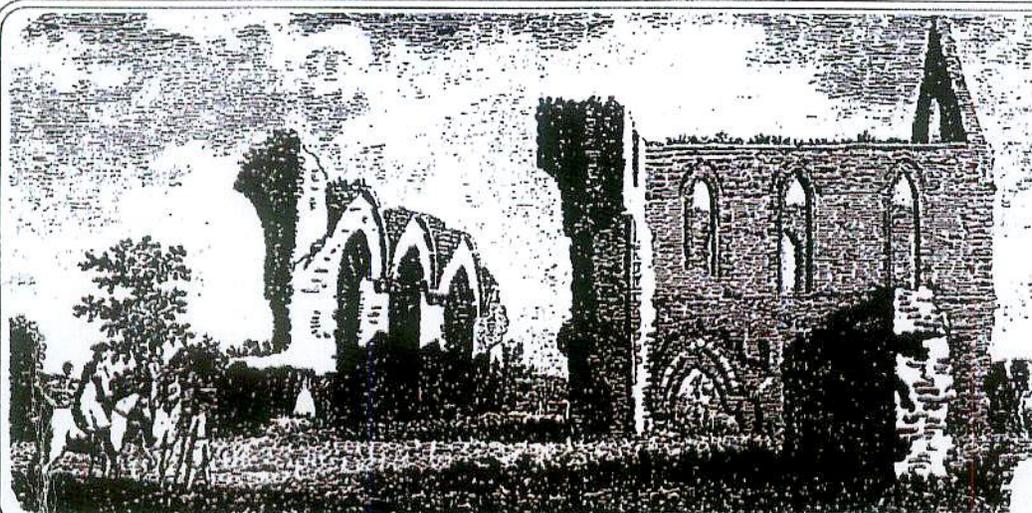


Send & Ripley History Society

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NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 5 No. 173

Nov/Dec 2003



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Cover illustration – Autumn at Stourhead, 2.15pm, on Friday November 8th 2003; photo taken by Ken Bourne.

Editor's Comment

As the journal is being put together at the end of October the trees are resplendent in their autumn colours. It seems the leaves started to change earlier this year, no doubt due to it being a much drier and warmer summer, in fact, the year was reported by the 'weather man' 'to be the driest since 1961'!

The photograph on the front page was taken at Stourhead, Wiltshire, when I just happened to have my camera with me. The autumn leaf colours were absolutely breathtaking! No doubt similar views could have been found in Surrey this year particularly at Wisley, where I found myself the next day, except the sun was not out. Seasonal photography is very much a matter of being in the right place at the right time!

On the subject of the right time, once again may I remind members that subscriptions for 2004 will be due at the end of this year and a renewal form is enclosed with this journal.

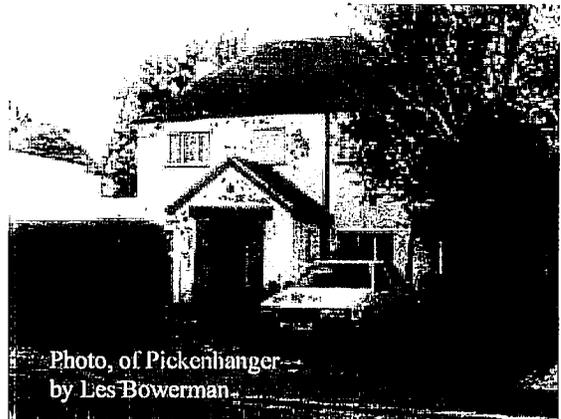
As this is the last journal for 2003, may I take this opportunity to wish all our members, readers, contributors, advertisers and of course our printer at the University of Surrey.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A GOOD NEW YEAR!

The Story of Little Pickenhanger & Tuckey Grove

by Peter Fairbrass

Tuckey Grove, Send Marsh, has a very active "Neighbourhood Watch" with a lively Newsletter edited by our member, Tony Fielding. The July and August issues (Vol. 2, Nos 5 & 6) contain in two instalments an entertaining history of his house and the road by one of the residents, Peter Fairbrass, a film/producer who makes his films mainly in a studio but also to some extent in Tuckey Grove. Both Peter and Tuckey Grove Neighbourhood Watch have kindly allowed us to reprint the article. Les Bowerman



On moving into this house, No. 5 on April Fools Day 1978 - then bearing the name 'The Ponderosa' (some people!) I clambered into the loft, whilst thinking up a new name for the house and found not big Hoss Cartright but the usual pair of discarded old iron water tanks filled to the brim with junk - huge brassieres, massive corsets, a pair of stuffed fish in glass cases etc., and a collection of text books and hand-written exercise books. Bored with trying to think up a name and tired from the climb, I dragged the stuff out and began to indulge myself.

The bras and corsets were far too big for me - and I couldn't be bothered taking my dress off to try them anyway - I turned my attention to the fish and books. The fish were expensively mounted with details printed onto plaques - I can't recall all the details but they included 'Bream, caught on the Thames...', 'Pike...' also caught on the father of English streams. The name of the catcher was Stan Clark. The exercise books also bore the name Stan Clark. I opened the first. It was filled with notes on film making! (Twilight Zone theme!) as were the rest! I was fascinated, somebody who had lived in this house had also been involved in film making. Fade to black.

