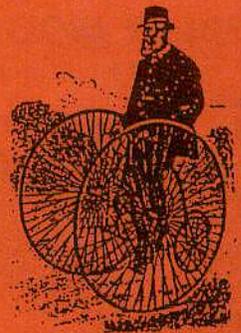
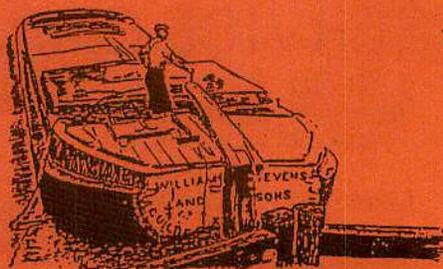
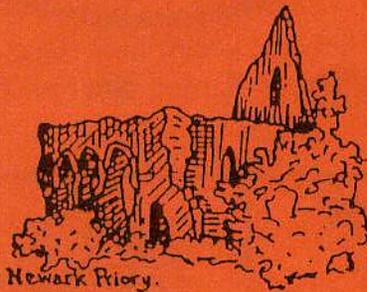
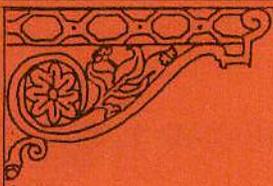


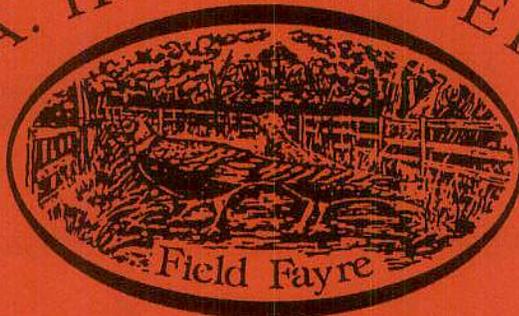
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Cover Illustration: This is a reproduction of a photograph, taken c. 1930, showing a rear view of Ockham Park House, Seat of the Earl and Countess of Lovelace. Dating originally from the early 15th century, it was bought from Sir Richard Weston in 1620 by Henry Weston (no relation), who rebuilt it. It was redesigned at the turn of the 18th century by Sir James Thornhill and completed by Hawksmoor. Later renovations were carried out by Charles Voysey (post-1893) for Ralph and Mary Lovelace.

MEMORIES OF A HOUSE - OCKHAM PARK

Notes by Peggyanne Aldridge

Ockham Park was not a "grand" house compared to Chatsworth or Blenheim, but it was interesting, inasmuch as it contained many fine pictures, an extensive library (a copy of Audubon's "Birds of America") and a fascinating Chinese Room. It was a 40-roomed house, on three floors, plus a cellar, a rebuild by Charles Voysey post-1893 (see illustration below).

You entered the main front door from a curved drive with a large box hedge on one side and the inevitable rhododendrons on the other. The front door faced the church clock, and there was a sunken garden between the house and the church drive.

Mary Lovelace adored rhododendrons and azaleas, and they were planted in the most unlikely places throughout the grounds, including "Old Maids Walk".

From the front door (at the side of which was an earth closet!)] one entered the North Hall. This contained most of the family portraits. It had a black and white tiled floor, stark white walls and a moulded and decorated ceiling. The far wall had three niches: one contained a bust of Byron, the centre a bust of Lord Chancellor King and the third the figure of a maiden (nude) holding an urn and decorated with a garland of flowers, who, for some unknown reason, was known as "Grace". Needless to say, Byron and Grace were concealed behind a curtain, Chancellor King, on the other hand, was open to view. The portraits included the following:-

2nd Baron Wentworth

Anne, Lady Lovelace (aunt of Henrietta Wentworth)

Lady Philadelphia Cary (wife of above)

Martha, Lady Lovelace (wife of the 3rd Baron of Hurley)

Ralph, Earl of Lovelace - artist, Nevill Lytton

Ada (Byron), Countess of Lovelace (Ralph's mother)

Mrs Byron (Lord Byron's mother)

Lord Byron

Anne Isabella Milbanke, by Hoppner (Lady Byron - wife of poet)

Sir Ralph Milbanke and his wife, Judith Milbanke

There were also three glass showcases, one containing Byron's Greek costume and the others two gold mounted miniatures of the family.

