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WOKING MONASTERY, NEWARK PRIORY AND RIPLEY CHURCH

A review of Their Origins and Possible Relationships

The following are extracts from a letter written by Richard Colborne, formerly of Send, but now our most distant member, living at Manchester:

"When the origin of Newark Priory has been discussed in the Newsletter, the date of its foundation has been given as lying between 1171 and 1199 (Newsletter No 11) or 1171 and 1195 (NL 51). These dates appear rather imprecise, when compared with the date given in Surrey Archaeological Society Collections Volume 49 page 117 as 1189. This makes one wonder if the 1189 date is known to be erroneous, or whether it is just unknown to SRHS members.

"Somewhat less frequently discussed is the topic of 'Woking Priory'. Though one can find reference to it as in SAC 49 the site of the priory is not well established. The year that Woking Manor was granted by Richard I to Alan, Lord Basset, is an interesting one inasmuch as it also was 1189. Supposing that Alan, Lord Basset, was given the entire manor, including a priory on the banks of the Wey, and that with or without the complete approval of the canons, decided that the priory was ideally suited for conversion to a mansion, ie Woking Palace, half mile downstream from what is now Old Woking. The site is a typical 'Abbey' site. Chertsey, Westminster, Guildford, Bisham, etc have abbeys or priories on low-lying ground, next to a river. Notwithstanding the details given in Newsletter 51 regarding the Augustinian canons of Newark and their probable arrival directly from Dorchester on Thames, there would seem to be some question of them having removed from Woking. One might justifiably ask whether the canons of Newark were of the same order as those canons who had supposedly occupied the site in Woking; and if not, is there any precedent for a house of one order being dissolved and a new charter being given to another?"

We would reply as follows. Much of the talk about Woking Monastery (not "Priory"), including the suggestion that the canons at Newark were the Woking monks in a new home, comes from A R Locke's "Woking Past", which originally appeared in instalments in the "Woking News & Mail" in 1924. Although "Woking Past" is a good read, it has to be treated with caution, as authorities are not given and fact is not always distinguished from speculation, which is sometimes unfounded. On page 8, for instance, Locke writes "Mercian monks from Cuthbald's Abbey of Medchamstead (on the site of Peterborough) pushed across ... and probably not later than 680 AD founded a monastery at Woking." That date is speculation, but may be about right. He continues by talking about an appeal to Pope Constantine about 703 AD. That date is also, I anticipate, speculation. He mentions Constantine's bull in reply, but does not date it. Robin Chalkley, in Mayford History Society Newsletter No 36, writes about it in the following terms: "Woking's first documentary reference, dated 708 to 715 survives in a letter of Pope Constantine to Hedda, Abbot of Bermondsey and Woking, granting certain privileges to each monastery." (The Victoria County History, in Volume 2 at page 64, says that Bermondsey Abbey was founded in 1082, so presumably the monastery was an earlier establishment.) A Crosby, in "A History of Woking", at page 3, refers to the above document as written about 710 and says "The Monks of Medeshamstead had a small daughter-house at Woking, said to have been founded about 675 by Brordar, a nobleman. The letter is known only from a 12th century copy ..." He quotes as authority the VCH Volume 2 page 8, but that only mentions the taxation of Pope Nicholas in 1291.

Next, Locke writes "In 777 AD an ealdorman named Brordar" (presumably not the Brordar mentioned above) "... got Offa, King of Mercia, to free Woking Minster of all control by Bishop, Earl or King, and leave it under only St Peter and the Abbot of Medchamstead." Mr (now Dr) R A Christophers, in Mayford History Society Newsletter 37, calls the above "The Second Reference to Woking" and writes "By 779 ... the Mercians had gained control of Surrey and their King, Offa, made a grant to the monastery which is paraphrased in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle." He then quotes and follows with a detailed translation, concluding by saying "But all Offa's grants and reminders of judgement were in the end in vain, and when Medeshamstede fell to the Danes in 869 - or even before its fall - so ended the monastery of Woking."

H E Malden, in his chapter on ecclesiastical history in Volume 2 of the VCH, writes "Before the country was furnished with churches for every group of the population ... 'monasteria' or in English 'minsters' were the centres for the administration of the sacraments in districts larger than parishes ..." The word minster is of the same origin as the word monastery, but as Malden says, "This does not mean monasteries in the later restricted sense, for there is no reason to suppose that there were any monasteries in Surrey in 889 except Chertsey." He then mentions ealdorman Brordar desiring in 777 "to give a minster of his called Wocingas to the Abbey of Peterborough". We do not therefore have to look for a monastery site as such.

It is Locke who suggests that the monks lived "downstream from the village village ... near the present Old Hall". The writer's rudimentary knowledge of monasticism tells him that it is unlikely that the monastery buildings would be any distance from their church. It is accepted by all that the minster was St Peter's, or an earlier building there - doubtless there were residential and administrative buildings attached or nearby.

The Domesday Survey of 1086 merely mentions "a church", which tends to confirm Dr Christophers' statement about the end of the monastery.

