

Send & Ripley History Society



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BRITISH LEGION
SOCIAL CLUB

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BACK SOON

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Henry Smith's effigy in All
Saints', Wandsworth, see
article on page 12

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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

The saga of the redevelopment of the former Wisley airfield seemed to have reached its sorry end when the Planning Inspector decided a few weeks ago in favour of the development. In the words of the Wisley Airfield Action Group: 'The Inspector, Christina Downes, is a very experienced (aged 72) planning inspector and her decision was disappointing and appears to have acknowledged errors and omissions by Taylor Wimpey's experts and then disregarded them and accepted...inadequate evidence.'

With no hesitation WAG and Pyrford Parish Council asked their KC to advise on the potential for a judicial review. This is the only remaining means of appealing the decision and is effectively a challenge to the legality of the Inspector's decision. They decided to go ahead and are once more raising funds for the legal costs. The apparent appetite of the new government for building homes on 'greyfield' sites should not influence the outcome, as it is now a legal – not a political – decision, though it may very well influence similar future planning outcomes.

The appeal so far has cost just under £800,000 and a judicial review involving the KC, solicitors and expert consultants will add up to £200,000 to that. I hope that the simplification of the planning process which we are promised will also reduce the financial imbalance between property companies with huge cash resources and local action groups where a small proportion of the

community pays from its own pockets to try to protect the local area to everyone's benefit.

Better news is that the new Ripley Village Hall opened officially on 22nd June and the general opinion seems to be that we have an attractive facility built to a high standard. We have decided to return to the hall for our regular meetings from autumn of this year. I'm sure we would all like to thank Ripley Bowls Club for looking after us so well over the past two or three years.

Sadly I have to let you know of the deaths of two of our members, Anne Bowerman, widow of our former chairman Les Bowermann, both founder members of the Society, and Melinda (Mindi) McClean, owner of the Broadway Barn b&bs in Ripley.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th August 2024.

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 20 MB in any one email

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RIPLEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SOCIAL CLUB

ALAN COOPER

This article is in part a precis of two articles originally written by Jane Bartlett in 1989 which may be read in full in newsletters 84 and 85 on the Society's website.

On Saturday, 27th April 2024 the Ripley branch of the Royal British Legion Social Club called last orders and closed its doors for the final time. It was a tough decision to make but a dwindling membership presented no other option.

In living memory the building has always been referred to as the Legion, however, its origins are altogether quite different.

In 1861 a gift of money from Mrs Charles Marshall of Ripley Court enabled the construction of a new infant school for Ripley National School, which at that time was far too small to cope. The new school was built in Rose Lane on a piece of land belonging to Ripley Court and the staff of the new school consisted of a certified teacher, a pupil teacher and two 'monitresses'. These were responsible for – according to attendance figures taken from the school log – an average of some 80 children.

When the National School was extended in 1898, notice was given to Mrs Laws (Mrs Marshall's niece) that the



Once the former village infant school, the Comrades of the Great War took possession of the building in 1919. Pictured here is their football team for season 1920-21.

Back row, l-r: A Harrison, T Talbot, J Tucker, W Norman, F Billinghamurst, H Hill, A Fuller, A Jelly, C V Allwork (Commandant), WH Canter, F James, J Pullen, J Ockley, W Morris, W Puttock

Front row, l-r: J Morris, H Chambers, T Goodman, L Morris, F Millard, C Shoesmith, H Pukeman (Captain), C Steel, A Dibble, R Brown, H Hacker, A Carter (Hon Sec)



An early celebration of Remembrance Day outside The Old Comrades Club

management wished to end the tenancy of the infant school building. Mrs Gilbert, the head of the infant school, was offered the position of head of the infant department in the main school.

The building then remained unoccupied for the next 20 plus years, during which time it is believed that Doug White, the village carrier, who had his coal yard at the back, used it as a store for his furniture removal

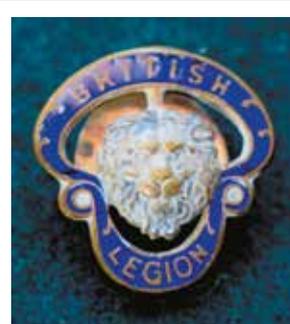
business. There followed a protracted period during which the location of a proposed building for the newly-formed Comrades of the Great War was widely discussed and culminated in 1919 with Sir Wilfrid Stokes of Millwater, Ockham, purchasing and gifting the old infant school to the Comrades. Henceforth, it became The Old Comrades Club, under which name it continued until 1960 when GC Cleverly, who was

the last surviving trustee, gave the trusteeship of the building over to The British Legion ^[1].

Local Ripley resident Stuart Shoemith, aghast at hearing of the pending closure set about to rescue and preserve the original Frank Brown paintings displayed in the building. These are paintings of WWII veterans from the village which Frank painted specifically to be



Detail from the football team photo showing the club name above the entrance door



A typical buttonhole badge of The Old Comrades Club, as worn by all members who had survived the 1914-18 conflict



British Legion club photographed on the day the paintings were rescued. The future of the building is currently unknown

displayed in the Legion for the residents of the village to view and enjoy. ^[1]

After much effort Stuart finally persuaded the Legion's trustees to accept his idea of them being housed permanently in the new village hall. He stuck to his guns and with help from Society member Steve Hill, finally managed to acquire the Frank Brown paintings and the memorial montage of those who gave their lives in two world wars, for the benefit of all in the village. They and a small band of helpers then relocated the paintings to Victory House to await the completion and opening of the new village hall, after which it is hoped they will all be finally displayed. For future visitors to the hall this will create a visually stunning and thought-provoking introduction to the rich historical legacy they represent for the village.

We all owe Stuart and Steve an enormous debt of gratitude as without their dogged determination these unique pieces of local history would have been lost forever.

^[1] The Royal British Legion (RBL), formerly the British Legion, is a British charity founded in 1921 and providing financial, social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British armed forces, their families and dependants

^[2] Local artist Frank Brown was the subject of the museum's recent exhibition. A specially-published, journal-sized booklet celebrating Frank's life work is available to purchase from the museum, but hurry as very few copies remain

Football team and remembrance-day photos c/o SRHS archives

Contemporary and buttonhole photos c/o Alan Cooper collection

DITZ BROWN ADDS:

The above-mentioned paintings are featured in the brochure *Frank Brown – Ripley to Rothesay* which was published by the Society on the occasion of Frank Brown's exhibition at the museum earlier this year (see our publications list on page 31)

40 YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN

Newsletter 55 of April 1984 featured an article entitled 'The River Wey Navigation, Some Personal Recollections of the late Evert Grove, interviewed by Janet Tice'. Janet, as most readers will know, is still an active member of our Society and is curator of our photographs collection. The article is introduced by the then editor, Les Bowerman.

The major event in Send in the 17th century was the construction of the River Wey Navigation between 1651 and 1653. It was planned and partially undertaken by Sir Richard Weston of Sutton Place and was the first waterway in England to be made navigable by the digging of long stretches of canal since the Romans in the 1st century AD linked Cambridge to the Humber with the Car Dyke System, which consisted of canals interconnecting with rivers.

Designed for barges of 60 tons burden capable of being drawn by a single horse, transportation was slow but highly economical in terms of energy used.

The workshop at Worsfold Gates is contemporary with the Navigation and lock gates were made there by traditional methods until about six years ago. The last commercial barge was taken out of service in 1969.

Brief historical notes on the local aspects have appeared in these pages over the years (see Newsletters 5, 7, 10, 16 and 29). Much more research on the subject could be done by any interested members. There is, for instance, a large archive on the Wey Navigation in the Guildford Muniment Room and a substantial bound typescript by the late Mr John Strudwick, formerly of Send, in Guildford Library (reference 386/4). London's Lost Route to the Sea by L Vine, is the most authoritative published source ^[1].

This book mentions W Grove, lock-keeper at Triggs Lock for no less than 59 years from 1856 to 1915. His son, Walter Grove, was master carpenter at Worsfold Gates for 45 years from 1885 to 1930, followed in turn by his

son Norman, from 1930 until 1966. The early members of this Society will remember a perfect summer evening in 1976 when the late Ewart Grove (Norman's brother), who ran the boathouse next to Worsfold Gates for 62 years, spoke to our visiting party with rare good humour before they were shown around the workshop and yard by the present foreman, Mr Vince Locatelli. An obituary for Ewart Grove appeared in Newsletter No 21.

Our member Janet Tice had in 1971 (before the Society was formed) interviewed Ewart Grove and very kindly gave us the notes she had made. Now that the Society's new Folk Memories Group has been inaugurated, it seems an appropriate time to publish these notes for the first time and we do so as follows:

The master carpenter's workshop was the centre for the labouring men on the Navigation. They were responsible for the repair and general upkeep. Many who were centred there lived in Send but their work obviously did not confine them to the parish boundary. Carpenters, blacksmiths, sawyers, bricklayers and labourers were there to repair locks, to mend bridges and gates, to clear the Navigation ditches and towpaths of weeds and rubble, to trim hedges and also to repair the barges themselves.

The banks of the Navigation had to be inspected regularly to prevent flooding. Here, Mr Grove told me, moles were the worst culprits as they would burrow their tunnels just above the water level. These tunnels would take the form of semicircles, the mole burrowing into the bank at one point and coming out into the river bank further along. Naturally when the water level rose owing to heavy rainfall or melting snow, the water would rush through the tunnels and the force of it would cause the canal to eventually breach its banks quickly at that point.

