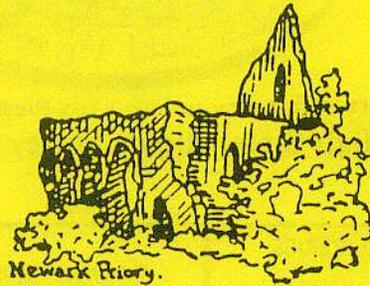
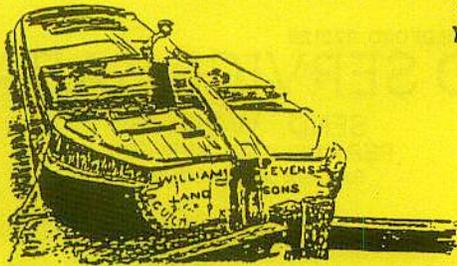


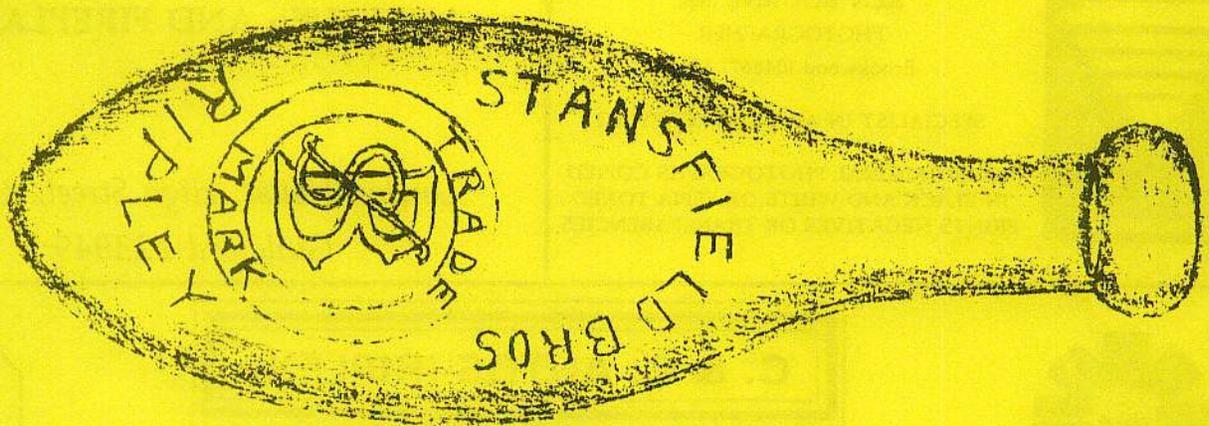
# Send & Ripley History Society



Newark Priory.



Newsletter No.89 November/December 1989



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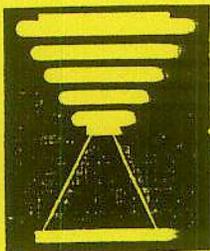
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# Send & Ripley History Society

Established 1975 as Send History Society

Registered Charity No. 296324

**Chairman: Mr K H Bourne**

1 Victoria Cottages, Gole Road, Pirbright (Brookwood 6532)

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Newsletter No 89

November/December 1989

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<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
Afternoon Visit to West Horsley - conducted by Pam Bowley and Ann Grace - notes by John Slatford	2
Members' Museum Evening - notes by Bob Gale	3
The Send and Ripley Inclosure, by John Slatford	4
100 Years Ago - an Extract from "Wheeling" of December 4 1889 contributed by Les Bowerman	5
Pyrford Ford and Bridge (and Homewood) - Part 2 by Les Bowerman	6
"A Taste of History" - a Talk by Anne Bowerman notes by Rosalie Hewitt	7
Photographic Display at Ripley Village Hall An Appeal for Old Photographs or Drawings by Ken Bourne	8
The Ripley Summer Event 1989 - a note by Bob Gale	8
Secretary's Report	8
A Letter from Basil Howard	9
Forthcoming Events	10

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**Cover Illustration:** This sketch (by the Editor) shows a typical Hamilton "torpedo" bottle, bearing the name and trade mark of Stansfield Brothers, the firm of mineral water manufacturers of Newark Lane, Ripley. The company was taken over by Pinks of Chichester, who now use the factory as a storage depot.