Opening off the North Hall to the right was the Morning Room, with a large desk from which Mary Lovelace dictated her letters to Miss Barlow, her companion and secretary.



To the left of the Hall were large swing doors which opened into a vestibule and led to the main staircase, and an outside door to the garden and Old Maids Walk.

To the left was the Red Room; it had red flock wall covering, two French commodes with ormolu decoration, and Hepplewhite furniture covered in red and gold damask. It was a beautiful room and the first to be sealed up when the Canadian Army took possession of Ockham Park during the 1939-45 war.

To the right was the Chinese Room with its settees and chairs all in bright colours with dragons and flowers. At one side stood a black and gold lacquer cabinet, the top doors open to display Chinese porcelain. The cabinet drawers contained Netsuke ornaments, delicately carved, which Lady Lovelace used to take out to handle and polish with a soft cloth. From the North Hall one entered the South Hall. Here was a stark contrast. Apart from several armchairs and a love seat, all the rest of the furniture was plain wood from the Arts and Craft workshop; some had been designed by friends and others were made on the Ockham Estate to Lady Lovelace's own design. She frequently had some items made on the Estate to give away as wedding gifts to her nephews and nieces.

This room had a hand-painted frieze, 3' wide, above the picture rail, the subject being lakes, mountains and clouds. It had taken Lady Lovelace about six months to complete. She painted a foot at a time, standing at the top of a ladder, so I was told. Again this room had doors opening onto the terrace and faced the lawn and a huge Cedar of Lebanon.

From the South Hall, one entered the Dining Room with its Georgian furniture, several console tables and famille rose porcelain.

Next to the Dining Room was the Library with large brakefront bookcases and reading desks, two of which stood under the windows. It was on one of these desks that Audubon's "Birds of America" lay. When not in use, the Library always had its shutters covering the windows.

Outside the passageway to the Dining Room was the lift. This was installed in later years to help Lady Lovelace reach her bedroom.

From the passage one passed through the beige door to the servants' quarters. To the right were the steps to the cellar, the Butler's Pantry, strong room (where the silver was kept), which had a massive heavy door, and another small room where the silver was cleaned. To the left was a stairway to the servants' bedrooms. Across the passage were the Glass and China Pantries.

Farther down on the left was the Housekeeper's Room, a small passageway between this and the Servants' Hall next door led out to a colonnaded porch and the Cloisters.

Continuing on through the servants' quarters, one reached their sitting room, and then the kitchen. One side lay the scullery and on the opposite side the pantry/larder.

On the opposite side was the Smoking Room with its leather chairs, and next to that the Wash House. In the main passageway, there was, at that time, the only water closet (a second water closet was installed on the first floor when the Canadian Army arrived).

Between the Wash House and the water closet was the vestibule which led to the large back door. You left the house down a short flight of steps to the yard.

Opposite was an open barn where the wood was stored. Next to that was the Carpenter's Store, the Carbine Room, then a short passage and a flight of steps to the door which led to the Cloisters.

One must now retrace one's steps and return by way of the passage to the beige door. One continues along the corridor to the North Hall through the swing doors to the main stairs, a very wide staircase, divided into three, up one flight, turn right, another flight,

turning to the right, and thence onto the landing which looked down to the well below; a deep carpet, floral/red, held in place by brass rods.

It must have been at the bottom of this staircase where Ada Lovelace stood for the portrait by Mary Carpenter, which now hangs in the National Science Laboratory.

The first floor contained the two rooms known as the Lord Chancellor Rooms, rarely used and mainly shown to visitors. These were rather dull rooms and the blinds were almost permanently down, as one could see from the drive.