To take the matter chronologically, the Augustinian, or Black, Canons were introduced to England and Wales about 1100 (Ordnance Survey Monastic Britain). They were at Merton very early (1115 per the VCH and 1092 to 1117 per Manning & Bray), their charter being 1121. Dorchester Abbey, which was also Augustinian, was, it is believed, founded in 1140. These were the two principal Augustinian establishments in the area.

Having established reasonably persuasively, it is hoped, that Woking Monastery was on and around the site of St Peter's Church, that it came to an end before the Domesday Survey, and that it was not Augustinian, we come on to consider the origins of Newark Priory, but we first have to look at Ripley Church, which predates the priory. The chancel with its fluted columns, apparently designed to take a stone-vaulted roof, and its internal string course of carved Caen stone, is of higher quality than any other ecclesiastical buildings in the area. By general acceptance this work is dated about 1160. It was certainly not built as a parish church - it has served in that capacity only since the formation of the separate ecclesiastical parish of Ripley in 1878, and as R N Bloxam, quoting Capt C M H Pearce, JP, FSA, noted in Surrey Archaeological Collections Volume 50, there was no mention of it until about 1199, it does not appear in the episcopal registers of Winchester, there is

no mention of it in pre-Reformation wills, or in any other document after 1199, until the Letters Patent of 1544, by which Henry VIII granted the priory possessions to Sir Anthony Browne. The "1199" reference is to the apparently undated charter of the time of Richard I (1189 to 1199), which is confirmed and quoted in a later charter dated 1320. The charter of confirmation is cited at length in Dugdale's Monasticon of 1651 to 1673. It is implied by the VCH that the original charter had disappeared before 1320 and that the later one is also unavailable. What the original grant by Ruald de Calna and Beatrice de Sandes, his wife, said is worth quoting, since it is the first mention of Ripley, Ripley Church as now is, and of the priory. The translated extract in the VCH reads as follows: "They gave to God and the blessed Virgin and the blessed martyr Thomas and to the canons there serving God, in free alms, the land called 'Hamma De Papworth', with all its appurtenances of woods, water, mills, fisheries, etc, half a hide of land at Ford, a little croft and a carucate of land adjoining it on the south, the church of Send with the chapel of Ripley, and the church of Shipton with the chapel of Snodington in Hampshire, to construct there in the place called Aldbury a church in honour of the blessed Virgin and the glorious martyr Thomas."

Aldbury is, of course, the earlier name for Newark. On the assumption that the passage quoted is an accurate reflection of the original Richard I document, it proves that Ripley Chapel (elsewhere translated as "Oratory") was standing in 1199, that there was a band of canons in the locality and that the priory was about to be built. The foundation could not have been before 1171, because that was the date when Thomas a Beckett was killed. The priory must have been founded by 1199 when Godfrey de Lucy, Bishop of Winchester, granted an annual pension of half a marc from the church of Wield in Hampshire to the church of St Mary & St Thomas the Martyr of Aldebyrie and the "canons there serving God". Three further questions arise. 1. Where were the canons serving God at the time of the original grant? 2. Where had they come from, and 3. Who built Ripley Chapel?

As to 1, the word "there" in the extract certainly seems to exclude any remaining possibility that the canons came from Woking. Taken literally in the extract, "there" seems to imply that they were serving within the "Hamma de Papworth", ie what we know as the sub-manor of Papercourt. The second use of the word "there" - "to construct there in the place called Aldbury" - may imply that Aldbury was in Papercourt and that the canons were already in temporary occupation at what later became Newark. As to 2, most writers infer that the name New Place/Newark (which it was later called) means that they came from an older place, but the extract quoted above gives no cause for thinking that. It could equally mean simply "newly built". But the canons, or at least John the Prior, must have come to Ripley from a pre-existing abbey or priory. The obvious candidates are Merton Priory and Dorchester upon Thames Abbey. Merton was one of the earliest Augustinian houses, dating from 1117 and, as recounted in the VCH, it was very influential by 1205 when one of the King's nuncios, who was a canon of Merton, went on the King's business from Portsmouth to Normandy. He at least must have passed through Ripley. Could others have come earlier and set up a wayside hospice near the minor crossroad from which there was direct access to the important Benedictine abbey at Chertsey? Our former President, Jim Oliver, whose opinion on such matters is always held in high regard, believed it more likely that the mother house was the Augustinian abbey at Dorchester upon Thames, the other large establishment of this order in this part of the country. That house was founded rather closer in time to Newark, viz in 1140. The present writer is regretfully not personally acquainted with Dorchester Abbey, but there would be direct access by river (the favoured means of transport of the monastic builders).

