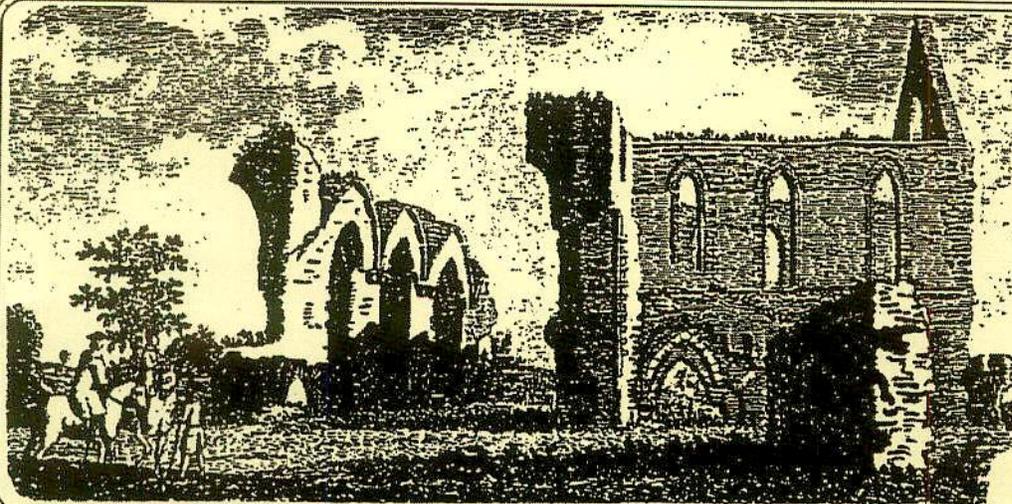


Send & Ripley History Society

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NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 5 No. 174

Jan/Feb 2004



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Cover illustration – Entrance to Dunsborough Park, Newark Lane, Ripley, 1982. Photo by Sue Morrison

Editor's Comment

Christmas 2003 is now behind us and there was no snow to delight the children or mess up the roads, at least not in the south. But to remind us that we are occasionally endowed with this substance we show a photograph on the front cover of the entrance to Dunsborough Park in Newark Lane, which was taken in 1982 by Sue Morrison.

Although it may be sometime before a photograph can be displayed or appear in the journal, photos of local views or events are always welcome for copying for our records. 'Ordinary', chemically processed photos are particularly welcome such as the foregoing, as they can be easily adjusted for size or contrast, and even slightly out of focus prints can be sharpened. Digital photos too are welcome, these should be taken at the highest resolution setting in your camera and reduced to a Jpeg image if sending via your computer. A convenient size is about (14 by 9 cms approx.) or post card size. If any one wishes to discuss this please contact me at the address or E-mail on page 1.

Thanks to Alan Tinkler who has so ably taken on the role of Advertising Manager almost all our advertisers have renewed their subscriptions. Colbornes, although they have moved, are to continue with their advert and thus support the society. We also welcome a new advertiser Ripley Horse and Rider.

Send and Ripley Parish Magazines Les Bowerman

The gift to the Society recently of two copies of the Ripley Church Parish Magazine reminds us of what a treasure trove of local information these publications are, albeit that it is all on the cover, the innards of the magazine not always being of local interest.

The earlier of the two issues is for May 1938. In addition to the name of the Vicar (Rev. M Evan Thomas), which is easily obtainable elsewhere, the front outer cover tells who the churchwardens were (Mr A Blakeman and Mr G C Onslow), and gives the names of six sidesmen, the organist and the verger. Inside the front and back covers we learn that there was a band of Collectors who raised money for Send Central Church School whose intake was from 'the five parishes' (Send, Ripley, Ockham, Wisley, and West Clandon?). This related to the building, which is now St Bede's and which was presumably in the process of being built at the time. It was completed as the first local Secondary school in 1939 but not opened until two years later. See David Porter's notes at 163/17. There was also a Guild of Youth, a Sewing Guild, the cinema in the Church Hall, a children's club, and a football club of very skilled players who "played two matches and won two Cups – making a total of four for the season – in one day"! Mr Evan Thomas, for light amusement, quoted two gravestone epitaphs, although he omits to say where they are, leaving the suspicion that they may have been going the rounds among the clergy. The first reads:

Beneath this stone, in hopes of Zion,

There lies the landlord of the Lion.

Resigned to the Almighty's will,

His son keeps on the business still, to which Mr Evan Thomas has added "Not a bad advertisement"

The second epitaph, assuming it is genuine, reads:

Erected to the memory of Patrick Murphy, accidentally shot, as a mark of affection, by his brother.

The second issue is during wartime, dated 'October 1942. Mr Evan Thomas is still the vicar, but the churchwardens are now Mr G T M Methold and Mr S V Green. There are now seven sidesmen, all male, including Mr F Pinnock, Junr, and Mr W Blaxland (the headmaster of the village school.) There is now a parish secretary (Mr Methold again) and a Treasurer, Mr W D Cartwright. Inside the cover we learn that the Surrey Education Authorities have spent some £200 in fitting a canteen to supply the children with a hot mid-day meal, but that it could not be used at that time as accommodation could not be found for the cook and caretaker. Combined wages for cook and caretaker were £4 14s. 6d. per week.

