

SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Chairman

Mr K H Bourne
Heath Farm, Tannery Lane
Send, Woking
Phone: Guildford 223028

Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Mr L G Bowerman
The Manor House
Send Marsh, Ripley
Phone: Guildford 224876

Treasurer: Mrs Janet Hill, Asphodel, Milestone Close, Ripley - Guildford 224216

Typed by Chris Parker.

Copyright Send & Ripley History Society 1985

Newsletter No 64

September/October 1985

Contents

Page No

"A Tea House of the Twenties", Cedar House and Tudor House
formerly the George Inn, High Street, High Street,
Ripley - Extracts from an Account by Kathleen Howard

2

The Vicarage, High Street, Ripley - Historical Notes by
Bette and John Slatford

6

Vine Cottages, Newark Lane, Ripley - Further Notes by
John Bartlett and John Slatford

7

Mineral Extraction Part 5 - Les Bowerman

8

Secretary's Report

11

Forthcoming Events

12

Parish Magazines, Deposit of with the Society

12

A TEA HOUSE OF THE TWENTIES

CEDAR HOUSE AND TUDOR HOUSE

formerly THE GEORGE INN, High Street, Ripley

Reminiscences under one or more of the above headings have appeared in these pages over the past two years, contributed by Mr Basil Howard, namely in Newsletters 51, 52, 60 and 61. In the last of these Mr Howard wrote; "I must get down to typing out my mother's story of 'The Tea House in the Twenties'". It is good to record that he has now done just that, and has given the Society a copy of the typescript, which makes delightful reading. Lack of space and a desire to avoid repetition has necessitated the omission of sections of lesser local interest and of items which have appeared in the earlier issues. We therefore now have pleasure in printing the following extracts:

"The front door of Cedar House, when opened, led into a long arched passage, through which we later learnt a former owner, Dr Sutcliffe, brother of the well known author Halliwell Sutcliffe, used to lead his pony to the stable at the rear of the house." (Editorial note - legend has had it in the past that various people have actually ridden through this low passageway. Mrs Howard's version is altogether more credible.)

"The Start in January 1920

"Never shall I forget that first day, in the light of what followed - it makes one smile. We had an old maidservant, Anne. She and I cooked a moderate amount thinking that as we were yet quite unknown very few people would stop even though we had a sign up. It was difficult to realise that we were professional hosts.

"Traffic had begun in earnest down the main road and presently car after car stopped outside our door and then drove on again. What could this mean? Then we discovered a policeman who, because our front door was closed, had ordered all cars to move on, thinking that the tea house was not yet open to customers. Telling the policeman that the mistake was ours, we flung wide the door and in streamed the customers to partake of a very inadequate tea in a very unsophisticated way. Next day was Sunday, always the busiest day on the road, a beautiful spring day and we had a crowded house. Old Anne was happy and beaming, filling her pockets with payments and giving change out of them. The day wore on and still more customers. Supplies began to run out. The closed baker's shop in Rose Lane was kind and ready to help, but his wares were not appreciated and presently a large party of customers went into the kitchen and sat down to a feast of eggs, and bread and butter. All this informality and 'inconsequential amateur mess' evidently appealed. It was like having public tea in a private house, and it certainly did bring us many crowded afternoons. This kind of informality of course could not go on, and we gradually realised the need of a till, and organised prices and service. But I think our reputation spread quickly, after that first picnic like day, and always we were reminded of the homeliness of the old house which had made so many people our friends.

"In warm weather too, THE GARDEN WAS A GREAT ATTRACTION. Little wicker tables and chairs were set out under the great cedar tree. The scent of honeysuckle and white jasmine wafted from the walls of the house and from those enclosing the garden - the Zepherine roses also. At the other end of the garden was a sundial and in the spring the scent of purple and white lilac and morello cherry blossom. It was indeed a lovely spot, and quite without the noise of passing traffic.

"A Veritable Hero

"When speaking of courage, can one ever forget that noble personality, born to inherit all that was best in English tradition yet unable through paralysis to join in any sport, hunting, shooting, fishing and all there is in abundance to enjoy and all useless to the one born to the possession of them. I speak of the Earl of March, afterwards to become the Duke of Richmond, who was on Lord Robert's staff in the Boer War and was his friend.

"When peace and the cessation of war came he also became an invalid but great was his courage. He was a man of charming personality, courteous to all who helped him. Sometimes on the long journeys from Goodwood to London and back he would stop for a rest and light refreshment at the Cedar House, helped by a devoted chauffeur.

