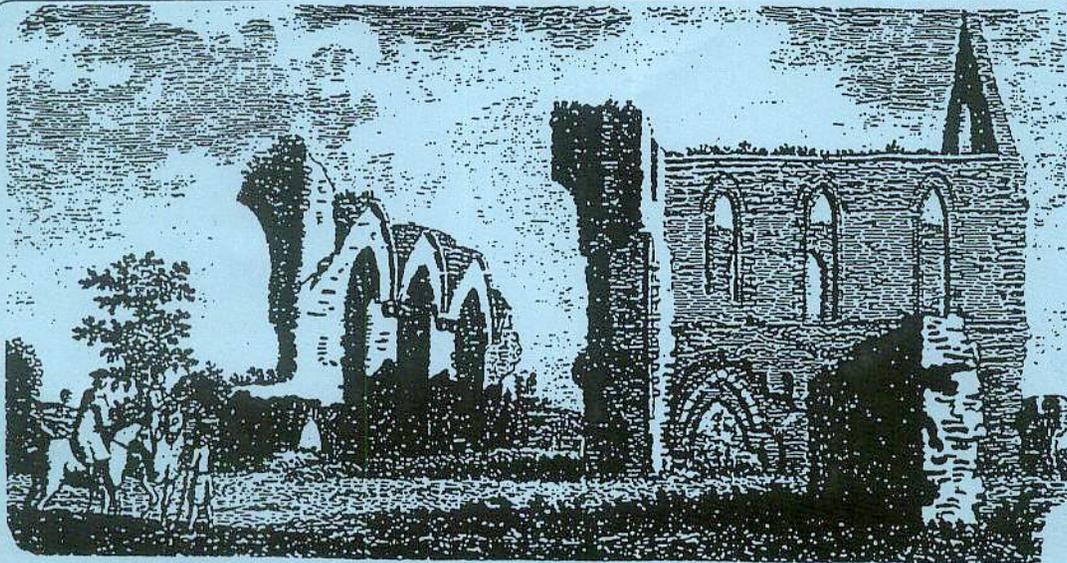


Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 296324



NEWARK PRIORY

Newsletter No.137

November/December 1997



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Cover Illustration: Newark Priory in winter circa 1984 - W Heath

EDITOR'S COMMENT

As this year draws to a close, we are reminded that subscriptions are due for the forthcoming year commencing January 1998. A subscription renewal form is enclosed with the Newsletter, and it will greatly help our Treasurer if this could be returned with your remittance to our Membership Secretary, George Bleach, as soon as possible.

Once again, my request for photographs of winter scenes in and around Ripley has borne fruit, and a selection from those submitted by members is included at the end of the Newsletter.

The new exhibition on the River Wey Navigation is well and truly set up, and if you have not paid a visit to the museum recently, it is hoped that you will find time one Saturday morning between now and Christmas to look in and see the excellent job that Norman Carpenter and Clare McCann have done in setting up this most interesting exhibition. There are many photographs, views and comments on the Wey Navigation that have not appeared before, one of which, showing a wedding ceremony, is reproduced below.

1998 reminds us that we are now two years away from the millennium, and from time to time the Society has discussed ways in which it could commemorate the turn of the century. Several ideas have been put forward, but most of these have concerned the production of new publications for the Society. This seems to be an appropriate way in which to continue its work and also commemorate the turn of the century, plus 25 years of the Society's existence.

The publications so far suggested are as follows:

A brief history of Send and Ripley

A history of Newark Priory

A Guide to St Mary Magdalen Church, Ripley

A survey of the mature trees in the areas of Send and Ripley

A history of Send and Ripley Primary Schools

An updated version of the successful "Then and Now" publication

A record and comment of pubs and hostelries, past and present, in Send and Ripley



On behalf of the Secretary, I give notice of the Annual General Meeting of Send & Ripley History Society, which is to be held at Ripley Village Hall, at 8 pm, on Thursday, February 26.

And finally, I would like to thank all our members and readers, and also the contributors and advertisers in the Newsletter, for their support over the year, and to wish them all a happy Christmas and a prosperous 1998.

BOUGHTON HALL, SEND, FROM 1939

During the war years, the Hall was still owned by V A Grantham, but was requisitioned by the local authorities.

The gardener's cottage was occupied by a niece of Cohen, the founder of Tesco's, and her two children. After they returned to London (as did many families during the lull before the blitz), Guildford Rural District Council put the care of the gardens under the Women's Land Army, with two of the girls living in the cottage (one of these was later to marry a roundsman from Weller's Bakery, Ripley).

