

Arthur L. Brown, 12 WR

N/L 43

SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Subpaid  
4/4/82

Constitution

1. The name of the Society shall be the Send & Ripley History Society.
2. The aims of the Society shall be:
  - (a) to promote an interest in, and an understanding of, the history and archaeology of the ancient parish of Send & Ripley.
  - (b) to act as a forum for meetings and discussions on topics of historical interest, and as a co-ordinating body and source of reference for all matters concerning local history.
  - (c) to undertake research on, and to record and publish matter relating to, the history and archaeology of the said parish.
3. Membership shall be available on payment of the appropriate subscription, the amount of which shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting.
4. The Annual General Meeting shall be held during the month of February each year. At least six weeks' notice of the date of the meeting shall be given to every member; items for inclusion on the Agenda must be in writing and be received by the Secretary at least four weeks before the date of the meeting. A copy of the Agenda shall be given to every member at least two weeks before the date of the meeting. Only members whose subscription is currently paid up and persons whose subscription is paid up for the year just ended shall be entitled to speak and vote at the Annual General Meeting.
5. A Special General Meeting may be called at any time, but shall be called only on the written request of not less than eleven members. The same time limits for notice, etc., shall apply as for the Annual Meeting.
6. The Society's financial year shall end on 31st January, and subscriptions shall be due and payable on 1st February. The subscriptions of members joining during the last three months of the Society's year shall entitle them to membership until the end of the following such year.
7. A President may be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Any proposal for the election of a new President must be in writing and be received by the Secretary at least four weeks before the meeting. The President (if any) shall be ex officio a member of the Committee.
8. A Committee to be elected at the Annual General Meeting shall be comprised subject to Rule 7 above, of a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and twelve other members.
9. An auditor shall be appointed by the Committee not less than three months before the end of the Society's year.
10. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt as full members up to a third of its number.
11. The quorum for any meeting shall be five.
12. Any amendment to the rules shall be made only at the Annual General Meeting, and shall be by a simple majority of those present. Any proposal to amend the rules must be in writing and be received by the Secretary at least four weeks before the date of the meeting.

SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

20th March, 1982.

Dear Member,

To assist the Committee in preparing the 1982/83 programme of events and to ensure that the activities represent the interests of the Society's members we invite your co-operation in completing and returning the following questionnaire.

MEETINGS, OUTINGS, etc.

Is the programme of approx. 7 Open Evenings covering the period September to April too many?.....  
too few?.....  
about right?.....

Please suggest any subject you would like included and give details if you know any good speaker on the subject.....  
.....

Is the programme of 4 or 5 visits to places of historic interest during the period May to July & September too many?.....  
too few?.....  
about right?.....

Please suggest any places you would like to visit with the Society:.....  
.....

Other events are arranged by specialist working groups, e.g. Buildings and Natural History. Are these about right or do you have any suggestions?.....  
.....

Speakers on specialist subjects sometimes require payment. If need be, are you willing to pay up to say 50p?.....Or would you prefer a small raffle to defray costs?.....

In addition to visiting speakers, members sometimes give talks. Would you like more or fewer of these?.....  
Are you willing to speak yourself, and if so on what subject(s)?  
.....  
Do you know anyone willing to speak?.....  
What subjects would you find most interesting?.....  
.....

OTHER ACTIVITIES.

Many members are active in the Society as members of Committee and/or specialist groups. Which of the following interest you most? Please tick.

- Archaeology.....Buildings.....Documents.....Genealogy.....
- Industrial History or Archaeology.....Natural history.....
- Folk Memories.....Photography.....

Are there any other special interests which you would like the Society to pursue?.....  
.....

Continued overleaf

There is a number of fields of research which the Society would like to pursue, but they are dependent on the active assistance and interest of members. Would you be interested in any of the following and are you willing to do active research? Please indicate interest with one tick and active research with two ticks.

- Completion of survey and recording of inscriptions on churchyard tombstones.....
- Survey of local buildings of historic or architectural interest;.
- Photographic record.
- History of local roads and other rights of way.
- Models of parts of the parishes.
- History of the Wey Navigation.
- Recording folk memories.
- Survey of local flora and fauna in Send &/or Ripley. (Please delete as appropriate).
- A study of the parish charities.
- Survey of old industrial buildings.
- History of industries in Send/Ripley, present or past.
- Research on the translated Manor Rolls.
- History of local clubs and societies.
- Any other, please state.....

NEWSLETTER.

Not all members have time to involve themselves actively, but retain membership for the Newsletter alone. Are you in this category?.....

Do you have any suggestions for improving the Newsletter apart from changing the Editor?.....  
.....  
.....

Signed:.....

Name:.....(Capital letters, please)

Telephone No.....

Please return this questionnaire when completed to the Hon. Secretary, Les Bowerman, The Manor House, Send Marsh, Ripley.

SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter No. 43

March/April 1982

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EDITORIAL

Readers will see from the title at the top of this page that we are now the Send & Ripley History Society. The addition of the word Ripley was voted for by a majority of the members attending the Annual General Meeting on 25th February. This is the first change in the framework of the Society since it was formed seven years ago. Although at first sight it may seem like a doubling of the scope of our interests, in practical terms it makes relatively little difference, the main object being to recognise formally the facts that the ancient parish of Send included what is now the parish of Ripley and that it is not possible to study the history of one without the other. It is hoped, however, that the change will also act as a spur for members to take a closer interest in the Ripley side of the story and as an encouragement for more people in Ripley with an interest in local history to become members.

