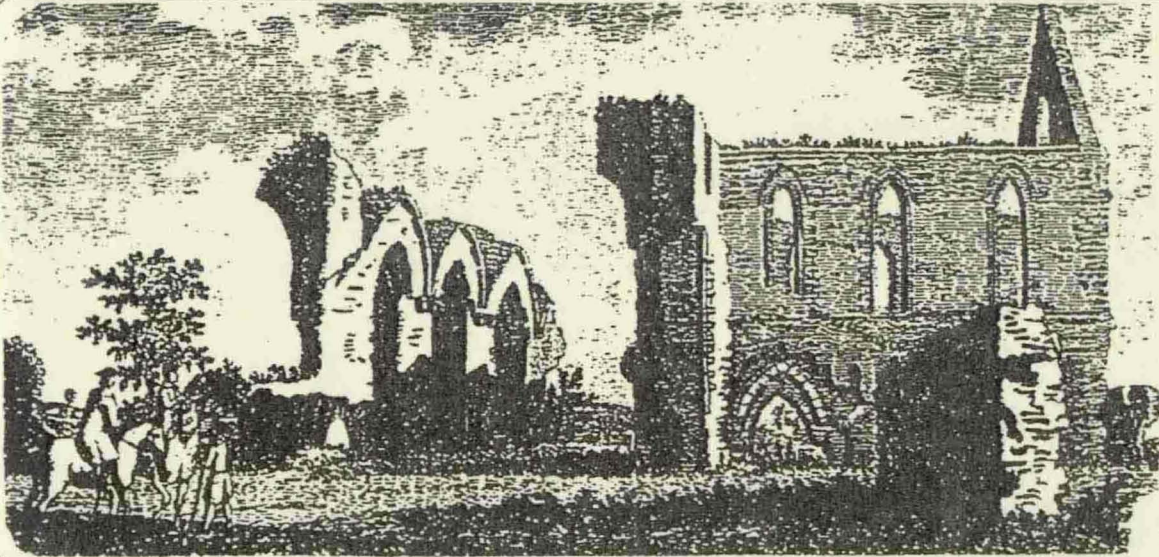


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NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 6 No. 207

July/Aug 2009



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Cover photo: The redeveloped Connaught site as it is today - see article on page 3.

Editor's Comment

Once again this is the summer issue when members are enjoying their holidays and contributions to the Journal tend to reduce a little but thanks to reports on various events and a couple of articles held back to complete their research, this journal is only a little less than the others at 18 pages.

It is not the function of this journal to act as a weather forecaster but it is probably OK to comment on the progress of the weather as predicted by others earlier in the year. It appears we are not to have a long hot summer after all in fact the weather so far (mid July) has been much as one would expect, warm, quite a lot of rain and some good sunny days!

In Journal 206 Jane Bartlett told us about the work of one of the employees at C H Sex and Sons and sent photos with the text, the latter, unfortunately were overlooked. As such photos are rarely available showing in this instance, Bill Stocker working inside the workshop at Send and also on site, the article is repeated here complete as originally intended.

A Send Blacksmith

Jane Bartlett

Bill Stocker must have had a family feeling for smith work as his grandfather once ran a forge in Mayford. His uncle, Walt Muir, who worked with C.H.Sex and Sons in Send, got him his first job, aged fifteen, with this firm and he worked there from 1944 until it closed in 1961. His first job was shoeing horses. He used to collect and return them to the dairy at May's Corner. Other horses were brought from Sinclair's farm and from Secretts. Three Prisoners of War, two Polish and one German, cycled over from the Merrow camp to do the shoeing while Bill was trained to do the more intricate metal work inside.

When Clarence H. Sex bought the Send forge in 1899 it was doing the more normal blacksmith's work, but with his brother Gus, and later with his two sons Arthur and Ron, he built up a reputation for ornamental work such as gates, screens, weather vanes and so on. They exhibited at shows and won many certificates. In 1938 they were chosen to design and make the gates at the north entrance to Kings College Chapel Cambridge.



Bill Stocker at Send Forge

The outbreak of war in 1939 brought a halt to their famous ornamental work, but not a stop to work. It is said they made over 30 thousand horseshoes. In the meadows behind the forge they replaced the metal tyres on wagon wheels (a fire lit to heat and expand the rim and a hose to cool it tight round the wheel ready for the pins to secure it). They made component parts for vehicles including metal work for the Motor Torpedo Boats, which took part in the raids on the French coast.

After the war, they settled down to what they had become renowned for - ornate decorative iron work. Bill Stocker was involved in carrying out welding and riveting the designs drawn up by the Sex brothers. They exhibited at the first post war Chelsea Flower Show, and were inundated with orders for church gates and war memorials, for hotel bars and inn signs. They made many of the signs for Youth Hostels. In 1959 they did all the ironwork in the new chapel of the Ladywell Convent in Godalming. They installed the gates and railings round the Royal enclosure at Ascot. Many of their orders came from abroad. (See also Journal 184)

Bill said some of his favourite jobs was making the gates for the Guildford City Football Club, replacing the rusted scrolls round the Guildford Town Clock, and putting up the displays for the Chelsea Flower shows.



Ascot Royal Enclosure gates and railings

They certainly got variety in their work. There was variety in learning new techniques, the electric furnaces and electric hammers replacing the old methods of anvils and bellows. There was certainly enjoyment and loyalty shown by these master craftsmen. In the Woking Review of 1956 we are told that Walter Muir was there for 54 years, H. Smith for 35, F Masters for 22, and Bill Stocker, the newcomer, had been there for 11 years.

Bill tells us that he did enjoy working there from leaving school until the forge closed in 1961. He then worked in the Surrey County Council forge at Merrow until he retired.