As to question 3 posed above, the logical answer, and that preferred by Captain Pearce, whose masterful account of his excavation of Newark Priory in 1928, and of its history and its founders, appears in Surrey Archaeological Collections Volume 40, is that it was originally the intention of the Augustinian canons to develop a roadside hospice here for the benefit of travellers, and that Ruald and Beatrice, the local landowners, were so impressed with both their good works and perhaps the quality of their building that they granted them the land for the priory, to which they then moved before completing their hospice. If the roadside hospice theory is correct, it is more likely that they originated at Merton. However, the quality of workmanship favours the Dorchester theory. Another pointer is that Beckett was educated at Merton and, indeed, was wont to wear their habit (SAC 38). The question is probably incapable of resolution. What can be said with certainty is that Locke is incorrect in deducing that the canons of Newark were the Woking "monks" in a new home. He purports to advance his argument by saying that the canons had the advowson of Woking and other appurtenances of the old Minster, implying that they took these with them. Manning & Bray, Volume 3, page 110, quotes Bishop Waynfilete as certifying in 1464 that Woking Church, etc, was not appropriated to Newark until 1262.

It remains only to say, in reply to Richard Colborne, that the date 1195 which he queries from Newsletter 51 should read 1199; and that, yes, we are aware of the 1189 date for the grant of land for Newark Priory mentioned in SAC 49 - the note there is by Mr T E C Walker, a respected local historian from Cobham, quoting Locke, who seems to have taken Richard I's year of accession for the undated charter made some time during his reign.

Les Bowerman

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APPLE TREES, AND OSTLER'S COTTAGES - ROSE LANE, RIPLEY

Mr and Mrs J Paul of Apple Trees, Rose Lane, kindly consented to a small party from the Buildings Group conducting a survey on their property (report on the building follows later).

The conclusion reached was that the house was built about the beginning of the 19th century. Only later, when examining the front of the building, was a brick discovered bearing the date "J 1810 C". So far, the identity of J C has not been discovered. Another interesting discovery was the name "Bessie Nicholls 30th July '81" scratched on one of the bedroom window panes. We have yet to find out who she was.

Mr Paul later showed us some deeds relating to the house, which went back to 1887. However, names mentioned in these deeds were valuable in tracing the property, through the Ripley & Send Court Rolls, back to 1621. Obviously the original house had been demolished and the present house built on the same site in about 1810.

In the Court Rolls in 1621 Ralph Withwell surrendered a tenement and garden with appurtenances in Ripley to Agnes Freeland. It belonged, by a series of surrenders, by 1687 to Susan Leggatt and had grown. It was now a messuage, a curtilage, a garden and an orchard. By 1766 the property (not just the house) had grown again. "Susan Leggatt, widow, who held a customary messuage, now divided into two tenements and also another tenement or cottage with a curtilage, garden and orchard thereto pertaining in the occupation of three people, has died."

By 1748 the property consisted of four tenements. In 1809 the properties were sold for £334 to Anne Kempster. One of these, which is today Apple Trees,

Apple Trees, she sold shortly afterwards for £50 to Francis Simmonds, cordwainer, and Thomas Simmonds, bricklayer. It consisted of a tenement, garden and orchard together with the use of a well, in common with the occupiers of the other three tenements which were adjoining. Francis and Thomas Simmonds were to pay a quarter part of mending "the said well . . . . bucket, kirb and rope as need shall require". Were they the builders of the present Apple Trees?

In 1836 Thomas Simmonds sold the property (ie the present Apple Trees) to Anne Elizabeth Harrison. It stayed in the Harrison family until 1887 when the property was sold to George Woodyer, plumber and glazier. In 1907 it was sold to Kate Gatley, when the house was known as "Devonia". In 1922 it was sold to Samuel Snoxall, a chemist in Guildford, and in 1941 to Mr J Paul, who still lives there.

In 1817 Anne Kempster sold the three remaining tenements to Anne Elizabeth Harrison, of Ripley Court, whose father, Robert Harrison, had them rebuilt as five cottages. These today are Ostler's Cottages, Nos 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16, Rose Lane. In the Guildford Muniment Room are the builder's accounts relating to that rebuilding, and receipted bills, dated 1818, paid by Robert Harrison, for "taking down the old cottages and building five new ones and for a well at Ripley". The bills totalled £460 6s 10d, which included a privy at the end of the garden, £2 14s 6d (only one)?, five woodhouses, ten grates and cupboards in each front room, etc, etc.

Bette Slatford

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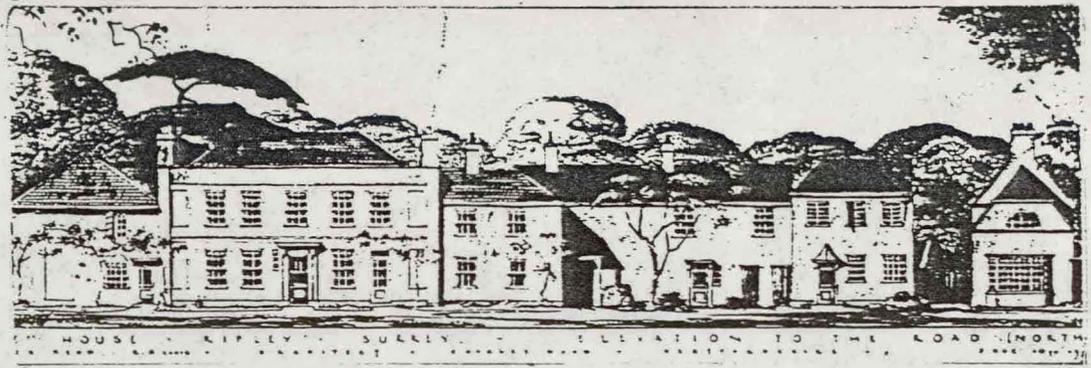
#### RIPLEY HOUSE AND SOME OF ITS OCCUPANTS