There were six guest bedrooms on this floor and the Bird Room, which was on the South-East Corner. The rest of the accommodation, at the rear, were the servants' rooms.

At the top of the house were Lord and Lady Lovelace's Studios. These faced North, looking onto the church. Their bedrooms faced South, looking out over the terrace across the lawn. Another room was set aside for Lord Lovelace to screech away on his violin. The remainder of the rooms were used for storage, apart from the two bathrooms and their earth closets and two rooms kept for visitors' staff.

Quite often during the summer, Lady Lovelace and her guests would dine on the terrace, which would be lit by lanterns. Steps from the terrace led to the Cloisters and the lily pond containing ornamental fish.

Facing the pond was the Rose Garden, and one walked along a path to the Orangery, back over the lawn, past an Aviary and back to the terrace.

From the East Door one went through a small iron gate to Old Maids Walk. This ran alongside the drive which went from the church to Guiles Hill Lane. I never did find out why it was so called. Again, there was a hedge or rhododendrons, many trees and, amongst the trees, in a very haphazard way, lay stone pillars of all shapes and sizes. Later I was told the stoneware came from Pains Hill Park during the time of Chas Hamilton's work which was being carried out at Cobham. The stones had been examined by experts from time to time and was said to be very old. Some, in fact, were used on the terrace, but others were left where they lay. There was one standing stone known as Cleopatra's Needle, which may still be there. Also standing in this walk was a very high Indian Totem Pole, which I believe came from Foxwarren Park

Lady Lovelace visited Foxwarren Park, the occupant being a Mr Ezra. There was at that time a small private zoo on the Estate. I visited there, the chauffeur and his family living in one of the lodges. His parents lived in the tower opposite part of Pains Hill Park. I often visited there too and, as a child, explored and played around the follies in the park.

Twice I visited Pains Hill Park with Lady Lovelace. It was then, I believe, owned by the Coombe family, who were brewers. Lady Lovelace visited Mrs Charles Coombe. I remember one visit when I saw the lawn being cut, using a donkey which wore leather boots and pulled the mower. Up until then I thought this only happened at Ockham Park.

Pains Hill Park was very well looked after then, but I remember going there about 1941 when it had become very dilapidated. Most of the follies were in a state of considerable disrepair. The lake was terribly frightening, at least I thought so - very black, and the trees were growing over the water. The bridge was unsafe and the water wheel was broken. Bacchus was breaking up and falling into pieces.

In 1947 the Hon Anthony Lytton married, and prior to his wedding, he and his future wife came to Ockham to look at the furniture, which had been stored in the stables.

Mr Anthony, as he was known at Ockham, came to visit us at the cottage, Church End, along with Miss Clarissa Palmer, the future Lady Lytton. Mr Anthony kept in touch,

and after he made the drastic decision to sell Ockham Park Estate, following the death of his mother, Judith Baroness Wentworth, I visited him often at his Exmoor home. His father, Nevill, predeceased his mother, and he then became Anthony, 4th Earl of Lytton.

It was at this time that we talked long of former days at Ockham Park. I started to make notes of the house, estates, and the family. I visited his two sisters, Lady Anne Lytton and Lady Winifrid Tryon.

I started a collection of photographs and made notes. I contacted many of Lady Lovelace's nieces, etc, who were then still alive, made visits, and this enabled me to write of years gone by. I had a wonderful time in spite of my disability (polio), or perhaps because of it!

And for that I say "thank you".

OLD LONDON BRIDGE AND SOME SURREY CONNECTIONS

An Illustrated Talk by Dr Derek Renn

Notes by George Bleach

The mediaeval London Bridge must be the most famous bridge in this country and on a par with its contemporary at Avignon in France.

There has probably been a bridge on this site on the Thames since the Romans arrived, but since only one scribe mentions it, the evidence for a Roman version is, in fact, very slim. However, all the well documented roads of those times converged on a point very near to today's bridge, and a few years ago excavations nearby revealed a rectangular timber raft, considered by experts to be old enough, and the right shape, to be the base of a pier of a Roman bridge.