Men were therefore employed on the Navigation at times with the specific aim of catching moles and also rats. Dredging of the canal was also carried out to prevent flooding; the duties included the clearing away of weeds and the dredging of sand and mud. The sand was said to be of good quality and Mr Grove told me that this was of value to the builders in Send and Ripley, who used it in the making of mortar. Sand was unloaded behind the chapel at Cartbridge and the mud was used strengthening the banks of the Navigation where needed.

When there had been heavy rainfall, Mr Grove said, Mr Stevens, manager of the Navigation, would check it carefully and would make sure that the sluices in the locks along the Navigation were opened methodically, one after the other, to keep the level of water as even as possible all the way along.

Various cargoes were carried on the Navigation, the average load being 55-60 tons. The barges were either pulled by horses or by gangs of men. They would haul coal from London to Horsham ^[2] and go back with groceries and fruit and vegetables from that town. Timber was carried from London to Moons and Ingram & Perkins in Guildford. Corn and agricultural produce was returned to London. Rags were transported to the Woking Paper Mills (now the Gresham Press - previously Unwins Ltd) for use in making paper. Many Send people used to work at the paper mills.

An unusual cargo was gunpowder, which was transported from Chilworth, where it was manufactured, to the Arsenal Docks in London. This traffic was particularly heavy during the First World War, but

ceased altogether when the war was over and the powder mills closed.

The barges carrying the gunpowder were lined with lead to prevent sparks, but even so, residents along the Navigation were, not unnaturally, wary in case an accident might happen. Mr Grove told me an interesting tale of how one evening when he was a boy a barge carrying gunpowder came down the Navigation. The bargees rested for the night at the New Inn, Cartbridge, and moored their barge outside. However, when a nearby resident realised the nature of the cargo, the bargees were quickly awakened and had to remove their barge to High Bridge (at the foot of Wharf Lane) away from the houses in Send – just in case!

^[1]. Available from our museum library

^[2] Les Bowerman, editor at the time, noted: As it reads, this must be a mistake. Even when the Wey & Arun canal was in use from 1816 to 1871, the waterway went no closer to Horsham than Loxwood, near Billingshurst. The Wey Navigation from Guildford to Shalford and Godalming was not used commercially after 1925. If the goods really were for Horsham they must have finished their journey by road



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REMEMBERING SUTTON PLACE IN THE 1960S

GRAHAM RUDKIN

In 1949, when I was only five years old, my father bought me a Hobbies fretwork machine and introduced me to carpentry. From that early age I was fortunate that, under my father's supervision, I was able to continue to practice woodwork in the workshop that he had built at the family house in Potters Lane, Send.

My father was a successful local builder and the company SO Rudkin & Co was based in Tannery Lane, Send. It always seemed inevitable to me that one day I would follow in his footsteps and after school I went to study building construction at Guildford College. When I left college in 1963 I gained my preliminary experience working for a local company, Messrs P Howard and Sons, a high quality building firm based in Burpham.

During the early 1960s Howard and Sons were chosen to carry out not only ongoing general repairs but also some highly specialised renovation work at the Tudor mansion, Sutton Place. At the time it was considered an extremely prestigious contract for this local company and I was fortunate to be able to spend some of my very early career working at the house.

Sutton Place is a Grade I listed building situated about one mile south west of Send Church and the main entrance to the estate is on what is now the A3. The house was built around 1525 for Sir Richard Weston, a courtier to Henry VIII. Having a total of seventy-two rooms, it is described as a prodigy house and is decorated with some of the earliest traces of Italianate renaissance architectural features to be found in England.

Purchased in 1959 from the Duke of Sutherland, Sutton Place became the principle home of Paul Getty, the American oil billionaire. He lived there for the next



Grade I listed Sutton Place

seventeen years until his death in 1976. During his lifetime he was regarded as the richest private citizen in the world.

Restoring and repairing this magnificent mansion was a large undertaking for the company and the work was to last for many years. An on-site workshop was created in the stable block for the purpose. The estate manager at Sutton Place during this time was a Mr Thorogood who lived in one of the estate workers' houses in Blanches Hill, Sutton Green.

The work undertaken by Howard and Sons at Sutton Place was varied. It included not only highly specialised restoration of work that had been in place since Tudor times, but also general maintenance of both the house and the estate cottages.

Many of the rooms in Sutton Place retained their original Tudor oak wall panelling. Much of this could be carefully repaired, however, some of the panelling was in such a bad state of deterioration that whole sections had to be removed and replaced. Messrs John Moon, timber merchants of Guildford, supplied the new oak for this purpose. Carefully replicating the original panels and using a spindle moulding machine, the foreman joiner Mr Les Knight carried out a large part of this intricate and detailed work.



Paul Getty sitting in front of the very painting that Graham described



Paul Getty (ca 1960) in front of some of the intricate panelling

When completed, the experienced joiners George Calloway, John Sibley and Roy Butcher carried out the installation and fixing of the new replacement panels. Each of them was a local craftsman and they were directly employed by Messrs Howard and Sons.

There were times when the company was asked to carry out more unusual requests. The following is an example of such a task. For reasons of personal security Mr Getty requested that the company slice through the heavy Tudor oak door to his bedroom suite. A thin sheet of steel was then inserted before it was reassembled. This was an extremely difficult task, even for skilled joiners. A pressure pad was also installed and hidden beneath a small rug immediately outside the bedroom door. This ensured that, should anyone step on the rug during the night, an alarm would be triggered.

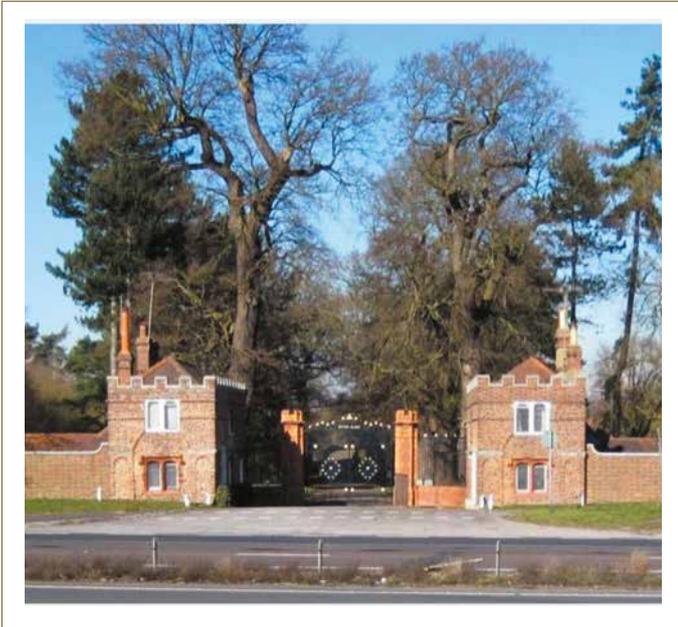
A further security measure at Sutton Place meant that a number of German shepherd dogs were kept to guard the estate. The dogs remained kennelled during the day and roamed the perimeter of the estate each night. One morning I rather naively arrived early for work before the dogs had been made secure. As soon as I got out of my car I was chased, nipped on the leg and badly bruised by one of the dogs. Fortunately the dog-handler, Mr Sams, managed to rescue me before I suffered any serious injury. After this incident I made certain that whenever I was employed at Sutton Place I was never again early for work.

Founder of the Getty Trust, Mr Getty had a world reputation as a major art collector and during his time at Sutton Place a small number of the paintings that he

owned decorated the rooms. It came as no surprise that when some of the oak panelling was being restored, valuable paintings had occasionally to be removed from the walls. I remember such a time when a small group of us were instructed to take down a large picture in an exceptionally heavy frame. This was an extremely difficult task, especially as leading art experts considered it to be a masterpiece. I can remember that we were all very relieved to find that during both its removal and rehanging neither the picture nor the frame was damaged.

During the time that I was working at Sutton Place many of the junior domestic staff lived on the top floor of the house. Their accommodation was situated beneath a large leaded flat roof that the staff had access to for use as a terrace. However, this being the 1960s, even when walking on the roof, many of the female staff chose to wear their fashionable stiletto heeled shoes. Unfortunately holes were punctured in the four hundred year old lead by their metal heels and caused considerable damage, which meant that some of the lead had to be repaired. Fortunately lead-working was another highly skilled job that could be undertaken by Messrs Howard's plumber Fred Standing and his assistants.

The work carried out by the company also encompassed the main entrance gate lodges situated on the A3. Another of Messrs Howard's employees, the master bricklayer Bill Wild, skilfully carried out the restoration work on these particular cottages.



East lodges and gates of Sutton Place, on the north side of the A3



Getty's payphone as spotted on Whicker's world

A rather surprising request from Mr Getty was for the company to build a large indoor swimming pool in the grounds. Instructions were given that the walls were to be lined in marble, especially imported from Italy. When completed, it all looked very opulent. However, considering the setting, it seemed to me rather incongruous and I thought that in style it would be more suited to California.

Throughout his tenure and considering Mr Getty's rather lavish lifestyle, Sutton Place was certainly a house of contrasts. One such anomaly was his insistence that a pay phone, specifically for the use of staff that also included any visiting workmen, was installed in one of the corridors. In addition, dial locks were placed on all the house phones. This all appeared slightly out of place in a Grade I listed mansion.