## AFTERNOON VISIT TO WEST HORSLEY - 24 SEPTEMBER 1989

Notes by John Slatford

This excursion, our last outdoor meeting of the year, was attended by about 15 members, who were taken on a tour of West Horsley by Pam Bowley of Horsley Countryside Preservation Society, as well as a member of our Society, and Ann Grace of the Domestic Buildings Research Group.

The tour started at St Mary's Church, which, located on the A246 Leatherhead Road, is some distance from the village. This road is, in fact, a 18C turnpike road. An earlier road, called the Harroway, used to run through West Horsley several hundred yards to the North of the present road. West Horsley Place, parts of which are at least 14th century, lies adjacent to the Harroway, just across the fields from the church. It is, perhaps, best known as the home in the 17th century of Carew Raleigh, the son of Sir Walter Raleigh. There seems to be some truth in the legend that Sir Walter's head was brought here some time after his execution and was eventually buried with the bodies of members of the same family in the church.

St Mary's Church has Saxon origins, having been founded around 1030, with some work surviving in the present nave. Later work is Norman and Tudor. Perhaps the most notable features inside the church are the wall paintings. Dating from around 1200 and restored in 1972, these include a huge figure of St Christopher, said to be the largest of any church wall painting in England.

After spending some time in the church, the party moved on to the village hall car park in the centre of the village, a distance of about 1 1/2 miles. From there we were taken on a walk of about two miles to see some of the many interesting older buildings of the district. As one who has driven many times through West Horsley (but rarely stopped), I was pleasantly surprised to see so many surviving mediaeval houses tucked away out of sight of the casual observer.

Our walk took us first back towards the Leatherhead Road, with our guides describing the various buildings and their histories, culminating with Britain's Farm. This dates from around 1550 and was the home of the village carpenters for some 300 years. It is one of a number of houses in West Horsley painted by Helen Allingham in the 1890s.

Crossing the road here, we passed the village pond and then walked along Stroud Street, once the main village street and part of the Harroway. It marked the spring line between the chalk and the clay, and there was once a series of ponds here. Now only Tunmore Pond remains, lying in front of the mediaeval house of this name. This latter has a crown post roof and there are traces of red ocre paint used originally to treat the roof timber - over 500 years ago!

From Stroud Street, we walked back towards the present village and turned down into Ripley Lane. There we saw the Tithe Barn and Dovecot. The former is understood to be unique in Surrey, being of chalk and flint construction and dating probably from before 1400. Further on, we passed the fine gates to Hatchlands, built in 1889 to provide a short cut to Horsley Station, and then we moved up Pincott Lane to The Street, where we turned left in the Ockham direction.

Along The Street we saw Barcombe, an early 16th century house built with a smoke hood, but also of interest to motor enthusiasts, since the owner has a vintage car workshop. Next, we passed a property now called The Old House, but which was once called Birchetts. In the early 18th century it became the village poor house. Beyond this, and opposite, is the Barley Mow, an inn since at least the beginning of the 18th century, when it was known as "Ye Harrow", and for perhaps 200 years before that it was a farmhouse.

Further along The Street, we saw The Old Cottage, a fine timber frame crown post house. In fact, our Buildings Group was privileged to visit this house about two years ago and studied its construction. Before turning back at this point, we also saw Grovelands and Winterfold, two more early houses, the latter being another crown post type.

This completed the organised tour, but we had a further opportunity on our way home to look at the outside of Lower Hammonds Farm. This is another fine building dating from the late 13th century. Its east gable, with crown post and ornate bargeboards, faces the road to Ripley adjacent to the railway bridge. On its South side, there is evidence on the framing to suggest there may have been a garderobe (or mediaeval toilet) here.