Connaught Cars part 9 **The declining years 1964-1970** **David Porter**

'Connaughts' were now at their peak. There were Citroen cars everywhere in and around the workshop and behind the 'Esso' forecourt. In the back corner of yard, the original main workshop was in full swing 24 hours a day. Filipo Sapia who had arrived in the UK from Sicily in 1963, had recently been engaged by the firm as their top mechanic on Fiat vehicles. The lorries of SPD were generally repaired by the night shift, however there were often one or two still in the main workshop during the day if major work on them was being undertaken. In 1964 the entire fleet of SPD's were the large Bedford (TK) so space was very much at a premium.

During this year the decision was taken to demolish all of the four Nissan huts at the back of the yard and a new single workshop was constructed in their place; the original main workshop was retained. This became one of the most advanced motor vehicle workshops in Surrey. All cars were serviced and repaired here leaving the old workshop with a dividing wall solely for all commercial vehicles. The Citroen workshop behind the forecourt was vacated.

The customer's vehicle entrance to the new workshop was where the old Citroen Nissan hut previously stood. Customers left their vehicles at the entrance, as they were not allowed in the workshop. The service reception was to the right behind a sliding glass window. The parts department (stores) still occupied the same space as before. All the company offices were above the service reception and stores area. Once through the 'tunnel' customer's cars were parked in bays 'herring bone' fashion with the exception of all Citroens which were placed across the back of the workshop. There was an exit door to the rear of the workshop on the left (the Ripley side). Office windows not only overlooked the yard but also over the entire workshop area, which became a controversial issue with the staff!



Connaught Engineering as it was in the 1960s. The Nissan huts were behind these buildings

In 1964 the Citroen DS21 series was launched to replace the DS19. This included a DW model. The DS21 series engines had five bearing crankshafts and had been upgraded in other ways. Overnight the 'Connaught Conversion' of the D model ceased. The motorcar industry had caught up with Benny Binstead and his team and had overtaken them! Morale quickly declined as the work slowly declined. Gone were the customers from as far afield as the flat fenland of East Anglia to Penzance on the Cornish coast. A 'run down' to Cornwall overnight to collect or deliver a Citroen was now a thing of the past! My visits to Connaught Cars were now quite rare, as the atmosphere had changed from a friendly busy workshop to a quiet sombre retreat.

I left school (St Bedes) in April 1965 to follow in my father's trade and I ceased going to visit Dad on Saturday mornings.

The modern conveniences enjoyed by the Connaught mechanics included a service ramp with handrails all round. This piece of equipment was large enough to enable two men to service a car at the same time, the lubrication work being done beneath while the engine mechanical work was done above. Drains ran the full length of the workshop, which could allow the radiators to be drained directly onto the floor and into an underground tank. Extractor pipes were fitted over exhaust pipes to take the fumes away to outside the workshop. All oil deliveries were simplified with oil pipe connections mounted on the outside wall facing the yard.

Delivery drivers simply backed up their lorries to the wall, connected to the appropriate connector/s filled the tank/s and drove off with no disruption of work within the workshop.

By 1967 the 'party was over' and the entire area was taken over by Connaught Contractors, which included the original main workshop.

All that remained of Connaught Cars was accommodated inside the former Citroen workshop behind the forecourt! Morale continued to decline and workshop staff dwindled. I last saw Dad inside this workshop around 1968 when he was checking the running height of a D model with his steel tape measure also this was the last time I saw him working on a Citroen.

A plaque had appeared on the outside wall of the workshop, which read 'Allan Brown Racing'. Connaught Cars became agents for Peugeot and in a desperate attempt to get a foothold into the 'fast small car market'; Benny Benstead applied his racing knowledge into developing the Peugeot 104 perhaps as a challenge to the BMC Mini Cooper? Success was once again almost in Benny's grasp. However, the power unit was there but the engines proved to be no match to the old Citroen units and engine failures were frequent. After many trials the project was abandoned. Des Arthur had told older members of the staff - "When I leave this firm start looking for other jobs yourselves!" It was a stark warning that Connaught Cars would soon close, but when?

The SPD contract ceased around 1968 or 1969 after a year or two when these lorries were serviced at the Forsyth Road depot on the Sheerwater estate, Woking. A Ford lorry had been used as a mobile workshop. The latter was initially used to tow the 'Ford Galaxie' a 'Mustane' racing car trailer.

Only a handful of staff remained and Dad left Connaught Cars in November 1969. The Company was wound up during 1970. Alan Brown Racing moved to Bramley and Dick Claydon took over what was left of Connaught Contractors and Connaught (Dick Claydon) Ltd was born.

In 1977 I joined Connaught (Dick Claydon) Ltd as a vehicle and plant mechanic and I conclude this series of articles on the rise and fall of the Connaught companys by referring to a conversation I had with my foreman William (Bill) Calagham. Bill had been with Connaught Contractors since the very beginning previously working for Alf and Peter Chandler (Chandler's Coaches) who were originally on the site at Ripley.

Bill stated, "At the end of 1970 we had a big sale of vehicles and plant in the back workshop. I helped Mr Claydon choose the best vehicles and plant before the sale began. We were to go it alone 'sink or swim' in spite of being made redundant".

In response to my question - why did Connaughts close?" Bill replied, "The Shareholders wanted their money back!

The Fishing Lakes on Send Heath **Notes by Les Bowerman**

Over the period 1979 to 1987 I wrote a series of six articles on Mineral Extraction in Send in the then Newsletter (issues 28 to 95). A recent enquiry from Kevin Clifford of *Carp Fishing News Ltd & Predator Publications Ltd* necessitated a look back at those articles. New information from Kevin shows that one site was omitted entirely from the article in Newsletter 41, page 2, and at present very little is known about it.