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### THE CLANDON CARRIAGE DRIVE

Further to Jim Oliver's article (Newsletter 42, page 7) and the probability that this track dates from Roman times or before, it could possibly have continued Northwards from the Burnt Common area.

If the general direction of this route is projected further North, it reaches the River Wey near the remains of Woking Palace and the Furzes.

It was at this site that Mayford History Society's Archaeological Group carried out excavations between 1970 and 1975 and found evidence of Romano-British occupation adjacent to the North bank of the river.

A "hard patch" had been reported by a dredger operator when working along this stretch of the river, and during the Summer of 1973, with the aid of some swimmers, it was established that at this point a section of the river bed consisted of a firm bottom which was then only 46 cm below the surface of the water. This would suggest that there had been a ford at this location at some time in the past, and if this was the case then there must have been a track or road of some sort leading to it.

C. G. Mileham

Editorial Note: The swimmers referred to above were in fact P. Thurbin and L. Bowerman, and it was partly their enthusiasm, kindled by assisting in these excavations, that led to the formation of our Society. The ford appears to be a natural one: the upstream side of it drops sharply whilst the downstream side slopes gradually. It is, of course, known to local fishermen. The public footpaths from the former tannery and Papercourt Lock converge here (TQ 026 564) and the path then continues to Old Woking.

## THE HISTORY OF GUILDFORD

Notes taken at the lecture by Mr Matthew Alexander at the open meeting on 21/1/82, attended by 59 members and guests.

Geologically Guildford is on the Wealden anticline. Sand and clay are more easily eroded than chalk. Fluctuations of water caused variations of sedimentary deposits. When sea water was very deep, tiny animals died and their shells produced chalk. The sediment was pushed up into a 4-layered arch. Subsequent erosion has worn off the top. Later, oak woodlands made it difficult to move North to South without difficulty, but the ridgeway along the crest of the Downs has been used from Neolithic times at least, it being high and dry. The ridge is pierced only by the Mole at Dorking and by the Wey at Guildford.

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

In 1066 William of Normandy gained control of the country with a small army. To ensure that the English stayed under his control he built castles. His castle at Guildford was a motte and bailey built on a spur from Pewley Hill, cut off with a deep ditch, the spoil from which was thrown up to the tower. Initially it was a wooden stockade, then about 1080 or 1090 a chalk wall was built around it to make a shell keep. In 1125-35 a square stone keep was built - there is only one other in the country with the keep standing on a mound like this. Normally, an artificial mound would be too soft. The castle controls and dominates the town of Guildford. When it became clear that Guildfordians were not going to rebel against the Normans, the castle became less important as a fortress and more so as a palace. Under John and Henry I it became one of the most luxurious palaces in England. The Castle Archway was ordered in 1256. The keep was separate from most of the castle buildings. From the end of the 12th century the keep was used as a county gaol for Surrey and Sussex and it was so used until the 16th century. In 1611 the keep and castle were sold by the King, but long before that practically all of the buildings had collapsed. The reason for the decline was that the castle ceased to be fashionable after the death of Henry III. By the 17th century the outer walls were being removed.

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

In the Middle Ages, Guildford was very wealthy, as is demonstrated by the fact that Mediaeval shops in the High Street had undercrofts (semi-basements) with very fine vaulting. They were lit by one window and wares were on sale from the undercroft. The vaulting dates to about 1275-1300

as evidenced by a corbel carved to represent a lady in a wimple. There is an undercroft under the Halifax Building Society building. A face jug of about 1300 was found in it. This would have belonged to a wealthy merchant. The town was wealthy because of the wool trade. The oldest Guildford coat of arms shows two wooolsacks; it is in a stained glass window in the Guildhall. Cloth would be sent to Guildford (and Godalming and Farnham) for finishing or fulling. The raw cloth was pummelled to make the weave smooth and even. Fullers earth operated as soap and cleaned out the lanolin prior to dyeing. It was fullled by tramping up and down on it - tucking as in the surname Tucker. There were fulling mills to do this in the 13th century. One of the earliest references to a fulling mill in the county is 1250. Henry III had three mills built downstream of Guildford, one of which was a fulling mill.

Guildford was a small town. Up till the end of the Jacobean period the population is unlikely to have exceeded 1,000. From 1257 it was the county town of Surrey. The first map of the town shows it essentially either side of the High Street. This was in the 16th century, when 75 houses were shown. There were also 75 houses at the time of the Domesday survey.

The wealth brought by the wool trade did not last long after the death of Elizabeth I as different types of clothing from the Continent became fashionable.

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

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

The river continued to be a main source of wealth, the Wey being one of the earliest to be converted to a Navigation. The last commercial load was towed in 1968. Grain was an important commodity carried. The town mills ceased to grind in 1893. For at least 1,000 years Guildford has been a market town, but it never had a proper market place. Until 1865 it was held in High Street, then the cattle market in North Street, then Woodbridge Road, and now Slyfield Green. Corn was bought and sold in large quantities. In 1818 a corn market was built in place of a public house called The Tuns. At the turn of the century it became disused. It was first used as electricity showrooms, then Borough Council offices, and ultimately it was widened to take motor vehicles.