During the time I spent at Sutton Place I remember when Mr Getty was the subject of 'Whicker's World' which was then a regular and popular television series. The programme, presented by Alan Whicker, consisted of in-depth interviews with various high profile personalities. As he was often thought of as being a somewhat elusive figure, this was considered rather a coup for the BBC. Bearing in mind that the interview was also filmed at Sutton Place, it was surprising to many that Mr Getty had actually agreed to take part in the programme.

For their work at Sutton Place, Messrs Howard and Sons employed highly skilled and experienced craftsmen who always made certain that exacting tasks were carried out to an extremely high standard. I was fortunate to learn my own skills from such craftsmen. Their attention to detail certainly helped me many years later, when I began to restore the seventeenth century cottages in Ripley village, that have been owned by my family for over two hundred years.

I also recall with a great deal of gratitude that some of my work experience was spent in this historic building being surrounded by some of England's finest examples of Tudor workmanship.

Since its construction the magnificent mansion of Sutton Place has had numerous owners and possibly none more colourful and whose worldwide legacy to the arts more profound, than the person that I was privileged to meet, the American oil billionaire Mr Paul Getty.

All photographs c/o public domain

SEND MAY FAIR

CLARE McCANN

I am not sure reporting on this year's May Fair is, strictly speaking, history but it was a day that will stay in the memory. Sadly I had already abandoned any hope of showing off the outdoor display I had prepared but setting up was reasonably straightforward despite the weather. It was noticeable that the usual ring of stalls round the perimeter of the Rec had quite a few gaps, no doubt because stallholders had studied the forecast. The only redeeming feature of the weather was the lack of wind – otherwise the rain, while not heavy, was relentless. In true British style quite a few locals ventured out under colourful umbrellas, the scouts played 'cheerful' music and the live band put on a commendably upbeat performance. The formal opening gave a hint of what was to follow – a parade of Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts circled the Rec, followed by a period Rolls Royce with the May King and Queen. The parade arrived at the rendezvous point but the car was stranded with wheels spinning and mud flying. Volunteers piled in to push and with considerable effort the car moved on and the King and Queen emerged – meanwhile your chairman and my husband were oblivious to events – who says women do all the talking! Thankfully we extricated our cars, just, but I gather that others who left after us were not so lucky, with vehicles employed to pull out cars getting stuck themselves.



The parade of Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts



The period Rolls Royce with the May King and Queen being pushed out of the mud



The May King and Queen



Your chairman and my husband oblivious to events

TRAMPS IN RIPLEY

CAMERON BROWN

In December 2023 I received an email from our member Mandy Peponis offering me a fascinating article about a tramp who made his home in the bus shelter on Ripley High Street when she was a child. This was timely as at that time we had another homeless man making his temporary home in that same shelter and there was much discussion in the village about how he might be helped. Mandy's memory had been jogged by a brief article in *Send & Ripley Matters* about the founder of The Smith Charity. It reported: 'Henry Smith (or Smyth) was considered a tramp as he travelled around villages in Surrey sleeping on friends' floors and always with his dog, but in fact he was a very wealthy man. He had made his money working as a silversmith and later became Mayor of London.' Her story was, however, rather different.

MANDY PEPONI'S STORY:

'After more than 60 years I have solved a mystery: that of Henry Smith, a local character who 'lived' in the Ripley bus shelter and was my friend.

His might be a tale of 'riches to rags' of a former Mayor of London and silversmith who became a tramp and travelled around the villages of Surrey. He was a wealthy man and left his money in trust for people who need it at Christmas time. We may never know his story - unless you know more about the tramp in the Ripley bus shelter?

When I was a child we would often sit and chat when the 715 bus dropped me off from school on his doorstep, beside the blacksmith, in front of the Methodist Church. He always had time for me but I never knew his name. He called me 'kid'. I called him 'sir'.

My grandmother lived in Ryde Cottage beside the cricket club on The Green. She warned me not to speak to the

tramp in the bus shelter. But, after visiting Miss Bush's sweetshop, I would share my jelly babies with him and chatter on about my day at school. He would tell me of his travels through Surrey. Songbirds serenading by the misty lake at dawn, a mangy fox stalking a rabbit on The Green. His stories were magical to my young mind. Then, one day - he was gone.

He could not have guessed the effect he would have on my future life. He inspired my career in psychology at the University of Surrey. I learned so much from him as he taught me that we never really know what lies beneath who we seem to be. A lonely tramp can be a 'gentleman of the road' - an observer of the things we miss.

For 14 years I ran projects for the University with groups for the homeless but now the drop-in is gone, replaced by the Waitrose car park. However, the great memories remain. So many colourful characters like Henry are just invisible to many passers-by. Henry taught me that every person matters. We all have our story. You never know what life throws at you. If you are lucky in life share a smile with them.

I remember him still today - as if, when I hurried past the bus shelter this misty afternoon, he'd call out to me "Hey kid, how you doing?"

"OK sir!"

I passed this story to one or two of our local fonts of knowledge and it soon became clear that Mandy was conflating two quite different stories. There was indeed a tramp in the bus shelter some 60 years ago but Alan Cooper recalled: "I believe his name was Doren, Derham, Durham - something like that". Henry Smith (or Smyth), however, was born in Wandsworth in 1549. By the time he died in 1628, he had become rich and established a charity for relief of the poor. Today

The Henry Smith Charity has an endowment fund in excess of £1.25 billion and in 2023 awarded 1132 grants totalling £47.1m, the majority to ‘charitable organizations that help people when other sources of support have failed’ and to ‘grassroots organizations embedded in the community, working within the most deprived areas of the UK’. The amount specifically allocated to Surrey - because of the historical connection - is shared amongst all 200 parishes of the county but is now less than one percent of the total.

The article transcribed below was clipped from a newspaper some years ago by our Society president John Slatford – but he did not record the date or the name of the paper. It is clearly a version of the story used in *Send & Ripley Matters*, referred to above.

THE MAN WHO TESTED THE PARISHES OF SURREY BY COLIN JEFFERY

‘Slowly the old man shuffled up to the front door of the vicarage. He was dressed as a dirty tramp and was about to test the Christian ethics of yet another Surrey parish.

It was 1626 and Charles I was king of England. The old man knocked on the stout oak door. It was opened by the rector's elderly housekeeper. "Yes, and what do you want?"

“May I see the vicar?”

“Wait a moment.” She fetched the rector, a fat, red-faced man who peered contemptuously at the old man.

“Well?” said the rector impatiently.

“I need food and shelter for the night.”

“What!” cried the rector furiously. “I’ve nothing for beggars. Now be on your way before I set the dogs on you.”

“But, sir...” pleaded the old man.

“Be off you worthless scoundrel!”

The old man hurried down the path and out through the front gate. Waiting a little way down the lane was a coach and horses. The coachman, a burly young man, helped the old man up into the coach.

“None of my money for them” said the old man bitterly, as he adjusted the travelling rug over his lap. “They’ve forgotten what it really means to be a Christian. Jesus made it clear that in helping the sick and the poor we were also helping him.” ‘

We have in the Museum library a book about Smith and his charity^[1] from which we learn that Henry Smith was primarily a landowner and banker taking advantage of the many opportunities thrown up in the decades following the

dissolution of the monasteries. He was born in Wandsworth in 1549 and lived through Elizabethan and Jacobean times, dying in 1628, early in the reign of Charles I.

THE CHARITY'S WEBSITE INFORMS US:

‘The ongoing success of Henry’s charity is largely thanks to his foresight and understanding of the value of real estate. The land owned by the charity has been the foundation of its income since its formation. Henry made his fortune lending money to many landed families of his time and by the 1620s he was the owner of thousands of acres and the mortgagee of thousands more.

It was, however, after his death that his trustees were to make the most important acquisition, the purchase for £2,000 in the 1640s of the village of Brompton, a marshy estate of mainly market gardens just outside London, in the parish of Kensington.

In his will Henry, who had no children himself, left money for the welfare of descendants of his sister Joane. Referred to as his ‘poor kindred’ the charity still honours this benefaction. Amongst the charity’s range of grant making Henry’s legacy to ‘poor clergy’ also continues, with grants administered by dioceses of the Church of England on behalf of the charity. A separate fund makes grants to relieve poverty in some 200 specific parishes named by Henry and his early trustees.’