In closing, I would like to express thanks from all of us to Pam Bowley and Ann Grace for their efforts in making this a most fascinating afternoon.

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## MEMBERS' MUSEUM EVENING

Notes by Bob Gale

The Members' Museum Evening, on 17 October, proved to be a great success, with over 50 people present to see the majority of the Society's collection of antiquities on display:

Send & Ripley Census Returns 1841, 51, 61, 71, 81	Booklet re Edison Bell Phonograph
Hay knife	Broadmead Branding Iron
A H Lancaster Branding Iron	2 broken clay pipes (?18th century)
Edison Bell Phonograph with cylinders c 1918	S S Boorman Trade Tokens
Pledge of Abstinence & Certificate from school of Florence May	Framed photograph of Guildford High Street c 1900
3 Gypsy Clothes Pegs & 1 Doll Peg	Framed photograph of Send footballers c 1900
Sugar Bowl - "Mission Chapel, Send"	Flail
2 scrubbing boards	Framed photo of Send Church c 1900
Dairyman's small cream can & brass dip stick	Pencil sketch of Elm Tree House, Ripley in 1831 by Ena Harkness
Aluminium milk can	13 Ripley Court School Magazines 1900-10
Sugar Bowl - "Methodist Church - Ripley"	Enamel advertisement signs: Wills Woodbine
Stansfield Bros Glass Torpedo Bottle	Wills Gold Flake
Stansfield Bros Stone Ginger Beer Bottle	Virginia "Turf"
Stansfield Bros Earthenware Ginger Beer Bottle	Virginia "Black Cat"
2 glass marble mineral water bottles (marbles & top missing) Stansfield Bros	Cross-cut saw
3 gin traps	2 shoe trees
3 countrymen's leather gaiters	Rein with decorative brass hearts
16 oz glass Bovril Jar	glass marble mineral water bottle (Junior Army & Navy Store, Aldershot)

In addition, the Society is indebted to those members and non-members who brought along their own collections of artefacts of local historic interest. Mr Edward Partridge, who used to work at Heath Farm, provided a selection from his collection of worked flints. These had been found in what is now the Crack Processing Company car park, which is adjacent to the edge of the flood plain of the River Wey. Mr Partridge also demonstrated the method of operation of the Society's wheat flail (with devastating effect - it's all right, Mr Partridge, we won't charge you for another one!) and a lethal looking hay knife.

Mr Brian Cobley displayed a very interesting section of a mediaeval window frame with diamond-shaped sections, found at the rear of Conisbee's in Ripley High Street. He also referred to a stone trough rescued from the Ripley Smithy, which reputedly came originally from Newark Priory.

Mr Bob Whapshott, although unable to be present himself, provided examples from his extensive collection of irons, including an intriguing stove especially designed for heating irons.

John Slatford showed his collection of glass bottles, jars, fragments and bowls of clay pipes, and tokens (for "tea-cakes" and "ten eggs", for example), used locally as a means of exchange. John has amassed his collection as a result of unearthing a bottle dump in his back garden. He has found (albeit broken) examples of both the early round-bottomed Hamilton "torpedo" pop bottle and the later flat-bottomed Codd's bottle with a round glass stopper held between "pinches" in the neck of the bottle. In most cases these bottles are found broken, smashed by small boys intent on acquiring the glass marbles. John's bottles were used by the mineral water manufacturers, Stansfield Bros of Newark Lane, Ripley, probably dating from the mid to late 19th century [it is hoped eventually to write an account of the history of Stansfield Bros for inclusion in a future N/L - Ed].