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

George Abbot was the son of a weaver who lived in a cottage on the site of the Farnham Road bus station. He had a free education at the Grammar School. He was a brilliant pupil and a skilful linguist. He became Vice-Chancellor at Oxford, Bishop, and in 1611 Archbishop of Canterbury.

He was therefore very wealthy indeed. He rewarded Guildford for his start in life by building the Hospital or Almshouse. It was started in 1619 in the style of 50-100 years earlier. Abbot was the most important Guildfordian and had an influence on world history as one who sat on the Committee which produced the James I Bible, and was responsible for translating the Gospels, the Epistles, the Apostles, and Revelations.

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

In response to questions, the following additional points were made. The cloth was dyed with woad. After dyeing, the cloth was stretched on racks with sharp hooks. The selvedge was hooked on and as it dried it strank evenly and stretched tightly on the tenter frame between the tenter hooks.

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### THE ARRIVAL OF THE BICYCLE IN SURREY, PART 2

The velocipede craze had hit America hard in the '60s, but the U.S. manufacturers suffered after the craze died, and although high bicycles were beginning to be made in this country from 1871 onwards, it was not until after 1876 when John "Happy Jack" Keen, among others, exhibited at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition that they began to be produced in America. Keen has four claims to fame - he was Professional World Champion, he was a leader in the development of the high bicycle, he was largely instrumental in introducing serious cycling to America, and he, as a Surbiton-based world class racing cyclist needing a good training route, was one of the first to realise the possibilities of what later became unbelievably popular to cyclists as the "Ripley Road".

Although John Keen claimed to have "discovered" the "Anchor" at Ripley for cyclists, the most detailed account was given by Alf Dibble of the Anchor when interviewed by "Cycling" in their edition of 3rd April 1918. His version was that the Surrey Bicycle Club in 1877 held a race on the Ripley Road from the "Griffin" at Kingston to the White Lion at Guildford and back to Ripley, where a large hotel (The Talbot?) refused them tea. Harriet Dibble (who had come originally from Wotton in 1849 with her husband George, and who was by 1877 a widow with many children to support), was looking for custom and was happy to welcome them. This version is almost corroborated by the "Bicycle Riders' Magazine" of September the previous year, which reports that the Surrey B.C., "this tip-top racing club", held their captaincy race on August 12th 1876 over the course detailed by Mr Dibble. The Guildford Cycling Club, incidentally, which was meeting at the White Horse in 1884 and at the White Hart in 1893, apparently had its first recorded meeting on 11/7/1877. Was the Guildford Club perhaps founded by local men who helped with the Guildford end of the Surrey B.C. Captaincy races? Their uniform was dark blue in 1886 and grey by 1893, with a silver badge.

In 1874 Honeywell, the Kingston organist and hard-riding bicyclist, launched the Hampton Court Meet, which, in its heyday, attracted 2,000 riders and 30,000 spectators. They lined up over a mile from the Court to Kingston Bridge with their high bicycles, and stretched over 8 miles when proceeding, led by the Premier. Pickwick Bicycle Club (still surviving as a dining club) in their uniforms of dark blue serge, gold laced caps, and white kid gloves and ties. If one were to have fallen, they would have gone down like a pack of cards. The original intention was to show that bicycling was an acceptable form of transport. The meet was last held in 1884.

By the late '70s the elegant high bicycle had been perfected and more and more clubs for riding them were being formed. At this stage in the talk R. French of the Hastings & St Leonards C.C. (formed 1876, and the fourth oldest cycling club in existence) entered in his club's contemporary uniform on a splendid 52" Rudge and sped silently, towering above the seated audience, down the centre of the room. Flora Thompson in "Lark Rise to Candleford" wrote "... it was thrilling to see a man hurtling through space on one high wheel, with another tiny wheel wobbling helplessly behind ..... These members of the earliest cycling clubs had a great sense of their own importance .... cycling was considered such a dangerous pastime that they telegraphed home news of their safe arrival at the farthest point of their journey ... 'Did run in 2 hrs 40½ mins. Only ran down two fowls, a pig, and a carter' ... The bag was mere brag." Doubtless it was similar in Ripley.

The "Anchor" was becoming more and more popular as the inscription on the barometer owned by Miss Joan Dibble shows - "Presented to Mrs. Dibble by a few members of the Temple B.C. as a slight recognition of kind attention received at the Anchor Inn, Ripley. - Christmas 1882." That year Herbert Liddell Cortis, of the Wanderers B.C., on a 60" Keen's Eclipse, became the first person to ride 20 miles in one hour - on the Crystal Palace track. The "Long Wanderer", as he was known on account of his height, was so admired that after his death consequent upon a riding accident in New South Wales in 1886. his friends in this country subscribed to the memorial window and plaque which is still in Ripley Church, and others in N.S.W. to a 9' high granite memorial over there.

Athletic young men were able to travel far and fast, but in the middle and later '80s there was great competition from the multiplicity of tricycles which could be ridden by ladies and the not so young, and by the "dwarf" geared up safeties with chain drive to the rear wheel. In Rudge's 1889 catalogue tricycles had pride of place.