Fade up from black (passage of several years). By now I had chosen a name, my joke on English literature (oh yes, I did get the odd A level!) 'The Little Pickenhanger'. Pickenhanger is Olde English for sentry box. The 'Little', is my joke - OK, how small is a little sentry box? Got it!

I was shooting a film in Woking with Mick Robertson (tall, curly black hair, Magpie / Freetime - goes back almost to Reg Harris?) when we were interrupted by a chap we both knew, a sound recordist named... (Twilight Zone theme) Stan Clark, deputy head of sound to Freddie Slade at Thames TV. His wife Mary was with him and we all chatted (lummy talk!) and he asked where I was living. Yes, his father was the late Stanley (fisherman and Guildford Councillor).

He was the Stan in my loft and the huge bras and corsets were his Mum's! I'd known this bloke for years! But, better yet, he then told me that his assistant at Thames was Bob Davis (then living in the house next to Vinnie & Rosie in Send Marsh Road!)

We had a grand re-union that night, Stan & Mary, Mick Robertson and Bob. I climbed back into the loft and returned all that stuff (including his mother's underwear) to Stan. He joked that he and his brother used to dress up as Siamese twins in her underwear- a big lady!

Then came the fascinating stuff. His family moved into this house when it was first built; he must have been about three years old at the time (1929). The story he told, was that the land - the old orchard - was owned by the then head master of Charterhouse School, who had a friend - a London chef named Albert Tuckey, who was an entrepreneur. Albert suggested that they become partners and that his involvement would be to build houses on the land. Stan's father Stanley was involved in the planning etc. He watched whilst Albert ran out of money and the Head of Charterhouse (who's name I can't remember - age + Al Z Heimer!) came close to suicide! Stan explained that if you view each house, you can see that he started at Waverley, moved up this side of the road and then down the other. The courses of bricks above the upper windows are gradually reduced until the roofs sit right on top of the windows; also the stone rendering disappears. He just ran out of stones and had no money to buy more - well it was the end of the great depression! Each house had a septic tank. I found mine whilst digging the hole for the swimming pool (yuk and very dangerous!), and this side of the road had a stream running at the end of the gardens. Stan told how he would feed the ducks each morning.

Tuckey had almost finished when he became bankrupt. The council stepped in and finished the job - the J.C.'s mansion (he related) was all GBC work.

Now, we have all been told how Mrs T introduced the wonderful idea of council mortgages - wrong! The first council mortgages (as far as I know) were on these houses! Nobody could afford them or wanted them - so, Guildford offered special mortgages and the Clark's (remember he was a Councillor) jumped in and were the first to buy.

Stan remembered helping his dad remove the pig fencing around the plot and plant the shrubs which now enclose it and many other details including a particular day, during the last fisticuffs with 'Gerry Square- Head'. He was finishing his bath in preparation for meeting Mary (his then sweetheart who worked in the NAAFI at Wisley Airfield) when a load of bombs dropped close by and the roof collapsed onto him and into the bath! That explained the strange mix of ceiling materials I had been looking at in this house! He explained that the German bombers had tried many times to take Wisley out but had always missed. That day they missed Wisley but hit this area! I asked why they didn't use his mum's brassieres as sling shots to throw the bombs back at the planes. He quietly smiled the smile of a man who had grinned a few grins - Mary asked where the loo was!

So, how did he get from here to deputy head of sound at Thames TV? He told the story that the Manor House on Send Green belonged to a man named Stewart of Stewart & Arden (MG & Morris etc.) He was, Stan related, a complete nutter! He had a massive barn (now the gorgeous house next to the manor) which he converted into a film studio, 'Send Studio'. The war came along and he began making propaganda films for the C.O.I. (Central Office of Information). I know them as I've made trillions of films for them - weird bunch, think themselves to be a mix of MI5/ MI6 and Hollywood moguls! Stan got a job there as tea boy and then became the sound engineer - great story! He went on to tell how they recreated the Burmese jungle in any bit of woodland they could find in Send and Ripley and how those propaganda films had audiences transfixed and believing that we would have Fritz capitulating within the first year of the war!

I have masses of library films of that stuff - bomber captains pulling their oxygen masks forward so that they could light their pipes and rear gunners smoking fags whilst surrounded with ammunition!

(Captain) *Sorry chaps, we've been recalled - no action today (puff, puff) back home in time for tea - eh, what?* (Rear gunner) *Oh strewth sir, I never even got to fire one bloomin' bullet'* (lights fag). Over to the bomb dropper, *Never mind sir -I can always drop a few tomorrow!* (good egg that chap! - but not in enclosed environments).

As a Sarf (South) Londoner who grew up amongst bombsites and war damage, I was surprised to learn all of this - but it is rather obvious with Wisley on the doorstep. Albert Tuckey's Send Marsh had its fair share of destruction.

The British Red Cross Cup for Over Sixties Clubs
by Rosemary Wallis.