Les Bowerman, acting as the expert Master of Ceremonies for this "Antiques Road Show", went through the Society's items, giving their history and background. Most close to Les's heart, of course, were two bicycles, a 1900 Gents New Hudson Roadster (the oldest known example in the country), formerly owned by Jack Sale

of Send, father of Dolly Challen, who used to ride over from Bentley in Hampshire with her on a seat on the top tube or cross-bar. The other bicycle was a 1921/2 Ladies BSA Tourist Model, formerly belonging to the tall Miss Farr of Farr's, Ripley, given to the Society by Ken French. Les took the opportunity to demonstrate the use of a paraffin bicycle lamp, which emitted a characteristically nostalgic aroma. Other items of interest included a number of objects donated by Mr & Mrs Wisdon from Sedgleys Cottages, Potters Lane, including gin traps, shoe trees, countrymen's leather gaiters and a large cross-cut saw. Also of notable interest were the Society's branding irons (Broadmead and A H Lancaster) and Reg Giles's, which bore the initials AGO (Arthur George Onslow, 3rd Earl, of Clandon Park, 1827-70). John Molyneux-Child provided fragments of tiles believed to have been fired at the kilns originally in Kiln Lane.

The Society is also grateful to Kate Smith for bringing its modest library of books, etc. The Society is indebted to Kate for continuing to house the library at Yew Tree House, Ripley.

Altogether this was a most enjoyable social event, revealing a number of very interesting local antiquities.

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## THE SEND AND RIPLEY INCLOSURE

by John Slatford

The Send and Ripley Inclosure Act of 1803 resulted in some 1600 acres of common land, mainly on Send Heath, Burnt Common and Grove Heath, being enclosed and allotted to various landowners.

Although a survey was carried out and a plan produced in 1804 by Job Smallpiece, the actual award was not completed until 1815.

The Documentary Group has recently finished a transcript and index of the award, together with an enhancement of the plan.

It is believed that there was originally one copy of the plan and two copies of the award. The plan, now held at the County Record Office at Kingston, has become very faded with the result that much of the detail is impossible to interpret. The award is a highly detailed document, describing every piece of land affected by enclosure, as well as all the adjacent properties. Being without an index, specific references have, hitherto, been very difficult.

The original copy of the award would have been deposited in the parish chest in Send Church, but, until recently, was held by Send Parish Council at the Lancaster Hall (it is now in the Guildford Muniment Room). It is this copy that has been transcribed and indexed.

The result is 164 pages of typescript, plus a further 30 pages of indices! The various descriptions of the different plots on the award were then used to identify the same on a copy of the plan.

The Inclosure Award is a most important link in researching the local history of the period, with many properties being identifiable with their owners. The transcript now makes reference to these a simple matter.

The work was carried out by Betty Bennett, Jane Mestraud, Audrey Sykes and Bette and John Slatford, with much help from Shirley Corke and Liz Stazicker.

Four copies of the transcript and the enhanced plan have been made, one of these being deposited at the Guildford Muniment Room and the other at the County Record Office.

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## MRS SHIRLEY CORKE

On behalf of the Society's Documentary Group, I would like to record our appreciation of Shirley Corke, Archivist in Charge at the Guildford Muniment Room, who retired on 20 October.

Since the formation of our Society, Shirley has provided us with every assistance in furthering our research. She has always found time to answer queries or provide explanations and translations, however trivial. She

will be remembered for the talks she gave at one of our open meetings, and on another occasion for the Documentary Group.

Shirley was at the Muniment Room for 15 years, first as Assistant Archivist and, seven years ago, as Archivist in Charge, after Gill Beck's retirement.

We wish Shirley every happiness, good health and prosperity for the future.

John Slatford

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## 100 YEARS AGO

### An Extract from "Wheeling" of December 4 1889

Contributed by Les Bowerman

#### RIPLEY RE-VISITED

What do Londoners want to know new about Ripley? Nothing! But the old cyclist who left his country for his own good, years, with all the longing engendered of that absence which "makes the heart grow fonder," to hear of the "dear old road" (Swindley), the "good old road" (Nairn). It is always a welcome subject to the "have-beens" of the London wheel world who are now freezing in the Hudson's Bay Territory, doing the "dude" in the Eastern States, or the "Cowboy" in the Western, sweating under India's suns, making money in China or Japan, or dying of ennui at some lone station of the Eastern Telegraph Company, for cycling is a thing which has touched all ranks of life, all professions, and all callings.