The Send Heath water-filled pits are contained almost entirely in the area bounded by Potters Lane on the west, Send Road on the northeast, Send Close on the east, and Briar Road on the south. N/L 41/2 mentioned three pits, all excavated to below water level by the firm of Stanley Atherton in the ten years from 1934. They had previously been dug, some by hand, down to that level. Those pits are a) the one nearest to Cartbridge, b) the large one that can be seen from near the Church Room in Send Road, and c) the large one to the north and east of Briar Road. People in Send knew them as Athertons pits when they were being worked and now, I suspect, simply think of them all as the Fishing Lakes. Kevin Clifford draws attention to a smaller fourth lake, which is not shown on the OS - 2 1/2" (1: 25 000) map published in 1960 on which I had relied. It is on the 1979 version of the same map, where it appears sandwiched between the other three lakes. At present it is not known by whom the pit which became this lake, or pond, was dug, or precisely when. It was presumably after the other three, but before 1979. The fishermen suggest some time before the late 1950s.

Locally, the sites were first known as e.g. Spooners Field, then Spooners Pit, and eventually Spooner's Pond. The anglers call Lake a), near Cartbridge, Langman's and the mysterious smaller fourth one Sanderson's.

Kevin Clifford sent me a copy of an article by Chris Ball about carp fishing at Langman's and Sanderson's ponds (there seems to be a grey area between what constitutes a pond and what a lake, although in most contexts a pond would of course be smaller than a lake). It appeared in the March 2007 issue of *Carpworld*, one of a series of articles on "Famous Catches", and is entitled "Surrey Record". Kevin has obtained the consent of Chris Ball for the article to be reprinted in our Journal and assures me that the owner of *Carpworld* would be happy for us to use it. The article is accordingly submitted as below, with some purely angling lines omitted.

A Surrey Record

By Chris Ball

We go back to a period when carp fishing was still a little-practised art and follow one man's fishing progress at a series of lakes in deepest Surrey that held, in their time, huge carp, including a potential English record breaker! The waters concerned are situated at Send near Woking and the angler is the late John Brough.

The two lakes concerned started life as hand dug sand pits - there being no real interest in the gravel - for digging stopped once the hard stony ground was encountered. The two lakes, one large, one small, were bought - once they were filled by water - by a chap called Mr Whitty and, understandably, were called Whitty's Ponds. Fishing was allowed, that's if you first joined the Two Guinea Club, so called because of the fee payable (£2.10). It appears both waters held general freshwater fish, but few, if any, carp. That changed once the Woking and District Angling Club had a chance to buy the lakes shortly after the Second World War (1946). The president of the club at that time who masterminded the purchase was Mr Slocock.

He was a man of substance and owner of a large gardening nursery in the locality. It was the nursery's name - Langmans - that was carried through to become the new name of the bigger of the two lakes. The smaller was called Sandersons.

Within Slocock's nursery grounds were ponds. These held water lilies and suchlike, which were for sale. The ponds also held carp; however, once they became 5 or 6 pounders their disruptive presence to the lilies meant they had to be removed. Slocock used to net them out and bring them to the lakes at Send. How many carp eventually made this trip is uncertain. It does appear, however, that those placed in Langmans were the first stocking of carp the lake had.

John's First Carp

John Brough, as a kid, used to fish the lakes, usually catching live bait for the older members, but by the time he was 15-years-old there came a turning point. A junior match was announced and John was keen to enter, mainly because his rod - an old tank aerial, very popular in the mid-'50s - was worn out. Although first prize boasted a trophy cup, the second prize was more to John's liking - a nice new split cane rod! Halfway through the match saw John with a net full of rudd and on his way to winning so, to slow the capture rate down, he slid the float up and layed-on with a big ball of paste. You might guess what happened next, sure enough the float darted away - he'd hooked a carp. It weighed 10lb 9oz - his first carp was a double! Needless to say he won the match easily and besides the cup he also got the rod!

That first carp caught by John Brough put him on the road to carp fishing that was to see him scale the heights. John spent many hours - mainly in darkness - chasing carp on the small pond at Send, i.e. Sandersons. Floating crust was the method he liked more than anything else. Margin fishing in darkness provided him with thrills that were awe-inspiring.

The total of double figure fish grew at an alarming rate, his best fish being a leather carp weighing 18½lb. Only one other carp angler was present at this time (late 1950s), his name being Pat Turner. He was a great stalker, someone who John admired. It was Pat who might have been the first angler to catch a big carp out of Langmans Pond. After 4 or 5 years John had caught approaching 200 double figure carp from the small pond, all caught on a split cane rod called *The Dorset* and a *Mitchell 300 reel*, almost all falling to floating crust.

Langmans

John knew in his heart of hearts that the big pond, Langmans, held bigger carp. He'd seen them while hanging out from the tops of trees. His resolve to catch some of the bigger Langmans carp

came to fruition in 1959. In August that year John noticed the carp grouped together in the shallow water close to the eastern bank.

One hot afternoon found him mesmerised by the sight of dozens of big carp holed up in this area. He just HAD to cast a crust out, but all the while he was looking at this incredible sight he'd taken his attention off his rod that was gently resting in the reeds. Suddenly he heard his line hissing out through the rings - the bait had been taken. After a long struggle the carp was landed. John realised that here was a fish larger than he'd caught before, but having no weigh scales, he shot off home to tell his Mum. Then Mum wanted to see it, so with the fish wrapped up in a wet sack, he took it home and placed it in the bath. Then it was back to the lake where it swam away strongly. The weight of this mirror was 20lb 1oz. It was the first carp over twenty pounds recorded from the Woking Club waters and quite a fish for a budding carp angler of twenty years of age. This fish, caught on floating crust, made John think he'd cracked it but, as often happens, it was not to be. It turned out to be the last fish he ever caught on crust at the big pond.