The article cited above implies that it was in his old age that Smith indulged himself in his rather eccentric mission of putting to the test all the parishes in Surrey and arranging for a yearly sum to be given to the deserving after his death. The will, however, made grants to 205 parishes; of these about half had been at least part-owned by Smith at the time of his death. Virtually every parish in Surrey, his home county (Wandsworth was in Surrey at that time), received a bequest, as did a further seventy-five parishes in twenty-one counties (ranging from only one parish in each of seven counties, to thirteen in Sussex). About a half of the parishes received £1 to £5 per annum. Fewer than a tenth of the parishes received over £10 per annum. On average the yearly sum awarded was about £7, which, in the reign of Charles I was still a considerable amount. However, to give some idea of his vast wealth, shortly before his death Smith gave £1000 apiece to five Surrey towns: Kingston, Croydon, Dorking,

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF HENRY SMYTH ESQUIRE SOMETIME CITIZEN AND ALDERMAN OF LONDON WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 3RD DAY OF JANUARY A^DNI:1627. BEING THEN NEAR THE AGE OF 79 YEARS. WHOME WHILE HE LIVED GAVE UNTO THESE SEVERALL TOWNES IN SURRY FOLLOWING. ONE THOUSAND POUNDS A PIECE TO BUY LANDS FOR PERPETUITY FOR Y^E RELIEFE AND SETTING THE POOR PEOPLE A WORKE IN THE SAID TOWNES. VIZ. TO THE TOWNE OF CROYDON ONE THOUSAND POUNDS. TO THE TOWNE OF KINGSTON ONE THOUSAND POUNDS. TO THE TOWNE OF GUILFORD ONE THOUSAND POUNDS. TO THE TOWNE OF DARKIN ONE THOUSAND POUNDS. TO THE TOWNE OF FARNEHAM ONE THOUSAND POUNDS. & BY HIS LAST WILL & TESTAMENT DID FURTHER GIVE & DEVISE TO BUY LANDS FOR PERPETUITY FOR THE RELIEFE & SETTING THEIR POOR A WORKE UNTO THE TOWNE OF RYEGATE ONE THOUSAND POUNDS. UNTO THE TOWNE OF RICHMOND ONE ESPECYALTYE OR DEBT OF A THOUSAND POUNDS. AND UNTO THIS TOWNE OF WANDSWORTH WHEREIN HE WAS BORN. THE SUM OF FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS FOR Y^E SAME USES AS BEFORE. & DID FURTHER WILL & BEQUEATH ONE THOUSAND TO BUY LANDS FOR PERPETUITY TO REDEEME POOR CAPTIVES & PRISONERS FROM Y^E TURKISH TYRANIE. & NOT HERE STINTING HIS CHARITY & BOUNTY DID ALSO GIVE AND BEQUEATH THE MOST PART OF HIS ESTATE BEING TO A GREAT VALUE FOR THE PURCHASING LANDS OF INHERITANCE FOR EVER FOR Y^E RELIEFE OF THE POOR AND SETTING THEM A WORKE. A PATTERN WORTHY THE IMITATION OF THOSE WHOME GOD HATH BLESSED WITH THE ABUNDANCE OF THE GOODS OF THIS LIFE TO FOLLOW HIM HEREIN.

Below Henry Smith's monument in Wandsworth is inscribed a list of bequests, including £1000 apiece that he gave to the Surrey towns of Reigate, Guildford, Kingston, Dorking, Farnham and Croydon. The £500 he left to Wandsworth seems to have disappeared at some point over the following century

I have seen no evidence for the activities described in *Send & Ripley Matters* and Colin Jeffery's newspaper article and the writers cite no sources for the tales. Smith was indeed remembered decades after his death in a story ^[2] which developed around a nickname supposedly ascribed to him – 'Dog Smith': it recounted that he had been a beggar 'and was commonly called Dog Smith, because he had a dog which always followed him'. The antiquarian Nathanael Salmon noted in 1736 how he was identified, 'in serious descriptions of Surrey' ^[2], as Dog Smith and told stories



Henry Smith's effigy in All Saints', Wandsworth

Farnham and Guildford. In his will he added Reigate and Richmond, both to receive £1000, with a further £500 to Wandsworth. His will did however stipulate that those excluded from the charity were any 'given to excessive drinking, whoremongers, common swearers, pilferers or otherwise notoriously scandalous'. The grant to the Surrey parishes is still paid out and is now worth many times its original value. For many years the distribution was made in

clothes, boots, calico and flannel etc, despite occasional protests that this was 'mere pauperisation'. Most parishes wanted money not clothing and in 1907 the Charity Commissioners drew up a new scheme for the pooling of funds and money was instead awarded to every parish on the list. Over the centuries the trustees have added further parishes and deserving causes to the list of recipients whilst endeavouring to continue to be guided by the spirit of the will.

of him begging bones for his beloved dog. Parishes where his dog was well-treated were subsequently rewarded by a grant in his will; one where he had been whipped as a vagrant paid the price by being the only one in Surrey omitted from his bequests.

Both of these stories immediately struck me as at best fanciful. Henry Smith was a vastly wealthy and a relatively prominent figure in society. He suffered ill health in his final years and it is unlikely that he would have been able to travel the byways of Surrey each evening with or without his loyal coachman and his dog. Even were he well enough, how would he have found the time or enjoyed the relative anonymity to be able to indulge in these activities? And if the conduct of these clergymen was of such importance to him, why would the grants to their parishes have formed such a tiny part of his bequests? My guess is supported by the charity's own researches.

He is much more likely to have been influenced by the poverty which surrounded him throughout his life. One of the perhaps unforeseen consequences of the schism with the Catholic Church and the dissolution of the monasteries some ten years before his birth was the wholesale loss of the charitable institutions making some effort to care for the poor. The Augustinian priory in neighbouring Merton was one such case. Locally, Ripley lost Newark Priory in 1539 and it is thought that it was

twenty years or so later that the central part of what is now the Anchor was built as alms houses. Henry Smith died in 1628 and his monument and effigy are to be found in Wandsworth parish church.

Returning to our Mr Doren, Derham or Durham who occupied the bus shelter in the mid 1960s - he is remembered by Society members Michael Giles and Margaret Field, whose family owned the Miss Bush sweetshop mentioned by Mandy Peponis. And his name was Doran...

MICHAEL GILES WRITES:

‘Sydney Doran was born in North London on the 20th March 1909. He was married to Grace Pym at Willesden in 1935. At the time of the 1939 pre-war register Sydney and Grace were recorded at different addresses as Sydney was still working in Willesden as a chef/waiter and Grace was at the family home in Mays Green with their two children. I believe the family moved to Ripley in 1941 because the two older children started at Ripley C of E in that year.

At about that time they took up residence in Florence House, which was between 1, Island Cottages and 1, Rippleby Cottages.

The building is there today, opposite Ripley House, and has a triangular addition which Margaret Field remembers as having been used as a dog-meat shop and



Florence House during its time as 21st Century Antiques



‘Hollington’, 99, High Street

later as 21st Century Antiques, which specialised in well-made reproduction furniture and desks.

I believe Sydney worked as a waiter at the Talbot and he and Grace were on the voters register for the 1945 election. To the best of my knowledge there were four children from the marriage – Brian, John, Yvonne and Peter.

I didn't know them very well but I remember that at least

one had malformed hands in that he had five fingers and a thumb on each.

There was obviously a family breakdown in the late 1950s or early 1960s because Sydney became a down and out and known as ‘Shuffler’.

Many residents began to feed him. The ones I know of include my late wife's grandfather, Charles Shoemsmith, who gave him food in a shed at the bottom of his garden at his house ‘Hollington’, 99, High Street and George Robbins, the manager of the International Stores.

My father-in-law died in 1965 and his house – named after his birthplace – was (is) very close to the bus stop which indicates that the early sixties is almost certainly the time we are talking about.

Shuffler, to the best of my knowledge, finally ended up in Brookwood mental hospital where, it was alleged at the time, he played some part in the death of a fellow patient.’

It would be disingenuous not to mention the most recent inhabitant of the bus shelter who made his home there for some six months this winter. It seems that this gentleman had become homeless after the breakdown of a relationship. I understand that he declined an initial offer of accommodation by Guildford Borough Council, electing to remain in the bus shelter where he was looked after by the parish council and a number of locals. He subsequently did accept an offer of accommodation but was apparently seen recently sleeping in the bus station in Guildford.

⁽¹⁾ *Henry Smith, His Life and Legacy*, Lucy Lethbridge & Tim Wales, published by the Henry Smith Charity, 2015

⁽²⁾ CP Gwilt, *Notices relating to Thomas Smith of Campden, and to Henry Smith, sometime alderman of London* (1836) nos 34 & 35

APPLETREES, ROSE LANE

CLARE McCANN



This photograph of Appletrees in Rose Lane comes from Jayne Way who lives there. She was given it by a previous owner but has no information about it. Janet Tice, our photos archivist and I both think it is possibly a wartime picture because of the sandbags. The man smoking a pipe seems to suggest that period too. Can anyone provide us with further information?

LANCE RAWES – SEND NATIONAL SCHOOL HEADMASTER

ALAN COOPER

I recently acquired this group photo from a well-known internet auction site. I believe it to be a previously unseen and unique photo of Send National School with the unmistakable headmaster Lance Rawes top row right. Computer enhancement of the board held by the small boy in the centre of the front row proves inconclusive as to the year, but the words Send School are clearly visible. Judging by the clothes worn and the relatively youthful appearance of Lance, it suggests the photo dates to the late 1890s. The oldest image in our archives is catalogued as 1901 and this certainly pre-dates that, based on his appearance.

Lancelot (or Lance as he was popularly known) Rawes was born in 1861 in Langdale, Westmorland. Both his father Richard and eldest brother Postlethwaite were coopers and the family had lived in the immediate area for at least six generations, Richard Rawes, born in 1668 in Shap, Westmorland, being the earliest traceable. His other elder brother William was a quarryman and it appears that Lance aspired to escape from the drudgery of manual labour in a small village community.

Details of his academic education remain sketchy to say the least, with no school records available. However, newspapers of the time record both his school and post-school education leading to a teaching career.