After the Romans had gone, and for the thousand years, or thereabouts, of the Saxon period, there is no clear picture of the means of crossing the river at London. However, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for the year 1014 reveals that when the Vikings, under St Olaf, came up the Thames to attack the town, "they attached ropes to timbers of a bridge, rode hard downstream and dislodged both the bridge and the defenders who were on it".

Soon after the landing of William the Conqueror, his army attempted a frontal attack on London, but was beaten back by the citizens rushing across the old bridge and causing the Normans to make a long detour round the west and north of the town, encircling it and bringing about the capitulation of London and eventually the whole country.

When the Priory of St Mary Ovarie, just upstream on the Southwark shore, was dissolved by Henry VIII, the last Prior made a statement to the Commissioners, saying that in Saxon times there had been a ferry across the river, the profits of which had been gifted to his Priory. Fifty years after the Norman Conquest, those profits were used in 1106 to build a bridge, and it was at that time that we find the first records of a replacement for the structure mentioned in the Chronicle of 1014. In 1129/30, the Crown spent £25 on the repair of two arches - a lot of money in the 12th century, and more than was being spent on the Tower of London at the time.

In 1163 there was a rebuilding in elm, but in 1176 Peter of Colechurch Abbey organised the building of a stone bridge - which became the London Bridge. It took 33 years to complete, but lasted until it was replaced in 1832, over 600 years later. It had its troubles over the years, such as in 1282 when five arches fell into the river - a disaster which was paid for by a toll in force for the next 30 years. In 1921 a complete arch of the mediaeval bridge was uncovered during the development of the Adelaide House site North of the river, but it was not practicable to preserve it, pressure groups not being so effective in those days.

The second half of Dr Renn's talk was centred around his selection of slides of the old and new bridges of London and Surrey. The point was demonstrated that in the middle ages London Bridge was the only bridge across the Thames below Kingston. There were several ferries, but the next actual bridge, built in 1750, was that at Westminster, which incidentally didn't last very long. Drawings showed the many arched construction of the old London Bridge and the shaping of the supporting piers and their protective "skirts". The latter produced mixed blessings. They were so close to one another that the flow of the river above the bridge was held back and caused a "race" between the piers - very dangerous to boatmen, but beneficial to entrepreneurs who had in mind milling or driving pumps!

Outside London the greater proportion of bridges dating from the 12th century of which evidence remains were concentrated on the Thames. Coming nearer to home, there were the two at Kingston, one at Staines, one at Cobham, one at Weybridge and a whole group between Farnham and Guildford. Dr Renn offered the suggestion that the latter group was constructed not long after London Bridge. The bridge at Guildford - the one which existed until 1900 - was 200 feet long and only 11 feet wide. In February of 1900 the Wey flooded, and upstream from the town the waters entered a timber yard and a lot of wood floated down against the bridge, formed a dam, and the weight of water wrecked the bridge. A slide showed the remains of the old bridge with only two stone arches surviving. A number of other slides, showing the relationship between architectural styles and methods of construction of arches across the county, completed this very instructive and interesting talk, for which the Society is most indebted to Dr Derek Renn.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following letter was received from Mr Ron Mandeville, of 72 Cedar Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0JL:

I have been researching the history of various branches of the Mandeville family in the Pyrford, Byfleet, Send and Ripley areas. As a member of the Society, I would like to say how much I enjoy reading the Newsletter and other publications.

Unfortunately it is not possible to attend the meetings or participate in any of your activities, but the various articles enable me to capture the atmosphere of the past.

About 55 years ago, I was brought through Ripley on the way to visit my great-grandparents in Pyrford, and I remember passing Newark Mill, Pyrford Church and the ruins of Newark Priory.

My research came to an abrupt halt about 20 years ago with the name of Edward Mandeville of Send. Notes written by Mr Softley, local Godalming historian, said that Edward had a public house called the "Three Lions", Meadow, and that he was a younger son of Edward the elder of Milford, but I could discover no link with our family whatever.