Ripley was also the proud possessor of a Mobile Unit, the only First Aid Mobile Unit in the Guildford Rural Area. Volunteers to man it were required. It was the "Red Cross on Wheels" and would travel in Ambulances to any bombed area in the District. It needed 18 Auxiliary Nurses, one trained Nurse and a Doctor. Without the helpers it would be removed from Ripley altogether. One who was unlikely to volunteer was Mr C R O Allwork (Phone 19) who completely lived up to his name by running, according to the advertisements on the back cover, The Rio Café, a firm of Builders, Decorators, Undertakers, Coachbuilders, and General Smiths, as well as the Rio School (Private Day School for Boys and Girls with Kindergarten). But then, perhaps he was the very sort who would do it, on the basis that if you want a job done ask a busy person!

Receipt of these two individual issues prompts the thought that, since the second issue is numbered 459, there must be an enormous amount of history out there in all the issues we do not have. The Society already has for the combined parishes of Send and Ripley photo-copies of the local pages of around three dozen issues between 1882 and 1889, and likewise the whole years 1890 and 1891 for Ripley alone. (The originals are in the Surrey History Centre). We also have for Ripley photocopies of anything from one issue per year to a whole year, covering the period 1904 to 1926. Other than that, for Ripley there are only the two issues recently received.

For Send we have none prior to 1931. There are then 16 individual issues covering the years 1931 to 1951. For 1961 to 1963 we have all except 11 issues. 1964 onwards have been collected and bound, and are available for research in the Museum.

If anybody has any of the missing magazines for disposal, I should be very pleased to receive them. Alternatively if you have any you wish to retain, would you be prepared to lend them for photocopying?

I am grateful to Sheila Brown for information about the setting up of Send Central School and about the Ripley School canteen.

Surrey Local History Symposium 'Surrey Historians'

Ken Bourne

Once again some of the members of our society were present at this popular annual event held at Chertsey Hall, Chertsey, Surrey on Saturday 8th November 2003. A few weeks previously it had looked as though there would not be sufficient time to set up an exhibit this year about our local historian, Capt. C M H Pearce (see Journal 172, p2.) but thanks to Clare Mc Cann and her efforts the society was represented by a very successful display featuring Pearce and his work at Newark Priory.

Standing next to Clare McCann on the left of the photo is Prof. Alan Crocker visiting the S&RHS stand during the judging of the displays. Clare provides a description of the display following this summary.

As in previous years, the symposium consisted of a programme of talks as listed on page 15 in the Sept/Oct issue of this journal and summarised herein by Clare. It was supported by some 150 visitors, and 25 exhibitors representing local history societies.



One special item on the agenda was the presentation of the 'Gravett prize', a new award presented for the first time at the symposium, to the society for the 'best local history display'. This award has been created and named in honour of the late Ken Gravett (Founder, Chairman and mainstay of the former Surrey Local History Council). The prize in the form of a certificate and a cheque for £100 was presented by Dr Heather Hawker, Chairman of the Surrey History Trust to Barbara Karlsson accepting on behalf of the Shere, Gomshall & Peaslake Local History Society. The latter chose as the subject of their exhibit William Bray and had on display much memorabilia of this famous historian, diarist and resident of Shere, as well as a large volume of one of his diaries. Many of his pocketbook diaries are held at the Surrey History Centre, Woking, which were no doubt compiled by Bray as an aide-mémoire to his frequent perambulations around Surrey, (*these diaries were found to be an invaluable data source by the writer when researching the memorials in the old chancel of St Mary Magdalen, Ripley*). They contain succinct albeit brief notes, and although in neat handwriting, being small, they are not too easy to read. To see a larger diary on display, into which he no doubt transcribed periodically from his pocket diaries, was indeed a privilege. I am sure there is more to be said about Bray's diaries and their contents than has hitherto been seen in print! Perhaps this will be forthcoming from Gomshall and Peaslake L H S in the near future?

The symposium will be held next on Saturday 23rd Oct 2004 on the theme 'Surrey Newspapers'.

CAPTAIN C M H PEARCE (1891 –1941)
 A local historian and a man committed to public service
 by Clare Mc Cann

Send and Ripley History Society took part in this year's local history symposium at Chertsey on November 8th. The theme this year was 'Local Historians' and we featured Captain Christopher Morris Hussey Pearce, the elder son of R.M Pearce, who founded Ripley Court School. He was born in 1891, educated at Rugby School and Christ Church, Oxford. He was injured during the First World War, serving as a commissioned officer in the Coldstream Guards.

After the Armistice he was appointed staff captain at the Horse Guards and subsequently as Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General on the Headquarters Staff of the London District. In 1922, after retiring, he returned to Ripley, where he lived at Ripley Court School. He never married and after the death of his father, he helped his mother with the business side of the school. His sister's husband, Guy Onslow, became Headmaster.

After the war he began nearly twenty years of local service. A former Guardian, he represented Ripley on the Guildford Rural District Council for a number of years and was Chairman of the Highways Committee. For some years he was also Chairman of Ripley Parish Council and the Fire Brigade and a supporter of the local British Legion. In 1927 he was made a J.P. for Surrey on the Woking Bench and was also a staunch supporter of the Conservative Party.

Captain Pearce, shown in photo on right, was made Master of the West Surrey and Horsell Hunt in 1937. A well known local character; Fred Dixon, Headmaster of the Ripley church school, recalled that Captain Pearce 'would walk about in his deer-stalker's cloak, cap, plus fours and stout boots and was never without his 'cromak' (walking stick)'.