The Hall was used as a home for young evacuee children who were being cared for when they had infectious complaints. The Land Army girls worked in the kitchen gardens, providing vegetables for the home. Mrs Hope Sanger wrote that emergency food supplies were stored in the Hall, but I had no knowledge of this. After the war, the Guildford Rural District Council converted most of the building into flats, housing some of their own staff, as well as other homeless people, dividing up some of the larger rooms and installing bathrooms and kitchens. One family, a Civil Engineer and his wife, became well known when later, living in Woking, the wife became Mayor. Another tenant in the divided drawing room was a scene painter for Rank Film Studios, who painted landscapes on the walls of his living rooms and bedrooms. The Council didn't give up their compulsory occupation until the latter part of 1957. In fact, a widow, the last to leave, was still living in her flat after the Hall was sold, the Council only rehousing her after she suffered injury when the dry rot in the floors was being attended to.

In 1958, Mr Ben Hersher and his wife, Gladys, purchased the Hall from Mr Grantham with the compensation from Guildford Council for dilapidations still unsettled, as he had already found a purchaser for his own property. Ben Hersher had started in business in a small way making furniture, but by now owned factories in Mitcham (his first), Manchester and the West Country. He traded in the name of "Standard Upholstery" and made three-piece suites for the "trade", including many of the West End department stores, all being sold under the stores' brand names.

Ben Hersher did a great deal towards upgrading the fabric of the Hall. He employed Mr Breakspere from Mitcham, a first class bricklayer. He fitted a slate damp proof course to the exterior walls, which were, in some places, 18 inches thick. The replacement bricks were "Southwater" engineering bricks, a very hard pressed brick which used to be made near Horsham. The Breaksperes built a porch to the front entrance with Doric columns. They converted the old kitchen and staff quarters into a flat, to be occupied by the gardener, while the Butcher's Pantry was modernised to house a new fitted kitchen, with the cellar under the floor being partly filled in (Hersher had a dread of spiders and other crawlers).

Their next improvement was to build a luxury en-suite bathroom to the bedroom nearest Send Marsh. They demolished the old boilerhouse, then built the bathroom on brick piers. The open void underneath housed the new gas boiler for the hot water. The exposed water pipes froze up most winters: my advice to fill in between the piers was ignored. It was a luxury bathroom with a sunken bath in the centre of the room, surrounded by mosaic tiles and the walls clad with coloured Vitrolite.

Mr Hersher advertised in the Woking News and Mail for a part-time handyman. A Woking milkman was one who applied, and also to apply was the woodwork instructor from the

Gordon Boys' Home in Chobham. He undertook to replace all joists and floorboards affected by rot and woodworm. For example, the drawing room and dining room floors were replaced and overlaid with oak blocks in a herringbone pattern. The Hershers were lucky to find a true craftsman at a modest rate of pay.

I, too, worked on the house, including the reconversion of a kitchen and bathroom that the Guildford Rural District Council had built over the bay window of the drawing room when they made a first floor flat. This included replacing the two small windows with one central one and extending the walls to form a parapet to match the existing ones. A new en-suite bathroom was made, again with Vitrolite panelled walls.

Many cornices had been damaged when the rooms had been partitioned. I repaired the plasterwork, casting mouldings of "Prince of Wales Feathers", or "Acanthus Leaves". The marble fireplaces were cleared of grime and the chips repaired. The new wallpaper chosen for the dining room was hand blocked and had to be trimmed with a knife and straight-edge. A so-called "experienced" decorator was engaged to do the actual hanging. Unfortunately, he started hanging in the bay window and ended up with disaster at the focal point - the chimney breast.

