

No. 285
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Send & Ripley History Society

WINNER OF THE 2021 BALH AWARD FOR BEST LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL



A TUDOR GENTLEMAN:
SIR WILLIAM MORE
OF LOSELEY

Page

3

THE LONG REACH
MESSERSCHMITT
- PART ONE

Page

8

NEWARK
PRIORY

Page

22

GRAFFITI IN ALL
SAINTS' CHURCH,
OCKHAM

Page

26

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CONTACTS

Send & Ripley
History Society
Established 1975 as
Send History Society
Registered Charity
No. 1174161

President: John Slatford
St George's Farmhouse,
High Street, Ripley,
Woking GU23 6AF
T: 01483 222107
E: jmslatford@gmail.com

Chairman: Cameron Brown
Church Farm House,
Wisley GU23 6QL
T: 07811 276386
E: cmb@aappl.com

Hon. Secretary: Jenny Jackson
The Haven

Polesden Lane
Ripley GU23 6DX
T: 01483 222 980
E: jmj@jennyjackson.co.uk
Treasurer and Membership
Secretary: Christina Sheard
Old Manor Cottage,
Send Marsh Green, Ripley,
Woking GU23 6JP
T: 01483 224600
E: christina.sheard@btinternet.com

Journal Editor:
Cameron Brown
T: 07811 276386
E: cmb@aappl.com

Art director and copy editor:
Ditz Brown

Journal Distribution:
Christina Sheard
E: christina.sheard@btinternet.com

Archaeology Specialist:
Andrew Jones
106 Georgelands, Ripley,
GU23 6DQ
T: 01483 479647
E: andrew738jones@bt.com

Web site management:
Chris Brown
Web site: www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk

Advertising:
Angie Richardson
T: 07792 198363
E: angie77@live.co.uk

Museum Curator:
Clare McCann
T: 01483 228546
E: cricketshill@hotmail.com

Museum Archivist:
Phil Davie
T: 01483 223955
E: phil.davie@jpsd.plus.com

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CONTENTS | No. 285

Editorial <i>Cameron Brown</i>	2
A Tudor Gentleman: Sir William More of Loseley <i>Mike Page</i>	3
Visit to Loseley House <i>Cameron Brown</i>	6
The Long Reach Messerschmitt - Part 1 <i>Alan Cooper</i>	8
40 Years Ago <i>Cameron Brown</i>	12
A Village Study of Ripley, Surrey, by Maralyn Wong - Part 3 <i>Alan Cooper</i>	14
Mary Butler <i>Mark Coxhead</i>	19
The Platinum Jubilee <i>Cameron Brown</i>	20
Newark Priory <i>Christine Vigurs</i>	22
Graffiti in All Saints' Church, Ockham <i>Gillian Lachelin</i>	26
Where Is It? / What Is It? <i>Alan Cooper</i>	29
Museum News and Forthcoming Events <i>Clare McCann</i>	30
SRHS Publications List	31

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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

Covid has finally caught up with us in the depths of Wisley. At the timing of writing Ditz and I have both been positive for a week and are feeling grateful that all those jabs seem to have done their job and controlled the worst of the symptoms. The experience has been similar to the early days of lockdown, staying at home other than for exercise, and feeling under no pressure at all to go out and 'do things'. Taking exercise has been somewhat hampered by temperatures in the high thirties, with Wisley once again registering the high temperature in the country but we are conscious of how lucky we are to live in this rural setting with plenty of open space around us. Sadly we have been reminded that this will not last much longer as work on the new junction of the M25/A3 starts soon, and one of the first changes will be the massive new bridge to take vehicles to and from Wisley Lane via Elm Corner and the Ockham roundabout. That delightful, narrow, tree-lined lane welcoming visitors as they leave the A3 for the RHS or the village will be lost forever.

For the Queen's Jubilee celebrations we asked members to let us have their photos for the record and show a small selection in this Journal. Now that the festivities are over the current national event occupying our attention is the selection of a new prime minister to replace Boris

Johnson. Whichever lucky candidate achieves this honour will have the very daunting task of bringing double-digit inflation under control and avoiding a summer of strikes across the country (a scenario which must take many of us back to the 1970s and the three-day-week).

Life for the Society, however, continues as before. We had two very enjoyable (and popular) outings, visiting Loseley House and the Hogs Back Brewery. The annual barbeque takes place soon and Clare McCann has also managed to put together another fascinating exhibition at the museum, this time on the topic of the Georgians in Send and Ripley and the surrounding area (see p30). Please pay a visit and let us know what you think.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th August 2022.

Authors of illustrated articles should submit high resolution (300 DPI or higher) jpgs to the editor by email to ensure best reproduction in the journal, but no more than 20MB in any one email

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A TUDOR GENTLEMAN: SIR WILLIAM MORE OF LOSELEY

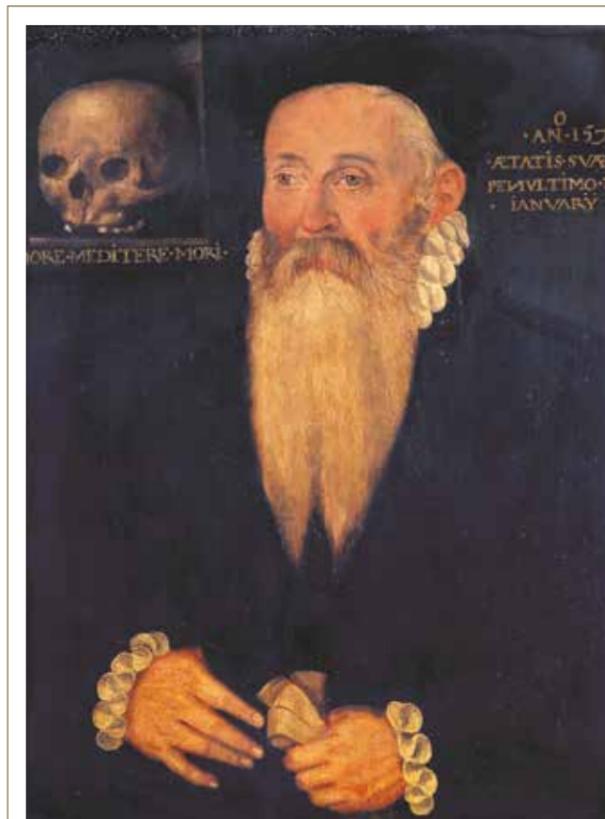
MIKE PAGE

Cameron Brown writes: On April 13th this year Mike Page, Surrey Archivist, gave us a talk on Sir William More, incorporating material from the extensive family papers originally in Loseley House but now held at the Surrey History Centre.

Undoubtedly, the finest family collection in Surrey History Centre is the archives of the More-Molyneux family of Loseley House, near Guildford. The records go all the way back to the 13th century, but the More family only settled in Surrey in the 16th century and the family reached its highpoint in terms of wealth and influence in the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I, under Sir William More and his son Sir George More. When William was born in 1520 Henry VIII was still a staunch Catholic and happily married to wife number one, the Spanish Catherine of Aragon. When William died in 1600 he was the subject of an excommunicated Protestant Queen, at war with Spain.

William More was the son of Sir Christopher More. Christopher followed a typical route to wealth and success in the Tudor age (indeed perhaps any age): he was a lawyer and civil servant. As a clerk in the Exchequer by 1505 he purchased the office of ulnager (an official acting on behalf of the monarch whose job it was to affix a leaden seal to a cloth, which confirmed its measurements and value) of Surrey and Sussex. He also had lots of important legal clients and invested all the fees he received in turning himself into a country gentleman by purchasing the manor of Loseley shortly afterwards. At his death in 1549 Christopher Moore was a respected and powerful member of the county community and his position was inherited and developed by his son William.

He became a godsend to Queen Elizabeth and her government, was impeccably Protestant, very hard working and greatly respected by his neighbours, colleagues and superiors, serving the Elizabethan state loyally for 40 years. It's clear that Queen Elizabeth viewed him with great warmth. On what was probably the proudest day of his life, 14th May 1576, in the garden of Pyrford Court, the house of John Wolley, the Queen's Latin secretary, More was knighted.



Sir William shortly after he was knighted (courtesy Loseley archives)



Loseley House in 2022. Built by William More in the 1560s, not much has changed © Ditz

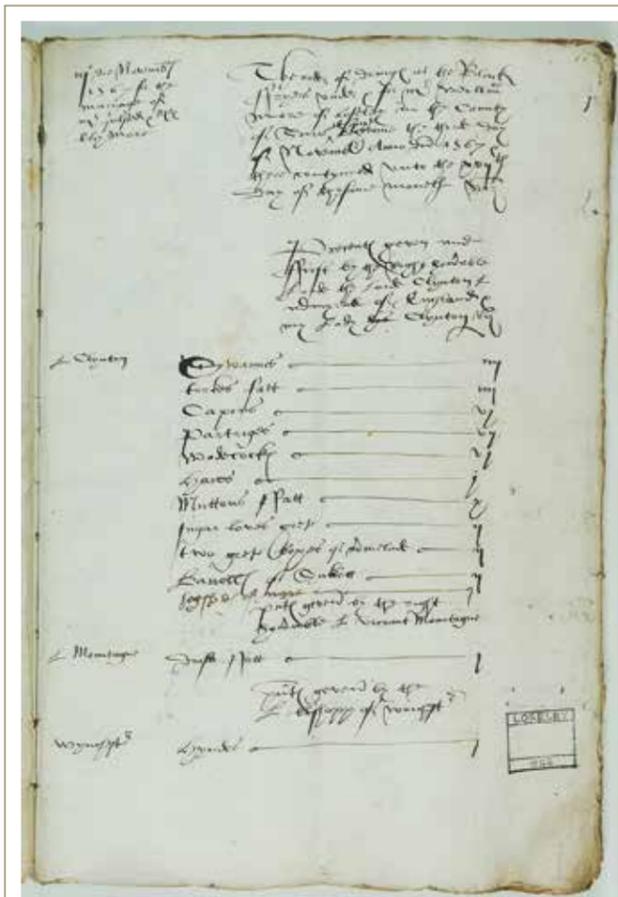
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The first page of the list of wedding gifts at the marriage of More's daughter Elizabeth to Richard Polsted in 1567 (courtesy Loseley archives)

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, provided vast quantities of waterfowl including cranes, herons, curlews, teals, mallards, plovers, swans, larks, 16 bitterns, knot, stints and godwits.