Photo of Capt. C M H Pearce JP FSA
 loaned by Miss Rose Onslow

Pearce took a keen interest in the Parish Church and was a member of the Diocesan Conference. He was a manager of the local Church of England School and clearly was a forceful personality, who had numerous clashes with the local vicar and Fred Dixon over the running of the school.

He also had a considerable reputation as a local antiquarian and archaeologist. He was a Fellow of the Surrey Archaeological Society, and via that body, he published in 1929, the results of his research and excavations into the history of Newark Priory.

During the Second World War the staff and pupils of Ripley Court School were evacuated to Wales and Captain Pearce accompanied them. He was taken ill in Llandrindod Wells and died there in August 1941 aged 50. His body was brought back to Ripley for burial in the family vault

Reference sources: Captain Pearce's obituary from *The Surrey Advertiser* – Saturday August 30th 1941. Pearce JP FSA. Capt. C M H *The Founders of Newark Priory; Vol. XL, p30, SyAC.*

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM – 2003

Programme summary by Clare Mc Cann

The theme of this year's symposium was **Surrey Historians**. Our society was represented by a display on Captain Pearce, who lived at Ripley Court and researched Newark Priory, the subject of the previous article.

The symposium was introduced by, Prof. Alan Crocker Chairman of the Surrey Local History Committee (Past-President SyAS; President Surrey Industrial History Group). Some of our members may remember Alan from his fascinating tour of Chilworth Gun Powder Mills.

The keynote speaker was Julian Pooley Archivist and Manager of the Surrey History Centre. He spoke about **Researching Surrey's History: Manning and Bray and the Antiquarian Network 1760-1832**. He referred to the eighteenth century as a period when there was a developing pride in local achievements and the county became more significant as an administrative unit. Scientific research was valued and societies like the Royal Society of Antiquarians prided themselves on their scientific methods of study, with exacting standards and references. Educated gentlemen joined learned societies, collected coins, fossils etc. and took an interest in local history. He spoke at some length on the work of Manning and Bray and the records available for study at the Surrey History Centre, Woking. He also distributed photocopied lists of invaluable reference sources he had used in support of his talk.

After lunch Heather Hawker of the Surrey History Trust took over as Chairman and began by telling us a little of the work of the trust and then she presented the first ever '**Ken Gravett Award**' to Shere & Gomshall Local History Society for their display.

Heather then introduced Alan Crocker, who spoke on '**What the Surrey Historians tell us about Industries**'. Alan Crocker's entertaining talk with slides, indulged his enthusiasm for mills, paper and gunpowder but made a good case for considering Surrey as a much more industrial county than most of us would have realised.

'**Getting it Down on Paper**' was the title of the talk by the next speaker, local historian John Janaway, who gave an amusing account of how he got involved, first in co-founding the Kingston History Society and then into writing local history. He encouraged others in the audience to take the plunge, offering helpful practical points on ISBN numbers, printers, publishers distribution, lending rights, etc. Finally he commented on the possibility of authors being invited to talk on the subject of their published work.

The afternoon was rounded off by, Denis Turner (Past President of the SyAS, Co-ordinator Village Studies Project) who spoke about, 'Local History in Breadth & Depth'. He emphasised the importance of interactions between local historians and referred to the village studies books being published by SyAS.

Also see the Surrey Archaeological Society's Bulletin 372, for more details of the symposium, Editor.

The Anchor Cyclists Visitors Books - Update

By Les Bowerman

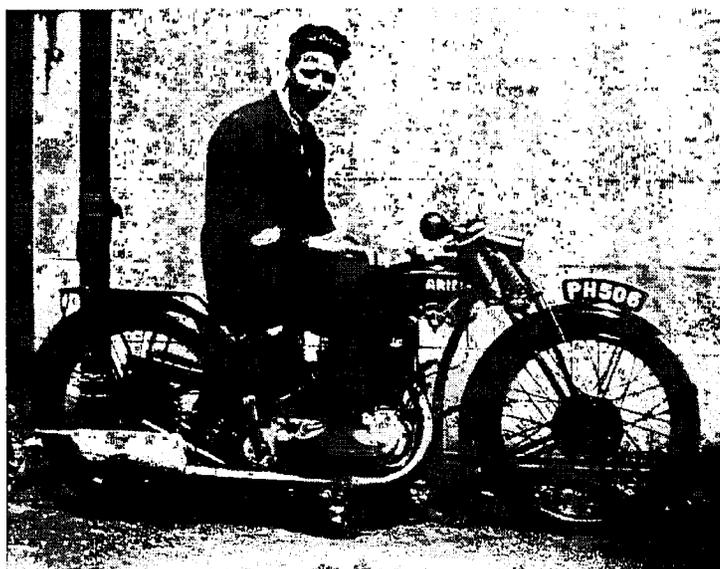
A year ago in Journal 167/10 I wrote that the intention was that the six books I was able to buy (ranging from 1883 to 1891) would go permanently to the Surrey History Centre at the appropriate time. The present situation is that Maggie Vaughan-Lewis, the new County Archivist, has agreed to buy them at the price I gave, and the Surrey History Guild (in effect the Friends of the History Centre) is now appealing for funds. S&RHS, the Veteran-Cycle Club, the local Ripley Section of that club, and others have all agreed to contribute. Indeed licensee Mark Smith appropriately encouraged Maggie and some of her colleagues to pass the bucket round at the Anchor on Bonfire Night. Needless-to-say, the other six Anchor books bought at auction by Sheikh Saud of Qatar have not surfaced.