In December 1885 the North Road C.C. was formed for "speed men" of North London (still going very strong). Three months later (not to be outdone) the Ripley Road Club was formed as a "combination of some of the best men from Metropolitan Clubs", the Ripley Road being the most popular of all the great highways as it was universally agreed to have a magnificent surface and unsurpassed scenery, and picturesque hospitable Ripley was an ideal distance from town. Unfortunately, not all of the "best men" using it were compatible in the same club, so in November of the same year the Bath Road Club was formed at the New Inn, Ham Common (regarded by the bicyclists as the start of the Ripley Road). The Ripley R.C. lasted only four years, killed perhaps because of the universal popularity of the road. The Bath Road Club happily survives. It promoted its major events on the A4, but was always very active on the Ripley Road, and it was probably only that early clash of temperaments which prevented the most famous of all the clubs from bearing the Ripley name. It was the Bath Road Club which organised the Ripley Road - Menders Dinners, commencing in 1890. According to the locality in which the men lived, the dinners (four a year) were held at the Anchor, the Angel at Thames Ditton, the New Inn at Ham Common, the White Lion at Cobham, or the Bay Tree at Merton.

On 20/11/1889 the Ripley Cycling Club was formed. The headquarters was at the White Hart and the uniform was grey with a black cap and badge. The Hon. Secretary in 1890 was James Teddus, and the following year A. Gosden of Oaks Cottage, Ripley. The Captain was T. J. or W. J. Lewis. It apparently ceased in 1893.

We tend to think of camping, starting with the first Lord Baden-Powell's experimental camp on Brownsea Island, as an activity started for the Boy Scouts, but the Camping Club of Great Britain & Northern Ireland was in fact formed in 1906 out of the Association of Cycle Campers, which itself had been founded in 1901; but cyclists were camping for pleasure long before that. The first Southern Counties Cyclists Camp, held at Alexandra Palace in 1884, was not successful. The second, at Tunbridge Wells the following year with 30 bell tents, was successful. The third and fourth camps were at Shalford Park, Guildford, in 1886 and 1887. The fifth was at Busbridge Park, Godalming, and the sixth also at Godalming. The Guildford camps were organised largely by the Guildford C.C., which was by then some nine or ten years old and clearly a leading club. In '86 there were over 60 tents, 200 campers, and some 3,000 spectators. The official Camp Handbook gives the General Camp Arrangements - regulation Bell Tents were fitted with four hammocks, four pillows, four pairs of blankets, four waterproof sheets, lamp, wash bowls and cans. They were reserved upon receipt of £2, with an extra 10/- if flooring was required. Marquees were constructed for reception and drawing room purposes during the day. Flowers, in pots for tent decorations, were lent by Messrs. Hart & Son. On all matters of discipline and order, members were subjected to the ruling of the Camp Martinet, Mr E. Lane Campbell. The race meeting, on Guildford Cricket Ground at Woodbridge Road (old site), included a one mile handicap for "Bicycles (i.e. 'penny farthings'), Single Tricycles, and Safety's (sic)" for the Anchor Challenge Shield, value £20, presented by Mrs Dibble. The event was promoted to "give patrons of the famous Ripley House an opportunity of meeting on the path." The Shield was to be engraved with the winner's name, and placed in a conspicuous position at the Anchor. It was won, fittingly, by Harold Crooke of the Guildford C.C. on a "Rapid" Roadster bicycle. Over the years it was put up for a variety of different types of race and was ultimately won outright by Leon Meredith (Paddington and Anerley) in 1905, by whose widow it was later presented to the National Cyclists Union (now the British Cycling Federation), and is at present on loan to the Ripley section of the Southern Veteran-Cycle Club. By common agreement, one of the most spectacular tents at the camp was that of the Guildford Club; it was carpeted, piano'd, and furnished with green velvet, upholstered furniture, mahogany sideboard and a looking-glass; outside were two small brass cannon. It was reported that the police of Guildford were a trifle officious and several members of the Surrey Wheelers were warned by a constable for singing in the street. "A report to the Inspector and a reprimand for the officious policeman ended the incident"!

In 1893 the Guildford C.C. had 146 members, but by 1900 it was evidently not catering for all tastes because the Guildford Wheelers and the Stoke C.C. were in being, and in 1903 the Charlotteville C.C. (still very active) was formed to cater for the "working-class cyclists" in the area. Sadly, the last mention of the Guildford C.C. was in 1913 after a life of 36 years.

One of the strangest machines of the late 1880s was the Singer Victoria War-Cycle. It consisted of five (or indeed any number) of Humber-type tandem tricycles connected fore and aft by bars with universal joints. It was ridden from the show room in High Holborn by ten eminent cyclists across London to the Angel at Ditton and down to Ripley where they were ministered to by Annie Dibble "as blooming as of yore" (then aged 32). It was then taken over the Hogs Back to Aldershot where the following morning they performed a series of experiments on it for the military. After that they rode it back to Ripley with 300 lb of baggage and their rifles on their backs. It was reported that the entire population of Ripley turned out to see them and the occupants of the Anchor remarked that "Ripley Fair isn't in it". They returned at dusk via Burpham, Jacobs Well and Normandy to Aldershot.

When a small boy shouted "Oh, mother, come quick, the Salvation Army have cum!" they twirled their moustaches and grasped their weapons!

By the time John Keen or the Surrey B.C. discovered the Anchor in 1877, Harriet was a widow of 54. Her daughters, Harriet and Annie, were highly popular and when they died in 1895 and 1896 respectively, their cycling admirers subscribed for another stained glass memorial window in Ripley Church.

