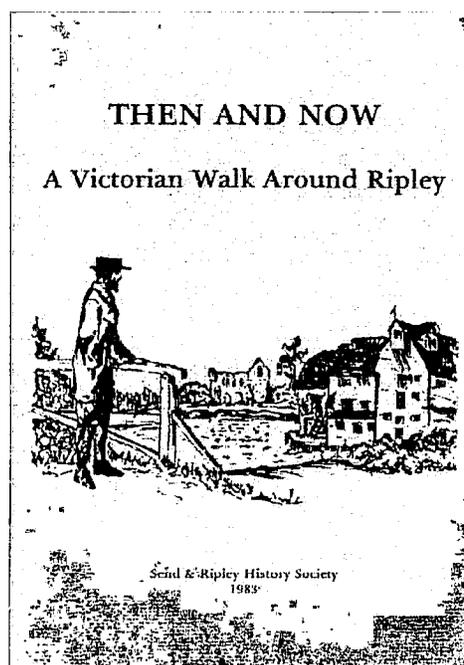
The success of any such venture depends upon support from our members. Last year we had six members involved at different times during the day and I know that all of us thoroughly enjoyed the event. To ensure even better coverage through the day, it would be very helpful if we could have some more of our members along to assist, even if only for an hour or so. So if there are any of you with interests in family history who are willing and would like to come, I would be pleased to hear from you as soon as possible. Please telephone me, John Slatford, on 01483 222107.

Then And Now (New edition)
A Victorian Walk Around Ripley.
By Tony and Patricia Medlen and Derek Bromley.

With the addition of a Preface by John Slatford in this 2004 reprint.

An account, by **A J Munby**; poet, barrister and diarist, of his first visit to Ripley and its environs in 1863. Reproduced are extracts from his diaries detailing what he then saw and experienced. The entries are commented upon and compared with today (1983). Illustrated with pictures of places and buildings, some as seen and many as described by Munby. Includes other comparative data such as details of trades and professions taken from the 1861 census of Ripley plus a modern wild flower survey. A fascinating book to accompany the reader on a very pleasant walk in and around the village.

First published 1983, 3rd reprint 2004. £3.50.



Forthcoming Events

Programme Secretary's Report

Following our last two successful evening meetings, the film show *Dad's Picture Palace* presented by Terence Patrick of Circle 8 and a talk by Marion May on *The Cokelers from 1850*, we now look forward to our summer programme of visits to places of historic interest.

Wednesday, 16th June – Visit to Compton – St. Nicholas Church, the Watts Gallery and Memorial Chapel.

Depart from Send Manor at 1 o'clock to explore St. Nicholas Church at 1.30 p.m. We then drive to the Watts Gallery where Mr. Jeffries, the Curator, will speak to us about the Chapel before we look around. The afternoon will finish with tea and cakes in the Tea Shop next door.

Sunday, 24th July – All day outing to Tenterden, Kent.

Leave Send Manor at 8.30 a.m. or meet at 11 a.m. at St. Mildred's Church (c1180) in Church Road, Tenterden, for a conducted tour of the church and the tower. There will be a guided walk around the town centre at 2 p.m., a visit to the Museum and a trip to Spots Farm Vineyard for tea.

Autumn/Winter programme:

Wednesday 15th September at 8pm, Ripley Village Hall.

An illustrated talk on 'The History of Addlestone' by David Barker.

Wednesday 20th October, at 8pm, Ripley Village Hall.

An illustrated talk on 'Life in Stuart Surrey' by Professor Peter Edwards.

Saturday 23rd October 10.30am-5.30pm at Chertsey Hall, Chertsey.

Local History Symposium on the theme 'Surrey Newspapers'.

Wednesday 17th November at 8pm, Ripley Village Hall.

A talk by David Williams, SCC Finds Liaison Officer, on 'The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Surrey'.

Wednesday 15th December at 8pm, Ripley Village Hall.

The Christmas Social.

For the summer outings, please let me know if you can offer, or will need, transport as soon as possible.
Anne Bowerman, 01483 224876.



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HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

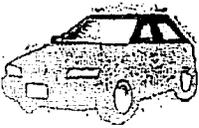
'Ripley & Send Then and Now, The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life' (Reprinted 1998)	£10.00
'Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send'	£1.25
'Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley' (Reprinted 2004)	£3.50
'The Straight Furrow', by Fred Dixon	£1.50
'Ripley and Send – Looking Back'	£5.00
'A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey'	£2.00
'Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey'	£3.00
'The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey'	£4.00
'Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures'	£6.00
'Two Surrey Village Schools - The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools'	£10.00
'The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey'	£5.00

The publications are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of 'Ripley & Send Then and Now' and 'Two Surrey Village Schools' can also be obtained from Send Post Office.

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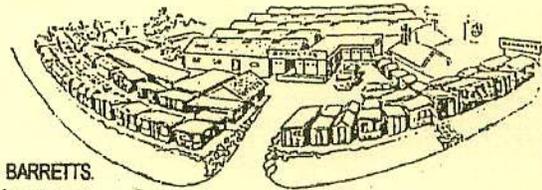


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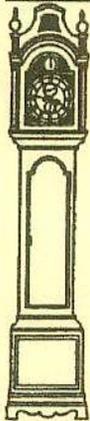


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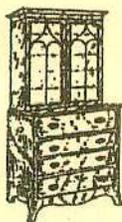
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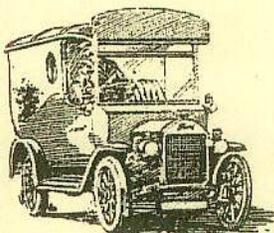
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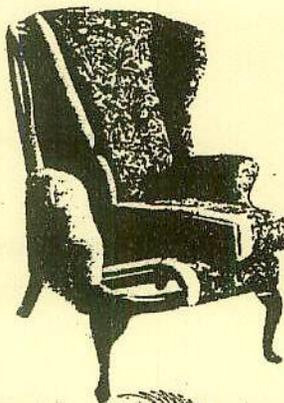
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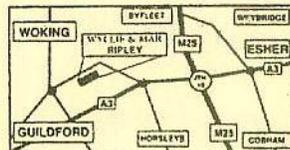
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