Tudor local government relied on the unpaid service of men of wealth and repute and More's personal qualities and public spirit meant that his name was among the first to be added to the commissions by which Surrey was governed, defended and taxed. Unlike many, More took his duties seriously and he could often be found acting simultaneously as a magistrate, a policeman, an estate manager, a park keeper, a recruiting officer and a taxman.

Perhaps the heaviest duties were those associated with the office of justice of the peace, which More held from 1559 until his death 40 years later. As a justice he had to interrogate and try miscreants, issue alehouse licences, regulate the administration of the poor law, try to control prices and ensure grain reached the market in times of shortage. Some days he might find himself investigating potential threats to national security. On another he can be found wondering what to do about a complaint from 'certain poor women of Chobham' against Sybil Whiting. Sybil is accused of calling Joan Morer an old bawd, of rubbing cow dung in Alice Burchet's face and of threatening random acts of violence on other neighbours.

Surrey and the other home counties were particularly exposed to the demands of the court and government because of the number of royal palaces, parks and forests that littered the region and which had to be protected and supplied. Surrey had to provide food for the royal household at a price set by the Queen's officers and could be compelled to carry supplies to wherever she was staying, such as her father's fancy new hunting lodge at Nonsuch. Proximity to London also meant that the Queen looked on the houses of her subjects in the home counties as a ready source of free lodgings for herself and her entourage. Of course, this was a great honour but it came at a price and Elizabeth was scarcely reliable, sometimes cancelling at the last minute - no joke if you had spent weeks making preparations to entertain a few hundred courtiers.

Dutiful subject though he was, More also viewed a royal visit with some ambivalence but nice, new, up to date Loseley was always likely to attract the Queen's beady eye. In 1567, when Loseley still had the builders in, Anthony Wingfield wrote to More with the depressing news that though he, Wingfield, had told the Lord Chamberlain that Loseley's rooms were too few, small and unsuitable, the Queen had suddenly decided to

visit. Wingfield suggests that More's only hope of escape is to come to court in person to try and persuade the Queen's favourite, Lord Leicester, that a visit is out of the question. It seems to have worked as we think the Queen used Guildford Manor on that occasion.

Some 15 years later in 1583 a slightly menacing letter from Sir Christopher Hatton hints that More might have been capable of a little dissembling on occasions: Hatton writes that the Queen intends to visit Loseley in 10 or 12 days time and will stay 4-5 days. More should ensure the house is 'sweet and clean'. He goes on to say that the Queen is the more determined to visit this year because the previous year she had been led to believe that Loseley had been visited by the plague, which turns out to have been a false rumour (who knows who started it?). This time we know there was no escape and the royal visit took place at the end of August.

The second half of the sixteenth century was marked by bitter religious conflict, both between Protestants and Catholics and between Protestants of differing shades of opinion. The bewildering shifts in government policy which left many people confused and distressed are very evident in the family papers.

In 1553 the government of Edward VI ordered the sale of plate, ornaments and vestments belonging to parish churches throughout the land. The motive was partly religious in that such goods were tainted by Catholicism and had no part to play in the austere worship prescribed by the new service book. However, it is clear too that the government saw it as a way of raising some easy cash. Churches were only allowed to retain a chalice for serving communion wine and a cloth for the communion table; otherwise all plate and money was to be delivered to the Jewel House at Westminster, vestments sold and the money also sent to the Jewel House. Only surplus linen could be distributed among the poor.

More was one of those responsible for carrying out the order in Surrey. Among the Loseley manuscripts are inventories for all the parishes in Surrey listing their plate, vestments and other ornaments, prior to seizure.

In 1558 after a reign of only five years, the Catholic Queen Mary died, her desire to reintroduce Catholicism incomplete, and Elizabeth's succession saw the reformed faith decisively re-established.

Many people felt that England's reformation did not go nearly far enough and there was clearly confusion over what religious practices were now acceptable. For example, plenty of zealous Protestants considered 'Lent and fish

days' were suspiciously Catholic and should be abandoned. However, the Privy Council was determined to keep them going, but for rather worldly reasons. The Council's orders of 1578 said that the decline in fish eating was having an adverse effect on the fishing industry and this in turn was damaging England's naval defences. Justices of the peace were urged to set good examples in their own houses by eating fish during Lent and on Fridays and were also commanded to take bonds from butchers and innkeepers to ensure meat was not killed or consumed in Lent. The Council tried to reassure worried Protestants that these measures were for 'the benefit of the Commonwealth, without any intention of superstition'.

More, as a muster commissioner, was constantly receiving letters from noblemen and others asking that their servants and clients be spared from serving in the armed forces because they were needed elsewhere or were too old. The Privy Council frequently complained that the men selected were badly trained, their equipment rusty and useless, that the muster rolls were incomplete and that men who had died had not been replaced. There was a national shortage of gunpowder which forced Sir Francis Walsingham to issue 'An order for the ready and easy training of shot and the avoidance of great expense and waste of powder', intended to show how the trained bands could be taught to fire their weapons, without actually doing so. England had had little recent experience of fighting major wars and Queen Elizabeth was always concerned to keep costs down: in 1573 she ordered her soldiers besieging Edinburgh Castle to recycle cannon balls by creeping up to the defences to retrieve those they had already fired.

Other problems were harder to anticipate. In December 1579, Walsingham wrote to More thanking him for his letter concerning the igniting of warning beacons by mistake. Walsingham says that this was due to hunters trying to smoke out a badger's sett on Portsmouth Down and tells More that the forces sent to the coast have now been sent home. One can only hope for their sakes that the hunters, having inadvertently sent thousands of soldiers marching towards a non-existent invading army, kept their heads down for a bit.

Much more could be said about More and a further paper could easily be written on More's son Sir George More who served as Lieutenant of the Tower of London, treasurer to the doomed Henry Prince of Wales and chancellor of the Order of the Garter as well as being a stalwart member of Parliament. It was George who erected a fine tomb for his father and mother in the family chapel in St Nicholas' church in Guildford.

VISIT TO LOSELEY HOUSE

CAMERON BROWN



Pat Clack in the front and Cameron Brown, Pat's daughter Valerie, Helena and Chris Finden-Browne behind her in the rose garden © Ditz

It was, appropriately, just a month after Mike Page's talk that we enjoyed a visit to Loseley House and its 2.5 acres of magnificent gardens, designed by Gertrude Jekyll as a series of connected 'rooms' on different themes – such as the rose garden, with over 1000 plants, an orchard, the organic vegetable garden and the herb garden.

Some 470 years after its construction the house is still owned and lived in by the More-Molyneux family. The current owner is Michael More-Molyneux (Lord Lieutenant of Surrey since 2015) and his family. It was built between 1562 and 1568 with stone brought from the ruins of the Cistercian Waverley Abbey. The house, built by William More, replaced a smaller one which Elizabeth I had declared was not 'adequate' for her to visit, asking

that something larger be built. Much of our visit was spent in the Great Hall, which contains panelling from Henry VIII's Nonsuch palace, carvings by Grinling Gibbons and a wealth of family portraits. Next to this is the drawing room with an impressive, partly gilded ceiling created for a visit by James I and an intriguing large chalk fireplace designed by Hans Holbein. We were also able to visit some of the surprisingly modest-sized bedrooms, including one where, perhaps inevitably, Queen Elizabeth slept (because, although small, it had the best view). Everywhere there were items of art, furniture and everyday objects collected by generations of the family.

The afternoon was rounded off by a cream tea in the white garden.



The great hall (photo public domain)



The drawing room (photo public domain)



Plan of the manor of Loseley, 1680 (courtesy Loseley archives)

DITZ ADDS:

Our visit was beautifully timed as we could admire what I'd just read about in the May edition of *The Garden*:

Heaving with flowers in May, the wisteria growing along the western edge of the Walled Garden is reputed to be more than 200 years old. "Its condition is exceptional" says owner Sophia More-Molyneux. "It runs the length of a 3m (10ft) high, 35m (115 ft) long historic wall and its trunk is so thick, my grandfather-in-law, 'The General', used to sit in it as a child 100 years ago."



The herb garden © Ditz

THE LONG REACH MESSERSCHMITT – PART ONE

ALAN COOPER

On 4th September 1940 a German aircraft was brought down at Long Reach, on the borders of Ockham and West Horsley, an action witnessed by many. To mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, Send & Ripley History Society began compiling memories from local residents which culminated in the publication of our book *Memories of War*. The passage of time was unkind and clouded the recollections of many, resulting in no two accounts of this particular event tallying exactly.

Rita Avery remembered: "... a German plane came down in Ockham and I cycled over to see the wreck. The Canadians, who were based over there, took the pilot to Dr Creet and then I think he was taken to Woking police station. He may have ended up in Merrow, where there was a prisoner of war camp..."

Gerald Chandler stated: "... a Heinkel was shot down and crashed at Long Reach, Ockham..."