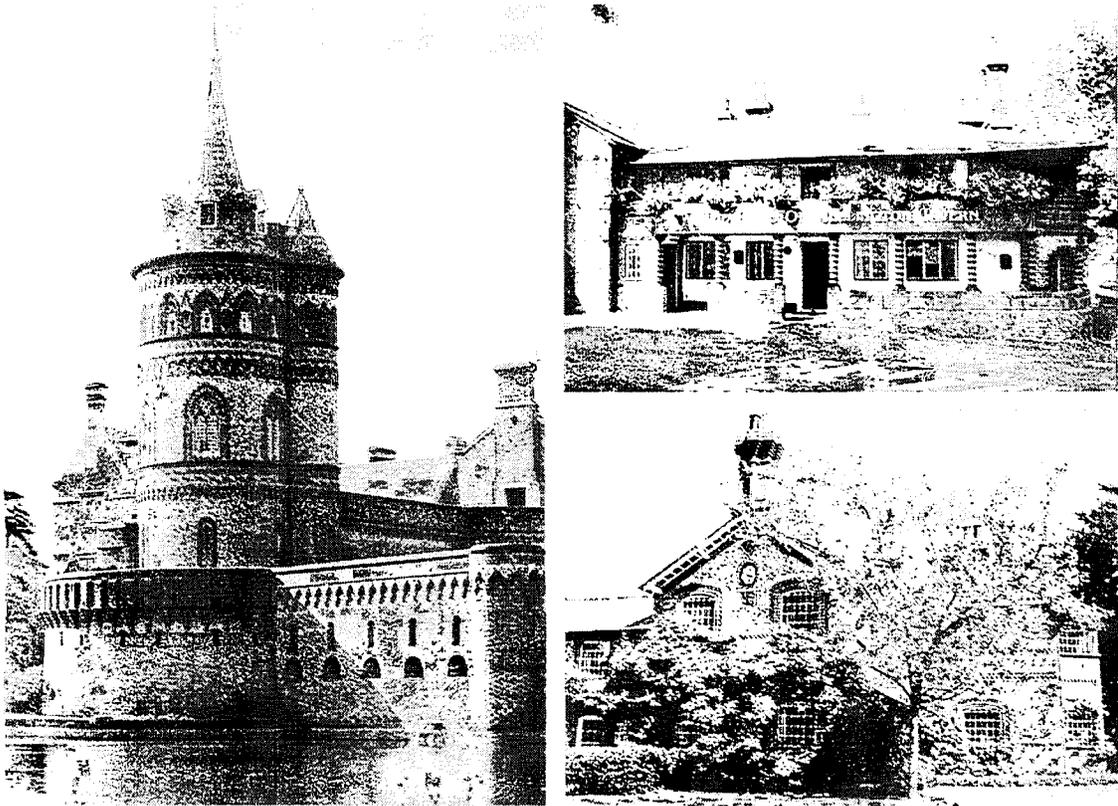


I had a long conversation with Ben, in which he told me of the troubles in the works at Mitcham. His workers had become "trade unionists", to which he objected, so friction arose. Some years later, Ben, a very downcast man, told me they had sold the Hall. He had lost the battle and the factory had gone, but what had hurt him most was, when handing out the redundancy monies, the only man to shake his hand and say "Sorry, Boss" was from the West Indies, not one of his original workers.

Hersher sold the Hall to Mr and Mrs Pat Fletcher who opened it as a Private Hotel. However, he kept the garages, dilapidated gardener's cottage and other outbuildings, with much of the gardens. This site was subject to many planning appeals to convert it into a good quality residence. The Planning Officers refused to believe the site had ever been inhabited, although the old Rural District Council had billeted families in the gardener's cottage, and Father was called to give proof. It is still left derelict.

After the hotel closed, Boughton Hall became a Retirement Home, with further additions and reroofing in 1984 by Mr and Mrs Carr. It has just changed hands in September 1997, the new owners being Mr and Mrs Geoghan.

Ken French



VISIT TO HORSLEY TOWERS ON 28 SEPTEMBER 1997

Some 28 members and friends gathered outside the entrance to Horsley Towers and made their way along the long driveway to the main entrance of the house.

Almost ten years ago, in January 1987, Stephen Tudsbury Turner gave an extremely interesting talk to the History Society on the subject of "Lord Lovelace: His Life and Achievements", which was subsequently reported upon by Vice-Chairman, Tony Medlen. Those who were at this meeting can attest to Stephen's skill and the entertaining way in which he presented his subject, and likewise the skill with which Tony summarised Stephen's talk. Therefore, on this day, those who found themselves standing at the front entrance of Horsley Towers were anticipating an entertaining afternoon and in this we were not disappointed.

Like a military operation, the members were divided into three groups and each group escorted around the house efficiently and expertly, either by Stephen or one of his two assistants. It is impossible to convey the pleasure which was derived from the very personal tour we had of the building, which consisted of visits to the top of the tower, the cloisters, the private chapel and the Banqueting Hall. This has to be experienced to be fully appreciated; however, the following extract describing the house is reproduced here from the excellent guide produced by Stephen.

"The two thousand acre estate of East Horsley was acquired by the Earl of Lovelace in 1840, and with it came a mansion house, East Horsley Park, which had been built to the designs of Sir Charles Barry during the 1820s. It was an uninspired building in the revived Elizabethan style, but it remains as the core of the existing house. Lovelace appears to have let his new acquisition during the early 1840s, but in 1846 or thereabouts he made it his principal home in preference to Ockham Park. The earl's first additions to the mansion were the stuccoed tower at the west end and the great hall. This last was famous for the fact that the arched trusses in the roof were formed by the application of steam heat, a process on which Lord Lovelace was an authority and upon which he delivered a paper to the Institution of Civil Engineers, of which he was a member, in 1849, two years after the hall was built.

"After the death of his first wife, the earl directed his considerable architectural and engineering talents to his Surrey residence. In 1858 he built a tall, steeply roofed tower at the east end of the house. The tower was constructed in flint and polychrome brickwork, and the style was a weird combination of Rhenish Gothic and Byzantine.