Ripley House lies on the South Side of Ripley High Street near the East or London end of the village. This report concerns the main house and follows on from the report in Newsletter 53 on Coachman's Cottage and Pear Tree Cottage, formerly the stable area.

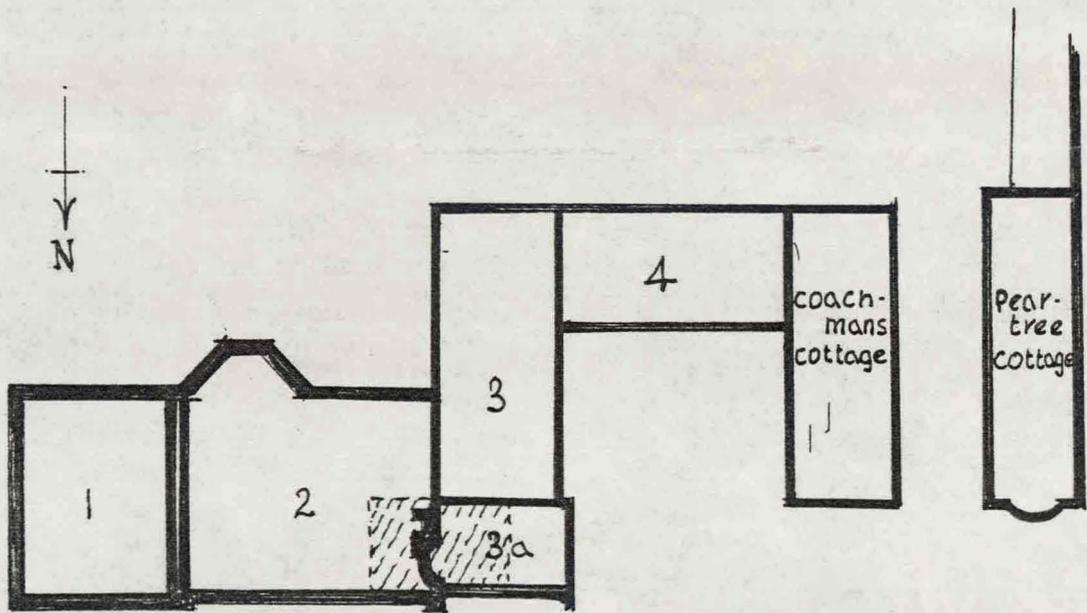
The Western end (3 and 4 on the diagram) probably formed the original house and seems to date from the late 18th century. It has mainly 13" brick walls and well constructed softwood roofs with tile covering, and no basement. However, from the discontinuity of the roof construction and variations in the thickness and alignment of the walls, and with the remnants of a gable end wall, now an internal wall, the house was obviously not all built at the same time. At least three stages of build can be identified. The Inclosure map of 1804 shows the plan complete for this area (3 and 4). It also shows some buildings attached to the North-East corner (hatched on the diagram), but the plan shape shown differs from that of the present wing.

The next stage of construction added principal rooms (2) with its basement cellars, its lofty rooms, its shuttered windows and its parapet roof. This may have incorporated the old structure in the hatched area and extended it to the South and East. The Tithe Survey of 1815 shows the new plan shape.

By 1845 Little Ripley House (1) had been constructed with wide projecting eaves and a slate roof, a style dating between 1820 and 1830. This extension was known as the Ballroom or Large Drawing Room and had a ceiling height of 18 feet, the present four bedroomed house being constructed in the shell of its walls and roof. Recent roof repairs revealed a gap of some three feet between the Ballroom (1) and the principal buildings (2), in which could be seen the previous East end wall with its projecting chimneys, and windows to each floor.



RIPLEY HOUSE - 1947



DIAGRAMMATIC PLAN  
OF RIPLEY HOUSE

The part identified as 3A is slate roofed with cut slate rolls to ridge and hip, similar to the Ballroom roof, but without the latter's eaves projections. This is not shown on the 1845 Tithe Map. This may have been constructed after 1845, or was omitted from revisions to the map made between the first survey in 1815 and the award in 1845. So it seems that Ripley House as we see it today was constructed from about 1780 to 1830, with new sections being added to the East with no overall plan, and according to the architectural whim of the day.