John Boyd Dunlop's pneumatic tyre, invented for the bicycle in 1888, and the perfection of the rear-driven dwarf safety, spelled the end of the "ordinary" bicycle and made the tricycle more or less obsolete. In the 1890s the safety reigned supreme, and the Anchor and the Ripley Road were famous because they were famous. The Angel at Ditton was known as "The Cyclists' Rialto", and the Anchor as "The Mecca of all Good Cyclists" (Earl of Albemarle). For 1892 the Cyclists' Visitors' book of the Anchor contains 4,275 signatures, including all the famous names of the time and hundreds of clubs from all over the country. The facetious ones bring alive the atmosphere, e.g. Scorchers C.C.; Ta-Ra-Ra C.C.; Boothe Baby, Baby Club; Ne'er Do Wells. The Bath Road Club features more than any other, but the only entry for Send is J. Hosking. There are also well-known cyclists from Ireland, Europe, U.S.A., Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

In the middle '90s the club cyclists were not universally popular. In 1895 C. G. Harper in "The Portsmouth Road" mentioned "... self-advertising long distance riders and cliques and boisterous club-men who use the 'Ripley Road' as a stalking ground". "For the past 20 years" he wrote "it has been the most frequented by cyclists of any road in England. In good weather it is alive with cycles and noisy with the ringing of bells as an almost inconceivable number at weekends do the journey". A campaign against them was waged by the Police and Magistrates at Kingston for furious driving and no lights. It was claimed that "no fewer than 20,000 cyclists passed through Kingston on Whit Sunday 1894" and that they were an unmitigated nuisance and source of danger. But the Police were not entirely anti-cyclist, because at the beginning of 1900 the Chief Constable of Surrey was reported to have ordered 125 Singer bicycles for a special squad of police to overtake and halt motorists who exceeded 12 m.p.h. Bicycles were also used to help the early motorists and a photograph on display showed a group of early A.A. patrols with their bicycles outside the Hut Hotel, Wisley.

The talk concluded with quotations from two Road Books of about 1900, which showed that the "Ripley Road (to Portsmouth)" was one of the five main roads in the country, and recorded "fairly good surface to Kingston, bumpy to Ditton, after which magnificent surface to Guildford with very slight undulations". That summed up the reasons for its popularity, although not all cyclists would agree about the "very slight undulations".

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#### ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT

Jan. -The new year started rather disappointingly at Papercourt with only the usual gulls, a single cormorant, great crested grebe and, three wigeon on the 4th. On the 6th 100 Canada Geese arrived, also a single female goldeneye. Four female goosander arrived on the 9th and one wigeon remained. A large influx of birds took place on the 10th with seven goosander, and a shoveler at Papercourt, also 200 mallard, 60 Canadas and a little grebe. On the same day at Old Woking Sewage Farm I flushed a woodcock from a ditch, then a sparrowhawk flew over at dusk, and a barn owl hunted across the fields near the river, where a pair of goldeneye were fishing: on the 14th a little owl was at the farm.

A walk round the village on the 19th produced common partridge, lesser and greater spotted woodpeckers and nuthatch. The woodcock at Old Woking was seen again on the 22nd and five goosander were observed flying over - Also bullfinch, siskin and brambling. Four green sandpipers were flushed off Ripley Sewage Farm. There were four goosander still present at the end of the month.

Feb. - The month was a busy one for me bird watching further afield, and I only managed a few quick visits to Papercourt. Birds seen there included little owl, golden plover, dunlin and ringed plover.

David Nurney

Further to David's note in the last N/L about the bittern which spent Boxing Day at Pembroke House, thereby eluding the local bird watchers, Pauline Marshall reports that further down the Wey on the Pyrford side, just past Newark Lock, she saw one of the same species on 18 December. The reeds having been flattened by snow, she obtained a good sighting when it flew off in a north-westerly direction towards the Bourne as she passed by. Site ref.: TQ 046 575.

#### WHERE TO WATCH BIRDS IN SEND

Send is fortunate in having a wide variety of habitats, and so the density of species it attracts is quite remarkable: as a means of covering the area as comprehensively as possible, I have split the village into geographical rather than ornithological areas:

Area 1 - A triangle between the New Inn, Mays Corner and the junction of Send Hill with Potters Lane: this area encloses most of the worked out pits, including Send Heath Ponds, so the main species are water birds. Summer: Mute swan, Canada Goose, mallard, great crested grebe, jay, magpie, swallow, house martin, willow warbler, chiff-chaff, whitethroat, blackcap, goldcrest. Autumn/Winter: Mallard, shoveler, tufted duck, pochard, green woodpecker, little owl, yellowhammer, kingfisher, spotted flycatcher, ring necked parakeet, redwing, fieldfare, brambling.

Area 2:- is from Broadmead Bridge to Newark Mill to Send Marsh Green to Mays Corner. This is quite an exciting area taking in half of Papercourt Gravel Pits and most of the water meadows. Spring/Summer: Great crested grebe, coot, moorhen, warblers, kestrel, sparrowhawk, little owl, heron, common sandpiper. Autumn/Winter: Gulls, ducks including goldeneye and goosander, snipe, occasionally great grey shrike, black redstart, Bewicks Swan, short eared owl, yellow sandpiper, dunlin.