"The following year, still working with the same materials and in the same fanciful style, he built a system of cloisters at the back of the house. These cloisters, which were enclosed and at first floor level, led to an ornate and stylized chapel, decorated with blue and white tiling and other embellishments, including Italian style paintings in the spandrels. The cloisters surrounded the courtyard at the servants' end of the house, and Lord Lovelace's technological skill was put to good use in the construction of a tunnel which passed under the gardens to the west of the mansion, and connected the servants' entrance in the courtyard with the back drive leading to the village.

"East Horsley village too was largely rebuilt by the earl during the 1860s, lodges and cottages all showing variations on the same unmistakable Lovelace style - flint and polychrome brickwork with highly decorative features, including machicolations, quatrefoils, stars and bugles, and round headed Norman style windows. The park was encircled by an impressive wall, and the main driveway was guarded by a twin-towered gatehouse on the Guildford Road.

"Horsley Towers - the name dates from the mid 1850s - was further extended towards the end of the 1st Earl's life, when he added a third storey to the south side, an unhappy addition which destroys the balance of the building and dwarfs both the stucco tower to the west and the more fanciful tower to the east.

"On the death of the 1st Earl of Lovelace in 1893, Ralph, who became the 2nd earl, inherited Ockham Park and the Wentworth estate. His brother, Lionel, inherited Horsley Towers and his father's Scottish seat. In 1906 Lionel became the 3rd Earl of Lovelace and in 1919 he sold Horsley Towers to Thomas Sopwith, the aircraft manufacturer. Thomas Sopwith paid £150,000 for the entire estate and spent a further £50,000 in modernising his new home. His improvements included the installation of several bathrooms - the 3rd Earl made do with just one - and the arrival of the telephone. Sopwith sold much of the estate the following year, but Horsley Towers itself remained in his possession until 1926, when it was acquired by the Misses Isaacson and Maule, headmistresses of St. Michael's Girls' School from Hove in Sussex.

"The school occupied Horsley Towers for the best part of ten years, and when the headmistresses retired it was then acquired by the Central Electricity Board in 1939. Since then, Horsley Towers has been owned successively by the British Electricity Authority, the Central Electricity Authority and the Electricity Council, and now in 1990 it has become the home of Horsley Towers Management Centre."

We are grateful to Stephen for the opportunity of visiting this most interesting building, for the subsequent tea, and, not least, to Tony Medlen for suggesting the visit and then subsequently making all the arrangements with Stephen for this very successful afternoon.

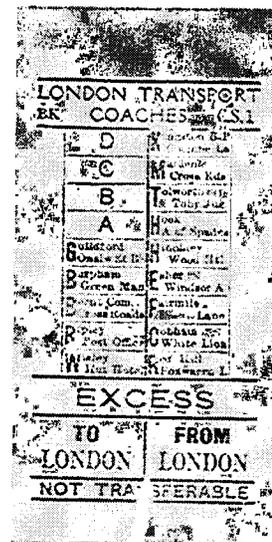
For further information on the Lovelace family, I refer you to Newsletter No 73, dated March/April 1987 - an article by Tony Medlen - and also Newsletters 17 and 25, and the excellent guide, entitled "Horsley Towers", by Stephen Tudsbury Turner, which is available from the Horsley Towers Management Centre.

Ken Bourne

A TICKET TO RIDE

A small item of interest has very kindly been passed to me by our member, John Slatford. It is a London Transport bell punch bus ticket and is in remarkable condition, taking into account the fact that it was issued to a passenger almost 50 years ago. It bears the number KC5072 and is to the value of 9d.

Unlike the majority of this kind of bus ticket, whereupon the fare stages were shown in numbers along each side, this example has the stages printed in order on both sides with necessary abbreviations. It is therefore possible to read the route of the bus upon which this ticket was purchased.



The fare stages on the ticket total 38 and the route is from Guildford to Hertford. Therefore the service was the 715 Greenline via Ripley. The Guildford terminus is described as Onslow Street Bus Station, which opened in conjunction with Farnham Road in 1949. By the mid 1950s, the bell punch tickets issued from a wooden rack by the conductor had given way to modern machines printing tickets from a paper roll. This factor, therefore, places a limit on the period this ticket was issued.