The Committee agrees that the books are a very significant part of Ripley's history, and, on behalf of the Society, have contributed £250 towards the cost of ensuring that they are conserved at the Surrey History Centre, which is clearly the best place for them. Editor.

The Road to Fame

by Jack Holmes

This story starts in the early 1920s. My father, his 3 brothers and sister, lived in the RHS Gardens at Wisley. However, I must first explain how they came to be there. The Holmes family moved from London to Ockham in 1900 and most of the children were born in the village. In 1914 they moved into the Wisley Gardens when my grandfather became the RHS Maintenance Engineer, a post he held until 1937. For the family Ripley became the source of supply of both goods and services. I recall my father's stories of long walks to Ripley for dental, medical and social reasons. Grandmother made regular treks to the International Stores in Ripley and one of my cousins who used to holiday with her in the 1930s clearly recalls the tiled shop interior, the 'patting' of butter, the cheese cutting etc., and of course, the long walk back!



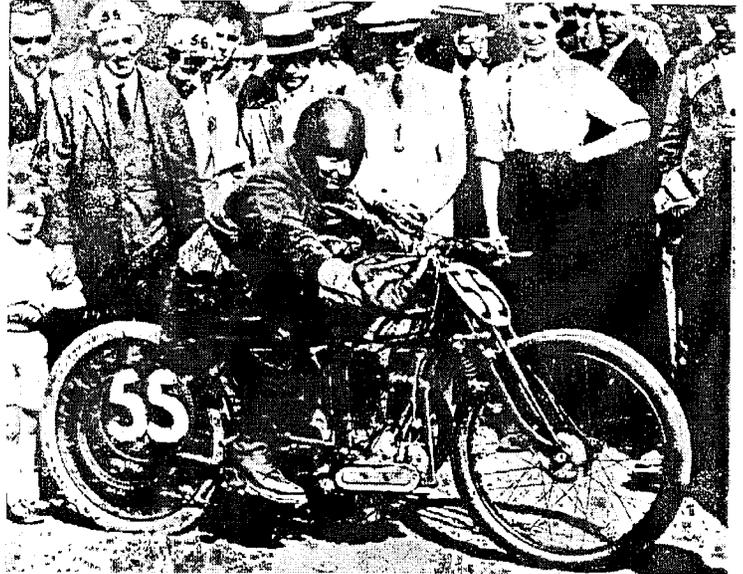
Robert Holmes, my father. This picture was taken some 4 years after the events described in this article.

In the early 1920s, the Holmes lads were in their late teens / early twenties and were, under the strong influence of nearby Brooklands, obsessed with speed. (It was not surprising that three of them started their careers working on aircraft / cars at Weybridge).

They all possessed motorcycles, and what's more, understood them and could maintain and develop them. At weekends they would join with motorcycling friends from Ripley, Byfleet and Ockham to race up and down the Portsmouth Road. There can be no doubt that this practice was very anti-social as far as the quiet residents of Ripley were concerned especially as the 'lads' would have tuned their machines to sound as much like racing machines as they could!

One of the regular members of this group was Bert Denly from Sanway, Byfleet. He was, in fact, a second cousin of my father's girl friend, my mother to be! Her name was Ada Bird. Her father was Edward Snelling Bird and for the first few years of his life he resided in Send. Later he moved with his mother to Wisley village.

Bert Denly was quite small and my Father would explain how he merged into the motorcycle at speed, almost becoming invisible, but at the same time could control it in an exceptional manner. During the week Bert was employed by a Byfleet butcher as a delivery boy.



Bert Denly. He was immediately involved with racing at the highest level. This shows him in 1923, he had just won the 200 miles Solo Race. Four years later he was to be the first man in the world to cover 100 miles in one hour on a 500cc machine.

My father would often recount how during one of the group's weekend races on the A3 a man who was picnicking on the roadside with his family, waved the group down and singled out Bert Denly. He offered Bert a Test Ride on the Brooklands track! Bert took it up and lapped at 90mph plus and was immediately signed up as the 'number one' rider for Nortons!

This story was always taken by my family 'with a pinch of salt' We accepted the fact that Bert became the Norton Motorcycling star, we had pictures of him winning championships and breaking records but the chancy way he was discovered seemed to be all too fanciful!

An extract from a 'Castrol Oil' book on *Record Breakers*. Bert Denly is in the centre photograph.

Time passed and my father died in the mid 1980s. A year or so later my business was connected with running a oneday Engineering Conference. The venue selected by the organisers was the National Motor Cycle Museum adjacent to the NEC Birmingham. During a break in the proceedings I wandered into the Museum's bookshop. I looked into a book related to Motorcycling at Brooklands and there was the story about the discovery of Bert Denly. It was not precisely the sequence of events my Father's story covered but it was just as remarkable! It showed how the merest chance event led to Bert being offered an opportunity, which he could not have anticipated even in his wildest dreams! This is the story I had found:

Bert Denly

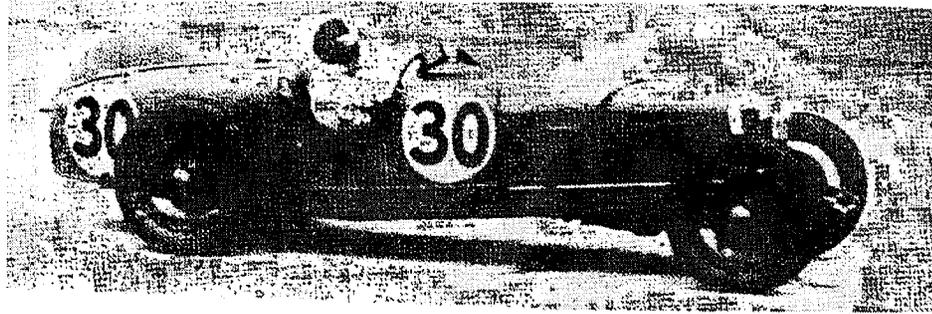
There is no doubt that, on at least two particular occasions, Bert had luck. He was very lucky indeed to have got into motorcycle racing through a chance meeting with his future boss, 'Wizard' tuner O'Donovan, then number one rider and racing manager for Nortons. At the time, Bert was a lad and was working, delivering meat for the local butcher, his mount being an elderly belt driven, two-speed flat twin Douglas. There was a lot of meat to deliver. The butcher was a good one and had a lot of customers, all of whom expected their joints delivered on time – so Bert had to ride fast! He knew the local roads in Byfleet and the best line to take in and out of each and was using every inch of the road when he came face to face with O'Donovan who, in his elderly Morris, was just setting out to do his shopping. At that time, the 'Wizard' was nearing the end of his career as a rider and, stifling his fury at Bert's impudence, he saw at once that here could be a solution to his problems because if the lad could ride a wreck of a machine like that on the road, what might he do on a well prepared track machine on Brooklands. So, tracking him down, he lambasted him and, having done that, proceeded to make him a Brooklands star overnight. Tell me, if you can, of another case where a young man, content in his work, but with no thought of or knowledge of motorcycle racing, finished his job of meat delivering on Saturday and started work the following Monday morning as Number One works rider to a leading and outstandingly successful motorcycle manufacturer – and I will show you a lucky man!

That, certainly, was Bert's first and luckiest break. He was lucky to have been living and working in Byfleet within yards of where O'Donovan worked inside the track. Lucky to have 'carved up' the old man and even luckier that O'Donovan had the perception to spot talent that he, Bert, didn't even know he possessed. Lucky that O'Donovan controlled his anger to the extent of being able to offer him the job. And luckier still that, having been offered an interview, he didn't bother to go and that, even then, O'Donovan came back and offered it to him a second time. It may not all have been luck, of course. For the 'Wizard' to have come back twice must have meant that the 'carve up' had left a deep impression on him – it must have been one of the best.

Secondly, Bert was lucky in his first chance meeting with Eyston. Again, it was pure chance and, again, it came at just the right moment of his life. But this time he recognised it so there was no delay in forming the association. So those were the two major slices of luck and, of the two, I suppose the first was greater because if that hadn't clicked, the second would never have arisen.

Telling the story, years later, O'Donovan was adamant that, at the moment of crisis, he was doing, at the most, fifteen miles an hour. For all his great skill on the track, he

An account of Bert Denly's discovery from the book, *Brooklands Behind the Scenes* by Charles Mortimer is shown above.



Bert Denly driving a Riley 1.5 litre six, in the 1932, 2000 mile race, co-driving with George Eyston.

Bert went on gaining motorcycle racing honours and then worked with Captain George Eyston racing his Riley cars and participating in World Record runs in some of his specialised cars.

After his racing days Bert Denly became a Director with the Castrol Oil Company. He died in his nineties. Some life! **There cannot be many people who could have experienced such a dramatic change in fortune!**

NB Denly is spelt Denley in some papers.

Cartbridge

Notes by Pat Clack

There are now very smart new flats opposite the New Inn on the corner of Potters Lane – where the bakers were. I can remember back to Mr Lemon keeping the bakery and before that Mr Elmes and even before that, Arthur Webb, who had 7 children and baked his own bread on the premises. He would call on my Mum (and others of course!) with his big basket of warm bread and would come in for a cup of tea while she chose which loaves to buy, and I used to go and play with his children adjacent to the bakery. All has changed!



New flats opposite the New Inn, Cartbridge.
Photo by Les Bowerman



Webb's grocers in the 1920's, almost unchanged up to its demolition.

The building (left), which had changed only superficially over the years, was demolished to make way for flats in 2003. It was owned by Quilter Cave Ltd from 1978, before that, by Lemons, (Bert Lemon provided a delivery service well into the 1960's), and Gladdings Stores, who purchased it from Webbs at the beginning of the last war. The 1861 census shows 'John Webb, 35, Master Baker living at Cartbridge.' Editor.

See *Change in the Villages* by Les Bowerman, Journal No 167 page 12 and *The Closure of Grocery Shops* by Les Bowerman N/L 33/9. Editor.

Peggy Ann Aldridge (1930-2003)

We were sad to learn of the death of Peggy Aldridge who died peacefully at home after a long illness born with great courage and dignity. She died on 1st November 2003 at the age of 73 years; the funeral was held at The Holy Rood Church, Pevensey Bay, on 18th November. She will be sorely missed by her husband, Desmond, and all who knew her.