(On behalf of the Ripley Over Sixties Club)

I was interested to read in the Journal Volume 5 No. 172 about the Ellenberger Shield which was last won by Send Over Sixties Club in the district handcraft competition and has now been handed to your Society for safe keeping. I would like to add the following information to that which you already have. There was also a small cup which has the engraved inscription *British Red Cross Society- Surrey Branch- Guildford Rural Division Over Sixties Clubs Handcraft Competition - Runners Up*. This cup was won by the Ripley Over Sixties Club in 1993. We have now also handed this trophy to the History Society for safe keeping. You state that Send carried on with their own competition until 2002, but Ripley have also carried on with their own competition and are still doing so! We present a shield to the person with the most points and a cup is presented to the member who is deemed to have entered the best item in the show. This is the selection of the judges who come from the W.I. We still get a lot of entries for our show. Our Club still meets on the first Saturday of every month in Ripley Village Hall. Our next Handcraft competition will be in March 2004.

Ripley Over Sixties Club Cup
(Presentation of 'Runners Up Cup' to SRHS)
by Les Bowerman

Rosemary Wallis came into the Museum on Saturday 18th October and presented to me the above article and the 4" high hallmarked silver cup to which she refers. This cup was seen at a recent committee meeting and will be exhibited in the museum. It is nicely engraved on one side with the inscription she mentions, and on the opposite side, the names of all the runners-up from 1969 to 1993. The inscriptions are reproduced below:

Inscribed on the front

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY
Surrey Branch
Guildford Rural Division
Over 60's Clubs
Handicraft Competition
RUNNERS UP

Inscribed on the opposite side:

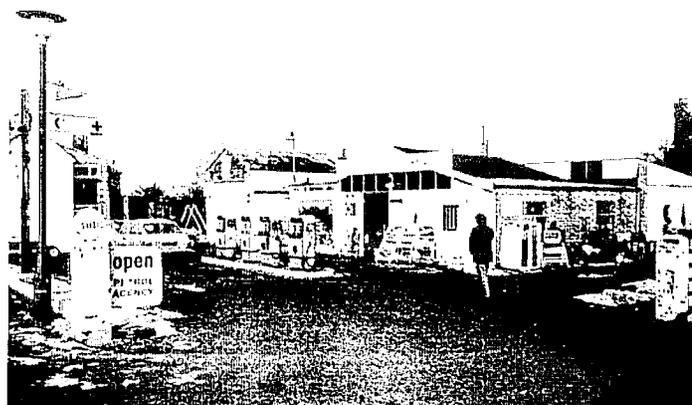
1969	RIPLEY	1981	CLANDON
1970	FAIRLANDS	1982	RIPLEY
1971	RIPLEY	1983	PIRBRIGHT
1972	PIRBRIGHT	1984	SEND
1973	FAIRLANDS	1985	SEND
1974	FAIRLANDS	1986	SEND
1975	FAIRLANDS	1987	SEND
1976	FAIRLANDS	1988	RIPLEY
1977	PIRBRIGHT	1989	RIPLEY
1978	FAIRLANDS	1990	SEND
1979	PIRBRIGHT	1991	RIPLEY
1980	FAIRLANDS	1992	RIPLEY
		1993	RIPLEY

Raymond William Challen

Ray died aged 70 years at his home, 91 Send Road, Send, on Sunday 28th September 2003, having been ill with cancer for three years. He was born on 11th December 1932 in Send in the house built by his parents in Tannery Lane now known as 'Isington'. He grew up in this house, behind the Garage, which had been started by his father Bill in 1928. He first attended Send Primary School and in 1940 went on to St Bede's Secondary School. When he left school in 1946 the 1939/45 war had ceased but the garage workshop was still being used as a machine shop to make various engineering parts, having been requisitioned at the beginning of the war and equipped by the War Department, along with other local firms, for the 'war effort'. Due to petrol rationing and many vehicles being 'laid up' for the 'duration', there were only a few cars and lorries on the road but this was all to change as manufacturers gradually returned to post-war production. The future for all aspects of the motor industry looked good. Perhaps this was in Ray's mind when he joined The Haslemere Motor Co in Guildford as an apprentice and for the next five years received a thorough training as a motor mechanic.



Following his technical training Ray joined the R A F; as with all young men 18 years and over, he was required to serve in one of the armed forces for two years (National Service). No doubt his training stood him in good stead but he was also in great demand in the R A F as a footballer when Ray revealed he had played for Woking and Leatherhead.



Challen's Garage pre - 1980's

After demobilisation in 1954, he joined the family business and started working in the garage workshop with his father, carrying out repairs and servicing and helping generally. Send Service Garage, or 'Challen's Garage' as it was known, was popular not only with local people but was patronised by workers travelling to and from the growing local industries in Send and also passing trade. In 1969 Ray married Marjorie (Marj') Harvey who also became a working partner in the business. Their son Keith was born in 1971.

When Ray's father Bill died in 1974 he took over the management of the garage, and his mother Dorothy continued to assist in the shop from time to time. Ray realised that it would be difficult to survive as a small family business against the increasing competition from the fuel outlets of the supermarkets (since fuel sales brought customers to the garage) so he concentrated on the company's principal assets: personal service and the ability to provide a reliable and competent repair and service facility, supported by general sales from the forecourt shop. Fuel sales continued, however, and in 1980 the garage was refurbished with a new forecourt and fuel pumps. A year or two later new doors were fitted and a brick wall was built onto the old wooden workshop.