"When looking into the visitors' book one of the names we most like to see is that of David Drummond. He was a visitor whom we greatly enjoyed seeing, always cheery and full of fun with a charming personality. When David first came to the tea house he was in a small sports car. There was a crutch beside him but he never seemed to use it. He liked to sit in a 'granny' chair beside the White Parlour fire. One day as I passed him sitting there he put his hand on my shoulder, it being a low seat, and said 'I have no legs so want a heave up'. I could not at first understand. 'In Italy, in the war, I was shot down' he said 'and left for dead. Later they found there was life in me but both legs were useless - one broken by the thigh and the other above the knee. At Roehampton they gave me two new ones.' One of the nurses from Roehampton told me later how on the first day his legs were fitted he had tried to ride a tricycle in order to encourage the others. He never failed to do all he could in that way. The next time David arrived at the Cedar House he was on a motor bicycle with a side car attached. In the side car was the upper half of a man in the blue Roehampton uniform but also legless. David asked 'Can you get someone to lift this chap in for tea'. I went as quickly as possible to get help but meanwhile David lifted out his friend and carried him into the White Parlour and set him by the fire. He then said 'Two poached eggs for him and one for me.' They stayed and got warm and fed and then David insisted on carrying his friend back to the side car. There was no gain-saying David's pluck. His next visit was late evening well past business hours but he knew he would be welcome. He was in a small car on the way to Midhurst to see his mother but was cold and wanted some hot milk. We took him into our snug-gery and when ready to go my husband insisted on wrapping him in his British Warm Coat. 'Wait', I said, 'I'll get you a rug as well'. 'No thank you', he smilingly said, 'you see I don't suffer from cold feet.'

"It always made me glad when people who were suffering from physical weakness, or otherwise a little out of the ordinary, seemed to like to come to our tea house. Dr Wyler lost a leg in the Battle of Jutland when serving with the fleet. He often came to have luncheon on Sundays. We could only admire his marvellous courage. Having been fitted with an artificial leg at Roehampton he often preferred to wear a wooden peg leg which he called 'Jones'. He used to arrive on a Sunbeam motor cycle and side car with 'Jones' fitted into a special spring clip, fixed to the footboard. Surely a hazardous plan. He held an appointment at University College Hospital, where he coached medical students. He was very courageous and never let his lameness, or even the discomfort of Jones affect his spirits. He even liked to join our young ones and go to bathe in the river, leaving Jones on the bank. He referred to Jones as his retractable undercarriage.

"Our Source of Coffee

"Another grateful memory because of the courtesy shown is of a visit from a tall handsome man who came on a day when our staff were on holiday. I was not expecting visitors but he came and asked if possible to have a light luncheon. He looked tired and I could not refuse to do my best. He asked for a glass of beer but I

explained that this was difficult as we had no licence. I said however that while I got the luncheon ready would he care to take a jug to the Anchor to buy his own beer. He said 'This is a new experience but I will go'. I handed him a glass jug and he went while I continued with the lunch preparations. When I took him his coffee he wanted to talk. 'This is excellent coffee' he said. 'Can you get all you need for your work from the village International Stores?' I replied 'Oh no not things like coffee, this is from the Army and Navy Stores, but the local International Stores could not be more civil, and always is ready to help'. He thanked me and said he would come again, which he did. Afterwards I learnt that he was the International Stores. He was the son of Lord Devonport on a tour of discovery as to the needs of their customers. Ever afterwards their coffee was proverbial.

"Cecil Aldin

"One afternoon in one of the open motor cars then allowed to stand in front of the house, I saw the owner trying to get a view, evidently anxious to make a picture. Knowing how much nicer the house with its gables is at the back, I asked him if he would care to see that. He came with alacrity and was delighted with the four beautiful gables, the old tiled walls wreathed with honeysuckle, jasmine and ceanothus and the tall chimney. It was the famous artist Cecil Aldin, lover of animals and master of foxhounds. He was at that time writing a book on old inns and illustrating them. Ours he put among these, giving us a copy, and also doing a beautiful picture for exhibition. He became our friend and in his great generous hearted way painted and gave us a large sign to put over our front door. This represented an old world coach with a coachman on the box and two lady passengers inside all in pre-Victorian attire, and of course a pair of beautiful horses. The sign was a very generous gift which could not fail to attract visitors. It all helped our work very much as also did the kind thought.

"A Labour Peer

"A regular customer who often called for luncheon or tea when, as he told us, he had stolen away from his work in London to watch over the alterations to a house he had bought in Sussex, was always in a hurry. 'So busy in the house', he would say. One late afternoon in more haste than ever he asked for the quickest possible fulfilling of what he had ordered. We did as he asked but because he always seemed to like us to show an interest in his restoration work at his house I asked how far the house was towards completion. 'Had he arrived at the white-washing stage?' He looked at me just a little nonplussed saying 'Madam, I refer to the House of Lords - I am the Chief Whip!'

"Other Characters

"One of our regulars who shall be nameless, believe it or not, openly admitted to us that he was engaged to four separate fiancées. Having sworn us to secrecy he brought each of them to tea on separate days. This embarrassing state of affairs called for great care and diplomacy by all the staff but we never gave him away.