By now the delights of potato as a carp bait, which John had used to good effect in the small pond, was tried at Langmans. Two years later John landed another 20lb Langmans mirror along with several other big fish. Then another milestone in 1964 - the first twentypound common carp. This super-looking fish weighed 24lb. John was bursting for one of these; after all, he'd seen them cruising in the shallow water of the bay. In fact, around this time he'd spotted a perfect monster of a common carp, which he thought might go 35lb!

In 1964 another carp angler appeared on the scene - his name, Charlie Carter, and with him he brought different bait - dumplings, yes, dumplings! Charlie followed an Italian recipe, which was simple to make but the masterstroke was that he flavoured them with vanilla. These dumplings gave Charlie more runs than John, who was using the humble potato, but an inherent problem Charlie suffered was trying to strike through them. The insides were so dense it impeded the hook. Charlie even tried a four-way split with a knife at the top of the bait to remedy the problem. As a result, although he had many runs, few carp were actually hooked. However, one fish Charlie did land in June 1964 turned out to be a new lake record, a cracking mirror weighing 27lb. Notwithstanding this success, Charlie Carter faded from view, but John Brough had picked up on the flavour thing. The following year, 1965, with several more 20lb fish to John's credit, he started to do really well, the total of big carp - although few knew it - put John in a class of his own in Surrey, if not nationally.

This same year also saw changes to the ecology of the water. The crisp pondweed (*Potamogeton Crispus*) that grew so strongly and had covered the eastern half of the lake for years suddenly disappeared. This encouraged John to fish from the footpath bank on the southern side and a couple of spots started to produce the goods. Come the start of the 1966 season and John was keener than ever to do battle with the Langmans carp.

It was a great life; many a summer's night found him fishing on his own - essential ingredients for the habitual carp fisher.

Three Huge Carp

One day in late July, around mid-morning, John was walking along the footpath bank (being high above the water afforded a good view of the expanse of water), when 40 yards out in front he spied three huge carp. They were just swimming up and down, one was enormous - the other two immense. John remembers watching them in awe for over three hours. The next day around 11 o'clock he was back, and so were the fish just cruising up and down. This activity was centred in front of the dugout swim where there lay a weedbed a short distance from the bank. Maybe the three leviathans would spend the night in the vicinity of the weedbed, the temptation to find out was too great!

That night he fished two rods with vanilla flavoured 'spud' out in front of the weedbed. Nothing happened, but as he moved up off his chair in the morning, a tremendous bow wave powered out from the weed. Jeez! Did that make his heart beat faster or what. The next night he was back, hardly daring to sleep - but come morning, the lines lay limp.

Next day the fish could be seen parading up and down as usual. Come the evening John - though tired and weary - was back in the swim, his mind racing with the thought of these three colossal carp, he had to get one. This night, however, was different - the mist came down heavily. Come first light and you could hardly see to the end of the rod tips. Still all lay quiet. Then it happened, the right hand rod suddenly had the line zipping out. Picking up the rod, the ferocious power of the fish brought John to his senses. It roared out into open water, then, far out in the mist he heard it roll, really heavily. Without doubt he'd hooked one of the big ones! Splashing and stumbling out into the water he applied heavy sidestrain. The Oliver's split cane MkIV carp rod bent as never before; this action, however, made the fish pull harder! After some considerable time the unseen adversary at last showed signs of tiring. It came closer but, at the last minute, with renewed vigour it powered away again. At a second attempt he netted it.

Looking down at the fish lying quietly in the landing net, John gasped when he saw its mouth; it appeared to be almost the size of an orange! He bit the line and taking both hands lifted the net. That's when he knew for sure that here was something extraordinary. It was a monster of a mirror carp, surely one of the three he'd seen cruising the last few days. Placing the big fish in a Hessian sack, he secured it safely in deep water. Then quickly he packed his gear away and went to get a friend to witness the carp. He knocked on his bedroom window - remember it was just gone 6 o'clock in the morning! After this John took the fish round to the corner of the lake close to where he lived, and then popped home to get the club scales. Being the head bailiff, the weighing of specimen fish was under his control, so he had the scales hanging up in his shed at all times. When John returned to the lake five other people came as well. Tying the scales to a tree branch, they lifted the sack with the fish in it. These club scales went to 30lb, they'd often joked in the past about them going right round - this is exactly what happened!

A Surrey Record

Not only did the scale pointer go right round and past the 30lb mark, it never stopped until it reached the 7½lb mark (second time around.) The weight of the wet sack registered 4lb, so that left a weight of 33½lb. A Surrey record and, at the time, the ninth largest carp ever recorded in this country. It was not until later that day that John realised the scales had a bar that stopped them going any further than the 7½lb figure; also, what about the gap between 30lb and zero? There is little doubt this carp weighed in excess of 33½lb, but John wasn't worried.

A couple of days later, when the fuss had died down, he went back to see if the other whoppers were still showing. As he approached the spot, his pal Pat Turner was looking out over the water. He too had spotted the big fish cruising during the previous week. When John looked out to where Pat was pointing, just two fish remained. Then, with the hairs on the back of his neck starting to prickle, he realised the mirror he'd caught was one of the smaller ones. As the pair of anglers looked, there, before their eyes, the enormous one was still present. That fish, Pat and John agreed without hesitation, had to be over Dick Walker's record 44lb common!