I joined the Send & Ripley History Society a few years ago, and with the kind assistance of Bette Slatford, Census Returns, Land Tax Forms and Settlement Certificates, managed to discover that Edward of Send was the brother of James Mandeville, my three x great-grandfather, who married at Ripley in 1793.

There are still Mandevilles in the area; if anyone would like to get in touch, I will be pleased to reply to any correspondence.

I have just received the following extract from the Surrey Advertiser of 22 August 1903. William Mandeville, the lock-keeper, was the brother of my great-grandfather, who was foreman at Byfleet Brewery about 1877.

"RIPLEY"

"The Sad Death of Child"

"An inquest was held at the Institute on Friday before Mr. Gilbert H. White (deputy coroner) on the body of Francis Ralph Mandeville, aged three years, son of William Mandeville, lock-keeper, at Walsom" (Walsham?) "Lock.

"Ellen Mandeville, mother of the child, deposed to last seeing deceased alive between 2 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, when he was by himself. He was indoors and went out. She left the other children and went out to see where he was, and saw bubbles in the water. She also saw the boy's blue pinafore in the water and called at once for her husband and went for the boat hook. Her husband was close by, and came at once and jumped into the water.

"William Mandeville, the father, said he had three other children besides the deceased. They were at home on the previous day, and had been playing together. About 2.20 p.m. his wife called him. He was about 200 yards away and went into the water at once. He could not pull the child up. There was a stiff current at the time. He found the body underneath the bridge and tried artificial respiration, but could not restore life.

"Deceased was in the water about five minutes.

"Mr. F. E. Pearse, medical practitioner, deposed to being called to attend the child. On his arrival a police constable was trying artificial respiration. The child was then dead. The parents appear to have done all they could. Death was due to suffocation, from accidental drowning.

"P. S. Jarrett deposed to having seen a gentleman who assisted the father until he got the child ashore. He remembered seeing nothing, but heard a splash.

"The jury returned a verdict of accidental drowning, and handed their fees to the parents."

The following enclosure was received in a letter from Mr Basil Howard, of Penny Cottage, Orchard Close, Littlebourne, Canterbury, Kent CT3 1SU:

(Summarised)

THE SPIRIT OF BROOKLANDS

From Sir George Edwards (*Patron*)

Brooklands Museum

As a result of the redevelopment of British Aerospace, Weybridge, all that effectively remains of the site we knew is the Brooklands Museum. All the great events at Weybridge - both in the air and on the track - are commemorated here.

A string of our most famous aircraft - the VC10, Viscount, the Varsity and Viking, together with a Hunter, Harrier and the famous "Loch Ness" Wellington - are preserved. The club house has been completely refurbished, the paddock area restored and a new restaurant opened, which is available to you.

. . . all those who have had close association with Brooklands would wish to see our achievements preserved so that our history and traditions can be shared with our contemporaries, friends and most of all our children and grand-children, as an encouragement for the future.

I therefore invite you to become a member of the "Friends of Brooklands Museum".

BROOKLANDS MUSEUM NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT NOW.

"SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS"

As children growing up in Coniston in the Lake District in the late 1920s, Pauline Marshall (nee Smith), one of our members, and her sister, Georgina, were reputedly used by the author, Arthur Ransome, as models for Peggy and Nancy in "Swallows and Amazons".

In her recent publication, "WHERE IT ALL BEGAN - The Origins of Swallows and Amazons", Pauline has written a detailed account, using extracts from diaries, of her early childhood, into which Arthur Ransome, a contemporary of Pauline's father at Rugby, stepped, or, one could more appropriately say, sailed. The publication of 48 pages is an intriguing evocation, covering the period 1897-1932 around Coniston Water. I would recommend it highly to anyone who grew up on Arthur Ransome. Pauline wrote it, she says, to set the record straight on some references and sources which TARS (The Arthur Ransome Society) had identified incorrectly.