Area 3 - is that part of the parish West of the stream running through Send Marsh to the old A3 and the area South as far as Potters Lane. Summer: Nuthatch, blue-, great-, coal- and long-tailed tits, spotted flycatcher, little owl, sparrowhawk, kestrel, jay, chaffinch, greenfinch, swallow, goldcrest, willow warbler, lesser whitethroat. Winter: Tits, finches, tree creeper, moorhen, coot; mandarin duck, ring necked parakeet, sparrowhawk, teal, redwing, fieldfare, green woodpecker, great spotted woodpecker.

The list of species seen locally over the years is approaching 160, with probably 120 occurring annually, although most years an unusual species occurs and is added to the list. These have included:- Scaup 1976, red breasted merganser '80, whooper swan '78, Bewicks Swan '80, hen harrier '79, short eared owl '79 & '81, hobby '76, peregrine '76, spotted crane '75, turnstone '80, glaucous gull '81, little gull '78, firecrest '78, blue headed wagtail '79, ruddy duck '76, great grey shrike '79. D. Nurney

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

### Membership

We record with sadness the death on 23rd February, at the age of 94, of Mrs Daisy Bardill, who was our oldest member. The family came to Send from Broughton near Banbury, in 1907 when her father obtained the position of gardener at the Manor House, Send Marsh, and she lived the rest of her long active life here. An appreciation from our member, Peter Stevens, follows this report.

### New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following to membership of the Society:

Mr B. F. J. Pardoe, Queenwood House, Ottershaw.  
Dr A. Leslie, c/o Royal Horticultural Society Gardens, Wisley.  
Mr & Mrs B. Hillier, Watermeadow Cottage, Tannery Lane, Ripley.  
Mr & Mrs R. Pearce, c/o Gardners Paper Shop, Send Road, Send.  
Mr & Mrs J. R. Turner, (rejoined), White Hatch, Potters Lane, Send.

### Annual General Meeting - 25/2/82

The meeting was attended by 45 members. As noted in the editorial, the meeting voted in favour of the outgoing Committee's motion to change the name to Send & Ripley History Society. The other constitutional changes, all of which were passed, were basically to tidy up the rules in the light of seven years' experience.

The President, Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were all re-elected, and their names appear as usual in the title page. The remaining members of the Committee for 1982 are: Derek Bromley, Bob Claydon, Ken French, Ted Goldup, Gloria Henson, Patricia & Tony Medlen, Flossie Oliver, Chris Parker, and Bette & John Slatford.

After the formal business, Bob Claydon projected an interesting display of photographic slides showing developments in farming over the centuries.

### Subscriptions

In order that the Society should be able to meet its estimated expenditure for the coming year, the A.G.M. voted to increase subscriptions to £1.50 for individuals and £2 for couples as foreshadowed on the Agenda. Will those who have not yet renewed their subscriptions please let our Treasurer, Janet Hill, or myself, have the appropriate amount as soon as possible so that the administrative work of collecting subs. is reduced to a minimum.

### Research Material

The Society owns copies of the following documentary material, which is available for study by members:

1. The census returns for both Send and Ripley for 1851 and 1861. This gives names, some specific addresses, ages, occupations, and places of birth. In addition to the obvious genealogical interest, it provides a very clear picture of the make-up of the villages and shows how they changed within ten years. They may be borrowed from our Secretary.

2. A translation of the manorial court rolls of the manor of Send & Ripley for the period 1533-1704 (so far). They give local family names (some still in the area), place names, occupations, descent of property, some minor crime, and infringements of manorial rules and customs.

3. An 18th century Onslow Estate Map. Custodian - John Slatford.

Ken Bourne, Jim Oliver, the Slatfords, and myself all have fairly or fully complete sets of the Surrey Archaeological Collections from 1854 to date. These contain not only details of archaeological excavations, but also every conceivable topic of county and local history. The above members also possess between them the other standard county histories, and subject to the arrangement of a mutually convenient time, are pleased to allow other members to study them.

Will members borrowing the Society's material please ensure that it is returned to the custodian without delay so that it is available for use by others.

If any reader wishes to build up a set of Surrey Archaeological Collections, or wishes to buy odd numbers, Bette Slatford has several volumes for sale.

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Mrs D. BARDILL - DAISY

All of us who knew her will never forget her. Children loved her and some of them, together with others of them who have now grown up, were at the Church on March 2nd to pay their last respects.

I first got to know her really well in the forties and fifties after the war when her brother, Jack McLaughlan, was the Landlord of the Saddlers Arms, and he and Daisy and her sister Agnes ran the pub and I lived nearby. They were all characters in their individual ways and, happily, Agnes is, of course, still with us.

Daisy had so many likeable characteristics. A forthright and common sense approach to the rights and wrongs of life, a steadfast adherence to all she held dear, a scrupulous honesty, an ability to speak her mind without fear or favour when a situation called for it, her kindness to those who needed kindness, her ability to laugh at herself, her intuitive and accurate assessments of the human attributes and good and not so good habits of the locals and others who were the "regulars" of those far-off days and, above all, perhaps, her love of children.

She had what is I suppose now regarded as an old fashioned approach to life. Patriotic to the core, she held her Kings and Queens in high regard as she did Winston Churchill and other great leaders of the nation. A disciplinarian, religious in the best sense of the word, always interested in people, but with no time for fools or incompetence.

These are some random thoughts about a lady who was loved by many, written by one of them who was lucky enough to enjoy her company frequently during the 35 years or so that he knew her.