London Transport used Gibson machines on our local bus services. However, the Greenline used the Setright examples, which were used nationwide by other large bus companies. By the 1970s, the Almex machines were used on all local services and Greenline coaches, when one man operation replaced the familiar bus crews of driver and conductor. The present decade of modern technology has seen the Almex machine ousted by the Wayfarer computer, which in some cases has the fare stages and fares charged stored in its memory! Failure of this vital piece of equipment in some areas, including Central London, results in the passenger holding a ticket exactly the same as the old bell punch type, minus the fare stages due to its use in an emergency on any route. A point of interest is that during the 1970s, the Greenline route between Guildford and Hertford had a total of 57 fare stages, 19 more than those shown on the 9d ticket issued 20 years earlier. This indicates a major overhaul of the fare structure on this particular route. Furthermore, during the same decade ticket prices had soared beyond £1! The tickets first offered were the Golden Rover, which gave travel over the full LT network and Greenline coaches. These were £1.10 adult and 55p child. However, the Almex machines only issued to the value of 99p! For the adult fare, two 55p tickets were issued until the later machines arrived with £1 functions. The codes for Rover tickets were V1 child and V2 adult, and a reminder to older members of staff of times when the same codes were used on items of a far more sinister nature (designating the V1 and V2 flying bombs sent by the Germans from the French coast towards England at the end of the last war)! The London Transport Greenline network ceased operation circa 1980, whereupon the Guildford service terminated at London Victoria and was renumbered the 415.

David Porter

MY SCHOOLDAYS AT ST BEDE'S, SEND, 1961-5

My primary education ceased in 1961 at the old school in Send Hill and I started at St Bede's in September of that year. Since 1972, the school has been a Middle School. However, prior to this it was a Secondary Modern catering for pupils above 11 years of age. Many left at 15 to seek employment. However, some chose to stay on an extra year to take GCE exams.

Pupils were graded A, B or C according to their ability. Therefore, only class 4A pupils had the option to stay on for the extra year - known as the fifth year.

By comparison to the old Primary, where classes averaged 40-45 pupils (often sitting three to a desk, due to the textbook shortages!), St Bede's classes only averaged 25-30 pupils. This situation allowed for a more relaxed atmosphere in the classroom, especially in the first instance.

I was graded 1B (average) upon arrival in the September. However, at the beginning of January 1962, this class was abandoned due to staff shortages. The less able were transferred to 1C (below average) and this class became 1R. Those of us with better learning ability joined 1A, which for some reason did not have the letter A changed. Both classes were therefore larger than any other in the school. I gained 1A and only A graded pupils were taught French. Therefore, Mrs Joan Freeland, the French teacher, was faced with the difficult task of teaching the subject to a class in which two-thirds had done the basics, the rest having to start from the beginning.

By September 1962, I was faced with the three tier A, B, C system and naturally assumed I would be graded back to B, and, being the second year of my education, would be known as 2B.

To my surprise, two girls and two boys were selected to remain Grade A, myself being one of the boys chosen. The four of us were destined to remain as 3A and 4A. None of us were ever downgraded throughout our years at the school. I therefore continued to have French lessons, whereas those downgraded back to 2B had just six months' insight into the language. I do not recall the situation ever happening again.

Upon my arrival at the school in September 1961, I was joined by the builders, Hoad & Taylor of Horsham, who were to start work on building the extension at the same time. This work took almost two years to complete and included the swimming pool.

The exterior of the school has changed little in its present role. However, the same cannot be said for the interior, especially the classrooms, which today are barely recognisable to us former pupils. In recent years, other interior changes have also taken place.

It is therefore worth recording here the interior of St Bede's at the time of the extension.

All classrooms were numbered 1-8, and to describe them in numerical order I have to begin with the stage and move in an anti-clockwise direction round the four corridors of this square building.

Upon entering the main door, the first small office just inside on the right was the Headmaster's office, at that time occupied by Mr Sidney Baxter, who had taken this position from Mr W Short in 1960. Behind this office (now the reception) are the steps leading to the stage, which was called room 1, mainly used for art lessons and my own classroom for 1A in 1962. The teacher was Miss Pat Dangerfield. At the bottom of the steps in the corridor were two buttons on the wall. These operated two bells which were rung by senior prefects at the end of each 40 minute lesson. One bell was placed on the wall between rooms 2 and 3 opposite the hall, in the corridor. Another, of a lower tone, was placed outside room 6 on the other side of the building. Movement of classes was frequent, as different lessons were taught in different rooms. Each class had a roster for the week's lessons and the location. In due course this became a way of life as the term progressed. Some were double lessons, so the corridor bell was ignored after the first 40 minutes.

Passing the stage steps, the next pair of doors led into the top end of the hall. Opposite these on the left is the door of room 2, for many years used for General Science taught by Mr John Worgan. The teacher's desk was fixed and mounted on a wooden plinth (or base), giving the better vision over his/her pupils, who were often engaged in practical lessons involving tasks such as glass blowing with bunsen burners. Equally, the pupils at the back of the class had good vision over the experiments performed by the teacher. All the desks were fixed and equipped with gas. A new Science Laboratory was included in the extension being built, and when this was commissioned, room 2 became an ordinary classroom, however, still retaining the same teacher's desk, including a small sink and water tap.