Lillian Powell (née Hatcher), Gerald's wife's sister, recalled seeing the pilot "... swinging down on his parachute... brought to Dr Creet in Ripley ... not sure what happened to him but rumour had it that he died before reaching Guildford Hospital (St.Luke's)..."

Margaret (Peggy) Methold (née Parrott) said her father (Police Constable 197 Herbert Parrott and stationed at Ripley) "... had to collect a German airman, shot down in Ockham, and bring him to Dr Creet's for treatment. The airman had been shot through the foot and his boot was passed round the locals to make a collection for the war effort..."



Messerschmitt Bf 110 in flight

John Hutson, whilst carrying out his duties at the school air raid shelter witnessed the German pilot brought to the village despite hearing a rumour that the Canadian soldiers "... saw to it that the pilot did not survive..."

Fred Dixon had organized a fete in his garden for the school air-raid shelter fund and said that "... planes appeared overhead and we realised they were the enemy when the anti-aircraft guns opened fire. One was brought down in Ockham and the wounded pilot was captured and brought to the doctor's surgery opposite the school for treatment..." [1]

Audrey Hunt (née Bashall) when interviewed last year remembered watching a dogfight overhead with the enemy planes being attacked "... by our boys. My brother later told me they were Hurricanes, but I thought Spitfires..." [2]

What follows does not profess to cover every single aspect of the whole day's combat. For this and other related in-depth studies please read the publications of Red Kite (www.wingleader.co.uk). This is the account

of what actually happened to the particular Luftwaffe crew who, on 4th September, 1940, crashed locally, their comrades who crashed nearby, and their RAF counterparts.

The Battle of Britain was about to enter its ninth week and heavily outnumbered Spitfire and Hurricane pilots took to the skies over southern England to attempt the seemingly impossible and fend off the waves of Herman Goering's Luftwaffe, hell-bent on destroying all in their path. If Germany was to successfully invade the UK it was going to have to annihilate the RAF, and this was proving difficult. The bombing of airfields appeared to be largely ineffective and so, from 4th September 1940, aircraft factories were targeted. At Brooklands, Weybridge, Vickers was producing Wellington bombers and Hawker Hurricane fighters. Although the factories had been camouflaged and the famous race track hidden by netting, the railway line and its triangular junction made it impossible to disguise from the air.

The 4th of September began fine and warm in the south, cloudless with low haze presenting the Observer Corps with an opportunity to accurately report the incoming waves of enemy aircraft. [3] [4] This proved to be of no help to the workers at Brooklands as the Observer Corps was overwhelmed with sightings and omitted to tell Brooklands about the incoming attack, resulting in a devastating raid on the Vickers factory which caused severe damage to some production facilities. A machine shop was destroyed and estimates suggested it would be two months before production would be back to normal. Accounts regarding the number of casualties varied dramatically at the time. It is now generally recognized that 83 were killed and 419 injured, comprised of: 75 men and eight women killed,



Messerschmitt Bf 110 preparing for take-off. Note the popular 'nose art' shark-mouth

169 men and seven women seriously injured, 204 men and 39 women slightly injured. [3] [4] [5]

THE LUFTWAFFE COMBATANTS

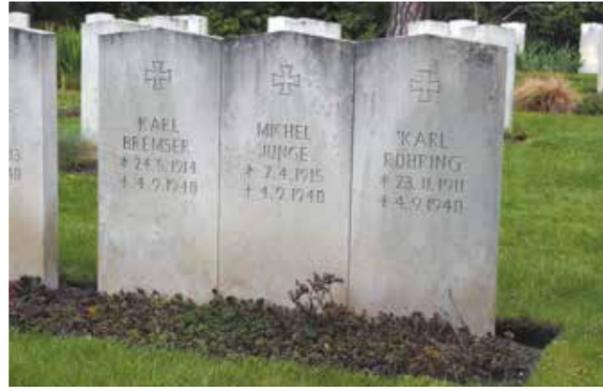
On 4th September 1940, V/(Z)LG1, (the reference number of a Luftwaffe group, consisting of several squadrons) based at Ligescourt in the French region of Picardie, prepared for yet another mission. They flew the Messerschmitt Bf 110, a twin-engine heavy fighter / light bomber. It was an extremely versatile aircraft, capable of and used in almost every conceivable role and had a crew of two, comprising a pilot and a radio operator who also doubled up as a rear-facing gunner. [6]

However, it was slow and easily picked off by its enemy's fighters. Indeed, V/(Z)LG1, like all the *Zerstörergruppe* (destroyer-group) units suffered such devastating losses during the Battle of Britain (85% for the period 1st January 1940 – 30th September 1940) it was disbanded and the handful of survivors absorbed into the newly formed night-fighter unit I./Nachtjagdgeschwader 3. Unlike the RAF, who 'rested' veterans or transferred them to other duties such as training, these men flew continuously throughout the war until killed, captured or wounded so badly as to make further flying impossible. As such very few lived to tell the tale.

L1+BK (a Messerschmitt Bf 110 with the markings L1+BK belonged to K squadron; the aircraft's unique identification letter was B; L1 was the group comprising several squadrons) was flown that day by *Feldwebel* (Flight sergeant) Karl Röhring with radio operator, *Unteroffizier* (Corporal) Joachim Jackel; flying L1+FK were *Oberleutnant* (Wing Commander) Michel Junge and *Unteroffizier* Karl Bremser for what was to be their final mission. One would survive, the others would perish. [7]

The attack on Brooklands was the third of three combats to take place over South-East England that day and timed at 12:30 – 14:00 hours. The attack comprised three elements: the first, 14 Bf 110s each carrying two 500lb bombs, of *Erprobungsgruppe* 210 (this means 'test group'. It was the first time bomb-carrying 110s had been used on this type of operation). The second, their escort of 30+ Bf 110s of V/(Z)LG1 and the third, another 30+ Bf 110s of III/ZG76 group, which acted as a rear-guard to cover the withdrawal of the first two. [8]

They set off on their mission over the coast of Boulogne heading towards Beachy Head, where the rear-guard remained and circled between Brighton and Worthing. The remaining two elements continued without interception, following railway lines between Horsham, Guildford and



The graves of Röhrling, Junge and Bremser in Brookwood Military Cemetery today, cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

routine patrol and were led that day by Flight Lieutenant WP Cambridge. Kenley was one of three RAF stations specifically tasked with the defence of London. ^{[4] [10]}

The combat report of Cambridge states: “I was leading squadron as Blue One and was told to orbit base (Kenley) and Croydon at 8,000 feet. I was then informed that enemy aircraft were approaching from the south-east; then that enemy aircraft were to south-west at 12,000 feet and finally to west. I climbed steadily keeping into sun and sighted enemy attacking Brooklands aerodrome north-west of our position. We wheeled to starboard in a shallow vic (the RAF flew in formations of three, known as ‘vics’) and dived out of the sun onto the enemy from height of 12,000 feet. Our formation kept excellent position and came upon the enemy at about 6,000 feet. I picked my target and attacked him from the beam and above. I kept firing as I closed; the port engine caught fire, the enemy did a stall turn to port and I followed him still firing. He then went into a dive and I kept on firing. I expended all my ammunition and followed him down to the ground. The enemy aircraft crashed in flames in a field about 50 yards north of a farm about 6 miles from Brooklands and on a bearing of 190 degrees from that aerodrome. Some fire had been experienced from the rear gunner but this was soon silenced. ^{[4] [11]}

William Percival Cambridge was born in Rajbandh, Bengal, India in 1912. The son of a civil servant he joined the RAF in February 1936 and by 1938 was a Flight Commander and transferred to the newly created 253 Squadron at Filton in October 1939. On 31st August 1940, following the loss of Squadron Leaders Starr and Gleave, he assumed command of 253. Just two days after the Brooklands raid he himself crashed and died on 6th September 1940, in somewhat controversial circumstances. Records of 253 Squadron state no combat took place that day, yet he baled-out of his plane and his body was discovered at Magpie Hall Lane, between Kingsnorth and Shadoxhurst with the parachute unopened. Enquiries at the time suggest the parachute had been incorrectly packed and the ripcord only half-pulled. Why he baled out remains a mystery but engine failure must be assumed. He is buried in Henley Road Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire. ^[12]

In aerial combat, when a fighter could expend all its ammunition in just one continuous 16 second burst, the duration of a dogfight was very short indeed and verification of who shot down whom could be almost impossible to determine. Bearing this in mind it comes as no surprise that of the nine Hurricanes from 253

Squadron that participated that day, each claimed a victory (six destroyed and three damaged) yet only two kills were confirmed with one of the damaged possibly being the third Bf 110 from V/(Z)LG1 destroyed by its crashing into the Channel. ^[4] Cambridge does not appear to have been credited with this kill. Indeed Kenneth Wynn’s book, *The Men of the Battle of Britain*, published in 1989 and at the time the authoritative publication on the subject, makes no mention of him at all.

Pilot Officer Corkett also attacked and claimed this target as a kill and the claim is verified in Wynn’s book. Similarly, both Sergeant Pilot Dredge and Flight Lieutenant Wedgewood made plausible claims for the destruction of the plane flown by Junge and Bremser brought down at Green Dene.

Allan Henry Corkett was born in 1917 and joined the RAF in 1939 on a short service commission. He was posted to 253 Squadron and flew continuously until he was posted to 17 Squadron in late 1941. He completed his tour with 17 Squadron and then became an instructor. By 1943 he was on active duty again and whilst commanding 197 Squadron in July 1943 was shot down, taken prisoner and sent to Stalag Luft III. Post-war he made a career in the RAF, retiring in 1962 as a Flight Lieutenant.