Now she is gone and her friends are saddened at her passing, but happy in the knowledge that she died, as she surely wished to die, quietly and without suffering at the end of a long life and with all her mental faculties unimpaired.

Peter Stevens

MINERAL EXTRACTION - SPOONER'S NURSERY

Reference was made in N/L 41, in Part III of the Occasional Notes on Mineral Extraction, to Stephen Spooner and his nursery on the North side of Send Road. Readers may also have seen a captioned photograph about the nursery in Matthew Alexander's "Vintage Guildford". Stephen Spooner started at Sendholme as a gardener, possibly soon after it was completed in about 1864 (a small piece of skirting board bearing the name of the carpenter and this date was recently given to the Society by our members Mr & Mrs Brown, the owners). He lived for a time at Cricket Hill Farm where he built up his resources by constructing cold frames, etc., in the cellar until he was able to set up in business on his own account. By 1896 he opened a gravel pit at the back of his nursery behind Send Road (as recorded by the late Mr French in N/L 23). About 1905 he bought Wharf Fields as an extension to the gravel pit. Mr Alexander records that W. & J. Spooner (Stephen's sons Bill & Jack) with nurseries at Send took over Luxford's greengrocer's shops in the High Street and North Street in about 1905 and bought the nursery of Hart & Son in Martyr Road, Guildford, in 1923. They were sold in turn in 1928 and the house as shown in the photograph was demolished. Stephen Spooner achieved the ripe old age of 100, dying at about the end of the Second World War. A more detailed account may be given in a later issue when more information is to hand.

In the meantime, a correction needs to be made to the notes on Mineral Extraction in N/L 41. The Field Vehicles Proving Establishment as it then was is on Chobham Common and not on Chobham Ridges, which are some six miles further West, as clearly shown on the Old Series Ordnance Survey 1" maps published in 1819 for the Southern Counties and recently reproduced by Harry Margary of Lympne Castle, Kent.

Les Bowerman

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY, 1982

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	£	£
Members' Subscriptions	223.50	Printing, stationery & postage	61.36	
Sale of Refreshments	5.26	Expenses for meetings & groups	16.92	
Donations	6.55	Hire of Church Room	18.00	
Nett profit from Social evening	29.27	Subscription to Surrey Local History Council	5.00	
Sale of Church Guides	38.80	Insurance	20.00	
Receipts from use of duplicator	31.50	Translating Court Rolls	145.00	
Interest on Deposit A/c	<u>33.99</u>	Copies of maps	45.70	
	368.87	Purchase of duplicator	<u>241.50</u>	
			553.48	
<u>Balances at beginning of year:</u>		<u>Balances at end of year:</u>		
Bank Deposit Account	311.08	Bank Deposit Account	103.93	
Bank Current Account	37.62	Bank Current Account	53.16	
Cash in hand	<u>14.80</u>	Cash in hand	<u>21.80</u>	
	<u>732.37</u>		<u>732.37</u>	

(signed) Janet F. Hill, Treasurer

I have prepared the above Receipts and Payments account for the year-ended 31st January, 1982, from the books, bank statements and vouchers made available to me, and report that it is in accordance herewith.

12th February, 1982

(signed) B. S. H. Jarvis, Hon. Auditor

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, 26th March ... Evening visit to Stockbridge, Hants, to attend Court Leet. See following article.
- Tuesday, 30th March... An evening of local history at Cobham concerning Gerrard Winstanley and the "Digger" movement at St George's Hill, Walton-on-Thames and at Cobham - the beginning of modern Socialism(1649).
- Thursday, 15th April ... Open meeting at 8 p.m. in the Church Room, Send Road, when Lt.-Commander R. C. Whitehead will give an illustrated lecture in aid of the Mary Rose Trust on the excavation, and raising later this year, of the 700-ton Tudor carrack of Henry VIII, which has lain at the bottom of the Solent for 400 years. It is anticipated that the audience, after hearing the lecture, will wish to assist in a small way in completion of the venture, and a contribution of at least 50 pence per head is suggested.
- Thursday, 20th May ... Evening walk around Ripley, architecturally one of the most interesting villages in the county, with its wide range of vernacular buildings.
- Sunday, 6th June ... All day visit to the historic Meon Valley, commencing at East Meon. Detailed arrangements in the next edition of the Newsletter.
- Thursday, 17th June ... Evening visit to the 14th century St Catherines Chapel, Artington, Guildford. Meet at 7 p.m. at Send Marsh Green, or at 7.20 at the Ship Inn near the Chapel.
- Sat./Sun., 10th/11th July ... Southern Veteran-Cycle Club Camp and Rally, based on Ripley Green.
- Fri./Sun., 10th/12th September ... Flower Festival at St Mary the Virgin, Send, on the theme of the history of the church.
- Thursday, 23rd September ... Open meeting at the Church Room, Send Road, when Mrs Daphne Grimm will speak on aspects of "The Inside of a Victorian Cottage", including cottage industries with exhibits.
- Thursday, 21st October ... Open meeting at the Church Room, when Ken Dawson will give an illustrated talk on "Wild Flowers along the Local Waterways".
- Thursday, 18th November ... Open meeting when Bob Claydon will give the second half of his illustrated talk on "Farming Through the Ages".
- CLOSING DATE for the submission of material for the next issue of the Newsletter will be Monday, 3rd May.
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VISIT TO STOCKBRIDGE COURT LEET - MARCH 26th 1982

Marsh Court, the important Lutyens house at Stockbridge, will be visited at 5.30 p.m. by kind permission of the Headmaster, Mr Broadbent. Unfortunately, the outside only can be viewed on this occasion. The house is the Marsh Court Preparatory School, and it is not convenient at this time to see the interior. However, the writer thinks this may be allowed at a

later date if enough interest is shown, and more notice given of our request.