The *Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser* of 6th June 1872 informs us of 11-year-old Lance being awarded second class by the Diocesan Examination of Elementary Schools in religious knowledge and states his school as being



Newly-discovered photo of Send National School

Langdale Elementary. Five years later the *Kendal Mercury* of 2nd June 1877 records the examination results of the Carlisle Diocesan Education Society, reporting also that Lance achieved Pupil Teacher third class in religious knowledge.

The 1881 census records schoolmaster as his occupation. He then came south and in 1885 married Jessie Annette Newling in Edmonton, Middlesex. His earlier teaching assignments remain a mystery.

POSTSCRIPT:

Lance and his wife Jessie served Send School for an unprecedented 34 years from 1889 to 1923. Upon retirement they moved to Send Hill where he died in 1942 and Jessie a year later. ^[1]

^[1] *Two Surrey Village Schools* – Send Ripley History Society

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PAT CLACK

I have been thinking about D-Day and my memories of that day (June 6th, 1944) 80 years ago: just wanted to set it down, and you are the lucky recipients of it...

I was then Pat Gibbons and stationed in Blackpool, training to be a wireless operator and billeted at 18, Hornby Road – a household of fifteen 19-year-old WAAFs! ^[1]

We all knew that D-Day was approaching, but the day proposed was forecast to have atrocious weather, so it was postponed for a day - still not *much* better, but a slight improvement.

There was a leave ban on, to allow movement of troops from one place to another, so my mother decided to visit me instead.

She came up on an overnight train from Woking to Blackpool, with a few changes, and I had permission to go to Blackpool station to meet her. I booked a bed next door to where I was billeted – for her for one night.

She came in at five in the morning and we spent the day chatting and walking round Blackpool. I asked her if she had had a good journey up? “Not bad”, she said - turned out she had been on a train full of troops and she had sat on the kitbag of one of them all the way!

My mother always wore a hat and this day it was a blue straw, decorated with a bird; we strode along the front – no



Group picture of the wireless op intake in Blackpool – Pat is in the back row, second from right



Pat's 'sparks' badge – for successfully completing the wireless operator's course. This involved six weeks instruction in Blackpool followed by a further three months in Compton Bassett, Wiltshire. The badge was worn on the left arm

admittance to the beach, of course. I wore my uniform hat with the chinstrap fastened down but we hadn't gone very far before the bird on Mum's hat had flown away, never to be seen again! We spent a good day together, reminiscing, and she returned the following morning.

Eighty years on it occurs to me how brave she was, doing that journey. I think this was the first time she had travelled without Dad on her own, and in those conditions. Not unlike the thousands of young men, many of whom were preparing to embark on their first time ever journey abroad, and into the unknown.

There must still be a number of people remembering that time when so many men lost their lives and life changed for so many of us.

Pat had also written to us a few weeks ago in response to Rev Tony Shutt's version of the Lord's Prayer in J295 on p14:

When I was on listening watch in the WAAF and there wasn't much coming through, my associates and I used to send made-up messages - one of ours was on the Lord's Prayer as follows:

The Prayer of the Mad Bus Conductor:

Our Farnham, which art in Hendon
 Harrow be thy name.
 Thy Wimbledon in Erith as it is in Hendon.
 Give us today our Leatherhead
 Forgive us our by-passes as we forgive those who
 bypass against us.
 Lead us not into Thames Ditton but deliver us from
 Ewell
 For the Kingston, the Purley and the Crawley
 For ever and ever
 Crouch End

EDITORS NOTE:

I think it scans rather better than the Rev Shutt's version!

^[1] Members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force

All photos c/o Pat Clack collection



Pat explains: the uniform is actually the WJAC (Womens Junior Air Corp) to which I belonged just prior to enlisting in the WAAF - it was the girls' uniform equivalent to the boys ATC (Air Training Corps) - I was able to get a taste of marching and morse code prior to the WAAF. The picture was taken outside my front door and the cat was called Si (he was half Siamese) and lived to the ripe old age of 21!!

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VISIT TO HORSLEY TOWERS

CAMERON BROWN



The 'sensational' view of the front across the lawn. *The Victorian Web* described Lovelace's Romanesque tower as 'a church tower to which someone has attached cylinders'

On a dull May afternoon a group of 22 visited Horsley Towers and the adjacent St Martin's Church in East Horsley. The last time Society members went to see the estate seems to have been in 1997 and there is no record of our having visited the church before.

For those of us who had never been there before (the majority) there was immediate surprise at the sheer size of both the buildings and the grounds of over 50 acres.

The main complex dates from 1820-29 when it was designed by Charles Barry (of Houses of Parliament fame) for the then owner of the estate, William Currie, a wealthy banker.

At the time the estate covered 2000 acres and was known as East Horsley Place. He had Barry replace the existing Georgian structure which his family had lived in for many years, with a more substantial house in a style described as Tudor revival. This comprised the central part of the significantly larger building which occupies the site today.

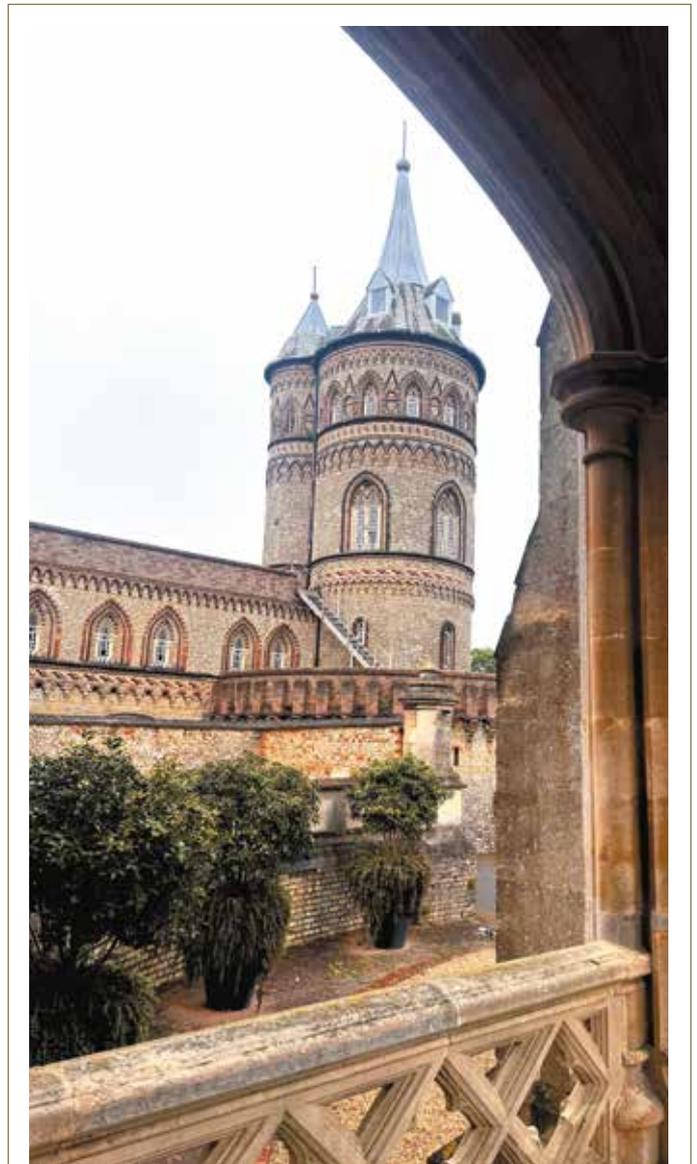
The estate belongs now to De Vere Hotels and their website tells us 'stay at Horsley Towers and you'll be walking in the footsteps of some famous ex-residents.' They are referring principally to the first Earl of Lovelace and his wife Ada (née Byron) who bought the estate from Currie some 15 years after the house was completed, moving there from Ockham Park and expanding the house very significantly. The great hall was added in 1847, followed by the large towers in



Three of the decorative corbels in the great hall

Romanesque and Rhenish styles flanking Barry's original house and leading to its being re-named Horsley Towers.

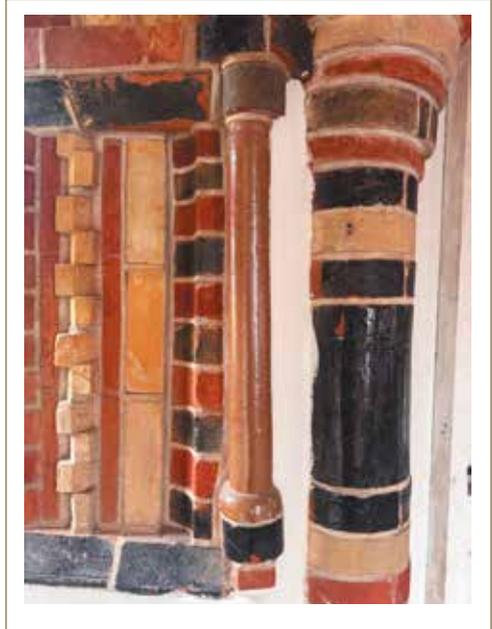
Ada died in 1852 and, starting some three years later, Lovelace added a chapel in polychrome brick, described by our guide as 'Arabian style' and by Pevsner as 'Italian gothic', with the back of the whole edifice encircled by a complex of walls, tunnels, arches and a lengthy, first-floor, enclosed cloister. This was all apparently



