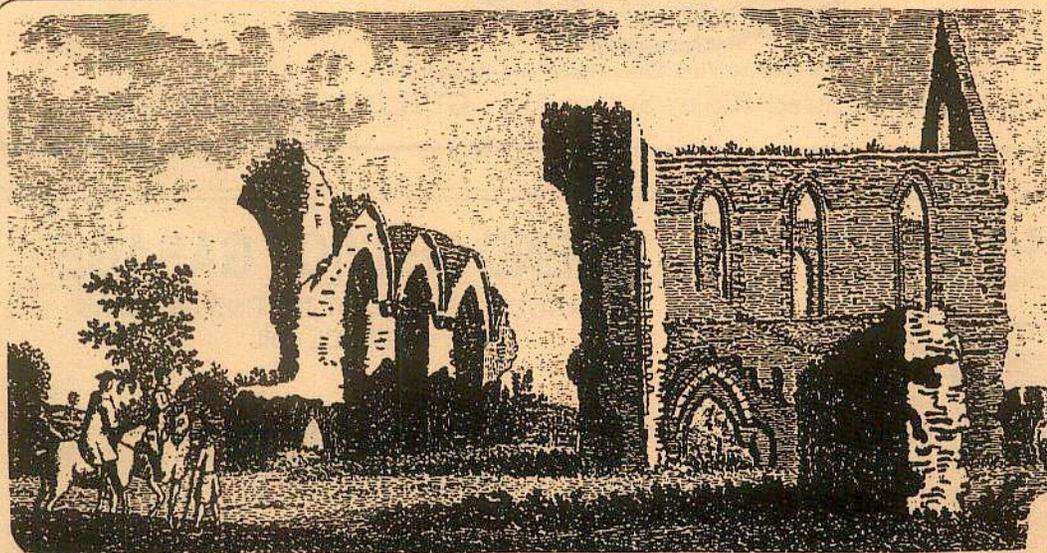


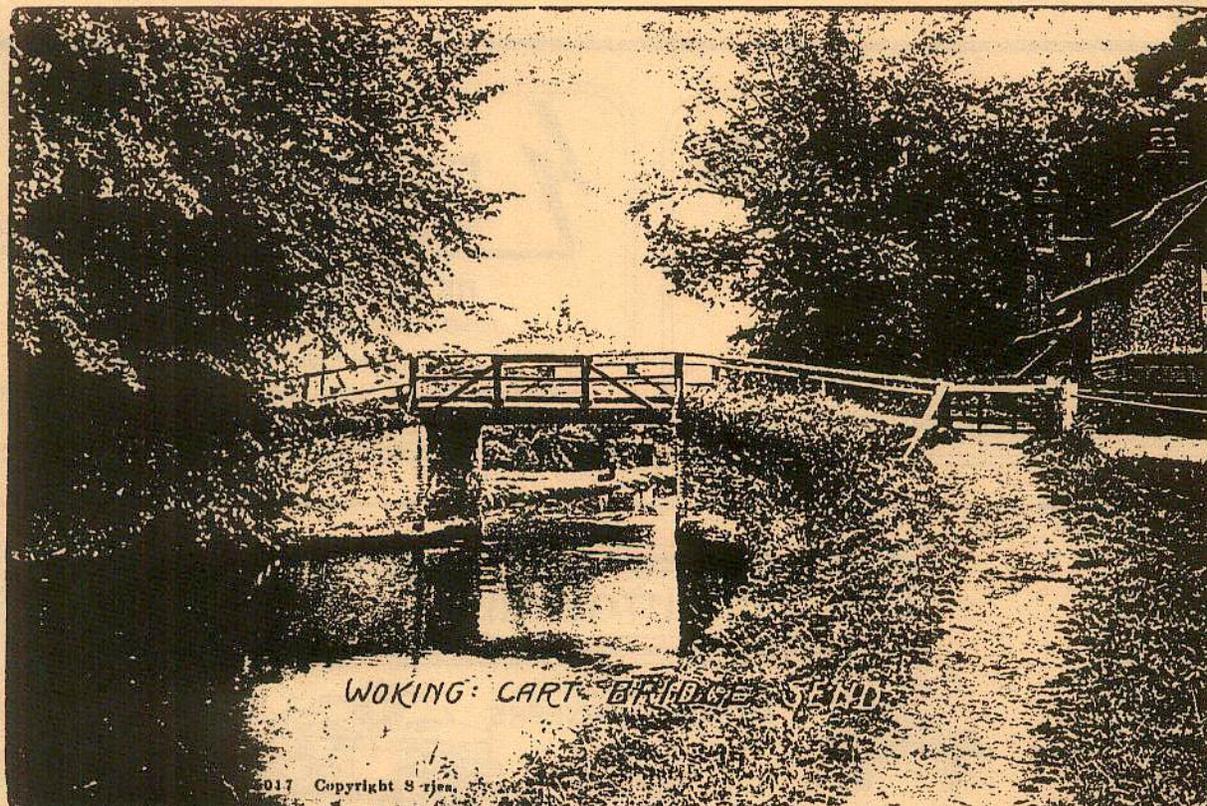
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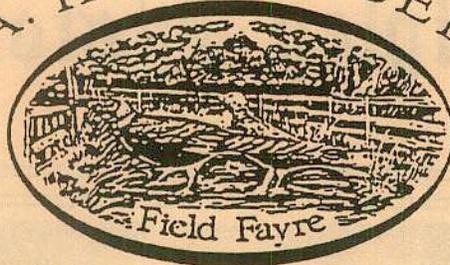
Jan/Feb 1993