Allan Sydney Dredge served throughout the Battle of Britain with 253 Squadron. He was commissioned in March 1941 and sent to Malta, flying off HMS Ark Royal. Shot down in May and badly burned, he returned to England where he received treatment at Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, becoming one of Archibald McIndoe’s guinea pigs. ^[13] He was awarded the DFC in 1943 and the DSO in 1944 before being killed in a flying accident in a Mosquito on 18th May 1945 as a Wing Commander.

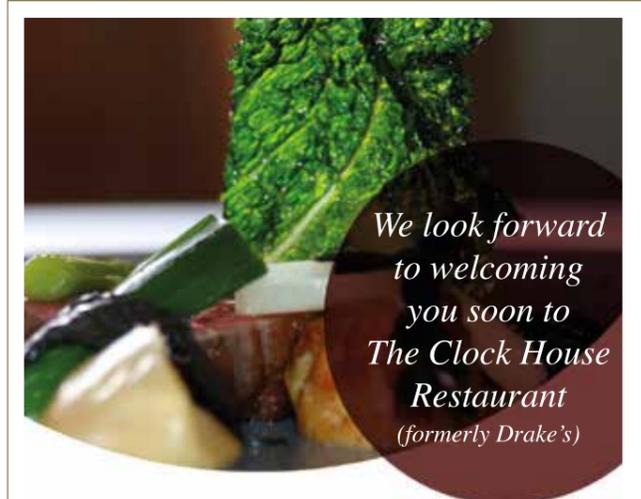
Jefferson Heywood Wedgewood was born in London in 1917 and joined the RAF in 1936 and by 1938, after several postings, became an instructor. Having served with 253 Squadron, he became a test pilot at Vickers Supermarine. In 1942 he commanded 92 Squadron and served in Egypt. On 17th December 1942, whilst returning to England as a passenger in a Halifax, the plane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire over Malta, killing all on board. He is buried in Malta and was awarded the DFC in 1942 and a posthumous bar two months after his death. ^[12]

In the final part of this article, to be published in the next Journal, Simon Parry, one of the country’s leading aviation historians, explains how the remains of Jackel’s plane were excavated in 1977.

SOURCES

- ^[1] *Memories of War* by Send Ripley History Society
- ^[2] Interview 2021 - Audrey Hunt née Bashall (Ripley)
- ^[3] *Raiders Overhead* by Stephen Flower
- ^[4] *Battle of Britain Combat Archive volume 10* by Simon W Parry
- ^[5] *Surrey at War 1939-45* by Bob Ogley
- ^[6] *Zerstörer* by John J. Vasco and Peter D. Cornwall
- ^[7] *Luftwaffe Crash Archive volume 3* by Nigel Parker
- ^[8] *War-Torn Skies of Great Britain – Battle of Britain - Surrey* by Simon W. Parry
- ^[9] Air Ministry Report
- ^[10] 253 Squadron intelligence reports
- ^[11] 253 Squadron combat reports
- ^[12] *Men of the Battle of Britain* by Kenneth G. Wynn
- ^[13] Archibald McIndoe was a pioneering plastic surgeon of WW2. He realised that burns inflicted on pilots who crashed in the Channel healed quicker due to immersion in salt water. He then perfected a skin grafting technique on the aircrew, who became known as his ‘guinea-pigs’

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THE CLOCK HOUSE

40 YEARS AGO CAMERON BROWN

Newsletter 43 of April 1982 featured a précis of a talk entitled *The History of Guildford* given in January of that year by Matthew Alexander.

Geologically Guildford is on the Wealden anticline. Sand and clay are more easily eroded than chalk. Fluctuations of water caused variations of sedimentary deposits. When seawater was very deep, tiny animals died and their shells produced chalk. The sediment was pushed up into a four-layered arch. Subsequent erosion has worn off the top. Later, oak woodlands made it difficult to move north to south without difficulty, but the ridgeway along the crest of the Downs has been used from Neolithic times at least, it being high and dry. The ridge is pierced only by the Mole at Dorking and by the Wey at Guildford.

Because of its position, Guildford became an early centre of communications. There is no evidence of the Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age, or of the Romans at Guildford. The first settlers at Guildford were Pagan Saxons, who possibly came south along the river to settle in Surrey. By the period of 400-600 AD Saxons had begun to settle. It was probably called *Gilda Forda* (Golden Ford) because of the bright golden sand in the river bed. Two glass beakers, buried in graves with the dead, have been found in the Saxon cemetery halfway up the Mount. When the Saxons were converted to Christianity in the second half of the 7th century, they started to build churches. St Mary's is one of the oldest buildings in Surrey, circa 1050 (the lower part of the tower). Upright stone strips represent the upright timbers with which the Saxons were more familiar.

In 1066 William of Normandy gained control of the country with a small army. To ensure that the English stayed under his control he built castles. His castle at Guildford was a motte and bailey built on a spur from Pewley Hill, cut off with a deep ditch, the spoil from which was thrown up to the tower. Initially it was a wooden stockade; then about 1080 or 1090 a chalk wall was built around it to make a shell keep [the name given to a thin, usually round, defensive enclosure that was built atop of the castle motte]. In 1125-35 a square

stone keep was built - there is only one other in the country with the keep standing on a mound like this. Normally, an artificial mound would be too soft. The castle controls and dominates the town of Guildford. When it became clear that Guildfordians were not going to rebel against the Normans, the castle became less important as a fortress and more so as a palace. Under John and Henry I it became one of the most luxurious palaces in England. The castle archway was ordered in 1256. The keep was separate from most of the castle buildings and was used as a county gaol for Surrey and Sussex from the late 12th until the 16th century. In 1611 the keep and castle were sold by the King, but long before that practically all of the buildings had collapsed. The reason for the decline was that the castle ceased to be fashionable after the death of Henry III. By the 17th century the outer walls were being removed.

The next most important building was the Dominican Friary. Friars are clergy who wander through towns and villages preaching sermons. It was closed down by Henry VIII in 1538. The buildings were demolished and superseded by a mansion house. That was demolished in 1818. A brewery was built there and recently the new shopping centre. All have been called The Friary.

In the Middle Ages Guildford was very wealthy, as is demonstrated by the fact that mediaeval shops in the High Street had undercrofts (semi basements) with very fine vaulting. They were lit by one window and wares were on sale from the undercroft. The vaulting dates to about 1225-1300 as evidenced by a corbel carved to represent a lady in a wimple. There is an undercroft under the Halifax Building Society building. A face jug of about 1300 was found in it. This would have belonged to a wealthy merchant.

The town was wealthy because of the wool trade. The oldest Guildford coat of arms shows two woolsacks; it is in a stained glass window in the Guildhall. Cloth would be sent to Guildford (and Godalming and Farnham) for finishing or fulling. The raw cloth was fullled by tramping up and down on it (called tucking - as in the surname Tucker), to make the weave smooth and even. Fullers earth operated as soap and cleaned out the lanolin

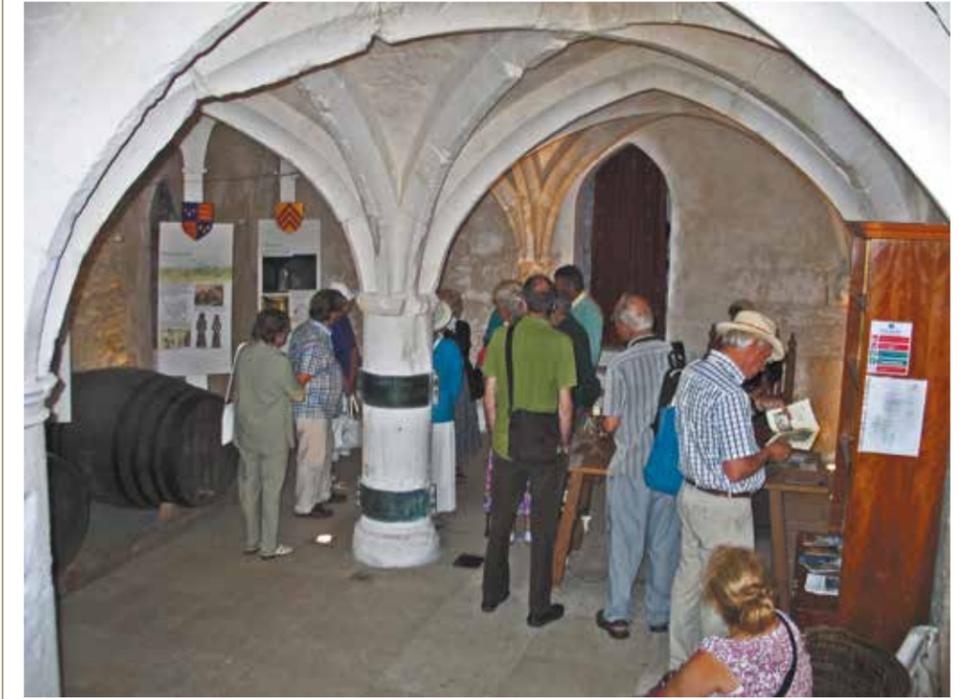
prior to dyeing. By the 13th century there were fulling mills to replace the manual labour. One of the earliest references to a fulling mill in the county is 1250. Henry III had three mills built downstream of Guildford, one of which was for fulling. The wealth brought by the wool trade did not last long after the death of Elizabeth I as different types of clothing from the Continent became fashionable.

Guildford was a small town and until the end of the Jacobean period the population is unlikely to have exceeded 1,000. In 1257 it became the county town of Surrey. The first map of the town, in the 16th century, shows it essentially either side of the High Street with 75 houses. There had been exactly the same number at the time of the Domesday survey.

The coaching trade saved the town. Portsmouth grew into an important Admiralty dockyard and Guildford was about halfway between there and London. Travellers therefore broke their journey at Guildford. Thirty miles, the distance from London, was the most you could expect a horse to go in a day. Most of the coaching inns have now gone, the White Hart in 1905, the White Lion in 1956 to build Woolworths, the Red Lion (Timothy Whites), and the Crown. Only the Angel survives.