Ray was a hard working quiet man of few words and was constantly preoccupied with various important tasks, but nevertheless, he was always willing to spare a moment of his valuable time to listen to your problem. He could always be relied upon for fair and impartial advice relating to the needs of any vehicle left for repair or service. In the best sense he was 'old fashioned' but in every other way he was up to the minute and knowledgeable on all matters concerning vehicles. To know Ray was to know a competent and an honest man. That was the strength of 'Challen's Garage'.



Challen's Garage post - 1980

Ray had just passed retirement age, however, when with great sadness his customers learned of the sale of the business to J B Motors in 1999 and therefore the demise of yet another local family business. Ray Challen and his garage will remain fondly in the memories of all who knew him for many years to come.

Over 90 friends and relations attended the funeral service on Friday 3rd October 2003 at Guildford Crematorium, which was conducted by the Reverend Phil Thomas. Our condolences are offered to his family, his wife Marj', son Keith and daughter in law, Elizabeth, and his mother Dorothy who is half way through her 98th year.

Ken Bourne

Local Memories by Jane Bartlett

Help is urgently needed to assist with the typing up of local memories from manuscript notes and/or tape recordings made at various interviews. Anyone able to help to do just one or more, please contact Jane Bartlett on 01483-224171. This is a fascinating and rewarding project, which adds a great deal to our knowledge of past local events and living/working conditions.

The Conisbee Family

by Clare Mc Cann

Recently David Conisbee was generous enough to lend me a wonderful bound tome chronicling his family from 1655 until 1998. A family history compiled by Robin J. Conisbee Wood, a cousin, of David's.

The family name may be of Norman origin but more certainly it is a locational name, meaning one who came from Coningsby, a place in Lincolnshire, and dates back to the 1200s or possibly even before Domesday. There have been a variety of spellings of the name and family members have spread out to various parts of the country. Robin Conisbee Wood has concentrated his research on the family from the mid 17th century and picked up the family in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, starting with John Coningsby born in 1655.

One of his descendants was James Conisbee, who married on Christmas Day in 1760 and had three sons and a daughter. One of the sons was William, who featured on the militia ballot list in St Albans in 1780 but he moved south to become a publican in 1783. His nine children were baptised in East Horsley, the eldest of which was named Ephraim after his late uncle, thus starting a tradition of Ephraims in the family. William returned to Hertfordshire, where he died in 1827 but two of his sons returned to Surrey, where one was married in Bookham and the other in Cobham. Ephraim, the eldest was listed as a butcher, as was his son, Frederick, but they were not alone in following this trade.



An early picture of Conisbees (*circa 1905 ?*)

George *Colingsby* of Brighton, another member of the family was also a master butcher and Edmund Conisbee, born in Hertfordshire, who moved to Surrey, was in Cobham in 1871 and described as a master butcher. Another son of Ephraim's, George was a butcher in Little Bookham. Frederick Conisbee, Ephraim's son, was born in 1830 in Little Bookham and died in East Horsley in 1915. In 1861 the 1st Earl of Lovelace built a shop at Park Corner, which the Conisbees occupied but it was not their first butcher's shop in East Horsley and apparently they also had shops at Effingham and Ripley. We certainly know from Kelly's Directory that there was a shop in Ripley from 1905.

Frederick's son, Ephraim Frederick, known as Fred, was born over the East Horsley shop in 1863 and was a butcher as well as becoming a councillor for many years and parish overseer. His wife Agnes founded the local W.I. and organized a sports day and village supper to celebrate the end of the First War, as well as a tea party for returning soldiers. So they were seemingly pillars of the local community. Fred and Agnes had four children, the youngest, Frank took over the East Horsley shop and in addition he had other shops in East and West Horsley as well as Merrow. In due course he became President of Guildford Livestock Market. Neil Conisbee and his sons James and Steven still run the Horsley business. They also have their own farm, which provides the business with some of their livestock.