"Another of our regulars was a native from Sidney, Australia, and he often used to bring one or more of his fellow countrymen to tea and always he used to personally introduce them to us. On one occasion I spoke to a man who I mistakenly thought to be one of his guests saying 'Are you Sidney too?' He replied 'No I'm Albert.'

"The Chief Chef of the Hotel Metropole often brought a car load of his friends to tea and invariably invaded the kitchen demanding to make his own omelettes for his party and demanding ten eggs! We got used to this in time and were glad of the expert demonstration quite regardless of the normal panic in the kitchen being multiplied several times!

"Then there was another occasion when a much harassed waitress, trying to remember who had ordered what, rushed up to an astonished man who had just that moment come in the door and said to him 'Are you the beef steak and kidney gentleman?' Strangely enough, the more of this sort of thing that went on, the more the customers seemed to like it, and kept coming back for more.

"In 1924 a veteran Stanley steam car sizzled to a halt at the Cedar House, to the strong interest of my husband and son. Captain Macklin, the Stanley's enthusiastic owner, was a man of striking personality and rare charm, an ex-artillery officer with a long experience of experimental motor engineering. He and my husband struck up an immediate friendship based on strong mutual interests. During long and highly technical discussions over coffee, Captain Macklin explained how he was developing a petrol driven car with the flexibility of steam, hence his acquisition of his Stanley steam car with its rapid acceleration and effortless hill climbing ability. He used this as a yardstick for comparison. Partly perhaps in appreciation of my husband's interest, he made an offer to take our son into his works which involved him working together with five highly skilled craftsman mechanics. The chief of these was Ernest Matcher, an ex-racing mechanic from the Austin Motor Company who was also a great character.

"Final Random Comments

"A Tea House of the Twenties! Those happy days of leisured ease! Leisure? Not when running a tea house on the Portsmouth Road, one of the busiest highways in England. One was rushed off one's feet from morn to eve catering for the delightful and often distinguished clientele who always demanded the houses's speciality 'nobs', small round white loaves, served hot. Many dozens were made every day. Tea was served on the ground floor in the White Parlour, and in the ref ectory, and on the first floor in the Oak Room. When the weather was fine tea was also served in the lovely old world garden which always had an air of tranquillity, seemingly many miles from the busy road that was really only a few yards away.

"I think that it would be interesting to mention the lovely old oak chest which stood in the upstairs Oak Room, into which my husband had fitted a record player and radio, and how we heard from it the first broadcast from Sidney, Australia to London, and the chimes of Sidney's GPO clock which were sent across the world.

"My husband's garage opposite meanwhile had prospered, and had become the main Surrey agent for Jowett cars, and supplied a great many of these throughout the area. In addition the garage was kept very busy with break down service, towing cars out of ditches, roadside repairs, taxi service, and the like. Incidentally a Jowett owners club had been formed which often brought a party to the Cedar House for tea. Harry Frohock, the garage foreman, was a great character who often worked all night to get a customer's broken down car on the road again as quickly as possible. This was thirsty work and when someone asked his three year old son Ronnie where his daddy was, he invariably answered 'Pub'. Harry was reported to have worn a track across the road between the garage and the Anchor. But there was no one like him for making a quick, invariably correct, diagnosis of what was wrong with a car, and putting it right.

"The half of our building which was on the corner of Rose Lane was previously a butcher's shop called Grimditch & Webb but we were able to buy it in due course. My husband carried out extensive restoration in that half of the house, and as it had no bathroom he installed one into the very wide first floor landing space, using the cork blocks from the old refrigeration cellar as sound proofing.

"Before concluding I would like to pay tribute to those who helped to make the Cedar House Tea House, the success that it undoubtedly became over the years. Besides our faithful Anne, we owed much to Lela Foley, who came from Australia, and worked for the money to pay her passage home again, but decided to stay with

us and became almost one of the family. Then there were the two Mrs. Pullen, one large with white hair who became known as 'White Pullen', and the other small and dark who became 'Black Pullen'. There was also Ada Molesdale who served tea to dozens of hungry people all at once, and Mrs Cooper the cook who always needed a drop of 'mother's ruin' in order to help her to turn out her best culinary miracles!

"All in all it was a wonderful time, and brought us many valued friends.
"Kathleen Howard"

THE VICARAGE, HIGH STREET, RIPLEY

The land on which Ripley Vicarage (figure 1) stands originally formed part of the yard of the George Inn (now Cedar House and Tudor House) (figure 2).

The Onslow estate map of 1777 shows the George Inn with John Lloyd as tenant and land equal to that occupied now by the vicarage, Cedar House and Tudor House, but with no sign of the vicarage itself.

Shortly after the map was drawn, the George Inn was sold by John Williams Onslow for £1215 to John Whitburn, a brewer with other property in Ripley.

John Whitburn died in 1802. He made his will in 1794 when he named his wife Sarah, Frances Whitburn and Anthony Sterry, his friend, as trustees of his estate for the benefit of Sarah and their five children. It was after his death that part of the George Inn yard, then in the tenure of William Halliday, was sold separately at auction as lot 5 at the Talbot. The highest bidder at £120 was John Thompson. It would appear that it was at this time, or soon after, that the George ceased to be an inn.