A year or two later John, accompanied by another noted carp angler, spied this huge carp again, but this time at close range in shallow water. Both men estimated its weight to be at least mid-forties. It was never caught - ever!

A personal note

In 1969 I joined the Woking & District Angling Club lured by the stories of big carp. I followed in the footsteps of John Brough by fishing Sandersons initially and managed to catch a fair few fish (they still liked floating crust), and then in 1971 I tried Langmans. This was the big time for me; there were numbers of carp over twenty pounds (including highly prized commons) plus mirrors of much bigger proportions swimming around the place.

The status that Langmans held at the time meant it attracted the attention of most of the top anglers. Basically, when these notable anglers weren't at Redmire Pool they were fishing Langmans! I landed one fish from Langmans, a 16¼lb mirror on floating crust in July 1971, before falling foul of the 'Management'. To date this is the only club I've been thrown out of; however, some of the top anglers suffered a similar fate. The stakes were high and local anglers weren't that keen on the invasion of carp mad anglers from around the country.

Spare Journal 204

If anyone has a spare copy of Journal 204 Jan/Feb 2009 please contact Les Bowerman (01483 224876) as he finds he is one short for his records.

Letters

To Ken Bourne – Editor

Letter from Michael R Sex

Gus Sex

I bow to Pat Clack's superior knowledge when she says that the man I thought was Fred Hands was, in fact Gus Sex. In my defence, let me say that I was born after that photograph was taken!

A few irrelevant facts about Gus, my great uncle – born in 1883 in Compton, moved to Send in 1899 with his brother Clarence Henry and lived with Clarry and his wife in Holly Croft, the house behind the forge until his marriage to Maud Edna Salmon in 1915. He died in 1949. I too remember the meat pies!

Gus had two children, Peter Vernon, who died in 1985, and Frances Muriel, who became a very senior nurse and died last year. I was at her funeral, which left me the senior and very nearly the only member of the Sex family. Anno Domini.

My grateful thanks for the regular arrival of the Journal and if there is no other offer, I can photocopy my copy of Journal 204 but you can't have my original.

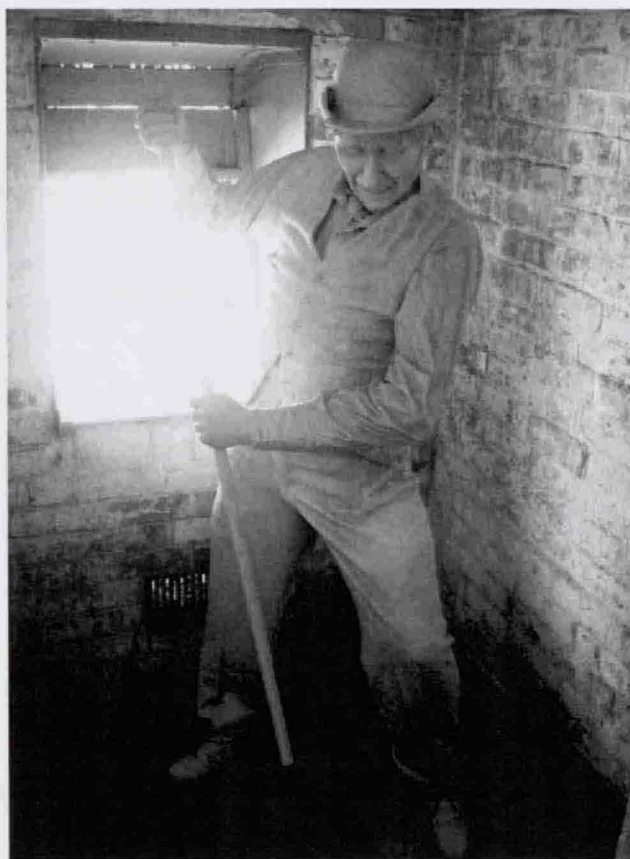
Visit to 'The Spike' at Warren Road, Guildford

Notes by Les Bowerman

On Tuesday, 2nd June, some 26 members enjoyed a conducted tour of The Spike. Back in 1989 the Society was given a talk on the social history of the poor, which was reported in Newsletter (as it then was) No. 91. Basically, the poor were originally helped locally, first by the monasteries and subsequently in the parishes. In Send & Ripley there is a reference to alms at the gatehouse of the Priory, and the poorhouse with a plaque dated 1738. The poorhouses still survive as a number of occupied residences in Newark Lane. The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 abolished poor relief on a parish basis and created the unions of several parishes under a single workhouse.

Accordingly, the huge Guildford Union Workhouse was built in 1838 at Warren Road to accommodate the poor of some 20 local parishes, including Send & Ripley. It later became the site of St Luke's Hospital, and since the fairly recent closure of the hospital the site has been re-developed with up-market housing.

By 1906 a purpose-built Casual Ward was built to separate the vagrants or tramps from the structured routine of the workhouse. These casual wards were guaranteed to provide each homeless person with a bed and an evening meal for one night. On arrival their clothes were fumigated and they were given a bath, mostly, it seems, using the same bath water! The meal was basic – bread, cheese and possibly cocoa. They were ushered to their cells for the night and after breakfast had to do some unpaid work in return for their keep. They would then leave to walk up to 20 miles to the next Casual Ward.



The work consisted of unpicking rope for re-use in caulking boats, or breaking stone for road repairs. The implement they were given to unpick the rope was a spike, which gave its name to the casual wards. At Guildford, there was an extension at the end of the cells for those who had to break stone. It was required to be broken into pieces small enough to pass through a cast iron grill in the back wall of the cell. The grills as shown in this photograph are a rare survival.

www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk

John Slatford

The Society's website, managed by Chris Brown, has now been up and running for over two years and in that time enquiries have been received regularly from people far and wide mostly with questions about past family connections or recalling childhood visits. We are approaching the 35th anniversary of the Society's founding and over these years a wealth of historical records have been accumulated both ancient and modern. These usually enable us to provide the answers to even the most difficult questions but many are quite easy to deal with. Some recent examples are ones, which have cropped up a number of times before.