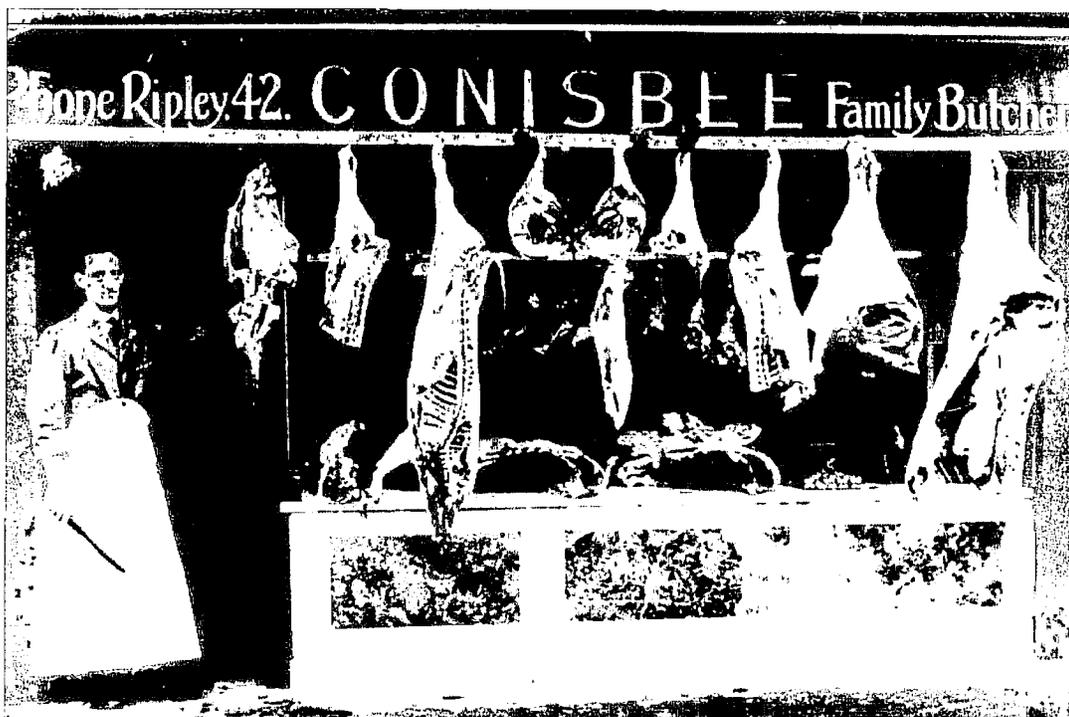
It has been thought that the shop in Ripley was closed at some point and that the second son, Arthur came and reopened the Ripley shop. This was supposedly after Arthur had enlisted and seen service both in Gallipoli, where he was wounded, and later in France. The earlier Conisbees' in Ripley was thought to have closed and that a cycle shop replaced it on the site. In the family history it was stated Arthur opened the shop at Aberdeen House in about 1924, which Robin Conisbee Wood thinks may have been a former flourmill, although this seems unlikely and he gives no evidence to support this. It is not known why it is called Aberdeen House but David Conisbee, the present owner, thinks it is possible the name came from Aberdeen Angus. However this chronology of the shop closing and reopening does not square with the local Kelly's Directory, which lists the principal commercial businesses in Ripley. Frederick Conisbee is listed continuously as a Ripley butcher from 1905 to 1930 and Arthur follows on in the next issue, which was 1934. Whether Frederick operated from different premises we cannot be sure and perhaps Angus House was opened in 1934 and not 1924 and that this was a printing error or a slip of the family memory - who knows! What we do know is that Arthur Conisbee married Lucy Crouch, whose family were coal merchants in Horsley, and had five children. He enjoyed the good life, including fast cars and greyhounds and betting. His grandson remembers he owned a big old Buick amongst others. He also had a singing dog called Tinker and passing children would ask the dog to sing.



Fredrick C Conisbee
(1830 – 1915)

His son Peter Frank Conisbee inherited the shop and apparently, his father's debts. He served his apprenticeship in High Wycombe and after a brief spell in the RAF he returned to Ripley and made Conisbees into a thriving concern and even initiated a Surrey Sausage Makers competition, though the Ripley shop never won. They did however win the Best Ham competition. Many will remember Peter as a prominent member of the community - locally he played cricket in his younger days and then became a keen sailor and a Rotarian. However this solid citizen was also known as the joker in the family. Apparently on an unexpected visit to his sister in St Anne's, he found she was not at home and unable to gain entry and bored, he dug a big dugout in the back garden, which he covered with a tarpaulin!

Peter married Sheila McMullen, who had worked at the Onslow Arms and they had two children, David and Linda. David ran the butcher's shop while his father had a spell living in Antigua and during his father's retirement back in England. David had a very comprehensive training in every aspect of the trade. He even spent two years at the prestigious Smithfield College, where being the son of a Master Butcher was an unofficial entry requirement. He is the current owner of Conisbees, which closed as retail butchers in 1997 but still sells to the trade and he runs a BBQ company.



Arthur Conisbee outside his Ripley shop (circa 1930's).

Local people may be surprised to learn that he employs 20 people now, whereas there were only 8 people employed when the retail shop was open. When Peter was running the shop they got meat from Smithfield and from local suppliers.

They now import meat from all over the world including South America, Europe, Australasia, and Southern Africa. Some meat comes from Scotland and Wales but sadly local suppliers cannot provide the quantity or quality needed. Conisbees has been a Ripley institution for many years and we hope it will be so for many years to come.

Footnote: *Since writing this article I have spoken to Mr Shinn now a resident of Send but formerly of Ripley, who worked for Arthur Conisbee. He recalls the cycle shop burning down and Conisbee's being opened on the site but cannot recall any other premises that may have been occupied by Fredrick Conisbee. He also told me that - 'in Arthur's day he went to the cattle market on Tuesday and the beasts he bought were slaughtered in East Horsley by the Conisbees there, as there were no facilities in Ripley'.*

Clare McCann.

Ryde House, High Street, Ripley. Title Deeds.

by John and Bette Slatford

In 1983, a group from the Send & Ripley History Society visited Ryde House to carry out a survey of its construction and history. This was reported in Newsletter No 54. At the same time Mrs Henderson, the owner, showed us her large collection of over 40 documents relating to the house. These were primarily title deeds together with various letters, inventories etc. The earliest was dated 1726 relating to an earlier cottage on the site and the majority related to the period during and after the construction of the present house in 1774/5. Bette was able to study all of the documents carefully and record the basic details,

Now 20 years later, Mr & Mrs Henderson have moved away to Dorset and they have donated the document collection to the S&RHS. Our Society does not have the proper facilities for the care and storage of such valuable artifacts and so, as with other similar instances in the past, we have deposited the collection at the Surrey History Centre in Woking on permanent loan. There they are being properly catalogued and will, of course, be stored under the most suitable conditions.