In 1804 John Thompson sold the land to John Dawes, yeoman, of Ripley, for £136. In 1819 John Dawes junior, as devisee of his father's will, sold to Richard Harrison for £750 "all that ground together with the messuage thereon erected". Thus the present house was built some time after, probably shortly after, John Dawes bought the land.

John Fielder was tenant of the house which, after Richard Harrison's death in 1823, went to his widow, Caroline, in trust for her lifetime. Richard Harrison's estate was not finally sold until 1835 when the house was bought by James Symonds, a cattle dealer, of Ripley, for £592 15s. He appears to have lived here himself at least until 1843 when his name appears as owner and occupier on the Tithe Apportionment.

The house was again sold after James Symonds' death in 1852, to Elizabeth Ann Sydenham, a spinster, for £570. She named it Sydenham Lodge. The tenant at that time was Abraham Crisp Gall, a surgeon, who took a 14-year lease from James Symonds in 1850. Dr Gall is shown on the 1851 Census as living here with his wife, four young children and two servants. The lease was apparently terminated not long after, because at the next census (1861), the Reverend Charles Tate, appointed vicar in 1852, lived here with his wife, five young children and five servants!

The Rev Tate left in 1864 to live in the newly built vicarage in Vicarage Lane in Send (now - just to be confusing - also Cedar House). There is a record of an inventory taken before his departure. Miss Sydenham then let the house to John Walmesley on a 21 year lease at the rent of £31 10s per annum. Apparently he did not stay long either because by the 1871 Census the Rev Henry Hooper, appointed curate of Send and Ripley in 1869, lived here with his mother and younger brother. Still here at the 1881 Census, he presumably stayed until his resignation as vicar of Ripley in 1895.



FIG. 1.
THE VICARAGE SEEN FROM THE
HIGH STREET.

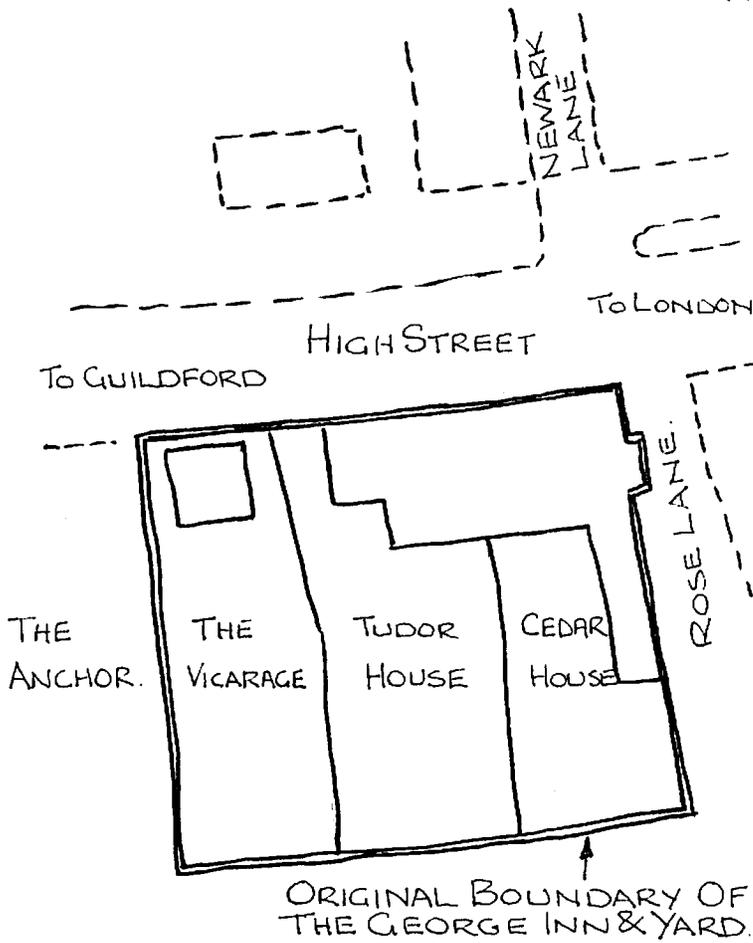


FIG. 2. SITE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE VICARAGE (NOT TO SCALE)