I have written several times in the Journal about people who were born at Ripley Court during the last war and were asking about its use as a maternity hospital. One of these last year was from a lady enquiring on behalf of a friend who lived in Scotland. After I had provided the details for her, they arranged to visit Ripley. It was only later that I learned that when they were outside taking photos that the headmaster of Ripley Court School, Andy Gough, came out to talk with them and then invited them in for a guided tour. This made their day!

Another regular topic also written and reported in the Journal is the Lilliput Garden on the Portsmouth Road opposite Barretts (now Titan Buildings). Although the house still bears the name, the model garden, which was started in 1938 and ended around 1956, is now long gone. Now and again, via the website, an e-mail comes from someone recalling childhood visits. One such came last year from a gentleman in Caterham and he was very grateful for the details that I was able to give him.

Yet another was from Lauren Young who lives in Ripley. She was asking about the history of her house, which is in the middle of the row of cottages, Nos 8-16 Rose Lane. I was able to provide her with a lot of details dating from 1818, the year they were built. These I reported in Journal No 195.

Ripley Scouts Celebrate 100 Years

Peter Hookins

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the evening of Saturday 27th June 2009 1st Ripley Scout Group held a grand celebration to commemorate the Groups 100 years of scouting in Ripley. Many former members of Group came from far and wide to join with uniformed leaders from across the District to celebrate the occasion at Groups headquarters in Rose Lane. Over 250 guests arrived amid glorious sunshine and were treated to a barbeque followed by a central gathering to witness Lord Robert Baden-Powell, a former Ripley resident and scout leader in village present Chief Scouts award badges to some Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

This was followed by the grand unveiling of a specially commissioned totem pole to mark the occasion. The larch tree had been donated by Sir Richard Thornton, the former Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and was expertly crafted by local artist Graham Hart.

The Group were also proud to display the old fire station bell, which had been restored and now hangs proudly in the headquarters.

A special historical display was arranged with the kind and generous help of the Send and Ripley History Society. A show of old photographs and uniforms caused much amusement to young and old alike and a slide show of old scout photos brought back many memories.

A special painting was donated to the Group by Vernon Wood our president. This is a collage of many Ripley Scout members and leaders over the years and was painted by former local artist and scout Frank Brown.

The evening was finished off in style with a traditional camp fire and camp fire songs led by Explorer leader Kevin Yeo. The Scouts were left to toast marshmallows over the fire as the evening drew to an end.



Ripley Flower Festival

14th June

Clare McCann

Margaret Field did a beautiful display on behalf of the society in Ripley Church for the flower festival. The theme of the festival was 'All things bright and beautiful' and our display was the line 'The cold wind in the winter'.



Ripley Farmers Market

13th June

Clare McCann

Also we had a display at Ripley Farmers Market on farming. The organizers of the market had arranged for the old tractors to be there and we had photos and old farm tools. Ted Goldup brought some additional items including the Fogwills items. Peter and Blanche Smithers helped with the event and sold period tools etc. It was generally successful.



The Augustinians in England

Ken Bourne

Monastic life post 9th century

Practically no organized monastic life survived the Danish invasions of Europe in the ninth century (*Medieval Monasticism* C H Lawrence, Longman 1989). The Benedictine Abbey at Chertsey founded in 666 did not escape. In about 871, the Vikings killed the abbot and ninety monks; burnt down the Abbey, and its lands were laid waste. It was re-founded in the 10th century, traditionally about 933, and reformed under King Edgar (957-75) in the monastic revival inspired by SS. Dunstan and Ethelwold. The English revival of the monastic system dates from the convention of abbots and abbesses held at Winchester under the presidency of King Edgar in 970. An agreed code of observance was drawn up called the *Regularis Concordia*. The programme of monastic life set out in the *Concordia* is that of the Aachen decrees (the literal observance of the Benedictine Rule) derived from the traditions of Cluny and Gorze.

In the mid eleventh century, however, there arose in Italy and northern France, a movement to make life in their minsters or collegiate churches more severe.

It was vigorously urged that the clergy should emulate the Christian apostles and set an example by giving up ownership of private possessions and should not marry. This movement attracted much support, and, Pope Gregory II commended the idea. This was on the basis that, the clergy would in effect be living the monastic life, i.e. be unmarried and live without property under obedience to a fixed rule and a common superior. The movement received official approval at the Lateran synod in 1059. There was however, no attempt by the Pope at this time, to enforce such a programme on the established religious houses of the day. However the Norman conquest of England in 1066 may have provided the opportunity for the development of this new order in England.

A small community of six canons was established in the church of St Gregory, just outside the Northgate in Canterbury by Lanfranc, the first Norman Archbishop. His foundation charter has been dated to just before September 1087. There is archaeological and documentary evidence that the church was previously held by an Anglo Saxon gild of priests, which was taken over and re-founded by Lanfranc. The charter states that the canon's duties were to attend inmates of St Johns Hospital on the opposite side of Northgate Street, also founded by Lanfranc at about the same time. They were required to look after the thirty men and thirty women (the poor and sick), to hear confessions, do baptisms and burial services, supervise a singing and grammar school and live a common (communal) life at the re-founded priory. They were known as 'canons regular' having adopted a regulated life of prayer and devotion based upon a modified version of the rule of St Benedict (c480-547)*.