WOKING: CART BRIDGE SEND

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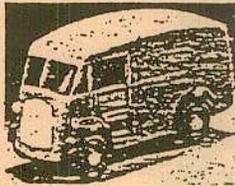


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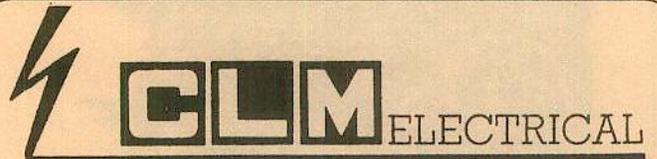
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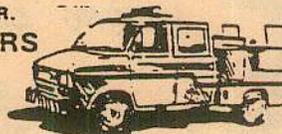
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Typed by Mrs Chris Parker.

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Newsletter No 108

January/February 1993

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Cover Illustration: This is a postcard showing Cartbridge prior to 1914.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

The first Newsletter in 1993 is also the last in the series of 36 Newsletters covering the period 1987 to 1992 (Newsletters Nos 73-108). This series will be bound as volume 3 and retained by the Society for reference by its members. If any members wish to have their own Newsletters bound for their personal use, this can be arranged at a moderate cost. There are also spare Newsletters should these be required to complete a set. Requests for binding of Newsletter sets, please, to Les Bowerman by February 28 1993.

The current size of Newsletter, in A4 format, has proved to be both convenient and economic in production. It is therefore proposed to retain this format for the foreseeable future. It is a sobering thought that the next bound set of Newsletters, forming volume 4, will be completed in 1999 and, one year later, will complete the 25th year of the Society's existence, coinciding with the turn of the century and a new millennium. A little nearer in time is our 20th anniversary in 1995, and no doubt there will be found a suitable opportunity to celebrate the occasion.

AN 18TH CENTURY AMERICAN FAMILY IN RIPLEY - PART 1

By John Slatford

In "Ripley House, A History of Ownership" (Newsletter No 97), Jane Bartlett recorded its original build by Henry Pawley, probably in the 1720s. Henry Pawley, baptised in 1688 in Guildford, was described as a "gentleman of Clifford's Inn", that is, he was a lawyer. For a brief period, prior to his death in Ripley in 1731, he was Steward of the Manor of Send & Ripley. Since he was unmarried, Ripley House passed to his three sisters, Katherine Allen of Newark Mill, Martha Mabanke and Sarah Heyman, both of Guildford. The house was eventually sold in 1754, by which time Katherine Allen had died, her heir being her spinster daughter, Hannah. The purchaser, for £425, was Charles Pinckney, described as a "gentleman, late of the province of South Carolina in America". Since he had studied law in England, it is possible that he had known Henry Pawley, but we have no evidence of this. He had, in 1754, recently returned to live in England with his wife, Eliza, and their three young children, Charles Cotesworth (born 1745), Harriott (born 1748) and Thomas (born 1750).