Incidentally, did you know that TARS has members as far afield as the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and even Japan!?

Copies of the book (see a reproduction of the cover opposite), which costs £5, may be obtained from Pauline (63 Warren Farm Park, Pyrford, Woking, Surrey GU22 8XG). Please include an A5 SAE.

Pauline has also written a fictional adventure story about herself and her friends, entitled "The Ransoming", in the same setting and period. It is awaiting publication.

I am sure the Society joins me in wishing Pauline good luck with the sales of both publications.
Bob Gale

PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP REPORT

By Ken Bourne

Apart from the ongoing programme of support to other groups, to exhibitions and symposia, the Group endeavours, whenever possible, to record changes in the Ripley and Send areas. Help in this would be appreciated: just snap it and let us have a copy.

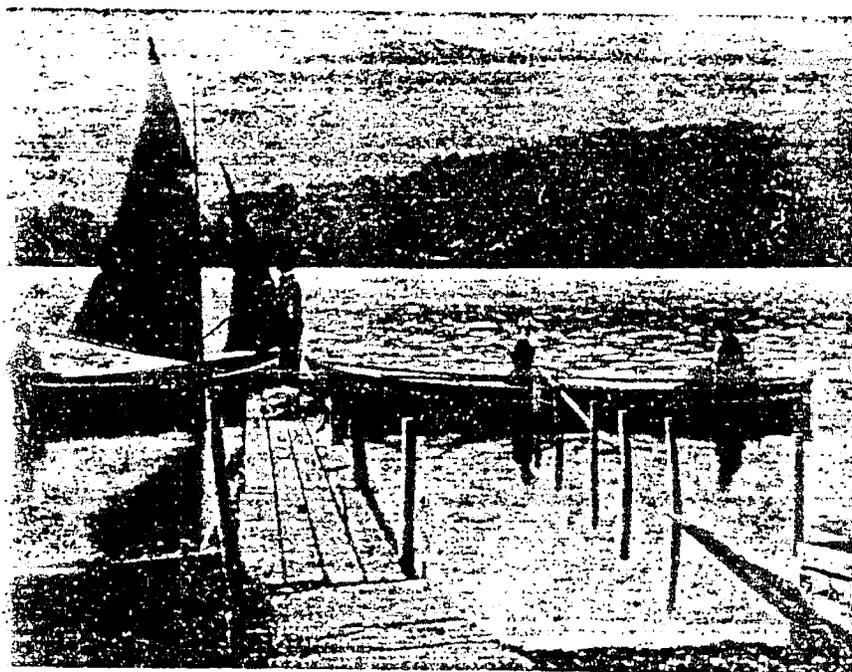
At present a photographic survey is being made on slide film of both villages: Ripley is almost complete. It will be interesting to compare with the previous survey made in the 1970s, and, of course, earlier records.

From time to time, photographs are offered for copying, and recently a very fine collection of some 17 early 1900s photos of Ripley were shown to Jane Bartlett. Jane is well known for her interest in local memories, and with the kind permission of the Headmistress of Ripley 1st School, the photos were copied into black and white slide and negative film. The slides have been shown to the Over 60s Club in Send and to the Local Memories Group. Some of them will also appear at the AGM in February 1992, at a slide presentation by the writer.

Mrs Stuart, of Willowmeade, Send, has kindly donated two negatives of a horse-drawn barge on the River Wey, near Send, c.1942.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

The Origins of Swallows and Amazons



Pauline Marshall

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mr Gerard Duvé, Evergreen Cottage, The Green, Ripley.

Mr & Mrs B Weller, 61 Send Road, Send.

Mr Richard Colborne, 2 Broad Street, Pershore, Worcs WR10 1AY (rejoined).

Mrs Joyce Mills, 105 Linden Way, Send Marsh.

Total membership is now 273, comprised of 105 double and 63 single subscriptions.

Les Bowerman

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 9 January . . . At the Red Cross Centre (Sandy Lane), Send, at 8 pm, an evening of old cine films provided by members and friends, to be presented by Ken Bourne, and followed by seasonal refreshments (probably punch and mince pies).