The coming of the railway in 1845 started the rapid decline and disappearance of the coaching trade. The coach and horses shown in a photograph outside the White Hart was the New Times coach mentioned in the cycling notes in the last edition (42) of the Newsletter.

The river continued to be a main source of wealth, the Wey being one of the earliest to be converted to a Navigation. The last commercial load was towed in 1968. Grain was an important commodity carried. The town mills ceased to grind in 1893. For at least 1,000 years Guildford had been a market town, but it never had a proper market place. Until 1865 it was held in High Street, then the cattle market in North Street, then Woodbridge



Members of the Society visiting the undercroft in July 2013 © Ditz

Road, and now Slyfield Green. Corn was bought and sold in large quantities. In 1818 a corn market was built in place of a public house called the Tuns. At the turn of the century it became disused. It was first used as electricity showrooms, then borough council offices, and ultimately it was widened to take motor vehicles.

After the Dissolution the monastic schools closed down and purpose-built schools sprang up. Guildford Grammar School is typical. In 1582 the building was finished.

George Abbot was the son of a weaver who lived in a cottage on the site of the Farnham Road bus station. He had a free education at the grammar school, was a brilliant pupil and a skilled linguist and went on to become Vice Chancellor at Oxford, Bishop and subsequently Archbishop of Canterbury. He was therefore very wealthy indeed and rewarded Guildford for his start in life by building the Hospital or Almshouse.

It was started in 1619 in the style of 50-100 years earlier. Abbot was the most important Guildfordian and had an influence on world history as one who sat on the committee which produced the James I Bible, and was responsible for translating the Gospels, the Epistles, the Apostles, and Revelations.

The Guildhall was built in about 1550 on the site of an earlier building. It was re-fronted in 1683.

A VILLAGE STUDY OF RIPLEY, SURREY, BY MARALYN WONG - PART 3

ALAN COOPER



Gibbs

We continue with the third part of member Maralyn Wong's fascinating study of Ripley, compiled by her in the late 1960s when she was at teacher training college. See the introduction in J283 and the comments for future researchers in the introduction to part 2 in J284.

AREA NUMBER 2: HIGH STREET (WESTERN SIDE)

The boundary of Ripley parish at the southern end is a stream which flows under the road. At this point up to Send Dip a new housing estate has been built. Although most of the trees have been left standing to shield the new houses from the traffic, at one point there is an opening of about thirty yards width. It is hoped that the contractors will plant more trees here when they have finished building. Built into a hollow at Send Dip is a large pre-war house. This is now used as a gardening

centre and there is an untidy array of sheds, old shacks, flowerpots and tumbledown greenhouses at the front of the house. The paintwork of the house is bright mauve in colour. If the garden was tidied a little and the house re-painted in a more subtle colour, this could be an attractive building. There are also three bungalows and a house at the bottom of Send Dip which are included in Ripley Parish as the stream which forms the boundary flows past their front gardens.

On the other side of Send Dip is a piece of waste ground upon which soil and rubble is being tipped to build up the area to make it suitable for building land. The land is surrounded by many trees and shrubs; as many of these are ornamental plants, this may have been part of a nursery some years ago. It is hoped that only a few houses will be built here as too many will look out of place. There are two attractive houses hidden behind trees

and shrubs before one reaches Methold's garage to spoil the surrounding area. Even smashed cars waiting to be repaired are parked tidily on one side of the forecourt.

Luff's nursery occupies several areas of land and is quite tidy. It is unfortunate that the only shed visible from the road has been painted in dark green and yellow stripes recently. It would have been better left as brown wood or just painted one colour. At the side of Luff's is an area of about an acre which was used by another nursery, but which is now overgrown. The owner of the land lives in a caravan at the top of the field and when he dies, it is presumed that the land will be used for housing. As long as the area is well planned, houses would be an improvement on the land as it is at present.

Sunnyside Tearooms stands back from the road with a pull-in for cars at the front, screened by trees. This business has not been properly exploited and the life of Ripley could be enhanced if places like this could improve their trade. Next to the tea-rooms is a row of four attractive cottages which have not been spoiled by alterations or gaudy paintwork. These appear to be worthy of preservation and should be listed. The house next door used to be a café but is now a private house with a large gravel car park at the side and back. It is a pity that this could not be removed and grass and shrubs planted in its place. The next row of houses and bungalows were all built within the last fifty years or so and the last one has been converted into a general store with a garden in front.

A row of trees hides some farmland which stretches as far as Georgelands Estate. This is a large council estate, partially hidden behind hedgerows. The houses have been built fairly close together and there is a lack of grass or trees on the estate except in the tenants' gardens. The two grassed roundabouts at road junctions on the estate which do exist are used for car parking and the grass is beginning to disappear. Unfortunately, little can be done in the way of tree planting as the land has been built on so heavily. However, the houses have been quite well designed on the whole. The land used to belong to St George's Farm, which is why it is called Georgelands.

The Toby Cottage restaurant appears to be eighteenth century, but as this building is not listed, it is probably a copy of this style. The restaurant is attractive and it is frequented by large numbers of people, particularly during the summer. There is a gravel car park on the side which used to be the site of the village pound (according to a map of 1896). Behind the car park there is an area of about two acres which was used as allotments. Most of this now forms part of the playing field belonging to the new



The Manor House



The church hall



Pinnock's Café

primary school, except for a small piece of land nearest the road which was outlined to be the site of the Victory Hall. However, nothing came of this plan and the land is overgrown. It should now either be allowed to return to its natural state (for the use of the schoolchildren as the new school is completely surrounded by grass), or it should be made into allotments again.

St George's Farm was built in the eighteenth century and consists of two cottages and a large barn. Although most of the farmland has now been sold, the remaining small area of land is attractive, especially in spring when daffodils cover the ground. The farm is almost non-existent so the farmhouse has now been converted into two privately owned (or rented?) cottages. Perseverance Cottages run perpendicular to the road and can only be seen if one walks along the path leading to their front doors. These were old and tumbledown, but most of them have now been modernised internally and sold to the tenants.

Within the next row of cottages is the Georgian House which was built in the eighteenth century. As its name implies, it is a typical Georgian building with a semi-circular fanlight over the front door. Messrs Gibbs (agricultural machinery suppliers) was at one time Ryde House Commercial School when the school in Ryde House (further down the high street) was closed. The yard is tidy and the whole site fits in reasonably well with the surroundings.

The Manor House was built about 1650 in an ornamental brick style. The plan is in the form of an "E" with three shaped gables. The treatment of the arches above the window openings is unusual and shows a Dutch influence.

For a long time during the nineteenth century the house was divided into separate cottages and it was in a neglected state when the present owners bought it in 1952. A great deal of restoration work has been carried out. Much of the ground floor is used as an antiques showroom, ie the part on the right, which was originally a baker's shop, and the two main rooms in the centre. The rooms in the left wing are private sitting rooms. At the back of the building there is a mass of work of many dates with some wattle and daub construction in places. At the turn of the century, part of the Manor House was used as an annexe to the Anchor.

The church hall is a corrugated iron, green-painted building with a high brick wall in front. As it appears that the hall cannot be replaced for some time, improvements



The ironmongers, recently destroyed by fire (top), Anthony Cooper Antiques (bottom)

could be made by demolishing the wall and planting grass or flowers between the hall and the pavement.

Pinnock's café and Amberley Cottage were built in the seventeenth century (Amberley Cottage is now a dry-cleaning shop and Pinnock's café has recently been altered to an antiques shop). Pinnock's café was the first bakery in Ripley. The bread was baked on the premises and delivered in a wheelbarrow. Milk was also delivered from the shop in carts at the turn of the century. As can be seen in the photograph, the dry-cleaners has been spoilt by a wide bright blue advertisement just above the ground floor windows. If this was removed or replaced by a smaller sign, the building would be more attractive. Pinnock's has been altered little at all; the shop window was probably a nineteenth century addition, but fits in well with the rest of the building. On the right of the photograph some iron railings can be seen. These are, presumably, to prevent cars turning into Newark Lane from cutting the corner. However, they are unattractive and appear to be of little use, so should be taken down. There are some more on the other side of Newark Lane.

The car showrooms and electrics factory above was a grocery and drapery store and until about ten years ago it

was a snack bar with a hairdresser's above. The building has some attractive woodwork above the top floor set against the whitewashed walls. The advertising notice of Applied Electronics and Automation Limited is rather large, but is not so large as to warrant its removal.

The two cottages on the other side of Newark Lane have now been converted into a branch of Lloyd's Bank and an estate agents and before this it was a greengrocer's shop and one cottage. Conisbee's shop (butchers) is an attractive building. It was modernised a few years ago but this has not spoilt the beauty of the building, in fact, it may have enhanced it.

The Clocke House was built in the eighteenth century and for the last few years has been unoccupied. Previously it was a thriving hotel and restaurant, but it has changed hands several times since and is now beginning to fall down. It is hoped that a new owner will be found soon who will restore it to its original beauty. At the beginning of the century it was owned by the village doctor, Dr Sutcliffe, and the story goes that he used to keep a horse saddled at night as his practice covered Send, Ripley, Ockham, Wisley and Horsley! Before this it had been a brewer's and the old brewery buildings are still there.

The next building is the Methodist Chapel. This is not a particularly attractive building with a high green fence in front. If the fence was taken down, or replaced by a more attractive one, the building would be improved.