Eliza Pinckney, born Eliza Lucas in 1722 in Antigua, had been educated in England. She moved to South Carolina in 1738 when her plantation owner father, George Lucas, with the threat of war with Spain at that time, wanted greater security for his family. He already owned several plantations around Charleston. It was not long, however, before he was forced to go back to his military post in Antigua and he was, in fact, never able to return to Carolina. As a result, Eliza, at the age of 17, found herself responsible for the supervision of the Carolina Lucas estates. With her father's encouragement, she began to experiment with the cultivation of indigo. After many difficulties, her eventual successes led to her fame with a product invaluable to Carolina's economy in the years before the American Revolution.

It was intended, in the early 1740s, that Eliza would return to Antigua with her mother and sister. However, it was then that she married Charles Pinckney, a widower of 45. He was a wealthy plantation owner as well as being an attorney of importance in the governing of South Carolina. Nearly ten years later, he brought his wife and family to England. One of the reasons, it would seem, was to ensure that his sons received the best possible education for their future as "upper class colonials". For most of their stay of nearly five years, they lived in Ripley.

Having established her sons in Public Schools, Eliza found herself able to enjoy an active social life. She renewed old friendships from her schooldays and made many new ones, especially in and around Ripley. She was a prolific letter writer and followed the practice of drafting these in a letter book. This has survived and is among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society. It provides a valuable insight into her lifestyle.

In the published version of Eliza's letter book, it is suggested that a reason for buying the house in Ripley was the ease of commuting to London where Charles was representing the interests of South Carolina. Since this was not long after the Turnpike Act of 1749, Ripley could well have become much more accessible from London. Charles Pinckney had intended to return to South Carolina within three years. Eliza, no doubt because it meant leaving her sons in England, resisted this. Eventually, her husband, convinced of the threat of war, decided the return was necessary to protect their interests. They left in the early summer of 1758, leaving their sons in England, but taking nine-year-old Harriott with them. They did not immediately sell Ripley House, but left it in the care of their friend, John Chatfield of Ripley Court, as the letting agent. We do not know when the house was eventually sold.

Within two months, Charles had contracted malaria and died, aged 59. Thus Eliza was left to cope with the plantations, much neglected during their absence, on her own. This she seems to have achieved very successfully. However, she continued to be separated from her sons, but made certain their education and law studies would be completed in England. It was to be another ten years before she again saw her elder son and 14 years before the younger one returned.

The revolutionary war had a drastic effect upon the family circumstances, with great losses and ruination to their plantations, with both of Eliza's sons and her son-in-law being involved in the campaigns. After independence, prosperity returned, and in her declining years, Eliza Pinckney saw both her sons achieve prominence in public and political life. An example of the esteem which the family commanded nationally was shown at her funeral in 1793. George Washington, at his own request, was one of the pallbearers. Thus Ripley can claim an association with a family much involved in the establishment of the United States in the late 18th century.

For much of the material in this article, we are indebted to Mrs Harriet Williams of Durham, North Carolina, who is researching Eliza Pinckney. She came to us for help in locating the house in Ripley owned by the Pinckneys - we found it. Part 2 will cover Eliza Pinckney's letter book and some of her correspondence in and around Ripley.