One of Lovelace's new towers



The Great Hall, added in 1847



The decorative brickwork, clearly featuring a domestic drainpipe

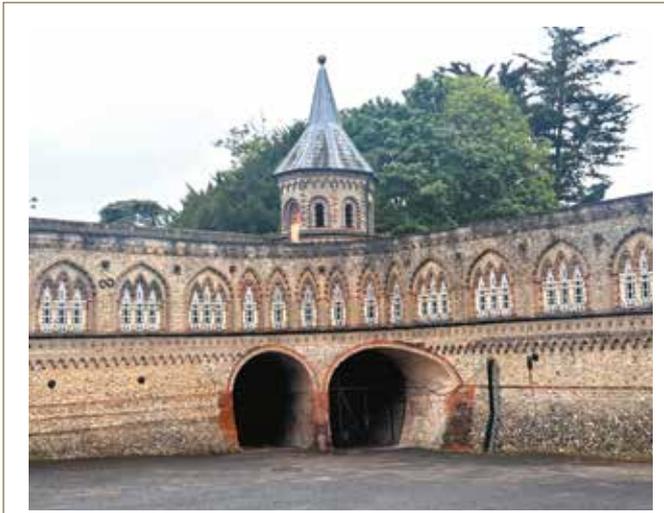
inspired by a ‘grand tour’ of Europe following Ada’s death and the work was carried out under Lovelace’s direction, without the guidance of an architect. The construction materials are mainly local flint and brick, the Earl having purchased a brickworks at Ockham to ensure a ready supply. In the polychrome brick cloister he somewhat eccentrically chose to use simple drainpipes, presumably from his own brickworks too, as decorative shafts or columns.

Lovelace was clearly not keen to have his servants spoil the view so he excavated a tunnel which passed from the back of the mansion under the gardens to its west, connecting the servants’ entrance in the courtyard with the drive leading to the village.

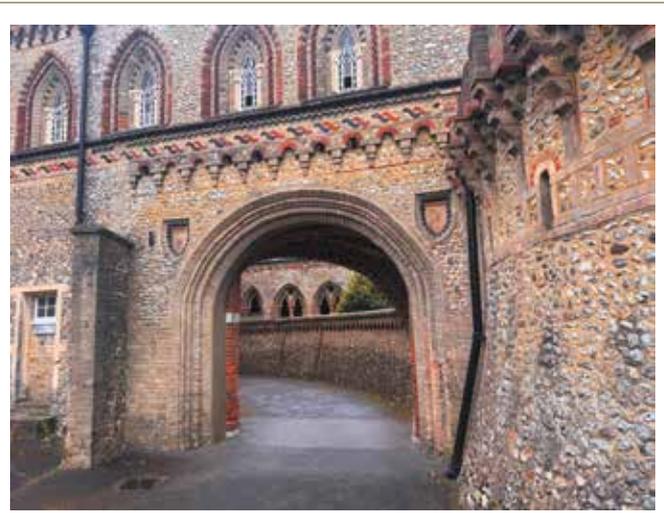
The park was encircled by an impressive wall and the main driveway was guarded by a twin-towered gatehouse



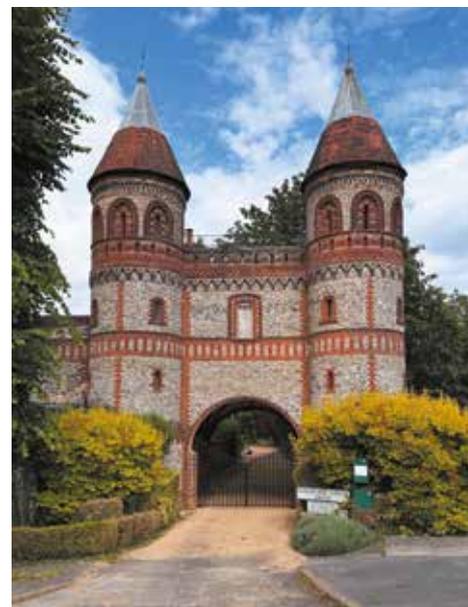
Top: The colourful brick cloister
 Bottom: The passage leading from cloister to chapel. Note the not untypical shoddy and unsympathetic finish of the electrical works



An exterior view of the first floor cloister



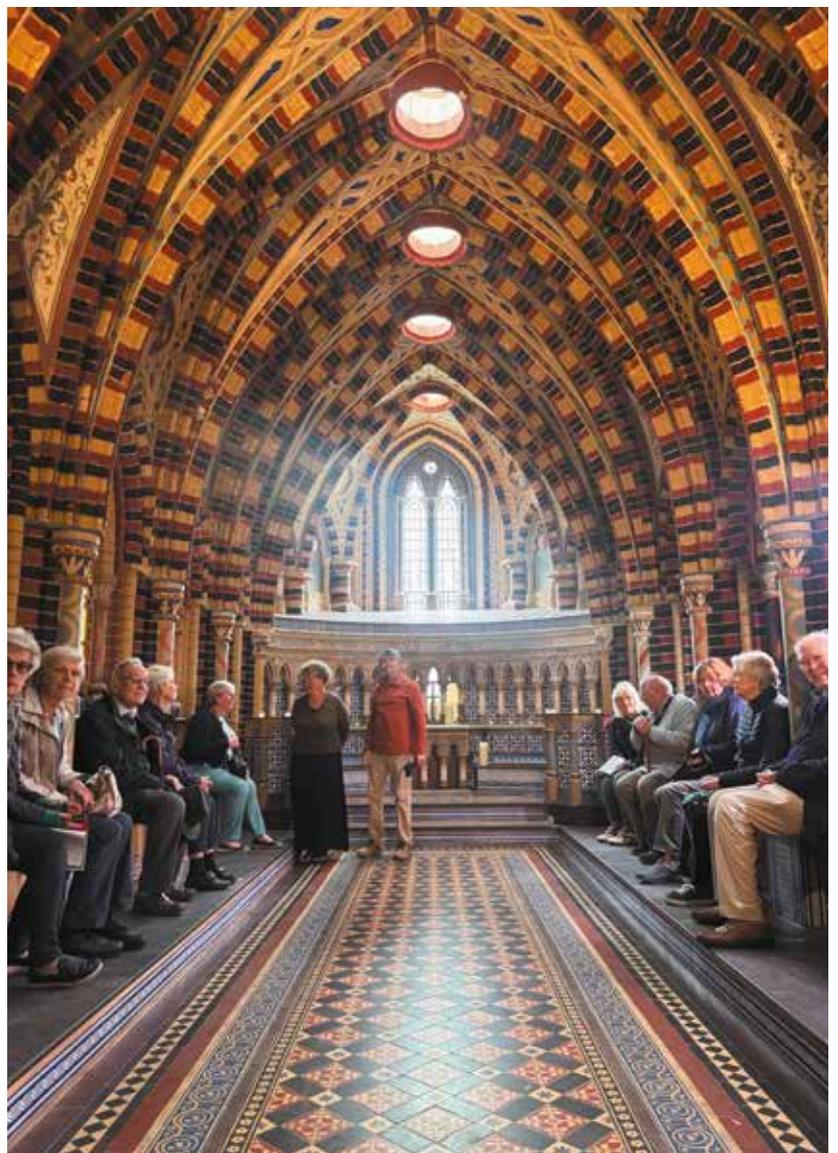
One of the many arches to be seen around the principal buildings



The gatehouse, directly opposite the Duke of Wellington pub. Pevsner called the approach to the house 'one of the most sensational in England'

which can still be seen at the junction with the Guildford Road, opposite the Duke of Wellington pub. East Horsley village too was largely rebuilt by the earl during the 1860s, the buildings and bridges all showing variations on the same unmistakable Lovelace style – flint and polychrome brickwork with highly decorative features.

In 1919 the third Earl sold the estate to Thomas Sopwith, the aviator and



Our members in the polychrome brick chapel



The Covid memorial windows

businessman, for £150,000. While resident at the Towers Sopwith named one of his aircraft the Hawker Horsley after the house. He sold off much of the land and in 1929 the house and the remaining acreage became a girls' school, purchased ten years later by the Electricity Council for use as a management training college before they sold it to its current owners.