The antiques shop next door was the post office until it was incorporated into the draper's shop on the other side of the road. It is not a very old building but has been quite attractively whitewashed with yellow paintwork. The paper shop was until recent years a builders and decorators. It has rather an untidy forecourt with newspaper stands and advertisements for the local cinemas, but this appears to be the general pattern of most newsagents.

The blacksmiths has been unoccupied for at least the last ten years. The house and smithy were sold, but nothing has been done to the latter since the sale. It is boarded up and often becomes covered with notices advertising dances and concerts in the area. Extensions have been made to the house, using the old bricks from the smithy and this has made the building more attractive. At the end of the last century three or four men worked in the smithy because every tradesman had one or more horses and the farmers all had several; there were six or eight horses also stabled at the

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Talbot Hotel to supply the daily coach. The next few houses were built within the last fifteen years and the ironmongers was the first shop in Ripley to sell petrol. Unfortunately, this shop was destroyed by fire about two months ago while a tanker was delivering paraffin, and also the cottage next door. It was a typical village shop, selling everything from nails to chinaware and electric fires. It is not known yet whether a new shop will be built, but Ripley certainly needs a shop of this type.

There is now an opening about thirty yards wide which leads on to the village green. It is a pity that iron railings have to surround the grass. These surely have little use and are certainly not attractive, being of the same style as those near Pinnock's café. The small branch of the Westminster Bank was built on the site of three old cottages. Unfortunately, the Bank looks rather strange set in the midst of the grass of the green with no buildings on either side. The Half Moon and adjoining cottages have recently been modernised and brightened with a new coat of bright yellow paint. These buildings were constructed at the end of the last century and are quite attractive for their period.

The next cottage has been made into a gentleman's hairdressers. This has been given a pale blue door which blends well with the pink door of the cottage adjoining. There was a fried fish and chip shop next door but this has been pulled down and a new building has been erected to house an estate agents' office. The new building has been well-designed in the respect that it blends well with the surrounding cottages. Unfortunately, the tiling on the first floor is a bright red, but will probably be better when it begins to mellow with age. The building belonging to Anthony Cooper, Antiques, is attractive but the ground floor windows seem to be a little too large and do not balance the general design of the whole building. This was a general store and before that it was a forge.

There is now a view of The Green (once again the railings are apparent) before one reaches another antiques shop belonging to John Hill Antiques. This is a really lovely cottage, white-washed with black doors and window frames. Two old cartwheels have been painted red and hung on the wall of the house on the left side, but in no way spoil the beauty of the building. Ryde House was built in the eighteenth century and at the end of the last century was a school. It consists of a large Georgian house with outhouses on the right side and a glasshouse. The brick has been left unpainted and the paintwork on the door and window-frames is white, so the building appears to be in its original state.



Ryde House



Bridge End Cottages

Another view of The Green appears before reaching yet another antiques shop and row of cottages. The shop is small but has a large number of advertising signs on the windows and walls of the building. Some of these need to be removed or made smaller, especially the name of the shop which is printed in letters about eighteen inches high. The next buildings are Florence House, Rippleby and Bridge End terraced cottages. The latter were built in 1906 and have a similar pattern of tiles as appear on Bridgefoot Farm cottages just across the road. The last house was a shop but this has now become a private house again. There is a transport café behind the shop and the space between here and the stream is usually covered with parked lorries and cars. A proper car park needs to be constructed for these vehicles.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Photos and line drawings c/o Maralyn Wong collection

The Manor House, Pinnock's Café, Anthony Cooper Antiques c/o SRHS archives

MARY BUTLER MARK COXHEAD

Ditz Brown writes: In Wisley with Pырford's *Parish Magazine* which had as its theme '70 Years of Memories' in its June edition, I found a fascinating article by Mark Coxhead featuring Mary Butler's memories of Jubilees past. In her 104th year Pырford's grand old lady's loyal Jubilee message was: "Good luck to the Queen".

Mary Butler was born Mary Jane Woolger in Wisley on 31st August 1873, and married William Butler, labourer, on 19th November 1892 at Wisley church. She died on 4th February 1978 and was buried in the Pырford churchyard five days later.

When the Queen celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 1977 Mrs Butler, then aged 103, was Pырford's oldest resident. In May of that year she gave her story to the *Woking News and Mail* which is reproduced below:

One of the few people left who saw the Queen's great-great grandmother is Pырford's oldest inhabitant, Mrs Mary Butler. Mrs Butler remembers seeing Queen Victoria in an open pony chaise in Wisley. She also recalls the celebrations in Wisley in 1887 to mark 50 years of Victoria's reign. When Mrs Butler was born in 1873 Britain's longest reigning monarch had been on the throne for 36 years. Her consort, Prince Albert, had died 12 years before.

She was a child of three when Queen Victoria was proclaimed as Empress of India with her bounds spreading 'wider still and wider'. The British Empire traditionally coloured red in the Wisley school atlas seemed to cover the entire earth. The empire has all but disappeared, but Mrs Butler remembers her life has spanned five sovereigns who together account for 140 years of the British monarchy.

Her earliest memory was of the Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1887 when she was 13 years old. It was a festive day and a school holiday in Wisley. She remembers a long greasy pole being put up in the middle of the village pond with a leg of pork tied to the top. The pond has long since been filled in but in those days there was plenty of water in it. Young lads competed to climb the pole and claim the meat on the top, thus winning an unaccustomed Sunday joint for the family. There were plenty of duckings

in the pond and Jubilee Day was almost over before the slippery obstacle was successfully scaled and the meat borne triumphantly away.

Mrs Butler does not remember a free Jubilee tea or Jubilee mugs for the children. But she remembers the excitement of a big bonfire and the short dress and black boots she wore to the Wisley Jubilee Fun.

She has lived in Coldharbour Lane for more than 80 years and has always been a staunch monarchist. The people who want to do away with the Queen 'are the sort who are never satisfied' in her opinion and she thinks there are more of them about now, despite the advantages of modern life compared with when Queen Victoria was on the throne. In some ways it will be nice to have a King Charles again, but Mrs Butler hopes Queen Elizabeth II will reign as long as her illustrious great-great-grandmother who wore the crown of England for 64 years.

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THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

CAMERON BROWN

To mark the Queen's 70 years on the throne there was a long bank holiday from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th of June and our members were to be found at local events ensuring that we have a photographic record of the celebrations.



Tug of war © Cameron Brown (top) and crowds enjoying the sun © Phil Beddoes (bottom) - both at Send Rec



A 'jubilee trifle' made by Clare McCann © Clare McCann



On Ripley Green © Iain Abbott



Mike Hurdle crowning the Jubilee Queen, Daisy Blackwell, at Send Rec © Cameron Brown



The History Society on duty at Send Rec © Cameron Brown



The telephone kiosk in Ripley © Ditz



The telephone kiosk in Ripley © Ditz



The font at Wisley church © Cameron Brown



Pat Clack's decoration of the blacksmith in Send © Michael Clack



Fun in the sun (top) and the beacon on Ripley Green (bottom) © Guy Marshall



Guardsmen on duty at Waitrose, West Byfleet © Cameron Brown

NEWARK PRIORY

CHRISTINE VIGURS



Aerial view of the priory (photo public domain)

Clare McCann writes: Earlier this year Christine Vigurs gave Guildford U3A local history group a very interesting talk on Newark Priory. While some of the material duplicated what is in our own book, *Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin*, there were some fascinating new nuggets of information and she has kindly agreed to let me edit her talk to share with the Society.

Christine opened by setting the priory in the landscape and made the point that whilst the remnants we see today are reminiscent of a number of other ruined establishments such as Tintern, they provide 'evidence of past glories, of people living their lives ... with a slight air of mystery because they are often in semi remote places, where very few people live today'.

The priory was founded by the Bishop of Winchester between 1189 and 1199 and belonged to the Augustinian order – run by the Canons Regular of St Augustine, known as the Black Canons because of the black hooded cloaks and cassocks they wore. According to documents 'The priory was

granted substantial lands, with woods, mills and fisheries by Ruald de Calna and his wife Beatrice de Sandes' – notice French names - ie Norman nobles occupying the land, only just over 100 years since the Norman conquest... Beatrice's name elsewhere appears as Beatrice de Send linking her to the local village of Send.

It was in the reign of Richard I, the Lionheart, when the priory was built in the early gothic style and dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St Thomas the Martyr – Thomas à Becket, murdered in 1170 (only 20 years earlier) as a result of arguments with Henry II, Richard's father. This was therefore fairly recent history at the time and may have indicated there was still quite a lot of guilt around.

The name seems to have evolved; it was first known as Aldebury (around 1204) – the bury part in old English was 'burh' and signified a monastic enclosure. By 1210 it became known as the new place of Aldebury, or Newark, also New Stead, 'the new building' and 'the new place of St Thomas near Guildford'; this was probably to differentiate it from the older 7th century

minster of Woking which had been established in 675 and is still there – the church of St Peter's in Old Woking, recorded in the Domesday Book and featuring the third oldest surviving door in the British Isles and the oldest one in Surrey. The west door has been dated by dendrochronology to the reign of Henry I and the four oak planks which make up the door may have come from a single tree which was over 270 years old when felled. This door used to be at the entrance to the church but is now inside a porch under the tower.

Returning to Newark, the priory was built in the valley of the River Wey, in fact right on the flood plain next to one of the channels known as the Abbey Stream, probably one of the main channels of the river which meanders across the flood plain. There is evidence of other channels dug out by the priors to prevent flooding so that they could use the land for farming, or at least grazing animals on the water meadows. This meant the priory was situated on an island between the channels. Today it lies away from the main Wey Navigation which was cut in the 1650s – therefore the ruins lie isolated and the area was described by John Aubrey ^[1] in the 1600s: 'the scenery is composed of rivers and rivulets – seven streams run by the priory with footbridges and fords, splashy pools and fringed tangled hollows, trees in groups or alone and cattle dotted over the pasture'.