We have found no reference to Ripley House in the Court Rolls, which may indicate that it was freehold from an early stage. The first owner-occupier we can find mentioned is Macquay in the award to the Tithe Map in 1845. A great many of the inhabitants were short term "outsiders", such as Louisa Gurney, a barrister's wife who was living there in 1851, with six children, the governess and seven indoor servants. In 1861 the census gives the inhabitant as a widow, Hester Russell, with three children and five indoor servants. When it was sold the following year, 1862, by auction, at Garroway's Coffee House in London, the advertisement in The Times calls it a gentlemanly residence in a picturesque healthy residential locality. It was described as having nine bedrooms, a spacious and lofty drawing room, a servants' hall, a housekeeper's room, nurseries, three stall stable and a coachhouse.

A Mrs Piggot bought part of the property that adjoined on the North-East corner of the garden, and when she was enfranchised of the copyhold she had the buildings on it demolished. At her death in 1893 she left £200 for the "old and sick poor of Ripley parish".

The Honourable Mrs James Stuart Wortley, the next inhabitant, was also known for her charitable works. There is a window to her memory in Ripley Church. She had had a difficult life herself. Her husband, James, broke his back while riding in 1856, and finally had to give up the Speakership of the House of Commons and he became a permanent invalid. Jane must have chosen Ripley House to retire to in the 1890s, as her eldest daughter, Mary, was married to Ralph, the 2nd Earl of Lovelace. Her niece, Susan, the Countess of Wharncliffe, lived at Woodhill in Send. Her granddaughter, Lady Tweedsmuir, described Ripley House as "rambling" and says "It started with a large drawing room, ran through a hall, twisted up a staircase, and sped away down passages with endless little rooms opening out of them." She also describes Mrs Stuart Wortley in her old age. She wore a round cap with two streamers, which were fastened with a silver brooch to her chest, and either a black or a white shawl over a black satin dress. She could frequently be seen being pushed up Ripley High Street in a bath chair.

For a short period the next inhabitant of Ripley House was Captain Herbert Durrell Terry, the Chief of the Surrey Constabulary.

Several people in the village can remember the Misses Pirie, here from about 1905 to 1924. They have been described to us as darling maiden ladies dressed in black, often seen out with their parasols, or in their pony trap, taking bowls of dripping to the poor, or, as one of them was a governor of Ripley School, paying the teacher's salary at the end of the month. The Pories were in fact leaseholders, not owners of Ripley House, because in 1916 the property was vested in the Custodian for England & Wales under the Trading with the Enemy Act, from the Princess of Sayn Wittingenstein and the Countess of Konigsmarck. It was from the Public Custodian in 1926 that Guy Onslow, the Headmaster of Ripley Court School, bought the property.

Miss Rose Onslow has childhood memories of when it was still one house. There was a school and a housekeeper's room in No 3 and in No 4 the large kitchen and various small pantries and sculleries. The passage back through the house turned through what is now a boxroom and a bathroom.

It was the Second World War which brought about the greatest change. Ripley Court School was evacuated to Shrewsbury and so the Onslow family moved too. The house was let and used as a guesthouse until its sale in 1947. It was then divided into four houses, which closely relate to the original stages of construction, Nos 3 and 4 still with their old beams, No 2 losing some of the majesty of the entrance hall to incorporate the kitchen, and the moulded plasterwork of the ballroom ceiling being preserved in the bedrooms of No 1. The history of the house is the typical one of expansion and division over many years.

Many thanks to our neighbours in Ripley House for allowing us to look over their houses, answering questions and showing us documents.

J L & J Bartlett

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#### BUILDINGS GROUP VISIT TO SHERE

A very pleasant evening was spent by some thirty members of the Society on 18 July last when they were taken on a conducted tour of the pretty village of Shere, with the object of viewing the exterior of the old houses.

Mr Ron Puddick, a Shere historian, gave a most interesting account of the age and features of most of the houses listed in the booklet "Old Houses in the Parish of Shere", and for a small village there is a remarkably high percentage of ancient houses and buildings.

Upper Street contains as many as 13 houses, mainly 17th century, one of which, now called Anchor Cottage and Pilgrims Garth, was particularly admired. Timber-framed and built between 1600 and 1650, it was thought to have been the Old Anchor public house at one time. It was "Victorianised" around 1870 and was visited by Sir James Barrie in the 1890s.

Tudor Cottage, another timber-framed open-hall house, was thought to have been built around 1550, with a chimney inserted about the year 1620. This cottage is picturesque with its Tudor style still intact. It was interesting to hear that it was bought in 1745 by one William Bray. At a later date it was sold by a subsequent owner by way of exchange for a Rolls-Royce motor car.

An important find in one of the houses in Upper Street was a Tudor hat. Not recognised when first found owing to its dirty state, it was later preserved in a local museum.

The tour continued through Rectory Lane, over the ford and then into Lower Street where some seven or eight houses, again 17th century, are still in existence.