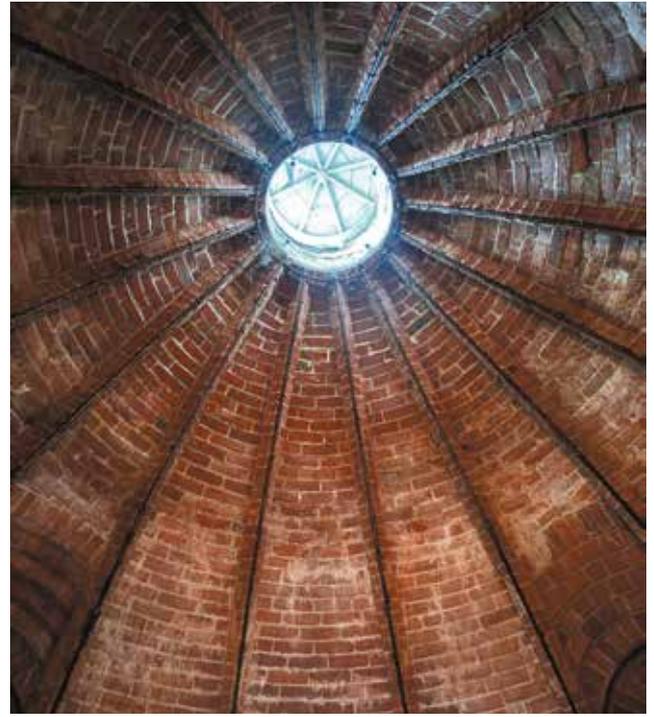
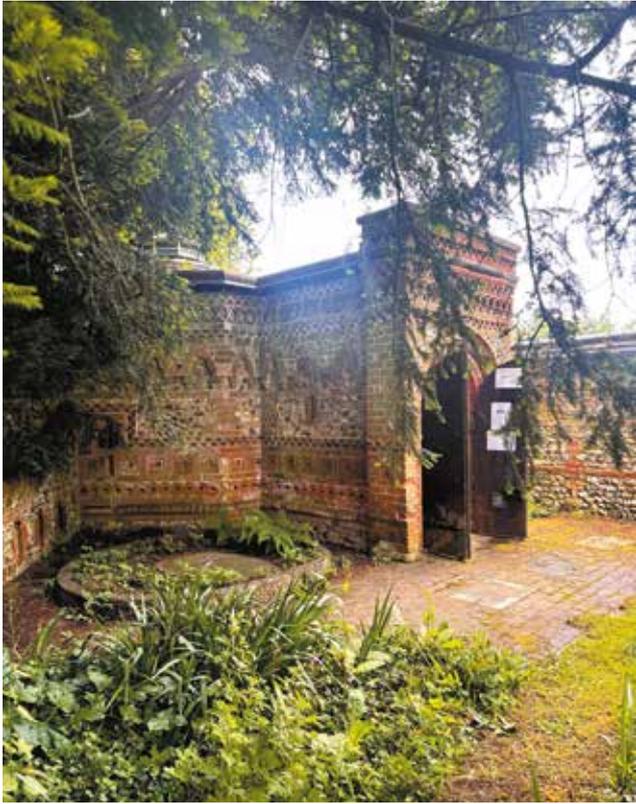
The coat of arms of Thomas Cornwallis

Our guide (from De Vere hotels) explained somewhat reverentially that De Vere's policy is not to 'renovate or restore' but to maintain the building and keep it fit for purpose. Our tour did not include any of the hotel accommodation but I would imagine that much of it must have been substantially renovated to make it fit for use as a first class hotel. Sadly there is little of historic interest in the furniture and contents other than a handful of paintings.

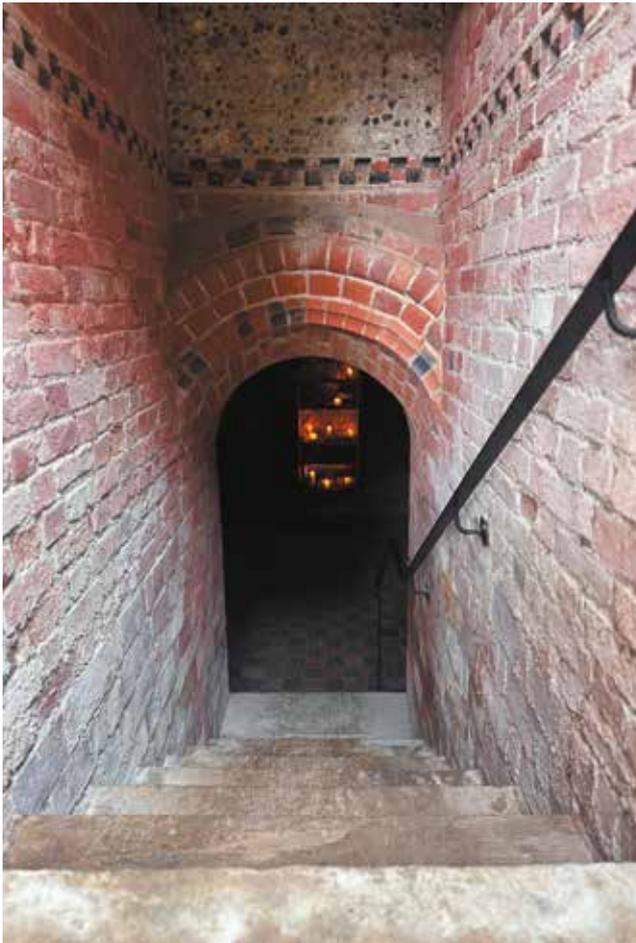
The house has certainly not been to everyone's taste – now or then. In his Surrey volume Pevsner describes the central part by Barry as 'a sober, dull design ... with the same lack of enthusiasm which taints so many of Barry's non-Classical buildings', though he admits that the approach to the house is 'sensational'. In his study *The Architecture of Southern England* John Julian Norwich called Horsley Towers 'a grotesque Victorian Disneyland which has to be seen to be believed', adding that his inclusion of the building in his book should 'serve as a warning rather than an inducement'.

ST MARTIN'S

We then walked a short distance in the direction of the gates of Horsley Towers to visit St Martin's, which has some evidence of its Norman origins in its tower and a window above the west door. The chancel arch is well-preserved 13th century but the whole building was substantially remodelled in 1869 under the guidance of Lord Lovelace. Three 15th century windows survive, some with panes of very early, opaque glass. Our guide pointed out some interesting 14th and 15th century brasses and an attractive 17th century monumental tomb



The roof of the mausoleum



Entrance to the mausoleum



The Earl of Lovelace's tomb. The motto, LABOR IPSE VOLUPTAS means 'Work (or labour) is a pleasure in itself'

of Thomas Cornwallis, his wife and children. We were amongst the first visitors to get to see the three newly-installed stained glass windows in the 1980s-built north transept. They were authorised in 2021 to be created as a memorial to those who suffered during the Covid pandemic and were created by artist and stained glass craftsman Derek Hunt of Leicestershire.

We were also able to visit the mausoleum containing the tombs of Lord Lovelace and his second wife which, astonishingly, had become completely overgrown and only cleared and subsequently opened to visitors within the last twenty years.

All photographs by Ditz

WHERE IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

A BUSY SCENE OF A TEASHOP. WHERE WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN AND WHAT EXISTS THERE TODAY?



WE ASKED IN JOURNAL 296 WHERE THE PHOTO OF THIS BUSY ANIMATED SCENE WAS TAKEN AND WHAT EXISTS THERE TODAY

This photo was taken in Ripley High Street. Today a new

build named Duncan House occupies the garage site, home to All Fired Up.

Correctly identified by Audrey Smithers and Vernon Wood.

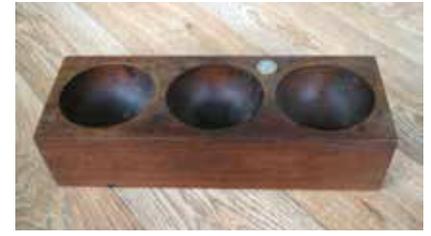
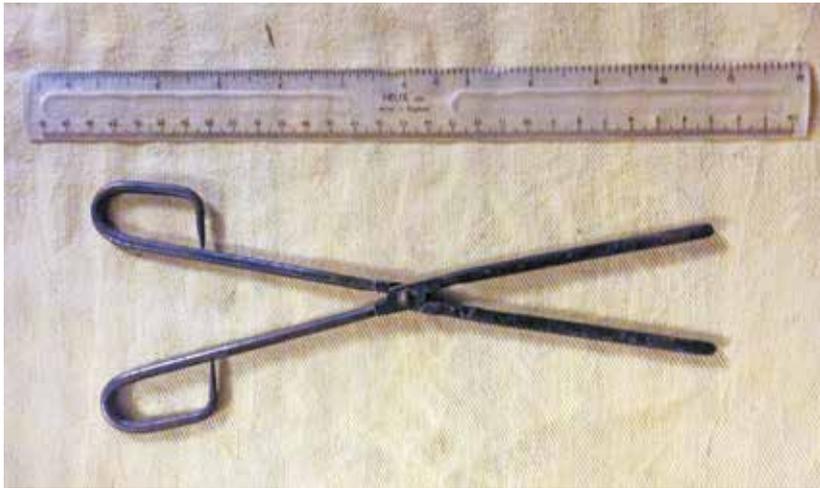


Duncan House today on the old garage site

WHAT IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

THIS JOURNAL'S MYSTERY OBJECT COMES FROM THE COLLECTION OF OUR MEMBER JOHN PURSER. AT NEARLY 10" (250MM) IN LENGTH, WHAT IS IT AND WHAT WAS ITS PURPOSE?



WE ASKED IN JOURNAL 296 WHAT THIS STRANGE-LOOKING WOODEN OBJECT WAS AND WHAT IT WAS USED FOR.

Used up until the 1960s (certainly in Ripley as I recall), this is how shops kept their loose change and is the precursor of the cash register or cash till.

Correctly identified by: Audrey Smithers, Peter Smithers, Barry & Maureen Taylor, Janet Tice and Vernon Wood.

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THE SEND MARSH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ROGER SODEN

ALAN COOPER WRITES:

1953 was a landmark year for many. A new queen, Elizabeth II, was crowned. In Send the estate of the entrepreneur Gordon Stewart was put up for sale following his death the previous year and Send Marsh decided to create its own residents' association.

Shortly before his death in 2017 Roger Soden compiled for posterity notes regarding the formation of the Send Marsh Residents' Association. These are presented here and have been enhanced by the addition of further anecdotes about the founder.

The origins of the Send Marsh Residents' Association can be traced back to one man, Harry Pullen. Born in 1890 he was the local road-sweeper and known to everyone as Cunger. He lived at 2, Send Marsh Cottages, in those days a pair of cottages but today a single residence named Sendmarsh Cottage, which overlooks The Green.