However, there was value in the proximity of the river for water supply as well as transport and there was a mill recorded near here in the Domesday Book which continued to be operated by the priory. There were fish in the river, the speciality of the area being eels. Eel traps were set by Newark Bridge where the mature eels could reach up to a metre long and weigh 3lb (1.5kg). They could spend up to 30 years in a river before returning to their birthplace in the warm seas of the West Indies to spawn. Apparently they were caught using eel pots, woven from local willow saplings into a funnel shape 3-5 feet long (0.9–1.5 metres) so that the eel could not turn round and escape. These traps were used all year round and contained bait of snails, frogs, tadpoles, fish eggs and young fish. Eels were fried with butter or smoked.

It seems that the priory was relatively prosperous and had a substantial income. In 1262 a large number of local churches were under the control of the priory, including Horsell and Pyrford chapels as well as churches at Leigh, Send, St Martha's, Guildford, Shipton, Wanborough, Weybridge and Windlesham. Also, as is shown by a taxation record of 1291, there was income from non-ecclesiastical assets: from 10 London parishes producing £5 16s 3d, from Rochester diocese £1 6s and from

Winchester diocese £27 10s 3d, most probably paid four times a year. According to the internet £1 6s in 1291 is approximately £900 today and could buy either one horse, two cows, five stones of wool or five quarters of wheat.

The priory was a significant complex of buildings, with the church surrounded by other buildings: the refectory, the dormer or dormitory, the chapter house, where they all met for reading, discussion of business, trade and spiritual matters and the cloisters with the covered walkways and gardens. Only part of the church can be seen today.

Monastic life was probably relatively attractive in the middle ages as it encouraged literacy, with the production of religious books viewed as a means of meditation; this involved the preparation of the parchment, mixing of the inks and copying texts by hand, with devotional images and illuminated letters in the text. Monasteries had some of the first libraries of religious books, though many of these were lost in the Reformation upheavals.

There was a strict schedule of church services throughout the day although the Augustinians followed the teaching of St Augustine of Hippo (born in North Africa – part of the Roman empire – now Algeria) which stressed the bond linking those in the monastery with those of faith outside it. They did not make a virtue of poverty but of sharing, and were engaged in mission work and education. The canons went out to preach, gave alms to support the poor, could sometimes supply food in times of bad harvests and were often a source of medical help, with herbal knowledge at a time when there was no other help for the masses and life expectancy averaged only somewhere around 40 years for a poor person. The Black Canons of the Augustinian order went on to found St Thomas' hospital (named after Thomas à Becket) in London as an infirmary in the 12th century. It was dissolved in 1540 with the monasteries but re-founded by royal charter in 1551. St Bartholomew's was also founded by an Augustinian monk, Rahere, in 1123, and survived the dissolution of the monasteries, making it the hospital with the longest record of continuous operation in the country.

Because the ordained members of the community spent so much of their time in devotional studies, there were usually a large number of lay brothers, who had their own accommodation and religious routines but did practical work to keep the priory going - planting crops, looking after animals and food production. There were also domestic servants, cooks, stonemasons, carpenters and so on as the buildings of the Augustinian monasteries were always ornately constructed in stone and decorated with religious paintings. Hospitality was offered to

travellers, patrons and pilgrims as the medieval roads were very dangerous and common inns not always safe places to stay. At times the priory would have been home to a community of up to 200 people.

It is recorded that John Peckham, Archbishop of Canterbury, stayed several times at Newark priory between 1281 and 1283 and several letters were written by him from there. Other visiting members of the church would always stay in one of the monasteries when on their visitations round the country.

The priory drew workers from the surrounding area and gave a lot of employment to people from the nearby village of Pyrford (and no doubt Ripley), which was a village of about 100 people according to the Domesday Book, with 'arable land enough for seven plough teams, 15 acres of meadows and woods with pasture for 80 pigs'. In the 14th century there were 170 tenant farmers and 70 of them had their own smallholdings – quite unusual at a time when the lord of the manor usually owned most of the land and most of the local people would work for him – getting paid apparently a penny a day for haymaking and twopence for stacking corn. It was important to get the best workers for this as it had to last them until the next harvest or risk famine. Distribution and transport were very poor in medieval times so people were reliant on a very local economy.

Pyrford also had a church, St Nicolas, built in the 12th century, and there is a legend that there was a secret tunnel from the church into the priory and also into Guildford, where there was a convent. This is very unlikely as the valley floor is very soggy and a tunnel would have been a bit of a death trap. However, there was obviously a strong connection between the people of the village and the priory and it is likely that the presence of the priory was a great benefit, especially as it was an Augustinian foundation, with its belief in being outgoing and creating links with the local people.

The coming of the priory affected the local landowners as they paid to endow new buildings. At Newark in 1382 a wealthy widow, Laurencia, paid for the building of an elaborate chantry chapel in memory of her husband, Peter atte Wode, in the hope of ensuring his salvation. The endowment provided funds for one canon to say a chantry mass every Saturday for her husband's soul but there were quite a lot of terms and conditions attached to it: the priory had to find 'all things needful, such as vestment, ornaments, books, light, bread, wine, chalice, altar cloth and napkin as well as a suitable clerk to serve.' The clerk (canon) was paid by the prior 7d each week.

As this was only about 30 years after the main outbreak of the Black Death in Europe – the conditions went on to require that if through pestilence or other causes the number of canons was so reduced that one of them could not be found to celebrate the weekly mass, then the prior should distribute to the poor at the gate of the monastery a sum of 3d to pray for the souls of the founders. Every prior at Newark had to swear to maintain the anniversary of Peter atte Wode's death and he would also get paid - 14d - but if he failed to do so he would be fined 2 shillings by the Bishop of Winchester. Quite a lot of red tape seems to have been associated with running a successful establishment.

The priory was visited by the church hierarchy from time to time to make sure everything was in order – there is a record that in 1357 Bishop Wykeham appointed a commission to visit Newark and various charges were brought, including the removal of one canon, John Chesterton, because of 'scandalous excesses' and he was placed in custody at Merton Priory. Some years later in 1387 the prior Alexander Culmeston was retired because of infirmity.

In 1501 there was a visitation by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who found that the prior of Newark had been absent for some time as he was on a pilgrimage to the shrine of St James of Compostella, so that there was no access to the accounts or any of the documents for inspection, as the sub-prior and canons were not trusted with them. However, as the usual rents had come in and the house did not appear to be in debt, there were apparently no repercussions.

In 1539, after nearly 400 years, Newark was dissolved by Henry VIII. The prior, Richard Lipscombe, was given an annual pension of £40 (possibly as much as £35,000 in today's money) whilst the canons were given £5 6s 8d (about £4,500) each. Apparently they were given more than a pittance to encourage them to go quietly. Thomas Cromwell would not have wanted to create any more hostility as the closing of the monasteries was very unpopular in some areas, as was the new religion.

However, in another source it said that the prior received only a pension of £6 13s 4d and the canons were given only 40s each, so it is not exactly clear what happened. The 41 servants – or lay brothers – were also compensated with one quarter's wages.

The valuables of the priory were sent to the Tower of London, mostly to be melted down and, considering that the institution had existed for almost 400 years, the list was surprisingly short:

'A basin and ewer, 2 salts, 12 spoons, a knife in silver plate,

3 chalices, an enamelled cross, 2 small bells, 1 censer, 1 ship for incense, 2 cruets, 6 small relics in crystal and silver, 1 relic of copper and gilt, 3 little crosses of wood 7 silver plate, 3 bells from the steeple and the clock.'

The sale of the minor ornaments of the church together with household items brought in £35 13s 8d. The corn, hay, cattle & farm tools sold for £52 3s 8d.

The Dissolution was certainly hard on the people in the neighbourhood, many of whom will have lost employment or income from supplying goods and services to the priory. The land of Newark was given to the Master of the King's Horse, Sir Anthony Browne, and he went into parliament as a Knight of the Shire.

There is a story that a canon (not one of the brothers!) was used from the top of the hill in Pyrford to bombard or demolish the priory buildings and there is a painting of this in the church porch as visualised by an artist in the 1960s, but as far as we know this story is unsubstantiated.

Mary Tudor was Catholic and tried to re-establish the priory at Newark but when Elizabeth came to the throne this was of course prevented and Pyrford reverted to the Crown and was given by Elizabeth to the Earl of Lincoln. The priory buildings, which had been partly demolished, were over the years used as a source of stone for many other local uses, including road mending, so that today only the south transept and part of the east end of the church remain.

The priory changed ownership several times but in 1730 it was bought by the Earl of Onslow, who decided to preserve the ruins. There is no public access today but the priory ruins are listed as a Scheduled Monument and a Grade I Listed Building and are on the English Heritage Register of Buildings at Risk.

If you walk along the footpath and see the ruins of Newark Priory in the middle of the field it is difficult to visualise all the activity which must have gone on in the past... Newark was built in a very difficult location – there are no records of damage by flooding, but in the days before the Wey Navigation controlled the water there must have been a number of crises. Both the villages of Ripley and Pyrford are built on slightly higher ground... so did the monks settle here because they needed to be away from civilisation, in a quiet place of solitude? In medieval times they did not know about weather forecasts and hydrology of rivers - so did they see the floods as an act of God sent to punish them or provide a challenge? As with all the ruined monasteries found on the hillsides and valleys of Britain, they are a reminder of a different age and people who led very different lives.