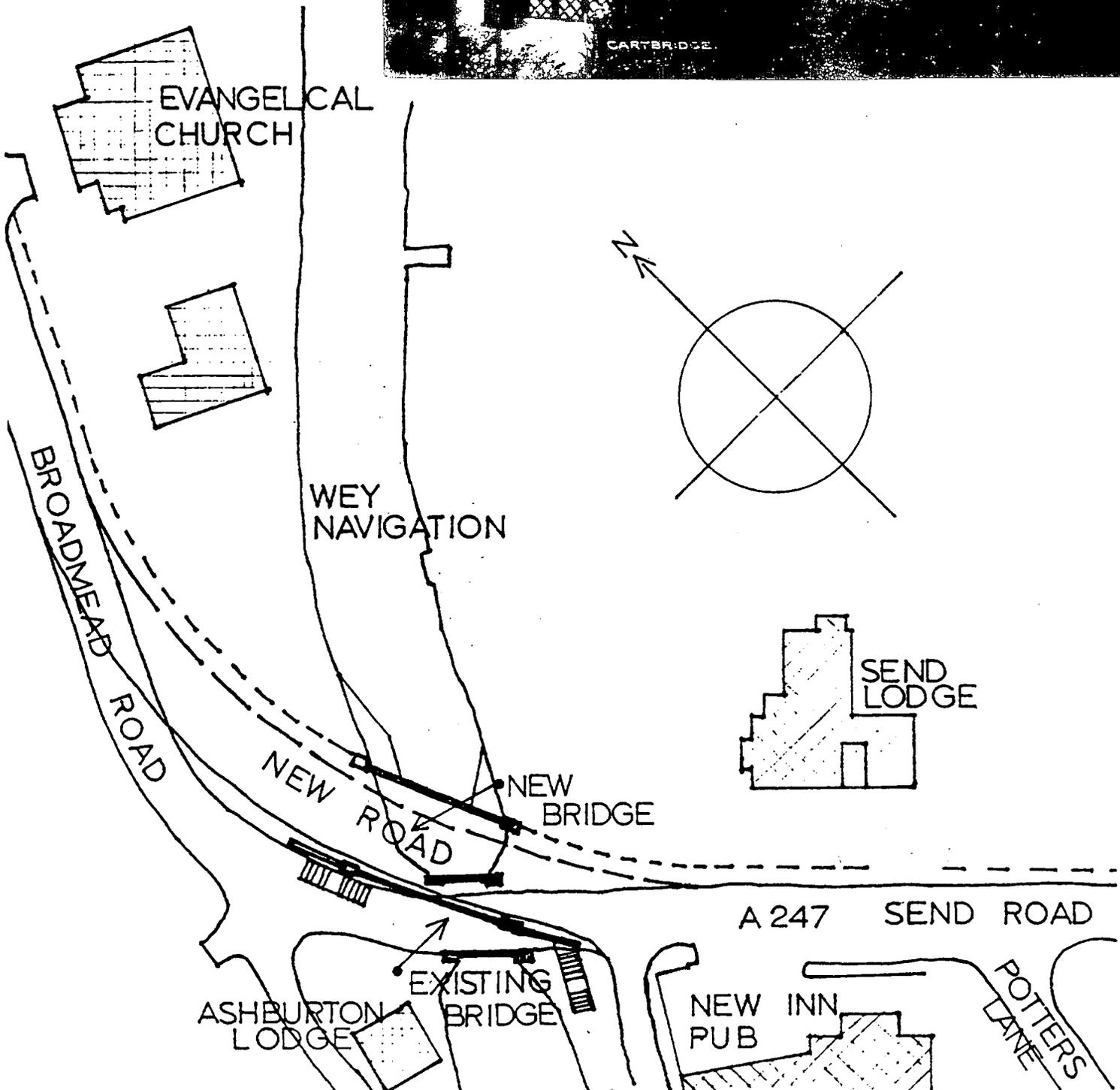
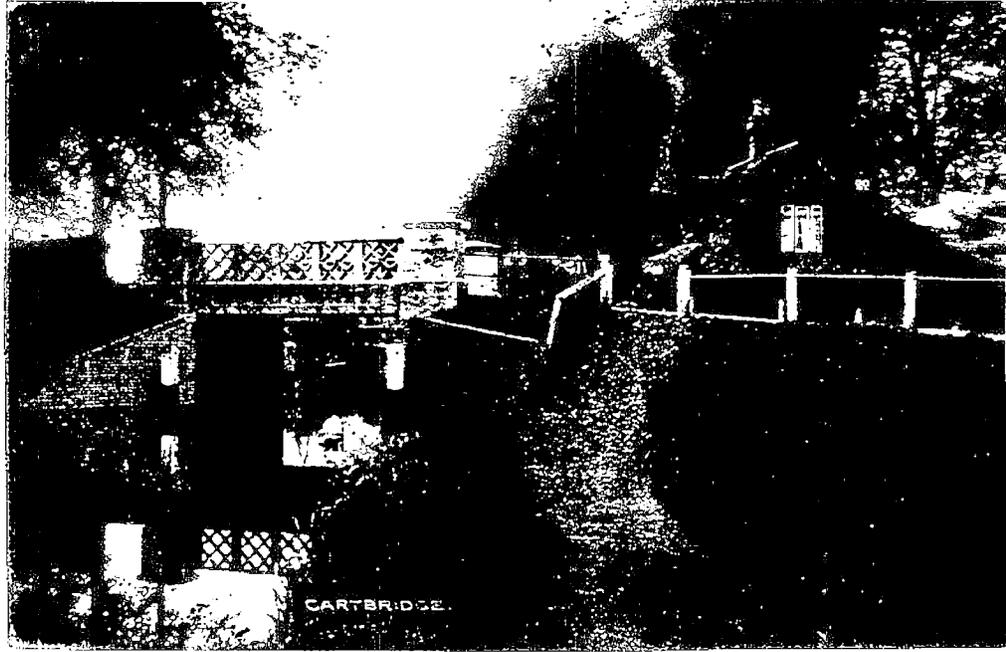
CARTBRIDGE

The plan to replace and realign Cartbridge on the A247 over the River Wey Navigation, which is the subject of some dismay in Send, prompts a brief look at the history of the bridge.