The evening concluded with a visit to a private museum contained in the lower floor of a house in Shere Lane, where such items as a Victorian water closet, bowler hats, samplers, old school and other photographs, farm implements and books, to name but a few, brought a touch of nostalgia to many of the party.

Jill Bromley

OUTING TO THE CHICHESTER AREA - SUNDAY, 8 JULY

This was an obvious choice following the outing last year to Stane Street from the vicinity of Chichester to Ockley. It also fell naturally into two parts - Chichester (town and cathedral) and Pagham Harbour (nature reserve, railway and Church Norton). Approximately thirty members attended the outing, which was blessed by a fine sunny day, like so many this summer.

Chichester, cathedral city and administrative centre of West Sussex, was a pre-Roman settlement of the Regni tribe. Probably used by the II Legion originally as a military base in close association with the harbour at Fishbourne during the conquest of Britain in AD 43, the Romans subsequently developed it as Noviomagus Regnensium ("New Market of the Regnenses"). After the departure of the Romans, it eventually fell into the hands of the Saxons, who renamed it Cissaceaster, or "Cissà's Castle".

There are relatively few remains of Chichester's Roman past, most having been either destroyed or built over. The most obvious legacy of its Roman origin, however, is the intersection of the two principal thoroughfares at right-angles at the town centre, so forming four main streets - North, South, East and West. (A paved section of Stane Street was found some four feet below the latter during excavations.) Chichester has, however, preserved an unusual number of its fine 18th century houses, both large and small.

Referring to Chichester in his "A Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain" of 1724/26, Daniel Defoe is not particularly complimentary. "... and yet I cannot say much for the city of Chichester, in which, if six or seven good families were removed, there would not be much conversation, except what is to be found among the canons and dignitaries of the cathedral." He expresses a grudging regard for the latter, which in his view "... is not the finest in England, but is far from being the most ordinary. The spire is a piece of excellent workmanship ..."

The tour of the town, starting from the Festival Theatre car park, followed initially the impressive old city wall, mainly mediaeval flint with Roman foundations, around the Eastern boundary of Priory Park. This is believed to have been the location of an early Norman castle built by Robert de Montgomery, but pulled down at the beginning of the 13th century - part of the motte remains visible. Priory Park contains the splendid Early English choir of the Grey Friars (Franciscan) church, dating from 1269 to 1282, with its fine five-lancet East window. The choir, now a museum, was used as an assize court in the 17th/18th centuries. William Blake, the great English mystic poet and artist, was tried here in 1804 on a charge of sedition for ejecting a soldier from his garden at nearby Felpham. The remains of the Priory Hospitium, where travellers received board and accommodation, are still visible.

From Northgate the tour moved South along North Street as far as Lion Street on the left. At this corner stand the arcaded Council Chambers/Assembly Rooms (1731-33), on the front wall of which is displayed the remains of a Roman inscription, found nearby, recording the erection of a temple dedicated to Neptune and Minerva, associated with the magnificent villa discovered at Fishbourne.

Lion Street leads to St Martin's Square, which contains a delightful group of houses, notably St Mary's Hospital, founded c 1158 for the sick, but since 1528 an almshouse for the aged. The Great Hall is particularly noteworthy: formerly an infirmary, but since 1680 divided into small dwellings, it has a magnificent timber roof reaching to within six feet of the floor. Unfortunately access is not available on Sundays.

Continuing South along North Street, and passing firstly the former church, now SPCK bookshop of St Olave (the 10th century Norwegian King and Christian martyr), with its early Norman features, and then Market House by Nash (1807), the tour reached the ornate, late Gothic Market Cross at the town centre. This is an octagonal building over fifty feet high, constructed in 1501 by Bishop Storey (1473-1503), surmounted by a later cupola (1724). Its original purpose was to provide shelter for the people from the surrounding countryside who wished to sell their produce in the town. Each of the octagonal sides bears a niche for statues; there are also four clock dials in stone frames, added in 1746, and a good bronze bust of Charles I. Continuing along South Street and turning left into The Pallant, this area is the palatinate or Archbishop's "Peculiar", a miniature city within the city. The Pallant contains some very fine 18th and 19th century buildings, particularly Pallant House (c 1712), known locally as "Dodo" House because of the pair of strange birds on the pillars of the gateway, intended to represent the ostriches on the coat of arms of the architect Pechham.

Returning via the Market Cross, the tour arrived at West Street and the cathedral. In accordance with Norman policy that cathedrals should be moved to large centres of population, the ancient see of Selsey (established in the 7th century) was transferred to Chichester in about 1072. The new cathedral was begun shortly after 1091 by Bishop Ralph de Luffa, and it was dedicated in 1108. The basic Norman or Romanesque was altered later in the 12th century et seq when the cathedral underwent internal Early English modifications, particularly significant following two major fires. The bell-tower, the only remaining example of a detached English cathedral belfry, cloister and graceful spire (277 feet), were all built soon after 1400. The spire collapsed in 1861, but was rebuilt immediately. In contrast, the North-West tower fell in 1635, but was not re-erected until 1901. In their book "The Buildings of England - Sussex", Nairn and Pevsner refer to the building as "a well worn, well loved, comfortable fireside chair of a cathedral".