[1] John Aubrey, author of *Perambulation of Surrey* (written 1673–92) and published by Richard Rawlinson as *The Natural History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey (1718–19)*

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GRAFFITI IN ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, OCKHAM

GILLIAN LACHELIN

There has been increasing interest in medieval graffiti and their significance in recent years. Many graffiti have been inscribed into the stonework of churches throughout the country over a long period and 89 graffiti were found by Abigail Coskun in All Saints' Church and listed in her dissertation *The Medieval Graffiti of Surrey's Churches*. She also found 87 graffiti in St Nicholas' Church, Pyrford.

Many medieval graffiti are difficult to see and some can only be detected using specialist lighting. When they were made the interiors of churches were often brightly painted and the graffiti would have been clearly visible when incised through paintwork into the stone. Since they were made the paint has usually been removed and further cleaning or whitewashing of the stone has taken place. The fact that few of these graffiti were defaced or destroyed suggests that a different view was taken of graffiti in medieval times from that taken today.

Unlike most monuments in churches which commemorate the prestigious and wealthy elite, graffiti were usually made by ordinary parishioners and visitors and they can sometimes offer a glimpse into their world. However, interpretation is often difficult and, over the years, very different theories have been put forward and later challenged. There is no written record of what many of the symbols mean.

For example, it was originally considered that ship graffiti were made by sailors and their families as it was thought that they were concentrated in coastal churches, such as Blakeney in Norfolk, but in fact they can be found far inland.

Dating graffiti can be difficult; dates were seldom included before the Reformation. Dating of the structure where the graffiti have been placed, or sometimes the style of writing of an inscription or of the dress of a figure can be helpful.



Apotropaic symbol on the north side of the chancel arch
© Gillian Lachelin

The most common forms of medieval graffiti are apotropaic (from the Greek *apotropaios* – to turn away evil). These include VV inscriptions, compass drawn designs and pentangles. A wealth of other graffiti can also be found such as crosses, triangles, animals, people, ships, houses, heraldic shields etc.

Graffiti were most frequently incised into the stonework of porches, doorways, arches, columns and also window sills and fonts. In medieval times a number of the church services, such as the marriage ceremony, the churching of women after childbirth and the burial service took place in the porch or at the church door. Only those of high social status were allowed to be married within the main body of the church.

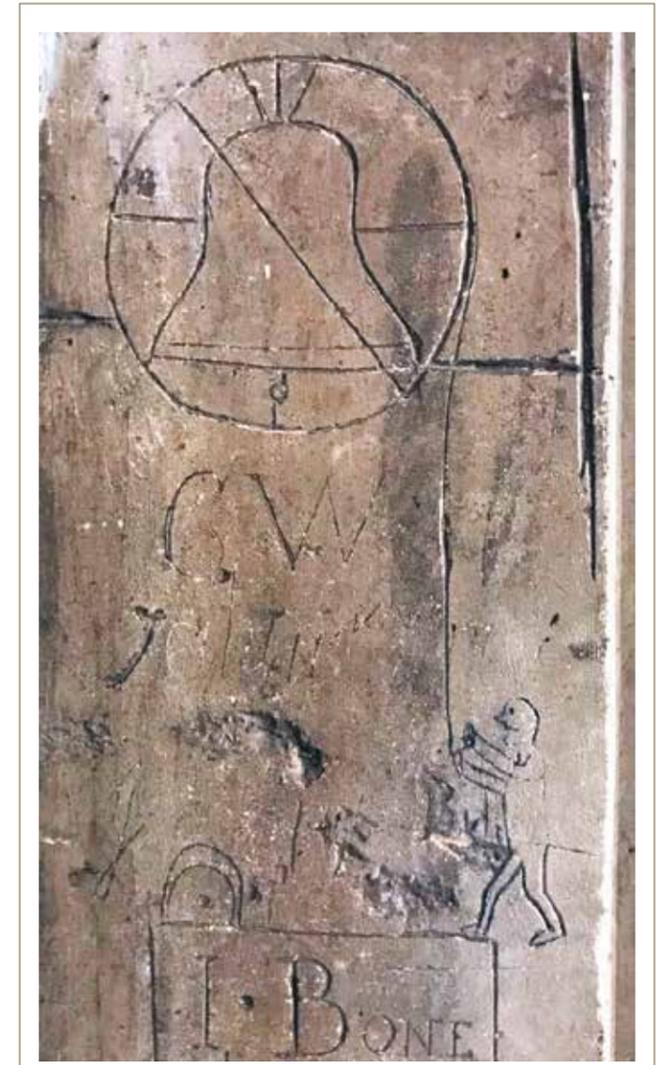
The church porch was also the administrative centre for a medieval parish. People met there to sign contracts and

to witness documents and it was the place, as nowadays, where legal documents and notices were displayed. At All Saints the porch was originally on the south side of the church; it was later demolished and a new one was constructed on the north side and any medieval porch graffiti have been lost.

The VV inscriptions (of which there are at least ten in All Saints) are thought to be an abbreviation of *Virgo Virginum* (Virgin of Virgins), or *Maria* when inverted, and are believed to have been a symbol that protected against misfortune and brought good luck.

Most of the apotropaic symbols, other than VVs, are made in the form of a continuous line as in most compass drawn and pentangle designs. One theory about the protective power of these endless lines is that demons are attracted to lines and try to follow them to their end and will become trapped within these symbols. There are several compass designs in All Saints; a partial one on the north side of the chancel arch.

Crosses, of which there are many in All Saints, vary in design. Those shown in the photograph are on a windowsill on the south side of the chancel. One rather unusual figure is the bellringer inside the tower.



The bellringer inside the tower © Ditz



The benchmark at All Saints © Gillian Lachelin



Crosses on a windowsill on the south side of the chancel
© Gillian Lachelin



Graffiti by a disgruntled craftsman who re-lead the window
© Ditz

Apart from the many graffiti in the stone work of All Saints a notable inscription is that in one of the windows on the south side of the chancel which reads 'W Peters new leaded this in 1775 and never was paid for this same'.

Two types of modern incisions into stonework can be seen on the outside of All Saints. There is an Ordnance Survey benchmark at the west end of the church. These marks were put on buildings and other semi-permanent features to allow the height above ordnance datum (sea level) at Newlyn in Cornwall to be looked up.

The height at the All Saints benchmark is 37.9 metres. There are X marks in the rendering on the south wall to indicate where putlock holes for scaffolding are.

A list of the 89 graffiti recorded by Abigail Coskun can be found in a folder in the vestry.

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ALAN COOPER

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ONE OF OUR MEMBERS SENT THIS PHOTO OF A STRANGE LOOKING KEY, BUT WHAT DOES IT UN-LOCK?



WE ASKED IN J284 WHERE THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN AND WHAT THE BUILDING ON THE RIGHT WAS.

The photo was taken in 1904 in Send Marsh, the building to the right of the picture being the Saddlers Arms public house. It was correctly identified by Ted and Jackie Strange, John and Fiona Gilbert, Michael Morris and Audrey Smithers.

MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN

I am delighted to say visitor numbers have picked up a little and the Portraits of the Past exhibition has received some very positive feedback. Thank you, Ditz, for all your help.

The next exhibition looks at life in Send and Ripley in Georgian times - approximately 1714 -1830 - the coaching trade, the cricket club in Ripley and the fascinating army camp in Send. It was a period of great change. Fortunes were amassed from trade, leading to the building of houses such as Clandon Park, and a new style of architecture became the fashion. Come and transport yourself back 300 years.

Do remember that we always try to open at other times if you cannot make a Saturday morning. If you have visitors staying or want to bring a group along, for example Scouts, Guides, WI, or U3A, then just give me a ring.

There are a few jobs that need doing over the summer – some painting, both at the museum and at the store. We also need to re-form our little band of amateur conservators to improve the condition of some of the artefacts – often simple cleaning or adding some extra protection such as leather polish. If you think you could lend a hand then please get in touch with either Phil Davie, our archivist, or me and we will work out some suitable dates. Thanks. cricketshill@hotmail.com

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at Ripley Bowling Club in Rose Lane, GU23 6NE. Doors open for all evening talks at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Tea/coffee and wine available. NB - payment by cash only.

DATES - 2022	EVENTS
Sunday 7th August, 12:30pm	Member's BBQ at Cricketshill House, Potters Lane, Send (£12 a ticket - numbers limited - please contact Clare McCann cricketshill@hotmail.com)
Wednesday 14th September	Moira McQuaide talk: <i>Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens</i>
Wednesday 12th October	Margaret Taylor talk: <i>Update on Clandon Refurbishment</i>
Wednesday 9th November	Roger Heard talk: <i>History of Dennis Brothers</i>
Wednesday 14th December	Christmas Social (members only)

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

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS



OPEN: SATURDAY MORNINGS 10.00 – 12.00

We can arrange to open at other times by appointment

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

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

History Colouring Book (price includes felt tips and a carrier bag)		£5.00
Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life	Reprinted 1998/2006	£10.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.00
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£2.50
The Straight Furrow, by Fred Dixon		£1.50
Ripley and Send – Looking Back	Reprinted 2007	£9.00
A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£2.50
Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2012	£4.00
The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£4.00
Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures	New Edition 2017	£5.00
Two Surrey Village Schools – The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools		£10.00
The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey		£2.00
Memories of War		£5.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£6.50
Send and Ripley Walks (revised edition)		£7.50
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£5.00
Special Offer: Purchase Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£5.50
Heroes All		£20.00

All the publications are available from the museum on Saturday mornings, from Pinnocks Coffee House, Ripley, or via the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk or email angie77@live.co.uk



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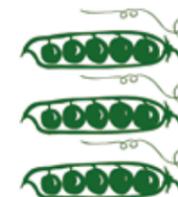
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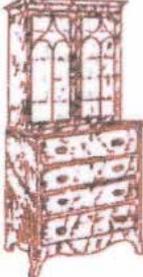
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