This means that, in the future, the documents will be accessible to view at the History Centre by any member who may be interested. It also means that if the society wishes to use them for exhibition or similar purposes, it will be able to withdraw them on a temporary basis.

John has sent me a copy of the full list of these documents which runs to four A4 pages and Les Bowerman, as Archivist, also has a copy list available to members for reference. Space does not permit inclusion of the list in this journal but Les in the following article gives an overview of their contents. Editor.

The Deeds of Ryde House, Ripley by Les Bowerman

Twenty years ago Mr & Mrs G N Henderson, the then owners of Ryde House, kindly lent the Society for inspection a black metal deed box containing 42 documents mostly connected with Ryde House. As listed by John Slatford on 5th October 1983 before returning them, they covered the years 1726 to 1861. John referred briefly to them in his article on the development of the Ryde House building at Newsletter (now Journal) 54/8. They concern a period starting about fifty years before the present house was built on the site and finish a year before Thomas Marriott Berridge founded Ryde House School there in 1862 (Jane Bartlett's article at 135/6). The school functioned there until some time shortly before 1891.

It is difficult to understand why these particular documents were separated from those relating to the period of the school and later. Maybe at some stage they were regarded as legally superfluous and kept by succeeding owners as curios. The first one is an indenture (i.e. a copy identical to one or more other copies snipped apart with a wavy line so that they could later be matched up if need be to prove that they belonged to the other part or parts). Dated 20th September 1726, it appears to be a straightforward record of a sale for £70 of the property, then a cottage, by the estate of Henry Harrison to Edward Stevens of Ripley, a shopkeeper. Most of the others are leases for one year followed by a release the day after the grant of the lease. This was a device to give first possession and then a legal interest, which, as applied here, had effect as a sale of the freehold (see definitions from early legal textbooks in the OED). A 1,000-year lease is mentioned in deeds of 1827 and 1838. Whatever the full legal significance of the documents at the time, we learn that by 1786 John Tice had pulled down the original cottage and built a new house (the one still existing) on the same site. An inventory dated June 1841 lists the articles belonging to John Cooke of Ryde House.

One wonders what has happened to the post 1861 deeds, which themselves will have been irrelevant since the first change of ownership after 1950 as title is now proved by the Land Registry.

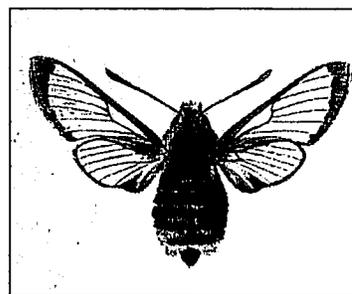
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Subscriptions are due by the 1st January 2004 for next year. They remain unchanged at £8.00 for one and £10.00 for couples. Add £2.00 for postage if you reside outside the villages of Send or Ripley. Please use enclosed renewal slips and send your remittance to the Membership Secretary Cate Davey.

Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-Moth (*Hemaris tityus*)

By Ken Bourne

In the previous journal, 172, this moth was given the incorrect name in the title. It is now correctly shown above and is depicted in the illustration on the right. The **Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-Moth** *Hemaris tityus* Linnaeus, family Sphingidae is the same family as the Humming Bird Hawk-Moth (*Macroglossum stellatarum*) and flies in an identical 'jerky' manner, although the former is slightly smaller and is also a bee mimic. However the last time I saw a Humming Bird Hawk Moth was in the Dordogne in France about 20 years ago. I was delighted therefore, to see its smaller cousin in May this year, hovering over the Valerian in our garden, here in Frome.



Sheila Brown informs me that she discovered a dead Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-Moth in her garden this year and Ron Croucher told me he has seen the Humming Bird Hawk-Moth regularly in his garden. There is a report in the RHS Journal *The Garden* Volume 128, p819 for November 2003, that caterpillars of the Humming Bird Hawk-Moth were found by an RHS member in Surrey and others were seen by the curator Matthew Wilson in the Dry Garden at the RHS Garden, Hyde Hall, Essex. If the caterpillars survive our winter both moths could become a more common sight!

For further information see *Butterflies & Moths in Britain and Europe*, by David Carter British Museum 1982.

The Women's Section of Ripley Royal British Legion.

by Jane Bartlett

The Women's section of the Ripley branch of the Royal British Legion was formed in 1955. Sadly this section of the branch folded in September 2000. The standard was laid up on July 13th 2003 and was accepted into Ripley church by the vicar, the Rev. Chris Elson, at the end of the morning service in the presence of the Legion's County Chairman; (see photo' right).



Mrs Meg Lynn, who joined the branch in 1971, has been the standard bearer since that time. She has a fund of stories about parades, guards of honour, and charity activities to raise money for their welfare work. She was one of the twelve standard

bearers lining the Horse Guards for the funeral of Lord Mountbatten. They spent an hour and a half, not moving and standing to attention, lowering the standard as a mark of respect when the coffin passed and again for the Prince of Wales. She was so stiff afterwards that she could hardly move. Once a year there used to be a parade of British Legion Standard Bearers from all over the country at Sandhurst Military Barracks. It was a spectacular sight when Standard after Standard dipped in salute as the two National Standard Bearers marched down their line. They impressed the army cadets with their precision.