We first rode to Ripley in July, 1874, after attending Walton Regatta, and, in expressing our delight at the scenery to our companion, James Inwards, the first editor and proprietor of B.N., and the founder of the cycling press, he said, "Ah, wait till you see it in winter!" This was a startling remark as connected with English country scenery. We **have** seen it many and many a time in winter since 1874, and cordially endorse J.I.'s opinion; but never did it look so lovely as on 1st of December, 1889.

The cold frosty air of our bedroom, bespoke hard roads, a dull red dial, like a Great Western danger signal trying to get through the London smoke and fog, spoke to all intelligent London minds on December the 1st that there was a "fine day outside." Time was when we could have ridden to and from Ripley from London with ease; but as time **was** so time **is**, and, while it may mature and improve one's mind and one's morals, it makes itself painfully felt when "our vile body" is concerned and time "is" and always "was" bad, in its extended form, to active physical exertion of any kind. So we remembered that we knew London streets well; that there was an 11 a.m. express from Waterloo, and that Woking was one of the driest and prettiest and most convenient places in Surrey, speaking from a railway point of view. So the humble writer of these lines and the wealthy proprietor of the Cafe Royal, reached Waterloo simultaneously, one on a safety the other in a hansom, and we were both borne westwards by the 11 a.m. train. At Woking we found changes. We found that at New Woking, or Woking Station, many picturesque houses had been built on the high land, with a lovely view of the distant Surrey Hills, and, thinking of our rheumatism, we determined if ever we did take to the country, it should be on dry Woking Heath. The winding lanes and scenery between Woking and Ripley are essentially English - quite English. The flat meadows, the quaint old village and church, and the winding willow lined stream, a tributary of the Wey, with a distant view of the Surrey Hills at Newlands Corner brought to our mind the day of "At the Ferry" and its "Row, row, under the Stars;" and we hummed, more or less in varying keys, but quite to our own satisfaction.

"I can hear them o'er the meadows," whilst the winter sun shone strong from an Italian blue sky overhead, and we sped on our trusty New Rapid Safety over the frozen surface of the sandy Surrey roads. It was a glorious day was that of 1st December, 1889.

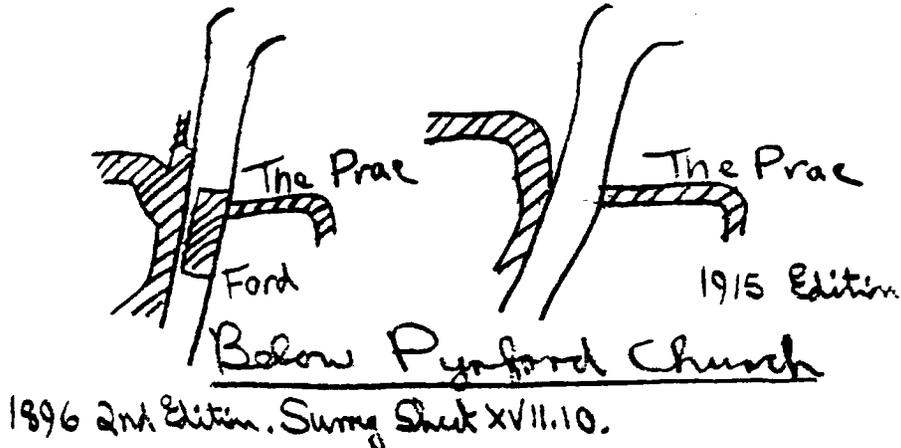
Arrived at Ripley, we found that the welcome of the Dibbles is perennial, and as genuine to the yearly as to the weekly visitor, and we were soon employed in a light lunch, for the winter day in England is all too short for long mid-day halts. It was Italy at 5 stone 7lb as regards climate, and the whole world seemed to grow under an electric light from heaven as we pedalled off from the Anchor over the old road whose beauties never fade to those who combine with cycling a love of nature. Bill Monday, on a safety, broke our romance, and a wild yell from Swindley disturbed our reverie near the Hut where Jimmy Moscrop is now