Peggy and Desmond were members of this society for 24 years, from September 1977 when they lived at Ockham until 2001 when they moved to Hailsham in Sussex. It was at an open meeting at the Church Hall, Send, on Thursday 22nd September 1977 that Peggy delivered her memorable and learned talk on the subject of *The Lovelaces of Ockham Park*, recorded in Newsletter 17, pages 4&5. An active member of the society in its early days, Peggy went on to give several other talks on her favourite subjects, the King, Lovelace, Lytton, Byron, Milbanke and Wortley families upon whom she was an acknowledged authority. The following is a summary of that first talk recorded by the late Bernard Watts. It includes minimal corrections plus others suggested by Peggy in the subsequent Newsletter 18, page 12. - Editor.

The Lovelaces and Ockham Park Summary of talk by Peggy Aldridge

Sixty-one people gathered in the Church Hall, Send, to listen to an intriguing account of the fortunes of a family by the Archivist and Historian of the Lovelace Papers, Mrs Peggy Ann Aldridge.

Peggy Aldridge was born in Ockham Park, her grandfather, 'Hubbard', having been butler to the Lovelace family, and, after a close association with the family, accepted the task in 1965 of working on the amassed papers of the King, Milbanke and Byron families.

The family purchased Ockham Park when its estates were being accumulated and was a 40-roomed mansion with studios at the top of the house. When sanitation was modernised in 1933, there was only one flush toilet (situated in the servants quarters) and two earth closets, which when being emptied, utilised the same goods lift that carried the meals from the nether regions of the house. Voysey the architect, assisted with alterations and additions to the building. A large number of inside and outside staff would share an 18 gallon barrel of ale as a Christmas present from Lady Mary Lovelace, who died in 1941.

As a member of the Byron Society, Mrs Aldridge brings erudite significance to the records of an earldom first tenured by the son-in-law of the Poet. Captain John Byron, educated at Westminster School and a French Academy, married Catherine Gordon of Gight in 1785 when she was then aged 20, and used her money to pay his debts. The couple went to live in France but Catherine was unhappy there and they returned for George Gordon Byron to be born in London early in 1788. The Captain went back to France and died there three years later. George Gordon Byron became a peer when he was ten years old, inheriting the estate of ruined Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire from his great-uncle. His mother went back to Scotland and died in 1811.

In 1815 when he was 27, George Gordon Byron married Anna Isabella Milbanke and their daughter, Augusta Ada, was born in the same year. Public abuse and rumours of incest with his half-sister drove him from Britain and he spent the rest of his life on the continent where a fever killed him in 1824. Lady Byron sometimes stayed at Ockham Park, and in 1836 helped to finance the Ockham school.

Byron's only legitimate daughter Augusta Ada, married William King, the first Earl of Lovelace, and had two sons and a daughter; Viscount Ockham, his heir, who died in 1862; Ralph, who eventually became the second Earl of Lovelace; and Anne Isabella, the grandmother of the fourth Earl of Lytton. Augusta died in 1852.

Ralph's second wife, Mary Caroline Stewart-Wortley, had three miscarriages and no surviving issue. Her paintings were exhibited at the Royal Academy, she gave the Ockham Parish Room to the Parish Council, and died three weeks before her 93rd birthday in 1941.

The union of Anne Isabella and Wilfrid Scawen Blunt produced a daughter, Judith, and three other children who died in infancy. Many of the family estates had been sold before Judith died in 1957.

Judith and her husband Neville Lytton, had three children: Noel Anthony Scawen Lytton, forth Earl of Lovelace, Lady Anne Lytton and Lady Winifred Tryon.

The present (1977) Earl has five children.

To illustrate her narrative, Peggy exhibited many samples from the archives and her own personal collection: The Royal Charter signed by Henry VIII granting the dissolved Newark Priory and its manors of Send, Ripley and Ockham to Sir Anthony Browne; a portrait of the Junoesque Catherine Gordon of Gight, several other paintings, a most intricate 'family tree', a brick mould and some samples of Ockham bricks, plus a wealth of informative booklets produced by the Byron Society.

Bernard Watts.

MERRIE ENGLAND

Were they really the 'goode olde days'?

by Alastair Macmillan

In these days of violence, war and disaster in the world, you might think how peaceful and tranquil life in England must have been 600 years ago at the time when a yeoman farmer built Vintage Cottage in Rose Lane, Ripley (it may have been called 'Flitress Cottage' in those days).

After all, what was there to talk about during the long winter evenings as they huddled around the open fire in the center of the floor, watching the smoke rising to blacken with soot the heavy crown post beams high above their heads. The weather? The price of grain? The fact that 'Daisy' was in calf? It must have been really boring.



Vintage Cottage, Rose Lane, Ripley. Photo. A Macmillan

Or was it? A glance at the events that were taking place in England and elsewhere over the 30year period (1381-1415) during which Vintage Cottage was built suggests otherwise. We may consider it unfortunate that our children are being brought up during a violent period of history, but try this for size:

1381 The 'Peasants Revolt' hits England.

1382 The Scots, with a French army, attack England.

1387 Chaucer begins work on 'The Canterbury Tales', a racy tale of godly country folk.

1394 King Richard II leads an expedition to subdue Ireland.

1399 John of Gaunt's son, Henry of Boling broke, lands in Yorkshire and deposes Richard.
1400 Richard murdered in Pontefract Castle. Owen Glendower proclaims himself Prince of Wales and leads a national insurrection.
1403 The Percys of Northumberland rise in rebellion. The new King, Henry IV, defeats and kills Harry 'Hotspur' Percy at the Battle of Shrewsbury.
1405 French soldiers land in Wales to support Glendower's insurrection.
1406 The future James I (of Scotland), is captured by an English ship while on his way to France. Detained in England for 19 years, where he was at least safe, he was subsequently murdered, at his own son's instigation, in Perth.
1415 Henry V, with a small army, invades France and defeats the French at Agincourt.