Mrs Meg Lynn

There was a competition held by the military police at Chichester Barracks. Teams from all over the world joined in an army assault course for charity. Meg Lynn, sponsored by Ripley Cricket Club, joined the team formed by members of Surrey branches of the R.B.L. One year the Surrey group won the 'Silver Horse' trophy. Hot and sticky from their activities, they then changed into their uniforms in their cars, which were parked at the barracks, before a parade of four miles through the town to take the salute from the mayor. There were many more occasions on which Ripley was represented, such as the Jubilee celebrations in Guildford Cathedral, and the Armistice service at Brookwood Cemetery.

Meg Lynn has now joined the Cobham Women's Section and is a relief standard bearer.

Shops and Shopping

Museum exhibits

The exhibition on the above theme organized by Clare Mc Cann was much enjoyed by all who visited the museum over the last three months. It has now been disbanded in preparation for the next exhibition, which will feature **Clubs and Societies** also being put together by Clare. If anyone has any documents or artifacts applicable to this theme, (excluding Football, Cricket, Scouts and Guides or Church based clubs), please contact Clare as soon as possible on 01483 728546.

A number of items exhibited in the Shops and Shopping exhibition are still awaiting collection. These are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) Fuel ration book. | 5) 3 match boxes |
| 2) National savings book | 6) Dinky type lorry. |
| 3) Small treacle-toffee tin. | 7) Miniature R White bottle. |
| 4) Elastoplast tin | |

Someone has also left behind at the museum, a telescopic-handled umbrella.

Colouring Competition

Results

Congratulations to Georgia Truscott, winner of the Surrey Museum Trail-Colouring Competition, also to the runners up, Calum Hartin and Lawrence Tilbury. The prize awarded to Georgia was a soft toy Otter.

Letters

John Donovan, Thornton Heath, Herts.

Please find enclosed a photograph of a Blue Plaque on a wall in Hartford town. I read with great pleasure, the three articles on Childhood Memories in Journal (170) May/June 2003 (pp 9-14). I particularly enjoyed reading the piece by Clare Mc Cann, so much so that I have put a photocopy of the article in my (unpublished) memoirs. It brought back so many memories and reminded me of details long forgotten.

On page 13 Clare says, 'I read a lot of 'Biggles' books by W E Johns...'and, since I see the plaque on the wall in front of me, every time I drive home, downhill, from my daughter's house in Bengeo, I decided to take its picture for Clare.



*Copy of letter and the photo' sent to Clare as requested.
Editor.*

Amateur House Detective - Disaster Strikes! Clare Mc Cann!

You may or may not have noticed that there has been nothing from your 'amateur house detective', lately, this is because disaster has struck my computer. Firstly, the little chap in the photo' on the right, hopped unnoticed into our house during the summer and spent the night roosting under our hall table but before it left it deposited a large amount of 'poo' on my computer keyboard. Having paid an outrageous amount on a repair, my darling daughter spilt wine on it and finished it off! I am typing this on a borrowed machine but hope to resume my enquiries in the New Year.



Send and Ripley History Society –Do or die?

A personal plea by Clare McCann

This title may seem melodramatic but I am seriously concerned about the long-term viability of the Society if we, the membership, do not do something to reinvigorate it.

The founding members, many of whom are still involved have done much excellent research, published interesting books and organized the transformation of the old bank into the museum. Although we still have speakers and outings, the study groups covering buildings, documents, oral history etc. have all fallen by the wayside and most members are interested recipients of the excellent newsletter but are not actively engaged.

I do not see this as anybody's fault, but the Society seems to have split into two groups - a small group who have a lot of knowledge and expertise and the remainder. Most having an interest in local history, but some perhaps lacking the time; and others who may lack the confidence or knowledge in how to go about making a more positive contribution to the Society. What worries me is that if we do not bring the two groups together, then eventually the experienced group will retire, move or even die and the remainder will not have the know how to carry the Society forward.

I would like to see the study groups resurrected and for the senior members to guide others. I think a family history and document group might be popular and a local memories group and perhaps a buildings group, who could revisit some of the buildings that were visited in the early days. The committee could organize some training where appropriate but first we need some expression of interest.

If these groups do not interest you then there are many other ways to contribute. You could become a museum steward, even if it was only two or three times a year – this would help spread the load. The Society also urgently needs a publicity officer to publicise events, exhibitions etc and send in photos to the local press. We also need someone to type up a lot of local memories, which are currently only hand written. It would also be a great idea for those members, who currently lead walks round the two villages to tape their tours, these could be then transcribed and used to train new village guides.

The committee is keen to foster close ties with the local schools, develop loan boxes and extend the museum to allow for artifacts and photos to be kept at the museum and to allow for a proper study area, perhaps with internet access but there needs to be some certainty of the Society's future.

How about trying to recruit a new member for starters or at least bring a friend to the next meeting!

If you are interested in joining a group or contributing in some other way then please telephone or write to our Chairman Les Bowerman, (see page 1 for details).