The next door on the left was room 3, and home to Mr Alan Streeter, who taught Music and Geography. Sometimes this room was used for Religious Instruction, often taught by Rev Sylvester himself! The windows of rooms 2 and 3 overlooked the Quad at the centre of the school.

A little farther along the corridor on the right are the doors leading into the bottom of the hall, adjacent to the serving hatch of the kitchen. Prior to the school's extension, passing this point led to the outer doors leading to the boys' playground. The boys' cloakroom on the left remains original today.

Turning left into the next corridor, past the boys' cloakroom on the right, the next room led into the staff room, followed by another door leading to a very small library.

Upon turning left again, this long corridor gave access to the remaining five classrooms, all with windows overlooking the playing field. The end rooms are larger than the middle three. Again, from right to left, room 4 was for Woodwork and always had the smell of glue, which was heated on a gas ring under the window. This subject was taught by Mr Walter Waghorn.

The next room, 5, to the left was used mainly for needlework, taught by Mrs Mona Simmonds, my form 2A teacher in 1962/3, and base classroom. The next room, 6, housed many typewriters. Typing and Shorthand were taught by Mrs Fletcher in this classroom, which was my first base at the school in 1961. The teacher then was Miss Joan Grant, who taught History. The next room, 7, on the left was home to Miss Constance Ayre, the Deputy Headmistress and Mathematics teacher. The room was base for class 4A and my final form room at the school in 1964/5. Finally, room 8, next to the left, was the Domestic Science room, of the same dimensions as room 4 at the opposite end of the corridor. With the combination of a Rayburn stove, a gas cooker, and many sinks under the windows, room 8 produced far more appetising odours than Mr Waghorn's pot of glue!

At least two teachers taught Cooking in my years at the school, including Miss Bullock and Mrs Arthur. Normal lessons were also taught in room 8.

Turning left up the final corridor, the first door on the right was the medical room for first aid. Equipped with a sink, the room was used by the school dentist for dental checks and a doctor and nurse for general medical inspections. Its daily function was home to the school secretary, Mrs Stewart. Currently this is the office of Mrs Jameson, the present Headmistress.

On the left was the girls' cloakroom, and the large reception area today was formerly a small classroom used for Technical Drawing. This was taught by Mr William Davies, who still teaches at George Abbot School, Burpham.

With about 400 teenage pupils, St Bede's could not cope with only seven classrooms and the stage. Mr Waghorn made four large screens on castors, to allow the hall to be divided into two classrooms. If a noisy class was the other side of the screen, concentration became difficult.

Three wooden annex huts were erected prior to my joining the school in 1961. Behind the flagpole at the rear of the girls' playground were annexes 1 and 2 with backs against the wire fence bordering the footpath. Annex 3 was added farther up the field, parallel to the wire fence, with its back to annex 2. Access steps to annex 3 were therefore halfway up the playing field. The three annexes were demolished in 1972, having served a very useful purpose for over a decade.

Annex 1 was always classroom to 1C and their teacher was Mrs Bryson, a true Scot (the only annex in which I was never taught). Annex 2 was base to 2B at one time, with Mr William Davies as their form teacher. Annex 3 was always classroom to the élite fifth year, possibly due to its remote location. Their teacher was Miss Ryder, a perfectionist in the English language, a subject which I passed at Royal Society of Arts level. Annex 3 was also used for French lessons.

At the end of each lesson, one had to rely on the clock, as the corridor bells could not be heard, except, perhaps, through open windows in summer. This also applied when the extension was completed circa 1963. Built across the boys' playground, the first two rooms to the left were the new Science Laboratory. In fact this was a double room with doors at each end. The next

two rooms were known as N1 and N2 and were normal classrooms. N1 was the only room within the school where I was never taught. It was home to 1A, formerly on the stage. However, I fail to recall their form teacher. N2 was to host my class 3A next door when it was first commissioned. My teacher was Miss Joan Grant for the second time, indicating the teacher reshuffle at the school then taking place. The door for N2 is at the foot of the steps leading to the gymnasium.

The additional toilets at the rear of the gym were a great asset, as prior to the extension, the only toilets were the small outdoor ones adjacent to rooms 4 and 8, which were totally inadequate for such a large number of pupils.

The hall has changed little. The small board on the wall to the right of the stage bore the words "Weavers", "Potters", "Farriers" and "Thatchers" (green, blue, red and yellow). These were known as houses and points were earned or lost for merit and, of course, disobedience. Each pupil remained in their allocated house throughout their time at the school. The board indicated the position of each team or house. Rarely was it updated and it has now gone. Missing also is the large plaque, formerly on the wall of the adjacent corridor, which read:-

THIS SCHOOL WAS BUILT TO THE GLORY OF GOD, AND THE FURTHERANCE
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. 1938.

Does anyone know of the fate or whereabouts of the board?