In the midst of all this aggression the inhabitants of Rose Lane were unlikely to have been aware that a ruthless warlord called Tamberlane was creating havoc throughout the other half of the known world. Born in Uzbekistan, he subdued nearly all Persia, Georgia and the Tartar Empire. He conquered all the states between the Indus and the lower Ganges, and massacred 100,000 prisoners in the process. He seized Damascus, Syria and Baghdad – then defeated the Turks! Mercifully he died while marching to conquer China, otherwise he might have moved on, and, discovering America, killed all the Red Indians before Hollywood let the LTS Cavalry do it.

Given the choice, I would rather stick with our own violent and awful period of history thank you very much!

For a detailed record of the survey of Vintage Cottage by John Slatford, for the S&RHS Buildings Group, see Newsletter 61, page 9, 1985. Editor.

Ghost Story

By Mavis Davies

Has any member of the society heard any tales about ghosts in the former Tannery in Tannery Lane, Send?

I was on duty in the museum when a Mrs Young, whose husband works nightshifts at the tannery, now the Crack Pulverising Mills, came in with this enquiry.

Her husband frequently sees a figure, always the same man, in 'plus fours' (breeches maybe?) a waistcoat with watch and chain, and a flat cap, leaning on a fence or in doorways, smoking a pipe.

Mrs Young wonders if anyone recognises the description of an old employee, and can put a name to him, or even has any photos of staff in former times. Her husband, who was never a believer in ghosts, is now sure he would recognise the man if any such photo exists.

Has anyone else had any ghostly experiences in Tannery Lane?

Except for the 'plus fours' the description could fit that of Capt C M H Pearce whose photo is on page 4. Editor.

Subscriptions for 2004

Subscriptions are due from the 1st January 2004 for this year. They remain unchanged at £8.00 for one and £10.00 for couples. Add £2.00 for postage if you reside outside the villages of Send or Ripley. Please use renewal slip enclosed with previous journal, or if this has been mislaid, put your name and address on a separate sheet of paper and send with your remittance to the Membership Secretary Cate Davey, to the address on page 1. Please also complete and return the **Gift Aid Declaration** form, as this will increase the income from your subscription to the society at no cost to you if you are a tax-paying member.

Surrey Archaeological Society
150th Anniversary (1854 – 2004)

Most members of SyAS will be well aware of the extensive agenda of meetings and events arranged to celebrate this milestone in the history of the Surrey Archaeological Society. This is a year that promises to bring forth, much that will appeal to everyone, whether amateur or professional who are interested in the archaeology and history of the county. In addition to its monthly bulletin, an anniversary brochure has been distributed to members, which summarizes the history of the society and provides details of the programme of events throughout 2004.

For anyone who is not a member and wishes to learn more about this society and its exciting programme we reproduce below a copy of the SyAS introductory leaflet from which further details can be obtained:

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

1854 - 2004

150th Anniversary Celebrations

The Society was established in 1854 'for the investigation of subjects connected with the history and antiquities of the County of Surrey'. The Society's objectives remain substantially the same and we cover the historic county to the Thames at Southwark and Bermondsey.

The nature and practice of archaeology have changed dramatically since those early days. As well as archaeological research, the Society actively supports local history and industrial archaeology. It met the challenges posed by the enormous pace of urban renewal in the 1970s by appointing, with external funding, an archaeologist (later to become the County Archaeologist) and by establishing teams to work on the route of the M25 and elsewhere.

The 21st Century will bring new challenges and your support is vital if the Society is to continue its core activities and to champion the sound management that alone will protect Surrey's historic urban and rural landscapes. A range of events has been organised to enable members and friends to celebrate our 150th Anniversary and we hope that you will join us whenever you can.

For further details, contact:

Surrey Archaeological Society,
Castle Arch, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3SX
Tel/Fax: 01483 532454

E-mail: info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk

Web: www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk

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JOHN PAUL (1910-2003)

John Paul, who died in October last year, lived for 60 of his 93 years at 'Appletrees' in Rose Lane, Ripley, only leaving the village four years ago to be near his daughter and her husband in Mere, Wiltshire. In 1939, while working at the Milk Marketing Board's headquarters in Thames Ditton, he went for a cycle ride in the Surrey countryside one weekend and finished up in Ripley. He was so taken with the village that he decided then and there to make it his home.

John served as Chairman on Ripley Parish Council for 16 years, from 1963–1979. Noteworthy happenings during this period included the filling-in of the village pond on the Green (the introduction of mains drainage having deprived it of water) and the advent of the bypass that Ripley had been clamouring for since 1938.

John will be fondly remembered as a man who got things done by a combination of quiet efficiency and an equally quiet but engaging sense of humour. Tragically, in 1988 (before the pedestrian crossing was installed) his wife Pat was knocked down and killed by a car when crossing the road in the middle of the village. She was buried in St Mary's churchyard, Ripley, where John was laid to rest beside her following the funeral service in the church on November 7.