Wednesday, 26 February . . . At Ripley Village Hall, at 8 pm, the Society's AGM, followed with a slide show entitled "Ripley - Then and Now", presented by Ken Bourne.

Thursday, 26 March . . . At the Red Cross Centre (Sandy Lane), Send, at 8 pm, a talk, to be given by Ken Major, entitled "Water-Mills and Windmills". Ken, who is an architect by profession, is a member of the Surrey Industrial History Group and a member of the Wind- and Water-Mill Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Ken is also a leading member of the Pains Hill Trust.

Thursday, 30 April . . . At Ripley Village Hall, at 8 pm, a talk, to be arranged.

CHANGE OF EDITORSHIP

It is with many regrets and much mixed feeling that I wish to inform the membership that I shall step down from the office of Newsletter Editor in February 1992. I intend to remain on the Committee, if re-elected at the next AGM, but I shall relinquish the Editorship.

I feel that after six years and 35 Newsletters, I have done enough and achieved what I set out to do, namely the redesign and upgrading of the Society's Newsletter to a high professional standard. It is now time to hand on to somebody else with fresh enthusiasm and ideas, and I am pleased to say that a worthy successor is waiting in the wings: Ken Bourne, the Society's ex-Chairman, has expressed a strong interest in assuming the mantle of Editorship, though this has yet to be finally confirmed.

This issue, No 101, therefore, is my last as sole Editor; Ken and I intend, in fact, to publish No 102 jointly. Thereafter, Ken will "go it alone", and I wish him luck, and I have every confidence that I am leaving the Newsletter in good hands.

I wish to thank everybody who has contributed to the Newsletter, but in particular I personally, and the Society as a whole, owe an unrepayable debt of gratitude to Chris and Geoff Parker, for whom no praise is great enough. It has been a pleasure and an honour to collaborate with them during the past six years.

Finally I wish the Newsletter all success in the future.

Bob Gale - Editor

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AND
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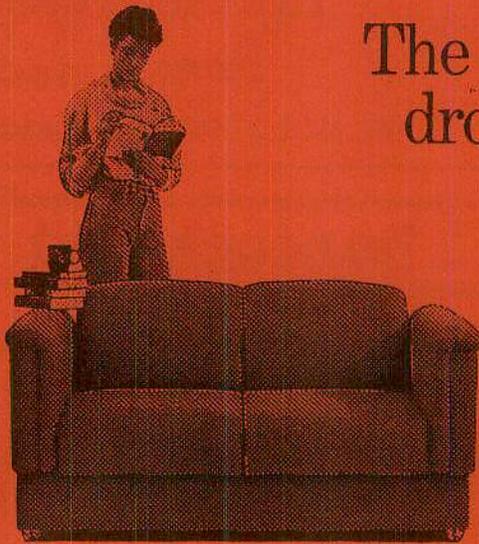
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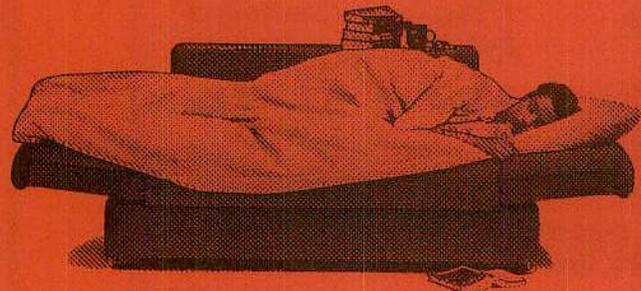
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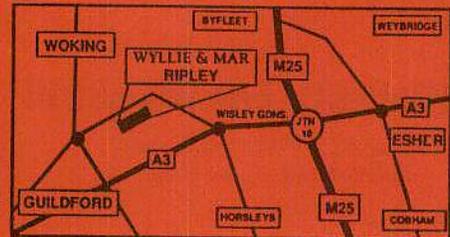
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