By 1092 a house of canons regular had come into existence at the church of St Mary Huntingdon, which subsequently sent canons to establish a small house in the church of St Giles Cambridge. The latter, however, was not fulfilled and the brethren were moved to a much more suitable site at Barnwell outside Cambridge in 1112.

**St Gregory's Priory - Excavation report by Tim Tatton-Brown. Published by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 1990.*

Later in the 11th century the order adopted the rule of St Augustine of Hippo (354-430), which allowed greater freedom of action to the individual than that provided by the essentially contemplative Rule of St Benedict. However, St Augustine's rule did not give detailed guidance on daily routine so some aspects of the Benedictine rule were retained. Thenceforward the movement was known as the 'Regular Canons of St Augustine', shortened to 'Austin Canons' or 'Augustinians'. They were also known as Black Canons, due to their use of a black cloak, which they wore when traveling outside the monastery

Originally a little house of secular canons; the priory of St Botolphs, Colchester adopted the rule of St Augustine in 1103 and are often referred to as the earliest Augustinian foundation in England. Two of their brethren went to France with the help of Archbishop Anselm, to study the life of regular canons in the Abbeys of St Quentin at Beauvais and St Jean-en-Vallée at Chartres. They returned and taught it to their brethren. Shortly after in 1106 another small house was established at Little Dunmow.

The next major step in the order's progress came with a request in 1107 from Queen Matilda (Edith) to the canons at St Botolphs to colonise the priory in London at Holy Trinity, Aldgate. Queen Matilda was wife of Henry 1st and mother of Matilda who waged the war of succession against her cousin Stephen. This priory rapidly became wealthy and fashionable. Quickly Aldgate established daughter houses at St Osyth, Essex (1121), Plymton, Devon (1121), Launceston, Devon (1127), St Frideswide's Oxford (1122), Dunstable, Bedfordshire (1131) and Llanthony, Wales (1136). Meanwhile Huntingdon having established a daughter house at Barnwell (1112) went on to found Merton (1114), Worksop (1120), Hexham (1138), and Bolton (1194).

The most important of these was Merton, which was sponsored by Gilbert the Norman Sheriff of Surrey. From Merton colonies went out to Taunton, Devon (1120), Cirencester, Wilts (1131), Holyrood, Scotland, St Lô in Normandy and Christchurch Hants (1150). The Abbey of Cirencester had as its patron King Henry I, which became one of the largest and most important of the Augustinian houses. The king was also patron of Carlisle (1122), Dunstable (1131), St. Denys-by-Southampton (1127) and Wellow-by-Grimsby (1123).

The movement spread rapidly, the priory of St Mary Overie, Southwark had become Augustinian in 1106, and was enlarged and dedicated to St Thomas the Martyr in 1173. It subsequently became the famous St Thomas's Hospital. (*Medieval and Tudor Southwark*, K H Bourne, SRHS. 1995). Among many other Augustinian houses also established in London was St Bartholomew's (Barts) founded in 1123 and like St Thomas's became an important London hospital.

Two other English houses of Austin canons worthy of special note are Carlisle and Walsingham. The priory at Carlisle, established in 1122, was in this very harassed border city. At this time northwestern England had been a no-mans land between the kingdoms of England and Scotland, though the Norman kings had attempted to bring the area under English jurisdiction. To assist in this process, a new diocese covering most of Cumberland and half of Westmorland was set up, the priory of Austin canons at Carlisle being given Cathedral status. The first bishop was consecrated in 1133. There followed a very unsettled period. This was the last English diocese to be founded in the middle ages and the only cathedral to belong to the Augustinians. Several other large houses some of them Abbeys, became Cathedrals at the dissolution of the monasteries, one of these was the Abbey of St Augustine (1140) run by the Victorines (a sub-order of Augustinians) which was converted to a cathedral for the new diocese of Bristol.

Ultimately wealthier and more famous, was the Augustinian priory of Our Lady of Walsingham. This had originated as a chapel before the Norman Conquest, after the miraculous appearance of the Virgin Mary there in 1051. A small priory of Austin canons was founded at the chapel by Geoffrey de Favarches c1169. During the 13th century, pilgrimages to see the shrine holding the statue of Our Lady grew in number and by the eve of the Reformation it had become famous throughout Europe as the most popular shrine of its kind. A number of English Kings and their Queens were pilgrims. King Henry III (1216-72) went there first in 1226 and made several later visits. Henry VIII, who it seems hoped to gain an heir through his visit in 1511, was later responsible for its closure in 1538.

The tremendously rapid growth of the Augustinian order was due to a number of reasons:

- 1) It was popular among the brethren and the community because of the policy to be near centers of population and to help the poor and look after the sick and needy. The Augustinian order was perceived as a *via media*, a middle path, between cloistered monks cut off from the lay community, and secular canons who lived and worked in the community
- 2) Generally the houses were modest in size, usually consisting of no more than 13 canons including the prior. Many were smaller, a very few such as Walsingham were larger.
- 3) Augustinian houses were independent due to the absence of a centralized origin for the movement. None were directly responsible to the Pope but they were usually responsible to the Bishop of the diocese where they were situated.
- 4) Because of their modest size the low cost of becoming a patron was attractive to Kings and Queens and their court but particularly the minor Lords and nobility.

Foundation of Newark Priory

The earliest documentary reference to the Priory at Ripley is in an undated charter drawn up during the reign of Richard I (1189-1199), later confirmed by Beatrice de Sandes in 1210, after her husband Ruald de Calna, had died, circa 1195, both of whom were parties to the original charter. This granted to the Augustinian canons at Aldebyrie;* land and property, including the church in Send and the chapel at Ripley. From this charter it appears that Newark Priory would have been founded before but not later than 1195.