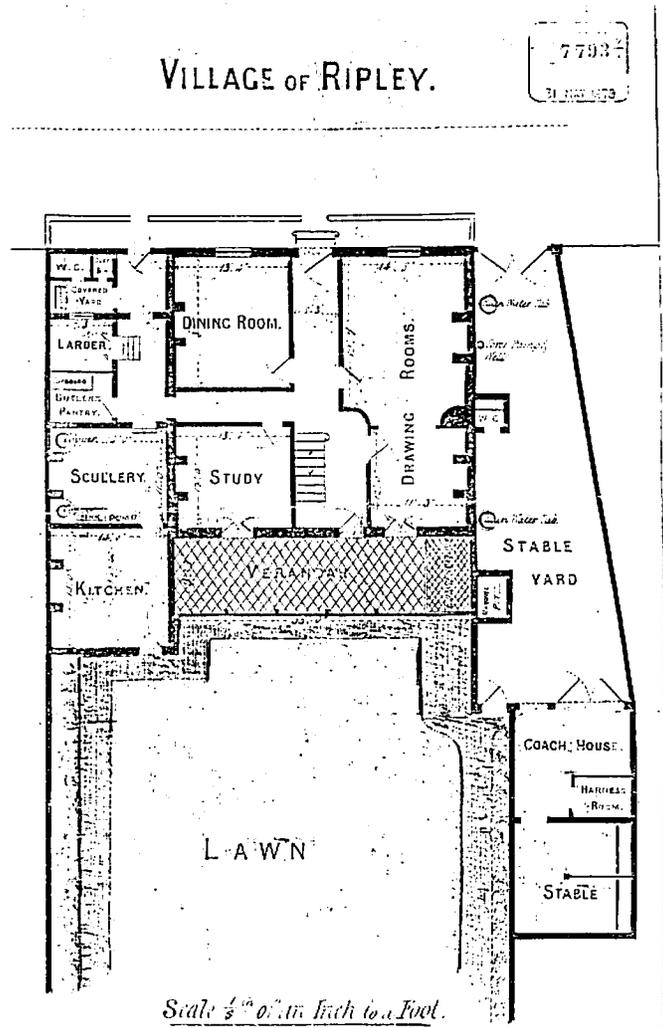


FIG. 3. PLAN OF THE VICARAGE
FROM EDWARD RYDE'S
SURVEY REPORT, MAY 1879.

RIPLEY VICARAGE, HIGH STREET, RIPLEY.

JOHN SLATFORD, AUGUST, 1985.

Miss Sydenham, in her will, left the house to Thomas Crawley Eager after the deaths of his two aunts, Lucy Cullen and Elizabeth Ann Sydenham, and of his mother, Alicia Catherine Eager. Thomas Eager's father was Dr John King Eager, the doctor who lived for many years at what is now the Clock House Restaurant.

When Ripley became a separate parish in 1878, the acquisition by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of a permanent vicarage became necessary. In fact the purchase of the house from Thomas Crawley Eager did not take place until 1881. The cost, financed by the Earl of Onslow, was £1200.

Some time before the eventual purchase by the church, a survey was carried out by Edward Ryde, a renowned surveyor and valuer of the day, who lived at Poundfield House (now demolished) in Old Woking. He is now best known locally for his diaries in which he meticulously recorded his daily activities over a period of some 48 years. On 29 May 1879 he wrote "Settle the particulars of the proposed vicarage at Ripley", and on the next day "Send him" (Cattlin - one of his employees) "also to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners re Ripley vicarage". The survey is still in the hands of the Church Commissioners, bearing the date stamp 31 May 1879. It described the house in detail and includes a ground floor plan (figure 3). A sign of the times is that it then had two wells and three WCs, but no bathroom.

The house itself is brick built with 14" walls and externally rendered. The kitchen, scullery and butler's pantry, etc, on the side nearest the Anchor, were demolished in the 1950s. Otherwise the house is much the same with its principal rooms on the ground floor, four bedrooms and a dressing room (now a bathroom) on the first floor and servants' quarters in the attic within the mansard rear half of the double piled tiled roof.

It would seem that in 1920 consideration was given to the construction of a new Ripley Vicarage. An item in the Lovelace Papers states that "The house at present used as a Parsonage House in the new parish of St Mary, Ripley, is not considered suitable for the purpose for which it was conveyed as the Reverend Arnold Hope Wraith Headesch, vicar, doth admit a sale of such house is now in contemplation". The Lovelace Papers further state that Lady Lovelace offered to convey a piece of land for a new parsonage, which the Church Commissioners accepted. The land, about one acre, was near Rose Cottage in Rose Lane, and was to revert to Lady Lovelace if not built upon. No record has yet been found explaining why it was not built and what happened to the land.

It should also be recorded that there is evidence of an earlier vicarage on the site of the old school (now Church Row). This is shown on the Tithe Apportionment of 1843 simply as Vicarage House and Garden belonging to the Glebe, but with no indication of who was living there. Apparently pulled down to make way for the building of the school in 1847, no other evidence has yet been found about its history.

We wish to acknowledge assistance given by the Church Commissioners, the Bishop of Guildford's Registry and the Guildford Muniment Room with the research for this report. We also thank the Rev and Mrs Gus Jones for their help in studying the house as it is today.

Bette and John Slatford

&&

A FURTHER SURVEY OF VINE COTTAGES, NEWARK LANE, RIPLEY

In Newsletter No 50 a report was produced on the end house of Vine Cottages, No 28 Newark Lane. Since that time the restoration work has been completed and the next stage of reinstating the centre cottage, No 30 Newark Lane, has been undertaken.