Originally the unenclosed Send Heath extended on the West right across the area now known as Cartbridge to the bourne behind Broadmead House. Guildford Lane, now Potters Lane, and the then unenclosed road (probably little more than a track) which is now Send Road converged where they still do, to lead, without the necessity of a bridge, to Woking (now Old Woking) Church.

When the River Wey Navigation was built in 1651-3, a bridge had to be constructed to take the canal under the road. Apart from the possibility of squatters on the heath, there was no settlement there until after 1815 when the area was enclosed and the land allocated and subsequently built upon.

No records have yet surfaced to show the exact date of construction of the first



bridge or materials used, but it is safe to assume that the bridge was made and in use before the canal was opened, and that it was mainly of wood. Whether there were wooden piles or brick abutments originally we do not yet know. There is a stone panel bearing the date 1759 on the wing of the present brick abutment, on the side near the lodge for Ashburton House, and it may be possible to obtain a photograph of that in due course. The date most likely indicates that is when the brick abutment was first built.

The Navigation was controlled for over 100 years by the Stevens family and many of their ledgers and registers survive. So far as I am aware, no member of the History Society has attempted to go through them, but Alan Wardle, the unofficial archivist at Dapdune Wharf, Guildford, has kindly sent me copies of two entries he is aware of relating to Cartbridge. The second entry is in the hand of Harry Stevens. The first one he does not recognise, but it is possibly in the hand of Harry's father, William. They read as follows:

"The brick sides of this bridge were repaired in April 1907, while work was being carried out at Papercourt Lock. Many of the bricks under water had fallen out and all needed re-pointing."

"The approaches and structure of this bridge were taken over by the Guildford Rural District Council in May 1914. The Proprietor contributed £50 - to be relieved of all liability. The bridge was rebuilt and widened by the Council in the autumn of 1914. They drove guard piles on either side of the bridge to protect same."

We still do not know how many times the bridge has been replaced. The present bridge, with concrete rails (reproduced opposite), is the one rebuilt and widened in 1914. A postcard, showing the old bridge, with wooden rails, is reproduced on the front cover. A look under the bridge readily shows the difference between pre- and post-1914.

Reg Giles was told by his uncle, "old" Harold Giles, that either when the 1907 work was done or, more likely, when the 1914 rebuild took place, there was no expert on canal brickwork available, so his uncle by marriage, a Mr Hale, who lived at the former Uncle Tom's Cabin pub in Send Road, was persuaded to come out of retirement to supervise the work. He was by then crippled with rheumatoid arthritis and somewhat overweight, so he was taken each day in either a bath chair or a wheelbarrow, and transferred to a barge tethered under the bridge, so that he could direct operations.

The latest plan, a copy of which is shown opposite, is slightly confusing to read, but it appears to involve straightening the road by building a completely new bridge and demolishing the existing one. Whether it is intended to leave the old abutments in situ remains to be seen, but it is important from the heritage point of view that the wall with the dated stone should be left to demonstrate the bridge's history.

We are grateful to Reg Giles for pointing out details of the brickwork and of the dated stone.

Les Bowerman

In a conversation with Ken Bourne, Reg Giles referred to the way in which the barges were towed by horse, which crossed over the bridge to proceed down the other side of the Wey Navigation near the Cartbridge inn. The barge was towed right up to the bridge, as close as possible, before the tow rope was released, the barge proceeding under the bridge under its own inertia. The length of tow rope was pulled back along the road into the water and subsequently retrieved and rehitched to the horse once the barge had passed beneath the bridge. The postcard illustrations show what appears to be a handrail on the left of the path leading to the road. This is in fact a guardrail which assisted in keeping the rope clear of obstructions whilst it was being pulled over and under the bridge by the barge. - Editor.