Bob Gale

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The group proceeded to Selsey (Seal Island), stopping for an alfresco lunch at Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve near Sidlesham Ferry. A modern road now replaces the ferry, a further reminder that Selsey was once an island. In Saxon times it was the see of Wilfred (630-709 AD), who, having been driven from York, was made the first Bishop by Ethelwald, King of the South Saxons.

At the nature reserve the opportunity was taken to view the exhibition in the centre, which depicted the development of Pagham Harbour over the centuries. Of particular interest were the old photographs of the Hundred of Manhood and Selsey Tramway, which was built in 1897 and operated profitably between Chichester and Selsey until 1919. The inundation by the sea of the drained harbour in 1910 and competition from motor transport caused the decline of the tramway until it finally closed in 1935. The embankment for the railway forms a "natural" high level pathway along the Southern edge of the harbour, and is a favourite walk for visitors, part of which was explored by the group.

The final visit of the day took the party down a winding lane crowded with cars belonging to visitors to the beach. Parking looked impossible, but the attendant kindly arranged with the owners of Norton Priory for our vehicles to be parked within the priory gateway. We later learned that the priory was on the site of a monastery which was established by Bishop Wilfred. The object of the visit was the little church nearby known as Church Norton. This was once the parish church of Selsey, which stood in the North of the town (Norton). In the mid 19th century the church was removed to the Selsey

village of Sutton, or South Town, to be nearer the centre of a growing community. The 12th century chancel was left and converted into a chapel dedicated to St Wilfred. The subsequent exploration of this isolated church and its interesting monuments, and the enjoyment of the view with the cathedral spire in the distance concluded a memorable day.

Ken Bourne

Editorial Note. The thanks of the Society are due to Ken Bourne and Bob Gale for the care, time and research which they spent arranging this excursion.

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#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Les,

#### Manorial Place Names

My historical research into the manors of Dedswell and Papworth (also known as Papercourt) is proceeding apace. I am writing to you to see whether any members of the Society have deeds to their properties mentioning either of these manors.

I should of course be delighted to hear on Guildford 225435 from anyone with any manorial information, especially field names. In particular I am trying to find the whereabouts of "Millditch" on Send Heath (messuage and land) and "Milland" (two acres and one half tenement) in Send - both in the Manor of Dedswell & "Birdvilles", alias "Birdfields", which are several fields in Papworth Manor, near to Send Marsh.

Yours sincerely,

John Molyneux-Child.

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#### APPLE TREES, ROSE LANE, RIPLEY - BUILDINGS GROUP REPORT

The present building on this site is basically in two parts. At the front is a four-roomed double-fronted house, of brick construction, with a tiled roof hipped at both ends. To the rear is an extension (also four rooms), built in brick and tile-hung. The roof of this part is also tiled, but is gabled at both ends. There is in addition a modern lean-to extension at the righthand end of the house when viewed from the front.

This survey was primarily concerned with the front (and older) part, which was the original house.

The front originally had four casement windows and a central front door. One of the ground floor windows has been replaced with a projecting bay window and the doorway has been bricked up and transferred to the lean-to extension. The three remaining casements, two on the upper floor and one on the ground floor, are unchanged and have their original catches and stays. These features, together with the brick size, the dentilation course at eaves level and the curved brick lintels, suggested construction during the early part of the 19th century.

Examination of the interior was mainly confined to the roof space. This was found to be unchanged from the original and built almost entirely with reused timber. Most of this is hardwood and heavily charred (not smoke blackened), suggesting a rebuild of a house on this site damaged by fire. Although from

the documentary history it is known that a house has existed here at least since 1620, no evidence has so far been discovered referring to a rebuild or to a fire.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of this roof is the high quality of the carpentry. It was surely no mean task, considering the state of the timber beforehand.

The design of the roof is simple yet effective. Ridge boards rise from each of the hip corners to join a central ridge board running along the apex. At the joints triangular stiffeners are used to connect with the adjacent rafters. The roof is divided into three equal bays by two substantial tie beams, each with two slightly curved struts supporting the side purlins. The side purlins, in fact, extend around all four sides of this roof.

Considering the external evidence, together with the observations on the roof, the conclusion was reached that this was a small house of quality of the early 19th century. It was only after the discussion which led to this that the discovery was made of the date brick, 1810, high up on the front wall. Yet to be established is what happened to the previous house on the site.

John Slatford

NB. Further to my wife's report (pages 5 and 6 of this issue) on the documentary history of the house, it has been established that Bessie Nicholls, whose name is scratched on an upstairs window, was almost certainly Elizabeth Punter, who married Francis Nicholls at West Horsley in 1813. Further research may reveal how she came to be in this house.