It is a great credit to the builder, Graham Rudkin, that the work has been carried out most sympathetically to produce completely modern interiors whilst retaining every possible feature of the original builds of different periods.

John Slatford and John Bartlett were able to study the inside of No 30 when it was recently completely stripped prior to renovation. Evidence of the timber framing of No 30 was previously reported. The present study has not produced a positive conclusion of its original date of build, but from observation and documentary evidence it would seem to be late 17th century, probably around 1675.

The two bay structure was certainly open to the roof as originally built. The upper rooms with their dormer windows were added later, and probably at different times, since the floor construction was at a different level in each bay. The cill of the timber frame rests on a brick base, but it is possible that the latter was put in later to enable the floor to be lowered to create sufficient head room when the upper rooms were added. Documentary evidence has already been produced stating that No 30 was given a brick front in 1884 and that the end cottage, No 32, had been built eight years earlier in 1876.

The roof construction is of simple side purlin form with any intermediate struts having been removed to create space for the upper rooms.

There was evidence of a curved brace in the rear wall at the North end, but this was unusual in that it connected between the corner post and the intermediate rail rather than the wall plate.

From the documentary evidence it is concluded that the structure was originally built as a wheelwright's shop albeit a very small one. There would almost certainly have been other wooden buildings associated with it. One can conjecture that the wheelwright, William Westbrooke, needed the extra land alongside (where April Cottage and Decot are now) for storing carts etc and just helped himself from the Green.

Also from the documentary evidence it is known that James Goodchild acquired the property in the mid 18th century, probably on default by William Westbrooke. This ties up with the 1761 dated brick on the front of No 28 which bears the initials J G. Almost certainly the initials on the second dated brick, J Y, were for John Yalden, there being several families of that name in the district at that time.

Our thanks are due to Graham Rudkin for making this study possible.

John Slatford and John Bartlett

MINERAL EXTRACTION

PART 5 IN A SERIES OF OCCASIONAL NOTES

Previous notes in this series have appeared in Newsletter 28, 36 41, 43 and 54. On the last occasion we were considering the Polesden Lane area and concluded at the point when our member, Fred Hookins, began employment there with Hall & Co in 1950. It may be recalled that Fred was the fourth generation of his family to be so employed. The first pit in that area, from Polesden lane to Papercourt Farm, begun in 1933, was still being excavated. They were working at the corner of the site immediately across Tannery Lane from the farm (OS 036564) with material being excavated by a mechanical grab, which replaced the suction pump at about that time. The material was offloaded by crane to a hopper and fed out to a vibrating screen which retained anything larger than 1". Finer matter passed through onto a sand screen and then into a dewaterer. The bigger stones

retained by the vibrating screen were washed and tipped onto a heap. One day, within a year of starting work, Fred's eagle eyes spotted a very unusual stone at the bottom outer edge of the heap. It was symmetrical in shape and perforated. At about the same time his father, who was working with him, found what appeared to be an ancient iron spearhead also on the heap. Unfortunately it was not possible to ascertain from what depth they had come, but they were handed in to Guildford Museum and in 1952 became the subject of a note in Surrey Archaeological Collections No 52 at page 80.

The stone axe-hammer, for such it turned out to be, is exceptional both in quality and rarity as no other implement quite like it is recorded as having been found previously in Britain. It is likely to have come from Northern Europe in the Late Bronze Age (1000 - 700 BC) and may well have been left by marauders or hunters who travelled up from the sea via the Thames and the Wey, the flood plain of which extends virtually to Tannery Lane. Other not altogether dissimilar axes have been found in similar situations. The spearhead is Saxon - two others have been found locally - one at the edge of the flood plain of the Mole at Cobham and the other in the Saxon cemetery at Guildown. Both the local finds were deposited in Guildford Museum.

Other items of interest which sometimes came up with the gravel were parts of what were understood to be mammoth teeth, about four inches wide by six inches long, but they crumbled when out of the water. Later on, perforated circular stones four to five inches in diameter, of varying thicknesses, were brought up from the sailing lake. There were many of them over a period of time and they were believed to have been used as loom weights. They were not deposited at the Museum or recorded officially, and the thought occurs that they might have been the fossilised vertebrae of prehistoric creatures.

In the early 1950s, as already indicated, the suction pontoon was replaced by a dragline such as still used now. This is an excavator on tracks standing on the bank with a bucket suspended from the jib which, at that time, dragged it in to load direct onto lorries. It would go down some 25 feet to clay, depending on how far down the clay was. In this way the first Papercourt pit was worked right up to the lanes (Tannery on the West and Polesden on the East), which bounded it on two sides, and footpath No 38 on the North side.