ARCHIVE/MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Bill and Bernard Titcombe have recently given to the Society three "Stansfield Brothers of Ripley" glass mineral water bottles. Two are clear marble-stoppered, complete with marbles and rubber sealing washers. The third is a plain brown bottle.

Also from the same donors, deposited at the same time, six draughtsman's map extracts. They relate to the brick works at Ockham (two), gravel pits at Polesden Lane, Blackmoor Heath Farm at Martyrs Green, the Ripley Bypass and Ockham Park.

Les Bowerman

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL

Following the report in the previous Newsletter, No 107, Alfred White has drawn to our attention that the process of pile driving was carried out over a period of some 12 months, and that the whole process caused a great deal of annoyance and damage to local residents' property. Relief did not come until the last pile was driven in 1937. Alfred White also wishes to add that the friend who overheard the remark "Behold, the wigwam walketh" was in fact a priest friend of Bishop Clarkson.

Before the appointment of Alfred White as First Dean's Verger, he was verger for five years at Romsey Abbey.

Although not mentioned by Alfred White in his most interesting talk, we have since learned from Reg Giles that the weather vane on the Lady Chapel roof was made by C H Sex & Sons of Send. The following is quoted from Reg Giles' letter to the Editor, received on 6 January 1993:

"Dear Ken

"I read the report on the Cathedral by Bob Gale which was very interesting.

"I thought it a pity that the cockerel weather vane on the Lady Chapel roof was not mentioned as it was made in Send by the well-known blacksmiths, C H Sex & Sons. Arthur Sex was in charge at the time of making it. I several times had a chat to him during the making of it and we spoke about the quarter inch thick copper plates that had to be annealed to make them malleable so that Freddie Masters (who lives in Sandy Lane) could spend many many hours beating the cockerel's body etc to shape before the two halves were welded together and fixed to the wrought iron weather vane which Freddie had also made. When completed, the vane stood eight feet high and was an excellent job and a credit to all concerned.

"Reg Giles"

"I thought this might interest your readers."

C H Sex & Sons, as many of our readers will know, was situated behind the Walnut Tree Garage in Send Road. Ron Sex and his wife, Marjorie, were founding members and also very active in this Society. C H Sex & Sons celebrated their 50th year of business in 1949, producing a brief history of the company, which was subsequently closed in 1960. Naturally there are many references to the business and to members of the Sex family in past Newsletters, but unhappily there is not, apart from the aforementioned publication, a history of the company. Surely this is an omission which should be put right.

Editor

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

There are no changes of membership to report, so the total remains at 281. The 1993 subscriptions are now due and should be given or sent to me at The Manor House, Send Marsh, or to our Treasurer, Patricia Medlen, at Muir House, Brooklyn Road, Woking, as soon as possible. There are no proposals on the AGM agenda to change the subscription, which will therefore remain at £4 for singles and £6 for doubles. However, because there are rather more members living outside the area than was the case in earlier years, and their Newsletters and other correspondence have to be posted, the AGM will be asked to approve an extra charge of £2 in those cases. It hardly needs to be pointed out that postage amounts to at least $30 \times 18p = £5.40$ at present rates, and there is also the cost of envelopes. Hand delivery to those who live locally will continue without charge, since our distributors are believed to remain willing to carry out this service free.

A separate renewal slip is enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter. Please use it to pay your subscriptions as soon as possible.

Les Bowerman

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

On Friday, December 11, over 60 members and their guests enjoyed one of our most successful Christmas Socials held in recent years. Members and friends were welcomed to Ripley Village Hall, already attractively decorated with streamers, tinsel and a glittering tree. On entering they were greeted with a free glass of wine before sitting down to a meal of pork pies, sausage rolls, cheeses and quiches (for the vegetarians), also with a variety of salads, followed by a superb selection of trifles made by some of the members.

At about 9.15 pm, all settled down to watch the enthralling audio-visual show put on by Ron Croucher. Amusing in parts, we wandered with him through the woods during the changing seasons, winter to spring and back to winter, observing badgers at play, and at work, busy with their setts and their young. It was a most impressive film and Ron is to be congratulated.

The evening ended with coffee and mince pies for those who had room for them. It must be said that all the purchasing of the food and drink was done by Ken Bourne and Tony Medlen, whilst the various trifles were made by Phyllis Bourne, Irene Bleach, Rita Goldup and Audrey Sykes, and the salads by Patricia Medlen and Audrey Sykes.