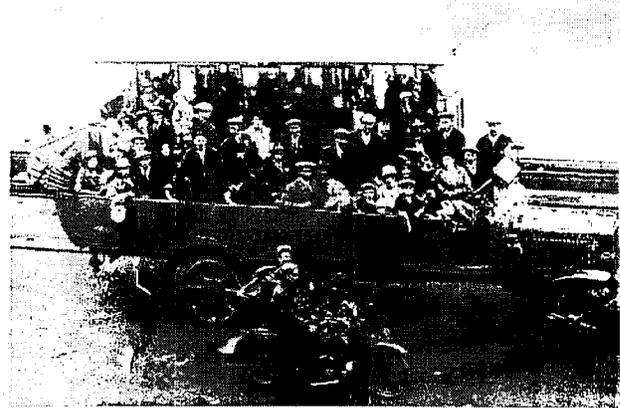
Alan Baker.

Charabanc outing

by Bob Stonard

The photo on the right, which depicts a Charabanc outing to Brighton from The New Inn or The Jovial Sailor, Ripley is from the front page of Journal 172, for Sept/Oct 2003. The photo was, provided by my aunt, Ruby Lee (Stiles). Ruby has managed to identify some of the people on the 'bus:

1) Ted Styles. 2) Rosina Styles (Hepburn). 3) Joseph Styles (with trumpet). 4) Phyllis Styles. 5) Jimmy Percy (Hepburn). 6) Fred Percy. 7) Mr Percy. 8) Mr Trussler. 9) Mr Monk. 10) Mr Stevens. 11) Tom Kingsbury. 12) Mr Sturgess.



Forthcoming Events

Christmas Social December 17th.

Many thanks, to everyone who came to the Christmas social evening last month. It was good to see such a large audience (about 50) for our entertainer, Maisie Stimson, who played some of the old-time songs and a selection of Christmas carols. No doubt the singing was enhanced by the quality of Christina's Christmas punch and the array of delicious finger foods provided by several members. I am amazed every year by the fact that there is always sufficient food for what is always an unknown quantity of people and am very grateful to all who contributed. Thanks are also due to all those who provided prizes for the magnificent raffle and the willing helpers who sold both entry and raffle tickets and helped with washing and clearing up. Anne Bowerman.

There is another varied programme for 2004 so please make sure the following dates are in your diaries:

Wed. 21st January - a talk on The Princes of Wales by Mr. Brian Dupe. An insight into how the heirs to the throne have fared from Tudor times to the present day. —

Wed. 18th February - The Annual General Meeting followed by some local memories.

Friday, 12th March - "Dad's Picture Palace" - a film show by Terence Patrick of Circle 8. Choc' ices will be available as well as the usual coffee and biscuits.

Note. This meeting is on Friday to fit in with the Village Hall bookings in the Main Hall.

Wednesday, 21st April - An illustrated talk by Marion May on The Cokelers, an exclusive religious sect who lived and worshipped south of Guildford.

All indoor meetings take place at 8.00 pm in the Ripley Village Hall Annexe (unless stated otherwise). For further details, telephone Programme Secretary, Anne Bowerman on 01483 224876.

MUSEUM

The current exhibition is on the subject of **Local Clubs and Societies** arranged by Clare McCann and Jane Bartlett. The exhibition includes the WI, Over Sixties, Amateur Dramatics, Sailing, Angling, Dog Training, Girls Friendly Society and others. The museum is open each Saturday morning so do go along to see what you can discover about some local organisations 'past and present' or add your own memories of village clubs and societies.

Journal Contributions: Closing date for the next edition is **Friday 27th February 2004**



SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

OPEN: Saturday mornings: 10.0-12.30
March -December

Also open on 3rd Sunday of each month,
To coincide with Ripley Antiques Fair in the
Village Hall

Other times for school groups and small parties
By arrangement

Contact Les Bowerman on 01483-224876 if
you require further information or wish to help
in the museum

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

'Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life' (Reprinted 1998)	£10
'Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send'	£1.25
'Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley'	Reference copy
'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 reference copy is available at the museum. The others 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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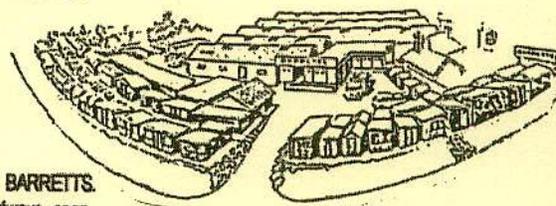


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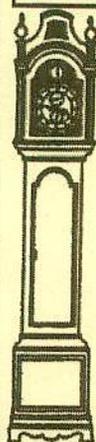


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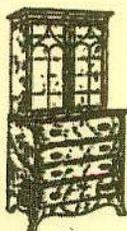
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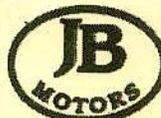
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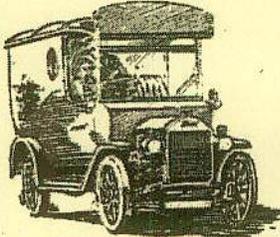
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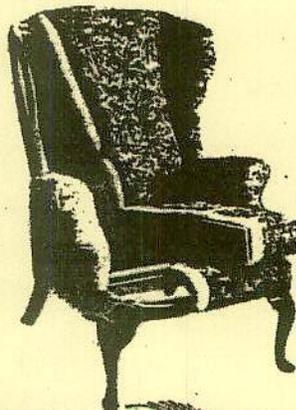
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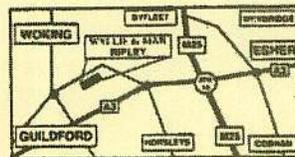
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