The remaining period to 7 p.m. can be occupied in looking at the buildings in the wide street of Stockbridge or in visiting the small Saxon church of Little Somborne nearby, or by attempting to obtain refreshment. This is the awkward hour for cafes and pubs, between tea and supper, when nothing much is happening. It is more sensible to bring a thermos and a sandwich and be independent.

Proceed to Stockbridge via Hogs Back and A287 to Odiham Bypass for junction 5 on M3. Westwards on M3 to junction 8, leaving on A30 (A303) for Salisbury and Exeter. In four miles at Popham Beacons A303 bears right from A30, passing over two roundabouts at Sutton Scotney (four miles). At the roundabout at the outskirts of Stockbridge turn left for the second roundabout at the East end of the town (half a mile). Abutting this roundabout, and directly in front, is the large car park of the White Hart Inn beside the churchyard wall of the Old Church. You should be here soon after 5 p.m. If you are early look at the headstone on the lefthand side of the church path to Bucket the Inn Keeper (1802).

Distance from Burnt Common, Send - 50 miles. Time - averaging 60 mph on open road out of built-up areas (not many) - 1 hr 10 mins. Perhaps a little longer should be allowed for Friday evening rush hour.

Toilets at Stockbridge are situated halfway along main street on left side near Town Hall.

Grid Reference - White Hart Inn - SU359360.  
- Marsh Court - SU357335.

J. Oliver

N.B. Buildings Group - The process of dismantling the house from Walderton, North of Chichester, and of re-erecting it at the Open Air Museum at Singleton, and seen partially finished during our visit last year, will be shown on the Chronicle programme on B.B.C. Television on Wednesday evening, March 24th, 1982.

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#### FARMING THROUGH THE AGES

After the formal business of the A.G.M. on 25th February, I had the pleasure of showing some slides of how farming in England had developed from the mediaeval period.

The initial slides showed how the three plot system evolved. The first plot would be sown with wheat, the second with barley and the third would be resting or fallow, having carried the first and second crops in the preceding years. Livestock would have been allowed to graze the stubble.

Slides showed oxen ploughing, carrying out the few cultivations which were required or any other haulage, working in teams of two, four, six or eight. The seed corn was being broadcast, and at harvest time was being cut by a man using a fag hook, whilst the women and other members of the family tied and stoked the sheaves. Women carried out many tasks on the farm including the milking at that time. The sheaves, having been allowed to ripen in the field, would be carted by oxen to the local mill, to be threshed by a man using a flail and then ground into flour for local use.

The mill and threshing were seen on slides which next showed, in addition to the work carried out by oxen, horses being used to pull the drill invented by Jethro Tull in 1701. It is understood that in his original drill Jethro Tull used organ pipes to convey the seed from the hopper to the coulters. The drill not only allowed for more economic use of seed, but by sowing in parallel rows of differing widths made it possible by hoeing, either by hand or by horse-drawn single- or multi-row implements, to reduce competition from weeds.

As the use of the horse increased, so did the inventiveness of implement makers, with faster and more efficient tools - a lot of them "Blacksmith" made, such as ploughs, harrows, hoes, cultivators, etc.

Now within a decade or so, great strides were being made with machinery so that some work, in larger fields, was carried out by the big agricultural steam engines. The implements were drawn by cable across the fields between two engines.

Three machines would seem to have made the greatest contribution to labour saving: the self binder for cutting and automatically tying sheaves with string, the reciprocating knife mower saving long hours of work with the scythe, and the thresher for separating the kernel from the ear and straw, the first two being horse drawn and land-wheel powered, and the thresher being belt driven by steam engine.

Slides next depicted some of the earliest tractors, on iron wheels, which shared the work of the horse, although sometimes less reliable and not so adaptable.

Final slides showed the modern tractors on pneumatic tyres, with live P.T.O. and hydraulics coupled to, among other items, up-to-date mowing and hay making machinery. A modern combine harvester, capable of doing in a few hours the work which as shown in the first slides would have been spread over a number of weeks, emphasised the changes in the life of those engaged in Agriculture over the period described.

FOOTNOTE - Having finally been persuaded by the Programme Subcommittee to give the illustrated talk on Farming Through the Ages, I had prepared for a much longer session than I was able to give. Due to the business of the A.G.M. being somewhat prolonged, only half the slides were shown.

Bob Claydon

Bob has kindly agreed to show the second half of his slides at the open meeting to be held on 18th November, as noted in "Forthcoming Events".

Editor

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#### CHANGE IN THE PARISH

Further to the article under the above heading in N/L 42, wherein it was recorded that a considerable acreage of farmland has been put to other uses in recent years, it is pleasing to note that our members, Mr & Mrs Brown, have brought some land at Sendholme back into farming use with a small flock of Clun Forest pedigree sheep. Two of their rams have won prizes in the first two years.

SEND & RIPLBY HISTORY SOCIETY

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