J M S

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"RIPLEY AND SEND THEN AND NOW"  
"THE CHANGING SCENE OF SURREY VILLAGE LIFE"

Pre- Publication Offer

Good progress has been made with the preparation of the collection of photographic material for publication later this year under the above title. Most of the material has, in fact, already been delivered to the printer, so we are reasonably confident that the book should be available by the beginning of November at the latest.

There has been an encouraging response to the pre-publication offer attached to the last Newsletter (No 57). We would like to give members so far undecided a further opportunity to consider taking up this offer, which will close as soon as the book has been published. The book is being offered, prior to publication, at £3.50 per copy, compared with the anticipated retail price of £4.95. Please send your remittance and order (cheques should be made payable to Send & Ripley History Society) to Ken Bourne, Heath Farm, Tannery Lane, Send, or to a member of the Committee.

It is proposed that the book be formally launched at a function to take place at 3.30 pm on Saturday, 3 November, at a suitable venue midway between the two villages, ie Send Manor House, Send Marsh Green, Ripley. An eminent person will be invited to perform the ceremony, which will be followed by refreshments appropriate to the occasion and, for those interested, a short tour of the house. Why not collect your copy of the book then.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mrs J Styles, 125 Rydens Way, Old Woking.  
Mrs D Pullen, 25 Send Road, Send.  
The Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, Chapel Farm, Ripley.  
Mrs C McCann, 2 Wentworth Close, Ripley.

Total membership stands at 95 double and 91 single subscriptions.

Proposed Local History Museum

When the Society was formed practically ten years ago, one of the ultimate aims was stated to be the provision of a history room and village museum. Since that time the Society has been given a number of artefacts suitable for such a museum and pressure has been growing to give practical effect to the idea. If any member has an idea for a suitable venue for a local museum, I as Secretary would be pleased to hear so that investigations could be started.

Send Church Restoration Fund

A major fund-raising effort is under way to raise money for the restoration of the fabric of the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, Send. The Society has made a token donation to this fund, which will help safeguard the future of the oldest building in Send, and the attention of members is drawn to it in the hope that they will be able to make their own individual contributions in some shape or form.

Surrey Local History Symposium

The symposium will take place this year at Surrey University, which will, of course, be much more convenient for members. The theme is "Surrey Churches" and it is proposed that, as usual, the Society will mount an exhibition. Members who have attended previous symposiums will know that this is a very interesting day out, looking at the exhibitions of other Societies in the county, looking at book stalls, and listening to the talks which will be given. Details of time and entrance charges are not yet to hand, but will be announced at the Society's meetings in the near future. In the meantime, anybody interested in attending should give their name to me.

NB. Since writing the above, I am now able to report that members can obtain tickets at the reduced price of £1.50, provided they pay me by the end of October.

Christmas Social

The social this year will be held in Ripley Village Hall on Friday, December 14, at 8 pm. Tickets, at £2.50 to include refreshments, will be available from Mid November from Ken Bourne (Guildford 223028). This is a popular event, so please purchase tickets well in advance to help the caterers maintain their usual high standard.

Anyone wishing to donate raffle prizes please contact John Slatford at Guildford 222107.

The theme this year is to follow our "Then and Now" publication, "The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life", which should be available in November. Members and guests are invited to dress in any attire typical of the last 100 years to the present day. Some ideas may be seen in this book, so please be sure you have a copy. A prize will be given for the best "Then" apparel.

Les Bowerman

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Little
- Monday, 1 October ... Folk Memories Group meeting at 8 pm at Ripley House.
- Monday, 8 October ... Documentary Group meeting at 8 pm at the Manor House, Send Marsh Green. This will be the first formal meeting of the Group. Anybody interested in studying and copying documents and pursuing written history, whether of families, buildings, incidents or whatever, is welcome to attend.
- Tuesday, 16 October ... Open meeting at Ripley Village Hall, when Mr J Dendy Evershed will give a talk on family history, with particular reference to the Evershed family.
- Thursday, 1 November ... Committee Meeting at Heath Farm, Tannery Lane, Send, at 8 pm.
- Saturday, 3 November ... Launch of the book of the "Then and Now" photographs (see separate paragraph on previous page), at 3.30 pm, at Send Manor House.
- Saturday, 10 November ... Surrey Local History Council Symposium at Surrey University. See paragraph on previous page.
- Tuesday, 20 November ... Open meeting at 8 pm at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, when Mr Frank Lewin will speak about the usage of the inside of some local church towers.
- Friday, 14 December ... Christmas Social in Ripley Village Hall, as to which please see separate report above.

Closing Date

The last day for the receipt of material for the next issue of the Newsletter will be Monday, 5 November.

Buildings Group Meetings.

Buildings Group Meetings have been arranged as follows:

~~Sun~~  
~~Sunday~~ 13th October.....Conducted tour of the Manor House, High St., Old Woking. Only one dozen members of the group can be accommodated. Any one wishing to attend, please contact Les Bowerman who will give further details

Thursday 25th October...Evening meeting at 15 Kevan Drive, Send.

Wednesday 28th November..Evening meeting at Little Ripley House, High St., Ripley.