devoting all his energies to the Bolder Mere Hotel, and is also putting bay windows in both storeys of the original "Hut" where Inwards, Keen, and Causton first formed the nucleus of the present Ripley Road riders in the winter of 1873. The charm of the Ripley road is that, given a fine day, it is equally beautiful in winter as in summer, owing to the prevalence of the evergreen Scotch fir plantations. The road on the 1st was as good as it could be, for, although in the hollows the ruts were hard frozen, they were not worse than the summer dust. The strong bright light was still shining as we dismounted, more or less gracefully, at the Angel at Ditton, and almost fell into the arms of our co-editor and C. H. Larrette. A crowd of nobilities headed by Liles with a sore throat, were "waiting" at the ever-welcome "Angel"; but we did not wish to spoil a good day's run when "clean out of condition" by "plugging" home in the dark, we tarried not, but sought the friendly South Western at Surbiton whilst the golden day was still shining, and so facing like a "5 stone 7" Eagle, and with the eagerness of a Sol worshipper, the glowing setting sun till Earlsfield was passed, we reached town once more. A Turkish bath to kill possible chill, a good dinner at the Cafe D'Italie, and bed at 10 p.m. surely ended an enjoyable - a harmlessly enjoyable - day. We thought of all the past worthies of the road and wondered where they were. We thought of E. P. W. Cambridge, now in the Himalayas, with whom we sheltered under Ditton Long Arch in the squall which sank the Eurydice; we thought of George Watson, of the Surrey, in Calcutta; we thought of Reginald "Zingari" Webb on his lonely island; and we wished we could live to see one vast procession to Ripley of all the cyclers who have enjoyed the road, and who still think kindly of the good "old days."

**PYRFORD FORD AND BRIDGE (AND HOMEWOOD) - Part 2**

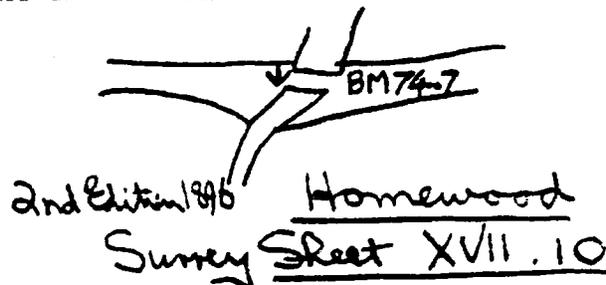
by Les Bowerman

Further to the notes on page 4 of the last issue, John Slatford has drawn attention to what is shown on the 25" Ordnance Surveys maps of 1896 and 1915, and that information is given in sketch form below.



It is now therefore possible to narrow the position down as far as being able to say that the ford was still in existence in 1896, but had gone by 1915. This means that it is at least possible that the photograph on this writer's 1906 postcard may have been taken as a novelty to show the dry river bed at a time of drought (the presence of two charming young girls standing in the bed of what was the ford increases the possibility), and the 1909 card, on which the cover picture of Newsletter 88 was based, would show the more normal situation.

John has also pointed out that the 1896 map mentioned above shows (see following illustration) that a somewhat similar position pertained at Homewood, with a narrow bridge (?foot or single width cart bridge) across a



broad expanse of no doubt shallow water. By 1915 there was only a road bridge. There is, of course, still a bridge today over this stream, which rises at East Clandon, and until the very recent changes, formed the modern boundary between Send and Ripley from near the Isolation Hospital (now the prison) down to Send Marsh, and which enters the long-dug booster-stream taking water from Newark to Ockham Mill. A guess can be hazarded that there was once a ford at Homewood.