Favourable comments were much appreciated by the "workers", to whom our thanks are due, and, last, but by no means least, George Bleach for taking the tickets at the door, and Bob Gale and his son, Luke, for coping with mountains of washing up.

Last but not least, thanks to those members who provided raffle prizes that made this not only a very pleasant evening, but also contributed towards the Society's funds.

Audrey Sykes

NEWS FROM THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE

By John Slatford

Some time back, we had a call from Norman Eshley, the actor, inquiring whether any history of the Talbot had been written. He was researching old English Inns for a possible book and had come across an interesting reference to the Talbot. He wanted to know if we could add to it.

The reference came from a book entitled "News from the English Countryside, 1750-1850", a compilation of newspaper "clippings" by Clifford Morsley (Harrap 1979).

We've not been able to add anything to the item, but it does make interesting reading. More intriguing, however, is the question of how, in 1759, the Manchester Mercury came to be printing a news item from Ripley, some 200 miles distant!

The news item read as follows:-

ENTERTAINMENT FOR RIPLEY WORTHIES

At an Entertainment given by the master of the Talbot Inn, at Riply, (sic) in Surry (sic) on Shrove Tuesday last, to Twelve of his Neighbours, Inhabitants of the said Parish, and who lived within Five Hundred Yards distance, the Age of the whole amounted to One Thousand and Eighteen years. What is most remarkable, one of the Company is the Mother of twelve Children, the youngest of whom is Sixty. She has within the Fortnight walked to Guildford and back again (which is twelve miles) in one Day. Another has worked as a journeyman with his Master (a Shoemaker, who dined with him) forty- nine years. They all enjoyed their Senses and not one made use of a Crutch.

The Manchester Mercury
13 March 1759.

OBITUARIES

Florence Dawson (Desmond)

Florence Desmond, who lived with her husand, Charles Hughesdon in Dunsborough House, near the Green, Ripley, died on 16 January 1993. Florence was born on May 31 1905 and, by the 1920s, had embarked upon her long and successful career as a stage, screen and radio dancer, actress and comedienne. She was particularly skilled in mimicry, being one of the earliest female impersonators, with a particular genius for depicting other actresses. She was Marlene Dietrich, Greta Garbo, Gracie Fields, Mae West and many others. She performed throughout the United States, including Broadway, and the London West End. She retired in 1954, making a brief comeback with Bea Lillie in "Auntie Mame" at the Adelphi Theatre in 1958.

The Hughesdons, besides farming some 900 acres, were active in national and local organisations. The History Society is indebted to Charles and Florence Hughesdon for their help and assistance with the Buildings Group survey of Dunsborough House, reported in Newsletter No 69 by Les Bowerman and John Slatford July/August 1986.

Kenneth White

Kenneth White, who restarted the pharmacy in Ripley, died on January 5 1993. He bought the derelict pharmacy in Ripley in December 1943 and subsequently, with his partner, Mr Ellard, developed a successful business. Kenneth White is famous for his work on the manufacture of penicillin, and a fuller account of his life will be reported in a later edition of the Newsletter.

Dora Mellem

Dora, known as Anne, died in Ashleigh Park on 14 January 1993, aged 93 years. She had spent the last two years of her life at Ashleigh Park after the death of her husband, Mick Mellem.

She was born in Ascot and brought up in Hersham. As a girl she used to ride a motorbike to her work with the Prudential Insurance Company in Holborn.

This is an interest she must have had in common with her husband, Mick Horace Mellem. After her marriage, she lived in Burnt Common in the family's house. It was in this house she was badly injured when it was damaged by bombing during the Second World War.

She used to help with the teas at the Cricket Club at Sendholme on Sundays when the team consisted mainly of the Sex, Strudwick and Mellem families. She was for many years on the Committee of the Send Women's Institute.

She is remembered for her kindness to all her friends and neighbours. For example when she heard that one neighbour was expecting twins, she provided the second layette. Many people had gifts of jam made from her husband's prolific garden, and everyone remembers hearing her singing as they passed the house where the Mellems lived for almost 60 years.,

Jane Bartlett



MUSEUM GETS NAME

At the History Society meeting on Thursday, 28 January, our Chairman, John Slatford, had on display the nameboard which is to be placed on the Society's museum. By the time you receive this Newsletter, the nameboard, which is in Gothic lettering, the same as the Newsletter, "Send & Ripley History Society", in black on a white background, will be firmly in place.