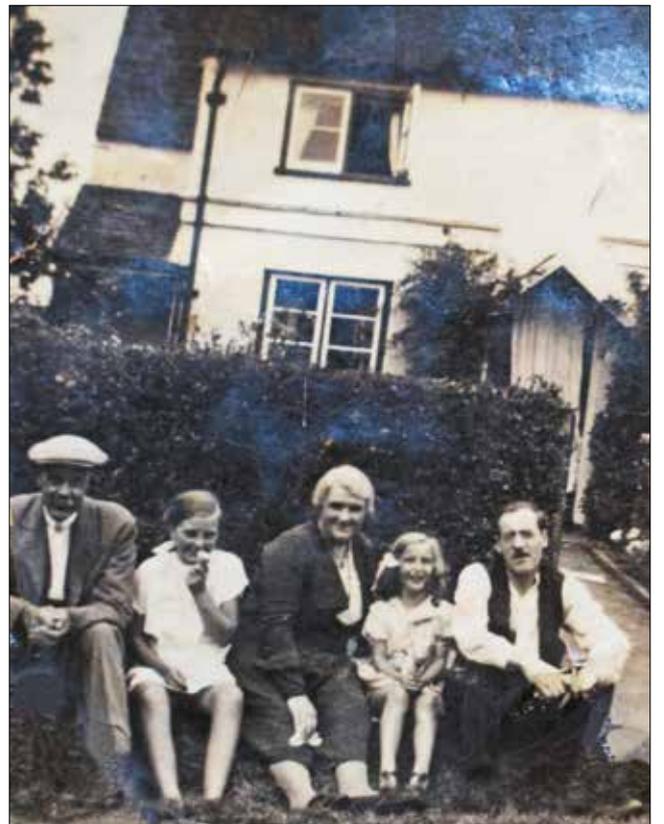
In 1953 Send Marsh Green was very different in appearance. It was owned by Lord Onslow of Clandon and was not maintained at all. The grass was left to grow long and the whole area was surrounded by a ditch. The children of Send Marsh never had a bonfire of their own to celebrate 5th November so Cunger approached the parents in the village, promoting the idea of building one on The Green.

Agreement was reached with interested villagers and support came from many sources. Mr & Mrs Shilton supplied the tractor and trailer for rubbish collection and Barrett's, the shed makers, provided a lorry. Volunteers cleared The Green and built the bonfire. The ladies of the village decided to put up stalls and cooked and served food. Cunger lit the bonfire as well as assisting with the work and it was a huge success.

Filled with enthusiasm, the parents decided to continue with a Christmas party for the children of Send Marsh. A collection had been made at the bonfire from the sale of food so they found themselves with a small financial start. A committee was formed to organise fundraising and the



The pollarded elm trees on Send Marsh Green, to which a power supply was provided from the Pullen household beyond



Harry Pullen, far right of picture, outside Send Marsh Cottages

event itself. One idea that was acted on was carol singing around the local pubs in the area. Doug Holdforth, a successful local builder, drove his works mini-bus and other residents on the committee who had cars did likewise. My father, Alfred Soden, who worked at the Lion Works in Maybury, asked three of his workmates who were at the time in a singing trio called The Weysiders, if they would be interested in joining in on the night to help out and they agreed. Their piano player said he would like to help by playing the piano accordion. He was working at the Kenwood factory in Old Woking and his name was Les Reed. Les went on

to become a professional musician, achieving some fame by being involved with Tom Jones's early hits, 'Delila' being one of them. He finished up with his own orchestra and was a big name in the music world at that time.

The carol singing was a huge success and one of the collectors at the pubs was Colonel Raistrick who lived in Two Oaks, Manor Road. He supported the whole idea. After everybody had finished the singing and the pubs had closed, they all returned to Sidbury, Manor Road, which was my home and they had a party. Cunger was guest of honour.

The children's party was held at St Bedes school hall on a Saturday afternoon, all organised by committee members and helpers. Everything was free for the children, paid for by collections at the bonfire and the carol singing. A suggestion was made that, as St Bedes school hall was available, all parents and Send Marsh villagers could return in the evening for a dance. Bill Short, the headmaster of St Bedes, agreed to this and so the evening went ahead, funded by the sale of tickets. A solid committee was formed and for many years afterwards this continued. Send Marsh Residents' Association followed but it owes its birth to Mr Pullen (Cunger), the village road-sweeper, all those years ago.



The Send Marsh Residents' Association - 1953

l-r: Colonel Richard Raistrick, Peter Westwood, Alan Truphet, Win Wade, Win Holdforth, Dorothy Soden, May Armitage, Clem Gillett (seated), Ken Brooks, Doug Holdforth, Dorothy Gillett, Frank Armitage, Stan Wade, Peggy (Anne) Raistrick, ???

ALAN COOPER CONTINUES:

When interviewed in 2016, Albert Pullen (Cunger's son) spoke freely of his father's early activities in The Marsh, namely his efforts in preventing the then owners of Send Manor from claiming The Green as their own.

"The front garden of Send Manor was never enclosed and used to form part of The Green. To maintain the right of the public to use it as common land my father, Harry Pullen of Pullens Cottages, (now Sendmarsh Cottage) would bring his deck chair and newspaper once a year and sit reading on the front lawn. Every 5th November we built a bonfire on The Green. Dad started 'the bonfire boys' and we would suspend an electric cable from our shed over the road to one of the pollarded elm trees and brew up tea, cook a few bits and have a bit of a do out there. There were seven pollarded elms, but they are all gone now".^[1]

Harry Pullen died in 1960.

^[1] Local Memories – Albert Pullen – see also an article in Send & Ripley History Society Journal 251

Residents' Association photo c/o Wendy Soden collection

Harry Pullen and pollarded elms photos c/o Audrey Smithers collection

MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN

Our current exhibition – Ripley, The Mecca For All Good Cyclists – is open now until the end of August, supported by the Veteran Cycle Club and the Anchor pub. The improvised sign has already brought in a few lycra-clad visitors and the village hall has helpfully installed a bike rack.

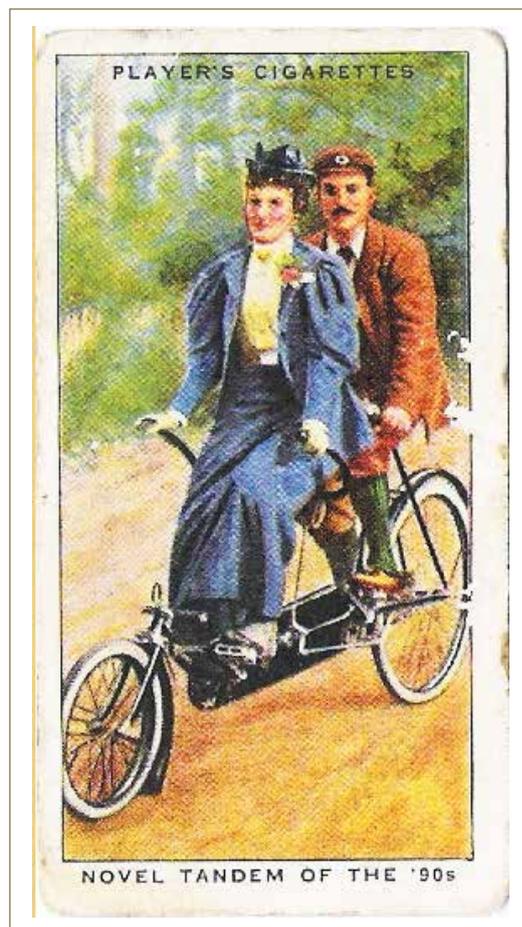
However, you do not have to be a cyclist to appreciate the story of Ripley and cycling. Many local people will know that Ripley has a connection with cycling but maybe not know that in the last quarter of the nineteenth century ‘Of all the stretches of highway popular amongst cyclists, the Ripley Road, without dispute, is far and away most famous’.

Ripley was so famous that it had its own board game, its own cycling shoe and even its own tricycle. So do not forget to come to the museum to learn more and enter a free prize draw for lunch at the Anchor!



Incidentally, Send also has a place in cycling history as it seems that the Tricycle Association was founded in Send in 1928.

Clare (curator)
01483 728546 or
crickethill@hotmail.com



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Ripley Village Hall. Doors open for all evening talks at 7.30pm for an 8.00 start. Tea/coffee and wine available. NB – payment by cash only.

DATES - 2024	EVENTS
Sunday 18th August	Members only BBQ (see enclosed flyer)
Wednesday 11th September	An illustrated talk: <i>Tillingbourne Tales</i>
Wednesday 9th October	Kathy Atherton talk: <i>Literary Mole Valley</i>
Wednesday 13th November	Talk by Nick Bale: <i>William Harvey – The Ladieswear Specialist</i>
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas Social. MEMBERS ONLY

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

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS



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you wish to help in the museum

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Frank Brown, Ripley to Rothesay – Journeyman Painter		£5.00
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
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All the publications are available from the museum on Saturday mornings, from Pinnock's Coffee House, Ripley, or via the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk or email srhistorysociety@gmail.com



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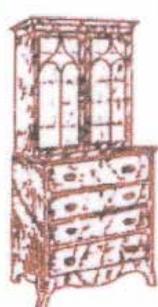


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