Ripley in the 1880s

Extracts provided by Les Bowerman

Ripley Fair. This interesting assembly, which is generally graced by the appearance of numerous bicyclists, takes place next Thursday.

The Cyclist. July 21, 1880.

What sort of event was it, one wonders, when it took place on a Thursday.

Notes of the Week. The Ripley Road is fast becoming unrideable, owing to want of rain... There will be a special service at Ripley next Sunday, and a collection made in aid of the London Sunday Hospital Fund. The appeal will be made by the Rev. H A Bowles,* a former vicar of Ripley, and we trust that cyclists will muster up well, and show a better result as regards the collection that has yet been realized from the ordinary worshippers at Ripley Church.

The Cyclist. July 8th 1885

At least there was no problem with the road in 2003, with temperatures at their hottest ever. The difficulty in 1885 was presumably that the un-tarmacadamed surface just turned to dust. Les.

** The Rev. H A Bowles (1844-1878) was vicar of Ripley when the chancel was rebuilt and extended, between 1845 and 1869. He was succeeded by, the Rev. Henry Hooper, (the cyclists' vicar), in 1878 and was therefore vicar at the time of this appeal and had probably asked for the previous vicar's assistance? Editor.*

Forthcoming Events

All the meetings are at the Ripley Village Hall or the Village Hall Annex unless stated otherwise.

Wednesday 19th November 8pm – Ripley Village Hall Annex.

An illustrated talk entitled The Wey Navigation and other Surrey Waterways by Gordon Knowles.

Wednesday 17th December. 8pm – Ripley Village Hall Annex - Christmas Social.

Members and friends are invited to a seasonal buffet supper with Christina's excellent punch accompanied by entertainment by Mavis Stimson on the accordion; (Mavis is a member of The Thames Valley Accordion Club). Tickets are £2.00 available from Anne Bowerman or at the door.

If anyone is able to provide food for the finger buffet please contact Anne on 01483 224876. Prizes for the raffle would also be welcome, on this, or on any other of the society's evening meetings.

Wednesday 21st January 8pm – Ripley Village Hall Annex.

A talk by Brian Dupe entitled 'The Prince of Wales'.

Wednesday 18th February 8pm – Ripley Village Hall Annex.

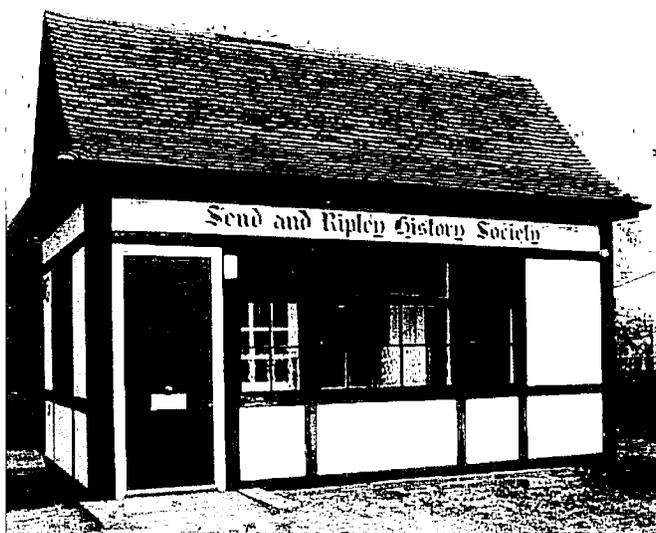
Annual General Meeting of the S&RHS, followed by a talk on local memories

Wednesday 12th March 8pm – Ripley Village Hall - Main Hall

A cine show in the main hall, entitled 'Dad's Picture Palace', by Terence Patrick of 'Circle Eight'. Come and try our choc' ices!

For further details of the above events, unless stated otherwise, contact Programme Secretary, Anne Bowerman. Tel: 01483 224876.

Journal Contributions: Closing date for the next edition is **Friday 26th December 2003**



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Contact Les Bowerman on 01483-224876 if
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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'	£4.95
'A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey'	£2.00
'Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey'	£2.95
'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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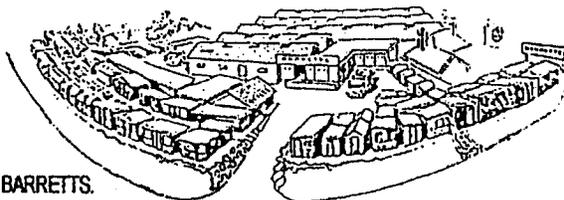


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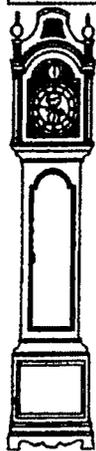


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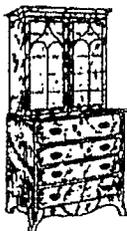
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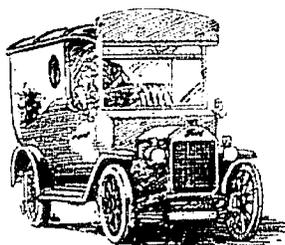
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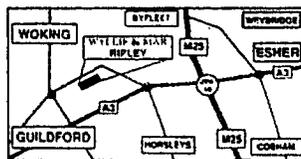
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