FLOOR TILES FOR SALE

John Slatford took full advantage of the meeting already mentioned to describe a scheme he had devised for raising more funds for the new museum. The members were given the opportunity of making a donation towards one or more tiles at a minimum suggested sum of £1 each, and for that donation each contributor can inscribe his/her name on the underside of the tile for posterity. This offer was enthusiastically taken up and almost half of the tiles were sold at the meeting. It is hoped there will be a few left at the AGM on 24 February.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Society AGM, Ripley Village Hall - Wednesday, 24 February, at 8 pm.

Meeting - Red Cross Hall, Send - Thursday, 25 March, at 8 pm. A talk by Ruth Watson on "The English Civil War in Surrey".

SLHC Meeting - Surrey in Maps

The Surrey Local History Council is holding a meeting at St Matthew's Church Hall, Redhill, on Saturday, 27 March 1993, commencing at 2 pm. There will be a number of speakers giving papers, eg:-

Stephen Randall - "The Early Years of the Ordnance Survey";

Elizabeth Stazicker - "Maps in the Surrey Record Office";

Dr Richard Oliver - "Tithe Maps in Surrey".

Admission is by ticket - in advance £4, including refreshments, or £5 at the door. Please apply to Mrs G M Crocker, Hon Sec, c/o The Guildford Institute of the University of Surrey, Ward Street, Guildford GU1 4LH.

Meeting Ripley Village Hall - Wednesday, 28 April, at 8 pm. Details to be announced.

A Meeting by the Surrey Archaeological Society - Annual Symposium - 20 February 1993, at the Christian Community Centre, Dorking.

The program consists of a series of talks on recent archaeological research in the county of Surrey. These will include the historic landscape survey at Hindhead Commons, the training excavation at Guildford Castle, the work of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, Second World War defence recording and aspects of work by the Surrey Gardens Trust on historic parks and gardens.

This is an all day event, and in the afternoon the sessions will include short talks on "Digging and Delving" and "Archaeological and Documentary Studies". There will also be displays by recent groups of their recent work and an opportunity to meet and talk to those involved in the many aspects of research into our heritage.

Details from Mrs S Janaway, Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX (tel 0483-32454). Admission by ticket - £2.50 in advance, £3 at the door.

Newsletter Contributions

The closing date for material for the next Newsletter is March 19 1993. Please ensure that all copy is delivered to the Editor by this date.

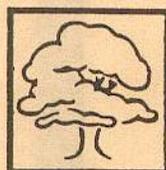
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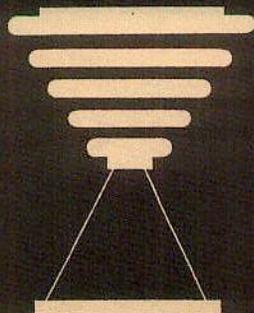
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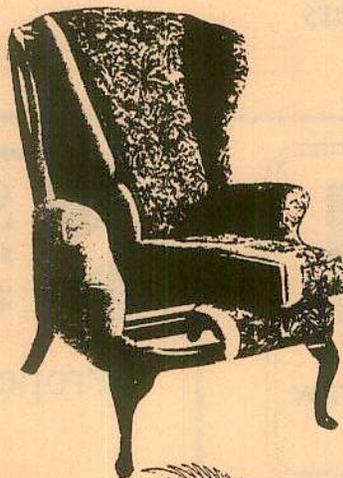
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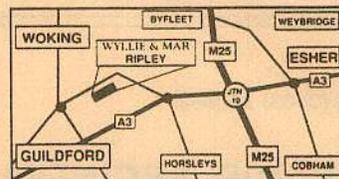
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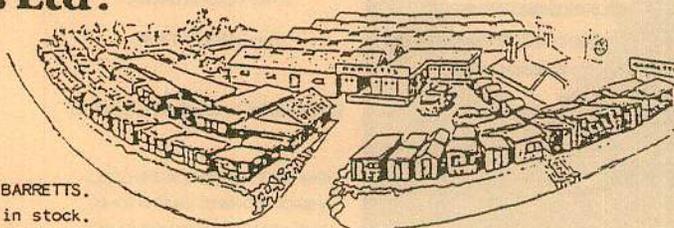
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