(The Founders of Newark Priory, Capt. CMH Pearce).

Aldburi, Aldebyrie or Aldbury was an early name for Novo Loco or Newark.

The priory was certainly established by the time Godfrey de Lucy Bishop of Winchester (1189-1204) made the following grants to the priory:

The Bishop confirms for himself and the priory and convent of St Swithin the undated grant made by Bishop Godfrey, of the land of Rethcombe which had belonged to the manor of Meon, to John, Prior of Aldeburi in Sandes, and the canons there.

(Episcopi Wyntoniensis vol II, p 451: May 28th 1285.)

Godfrey de Lucy, also granted an annual pension of half-a-mark (6s-8d or 33p) from the Church in Wield, Hampshire, to the Church of St Mary and St Thomas the Martyr of Aldebyrie and the Canons there serving God.

(Winton Cathedral Cartulary No.90.)

An early charter granted by Henry III (1216-72) to Newark Priory provides that in exchange for a palfrey (saddle horse) the Priory may hold an annual fair in Ripley on the eve and feast day of St Mary Magdalen (July 22nd). This annual fair currently known as the 'Ripley Event' continues to this day, the proceeds currently being given to the Over Sixtys Club.

Among the Surrey documents inherited by Lord Spencer from Sir Antony Browne (who acquired Newark Priory at the dissolution of the monasteries), is a deed subsequently copied by Capt C M H Pearce JP FSA in 1933, and who dated it to the 13th Century.

This copy which is now in the Surrey History Centre, Woking (Rip/16/9/1406), relates to a gift of a croft of land by Geoffrey le Dine to the - *Hospital and Brethren of St Mary Magdalen of Reppely*. At its dissolution, in 1539, the Priory was maintaining 20 poor persons in an almshouse in Ripley, where the Anchor is now.

The Almshouses and The Anchor, SRHS. 1984.

Ripley chapel begun as early as 1160, some 35 years before the founding of Newark Priory, started out, significantly, as a high-quality building but was for reasons unknown not continued to the same standard. This has led to the supposition that the original builders, who may have been Augustinians perhaps from St Mary Overie, Southwark (founded 1106) or the nearer priory at Merton (founded 1114), were offered a larger and better site on which they were invited to build a priory. Thus they transferred their energies to this new location, (Novo Loco), which subsequently became the 'new work' or Newark, by the River Wey. The chancel of Ripley chapel must have been completed but with a nave in a simpler style and served as a 'Chapel of ease' a hospice, or wayside place of prayer and rest, supported by the priory, and to which nearby buildings such as an almshouse were later added.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

On Thursday, 9th July, ten members set off for Tonbridge in Kent, for a day's visit to some of its many historic sites. We were very lucky with the weather and spent an interesting day exploring the town with the help of two guides who are members of the Tonbridge Historical Society.

Our Museum, which is situated next to the Ripley Village Hall, will shortly have a new exhibition about medicine called "What the Doctor Ordered". Opening hours are 10.00 to 12.30 every Saturday morning and the third Sunday in the month.

Programme for the rest of 2009

Friday, 28th August – Evening Barbecue at Cricketshill House, Potters Lane, Send, from 6.00pm. Tickets are sold out for this event.

Wednesday, 16th September – A talk by Jeanette Hicks on "Newark Priory" at 8 pm in Ripley Village Hall Annexe.

Wednesday, 21st October - A talk by Brian Thorne on "Secret Surrey".

Wednesday, 18th November – An illustrated talk by Patrick Molineux on "Surrey Domesday" with reference to Send.

Wednesday, 16th December – The Christmas Social and entertainment, for members only.

All of the above events except for the Barbecue are due to be held in Ripley Village Hall Annexe

For further details of any of our events, please ring me, Anne Bowerman, on 01483 224876.

Journal Contributions: Closing date for the next edition is **Friday 11th Sept 2009.**



SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

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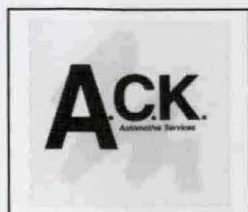
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Contact Les Bowerman on 01483-224876 if
you require further information or wish to
help in the museum.

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

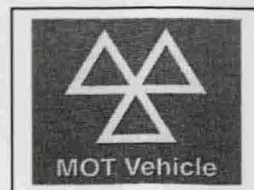
'Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life'	(Reprinted 2006)	£10.00
'Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send'		£1.25
'Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley'	(Reprinted 2004&7)	£4.00
'The Straight Furrow', by Fred Dixon		£1.50
'Ripley and Send – Looking Back'	(Reprinted 2007)	£9.00
'A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey'	(Reprinted 2005)	£2.00
'Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey		£3.00
'The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey'	(Reprinted 2005)	£4.00
'Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures'		£6.00
'Two Surrey Village Schools - The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools'		£10.00
'The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey'		£5.00
'Florence Desmond – Entertainer'		£5.00

All the publications are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of 'Ripley & Send Then and Now' and 'Two Surrey Village Schools' can also be obtained from Send Post Office.



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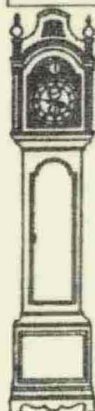


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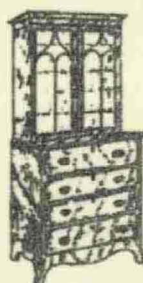
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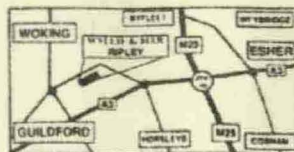
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