David Porter

BERNARD WATTS 1932-97

We are sorry to announce the death of one of our founder members, Bernard Watts, who was born on 9 April 1932 in Kingston, Surrey, and died at his home on 19 October 1997, after a prolonged illness.

Bernard was a pupil at Tiffins Boys' School, Kingston, and, following his National Service in the Royal Artillery, became a Land Surveyor for the Ministry of Works. In 1958 he and Iris Higgs went into partnership, taking over the Jubilee Café in Ripley, which was on the Portsmouth Road next to Barratts (the site now occupied by Aston House). Iris and Bernard were married in 1960 at St Mary Magdalen Church, Ripley, and they continued in business until 1965, when the business was sold on.

Bernard joined the British Aircraft Corporation at Weybridge, working in the Computer Department, and they moved to a gamekeeper's cottage on the Foxwarren Estate on Wisley Common. In 1971, due to the building of the M25, which was destined to be routed through their living room, Bernard and Iris moved to Send Marsh. Bernard worked for BAC for 23 1/2 years, leaving when the factory closed and the site was subsequently developed for other purposes. Bernard worked at home on his computer, offering a freelance proof reading service, which he continued until his health began to fail a few years ago. In 1994 Iris and Bernard moved to their present address at Elm Corner, Ockham.

Bernard was active in the History Society in its early days, helping to transcribe the parish registers, and was a familiar figure and willing helper, with Iris, both of whom joined in fundraising activities, such as coffee mornings, etc. They also assisted with the Christmas festivities and generally supported the Society in many ways.

Bernard and Iris were keen amateur sailors and also managed to find time to research their family roots, putting the data on their home computer.

Bernard will be missed by all who knew him, and our sympathies are with his wife, Iris, and his two daughters, Vanessa and Maxine, at this sad time.

Ken Bourne

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Richard Busby, via the widow of Stewart Paice (Ripley Scoutmaster), has donated a Guardsman 8 mm movie projector, eight 8 mm films and one 16 mm film, plus three glass slides, all being connected with Ripley Scouts. In addition, two Scoutmaster's hats have been deposited in the museum, plus a scythe. We are most grateful to Mrs Paice for these items.

WEY NAVIGATION EXHIBITION

The following notes are from a member, Peter Rixon, illustrated with a postcard from the Editor's collection of the barge near Worsfold Gates, opposite the old carpenter's workshop, and referred to by Peter as "Groves Lock".

River Wey Navigation Canal from Groves Lock to Papercourt Lock

At the side of Groves Lock was the workshop for making new lock gates and lock parts. A small working barge was moored opposite. This was used for lock repairs and it also had a hand operated dredger. For people who do not know this section of river, it was man-made and in parts it is 15-20 feet higher than the River Wey. One of the dangers of this was rats. Sometimes when burrowing in the bank, they breach it, so a watch was maintained for leaks. Sometimes the river had to be drained: this was so that work could be done on gates or bank repairs. To drain the river, all the gates at Groves Lock were closed and Papercourt gates opened. But as this was a navigation canal, and flat, not all water would drain, so between Cartbridge and Highbridge, a sluice gate was placed in the riverbed and opened to allow out the rest. At first it drained onto the Broadmead, until the new cut was dug. Then a ditch was dug from the river to the new cut. Even before the war (1939-45), there was regular barge traffic up and down the Wey Navigation, but with the outbreak of war, more goods were moved on rivers, also with the bombing of the docks. Goods yards were set up along the rivers. One was at Cartbridge. This was a timberyard and had access to river and road. Another timberyard was at the top end of Send Hill.

Peter Rixon





Papercourt Lock and Weir, c 1980 KHB

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, January 22 1998 - Send Church Room - 8 pm

A talk by Miss Amanda Devonshire, Director of The Galleries, Chobham Road, Woking, on the new museum. Arts and Craft Centre being built in Goldsworth Road, Woking, with the accent on local history collections.

Thursday, February 26 - Ripley Village Hall - 8 pm

This is the Society's Annual General Meeting, and following the normal business there will be a talk by one of our members - details to be announced.