Meanwhile in 1953 the first of the pits which were to become the sailing club lake was opened. Work began very deep at the North-East corner (OS 043564), but further South in about 1960, as it approached footpath No 40 at Send Marsh, the gravel petered out (ie the clay was at a higher level). When this pit was started, a channel was opened at OS 039562 across Polesden Lane and a 6' tunnel of concrete pipes was inserted and the road reinstated. This was for use of a conveyor to take material to the plant on the original site. The tunnel was dug in two stages to allow for continuous use of the road. Fred Hookins was driver of the digger which did the actual excavation. On completion of this phase in the late 1950s, the site was landscaped for use as a sailing lake.

In 1959 footpath 45, which now runs East to West along the North side of the land of Ben Turner & Son Ltd (then still part of Send Manor Estate), was diverted to its present position. This allowed a third site to be started in 1960 where the allotments now are (centred at 036558) and, indeed, which included the original 18 acre site of the "gravel pit" shown in the Tithe Apportionments and referred to in these notes at Newsletter No 54 '5. By about 1967 this had been excavated right up to Tannery Lane on the East and North sides and to Prews Farm on the West. By 1975 the Southern-most part was back-filled and is, as already indicated, now allotments. The middle part has also been back-filled and is at present used by Halls. The upper 21½ acres still remains, at the time of writing, as a lake. It has a sand spit in the middle, which is increasing in

size due to the pumping of silt from the current workings to be described later. This site, known to ornithologists and bird watchers as "Manor Lake" (vide Editorial Note at Newsletter No 49/4), is also due eventually to be refilled.

In about 1968 excavation began in the northern part of what is now the sailing club lake, commencing at the Newark Lane end with water being pumped out as digging proceeded in order to excavate dry. The site was finished in about 1975 or 1976 at the South-West side adjacent to Polesdan Lane. On completion of excavation, pumping ceased, thereby enabling the water to return to form another lake. The sailing club transferred to this lake and the water was pumped out of their original lake, enabling it to be re-excavated deeper for more sand and ultimately to give the boats two metres of water. Unfortunately for Halls, they found there was not a great deal of sand there. The completed combined lake was landscaped and returned for sailing by about 1980.

In the meantime, by about 1975 the original Polesden/Papercourt lake, which had been silting up, was back-filled with refuse and the site (planning No 828/10/69), where Norcon concrete pipe had been manufactured (centred on OS 038565), then owned by Redland Tiles, had been levelled ready for excavation. Digging commenced here in 1976-77, and due to heavy demand for sand at that time, presumably for the new Guildford by-pass among other projects, the site was quickly worked out. As it was worked it was being back-filled with refuse. By about 1981 it had been totally filled and re-covered with topsoil. The original Polesden/Papercourt site is now used as a headquarters for all operations in the area, being occupied by an office, washing and grading plant and mountainous piles of washed shingle. Temporary planning consents for this use have been granted from time to time, but eventually the land will be returned to other use.

Almost at the end of this saga of mineral extraction are the planning applications which led to the formation of this Society in January 1975. These were the applications relating to the Crickets Hill Farm extension in Potters Lane and to Prews Farm at Papercourt, referred to briefly in the first paragraph of Part 1 of these notes, and also in the final paragraph of Part 3. The applications led to bitter controversy, as a local politician advocated the granting of consent and practically all of the residents of Send were strongly opposed. The present writer had a letter published in the "Surrey Advertiser" of 3 January 1975 suggesting the formation of a history society which would record the course and pattern of life in the village over the centuries before any more of the evidence was destroyed or removed. The planning application by Hall Aggregates (Thames Valley) Ltd was refused in June 1975 by the County's Town & Country Planning Committee, but allowed February the following year by the Secretary of State, on appeal, after a lengthy and bitter local inquiry.

Excavation on both sites began shortly after the result of the appeals was known. At Crickets Hill (centred on OS 022552) something like a third of the site was worked, but for the past three or four years, perhaps due to a slackening in demand or to increased availability of material elsewhere, the remainder of the site has been kept in reserve. Having raped the particularly attractive rolling hillside landscape in that area, it now stands as an unsightly mound of earth banked up against the side of Potters Lane, masking an enormous hole in the ground occupied only by one derelict washing/grading machine and numerous sand martins. At Prews Farm (centred on OS 033562) excavation proceeded apace from 1976 and the site was quickly worked out.

Extraction then began immediately in the Southern half of the 44 acre field which formerly belonged to Secretts/Boormans/Heath Farm (centred on OS 030555), and is at the time of writing almost completed. The mode of operation there is still by dragline, which came into use just after 1950 at Papercourt as described earlier. Water is pumped out and carried by pipeline to discharge into "Manor Lake", as noted earlier. The extracted mineral travels half a mile on a series of

continuous rubber belts over rollers, finally passing under Tannery Lane to the main plant at Polesden Lane. Where a change of direction is required, the belt rises a metre or two and the material is deposited onto the next belt. The site is worked three strips at a time, the actual excavation taking place on the last strip and the intermediate one being left empty while the earliest one is back-filled with refuse. Doubtless the next pit to be opened will be the Northern half of the same site across to the former tannery, and it is understood that the derelict pumphouse and reservoir, which were formerly used to irrigate Mr Boorman's market garden (vide Newsletter 12/5), will disappear.