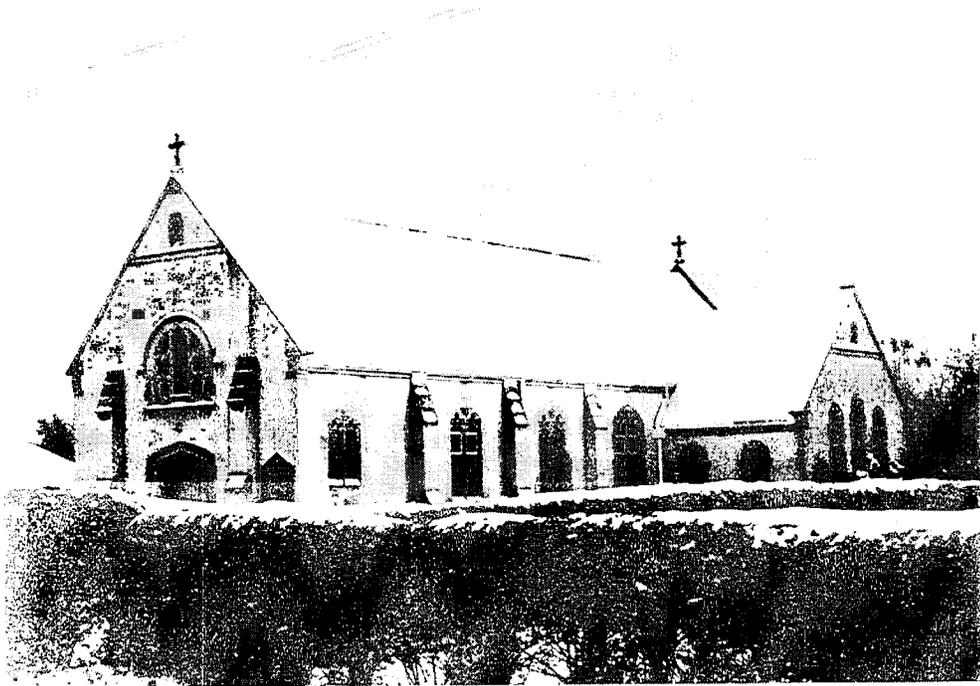
Thursday, March 19 1998 - Send Church Room, 8 pm

A talk on "Mediaeval Surrey", by Dr Peter Edwards.

Newsletter Contributions

The closing date for contributions for the next Newsletter is Friday 16 January 1998.

MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS - WINTER SCENES



RC Church, St. William of York, c 1988 S. Sowa



Send Hill, Mrs Hewitt Walking Sheepdog, c 1980 P. Clack



SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

OPEN: May-September, Saturdays 10-12.30 & 2-4.00.
October-April, Saturdays 10-12.30

ALSO: 3rd Sunday of each month, so as to coincide
with Ripley Antique Fair, in the Village Hall.

Other times for school groups and small parties
by arrangement.

*Please contact George or Irene Bleach on 01483 222233 if
you require information or wish to help in the museum.*

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

"Then and Now, Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life"	Reference copy only
"Guide to Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Send"	£1.25
"Then and Now, a Victorian Around Ripley"	Reference copy only
"The Straight Furrow", by Fred Dixon	£1.50
"Ripley and Send - Looking Back"	£4.95
"A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey"	£2.00
"Newark Mill, Ripley, Surrey"	£2.85
"The Hamlet of Grove Heath, Ripley, Surrey"	£4.00

The reference copies are available at the museum, and all the others are available from the museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office.

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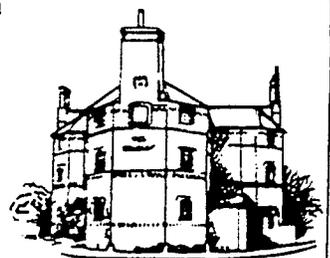
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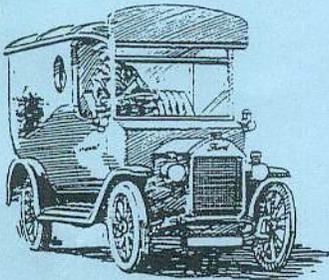
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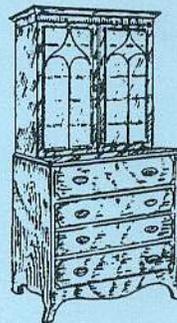
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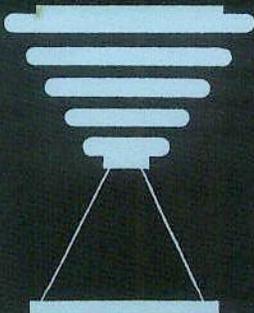
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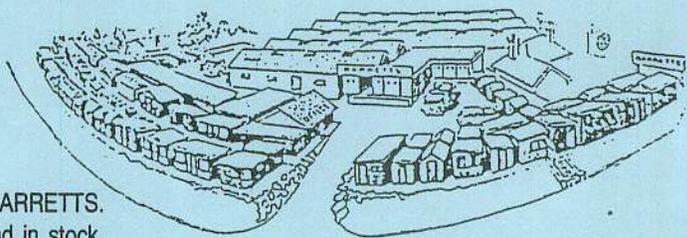
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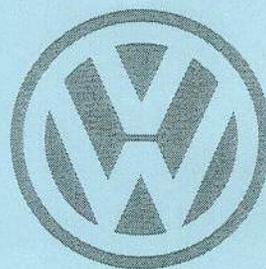
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