This completes the story of mineral extraction in Send. Inevitably the tale has spilled over into Ripley, particularly in the Polesden Lane/Papercourt area where the boundary runs down the middle of Tannery Lane. For the sake of completeness we should mention that a certain amount of further extraction has taken place in the parish of Ripley, notably at Tilehurst, or Send Dip, in the area of the brick kilns, Albery Green (ie the silted up pond at the corner of Grove Heath Road), the former pond in Rose Lane, which disappeared with the construction of the by-pass, on Ripley Green itself behind Bonfield Terrace and on the site of the former village pond, now the children's playground. Further notes may be written about these in the future. More recently, during the building of the by-pass which was completed in 1976, the hilltop at Rawridge on the Portsmouth Road between the kennels and the first houses of Ripley was removed for its sand, as was the West side of Ockham Lane (now part of the strawberry farm), although not strictly Ripley there. Further digging was also started beside the stream behind the sailing club lake, but it is understood that little usable material was found. Indeed, anywhere in the two parishes where there is or was a pond or hollow should be regarded as a possible site of earlier mineral extraction, whether it was for sand, gravel, clay or brick-earth.

It remains now only to provide a list of sites and a map for reference purposes, and this will be done in a future issue.

The writer is very grateful to Fred Hookins for much of the detail in this and the previous instalment.

Les Bowerman

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership

Total membership stands at 104 couples and 90 individual members.

Newsletter Back Numbers

A member has recently returned a set of back issues of the Newsletter numbered 61 to 83. There are also many other back numbers, beginning with No 9. If anybody is interested, all of these are available at a cost of 10p per issue to the Society's funds from me.

SLHC Symposium

As already indicated, the Surrey Local History Council Symposium will be held at Surrey University, Guildford, on Saturday, 16 November, on the theme of "Road, Rail and Air". The exhibition opens at 10.30 am and the Chairman's introductory remarks will be made at 10.55. Dr E Course will speak on "The Reading, Guildford and Reigate Railway", Sir Peter G Masefield on "Surrey Airports, with Special Reference to Croydon", and this writer on "Early Cycling on the Surrey Roads". The last-named will inevitably concentrate on Ripley and the road thither.

Tickets are £1.50 for members, if ordered in advance, or £2.00 at the door. Orders with money to the Secretary, please, by 31 October.

The Onslow Estate Map 1777

The above map details land held in and around Ripley by some members of the Onslow family in 1777. A copy taken by special ultra-violet process was obtained at some expense by the Society and it should be retained in the secretarial archives. It is at present out on loan, but unfortunately no note was made of the last borrower's name. No suggestion is made that it will emit a dose of radiation, but a telephone call to the undersigned confirming its whereabouts would be much appreciated.

Les Bowerman

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday, 25 September ... Buildings Group meeting at 8 pm at 11B Kevan Drive, Send.
- Monday, 7 October ... Documentary Group meeting at 8 pm at the Manor House, Send Marsh.
- Tuesday, 15 October ... Open meeting at 8 pm in the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, when Chris Howkins will talk about "The place of Oaks in the local Landscape".
- Wednesday, 23 October ... Local Memories Group meeting at 8 pm at the Manor House, Send Marsh.
- Wednesday, 30 October ... Buildings Group meeting at 8 pm at the Manor House, Send Marsh.
- Monday, 4 November ... Committee Meeting at 8 pm at Muir House, Brooklyn Road, Woking.
- Saturday, 16 November ... SLHC Symposium at Surrey University on the theme of "Road, Rail and Air", commencing at 10.30 for 10.55.
- Wednesday, 20 November ... Open meeting at 8 pm in Ripley Village Hall, when Mrs Sylvia Lewin will give an illustrated talk on the history of Pyrford and Wisley.
- Tuesday, 17 December ... Christmas Social in the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send.

Closing Date: Material for the next issue of the Newsletter should be in the hands of the Editor by Monday, 4 November.

PARISH MAGAZINES

Member James Turner has recently deposited in our archive an almost complete run of Send Parish Magazines from 1961 to 1983. We are very grateful for this donation which is already a valuable source of local history and will become more so in the future. If anybody else has a stock of Send or Ripley Parish magazines to dispose of we should be pleased to hear as it would be good to build up as complete a run as possible. Even if you have a pile of magazines which overlaps with the above run we should be pleased to see them as it might be possible to fill the occasional gap in the run.

Les Bowerman.

CORRECTIONS

Page 5, Paragraph 4, Line 4 should read Sydney

Page 10, Paragraph 2, Line 4 should read Polesden

" Paragraph 3, Line 3 should read Norcon concrete pipes