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## A TASTE OF HISTORY

### A Talk by Anne Bowerman

Notes by Rosalie Hewitt

"A Taste of History" was the subject of a fascinating talk by one of our members, Anne Bowerman, who led us, most informatively, through our dietary history, from pre-historic to Tudor times, letting our imaginations run amok with vivid dietary images.

Immediately after the last ice advance of the Pleistocene era, some 10,000 years ago, there existed the Mesolithic hunter-gatherers with their diet of wild boar, deer, elk, oxen, fish, nuts and berries - a diet deficient in essential vitamins, and one which caused its recipients to fall victim to malnutrition, food poisoning and early death.

The first Neolithic farmers arrived in these islands from the Continent about 3500 BC with two different kinds of wheat, barley and flax, together with domestic cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. They introduced a completely different life style based upon more permanent settlements, skills in pottery and weaving, polished stone tools and the building of elaborate ritual monuments and tombs. Eventually metallurgical skills in the Bronze and Iron Ages had even greater implications for cooking: sharper knives, buckets, cauldrons, flesh hooks, spoons and vessels made from copper, bronze and, eventually, iron. The food was simple and the ingredients basic, including honey for sweetening and dried and salted meat and fish. Though settled, hunting and gathering still continued.

Familiar foods such as milk, butter and cheese, together with black pudding, pork and lard, were eaten, along with barley for malt and beer, pulse crops for soups and stews. Food could be cooked in various ways, giving greater variety. For example, flat stones could be pre-heated in water in a trough prior to being used for baking; roasting was done over the embers on a spit.

In 43 AD the Romans invaded, bringing with them a sophisticated and naturally rich diet with different commodities, some unknown or less used by their predecessors. For example, oysters, anchovies, shellfish, snails, pheasant and peacock. Even more sophisticated was the introduction of rich and elaborate sauces for beef and veal, roasting of meat and preservation in brine. Cereals were used for bread, porridge and gruel, and beef could be wrapped in a flour and water paste, a forerunner of pastry. Wild game, deer, boar, bear, etc, was still hunted and, of course, many species were now being domesticated. However, Roman society was much better organised in respect of food and food provision, as it was in other areas. Thus there were game parks containing the wild animals and much better farm management for domestic livestock and crops.

Malnutrition would be rare, at least amongst the wealthy. By now a variety of green vegetables had been introduced, a multitude of herbs existed, all of which are in use today, and fruit and nut trees were established. The result was more flavour and variety in the diet.

As might be expected, the Romans were more sophisticated in their cooking equipment. They used raised brick hearths, tripods, grid irons, spits and ovens. Frying and paella pans had been found, giving further evidence of a diet and a cooking skill as sophisticated as our own. Using an array of eating utensils, pewter and glass drinking vessels, bronze jugs, etc, the Romano-British approach to eating was interesting, sophisticated and healthy compared to previous times.

The Dark Ages led to a decline in our gastronomic experiences. Trade had been reduced as a result of barbarism, town life declined and most people lived in the countryside, directly off the land. The onset of the Middle Ages thus saw a diet which had reverted to simpler fare: milk, cheese and meat were the staples. The rich used bread trenchers as disposable plates and, because of the strong influence of the Church, fish was an

important dietary component, perhaps being eaten for as much as half the year. Fish in the diet included salted and pickled herrings, dried cod, river fish, eels caught in local eel traps, and crab and lobster. Estates such as Woking Palace had their own fish ponds for breeding. As regards meat, beef was the favourite of the rich, while the pig provided the poor man's standby.

Pottage appears to have been eaten by all, and this contained all kinds of ingredients: meat, vegetables, cereals and pulses. Salads were made too from herbs and flowers. By 1290 people were experiencing the delights of imported citrus fruits, dried fruit and spices and the ultimate luxury of sugar, brought home by the Crusaders.

By now the centre hearth had disappeared, to be replaced by the more sophisticated side wall hearth with chimney. Typically, a cauldron would hang over the fire, although there was little room for a spit. Wealthy houses had a separate oven, while the poor took their baking to the local bakehouse.

Colours such as saffron, and even gold leaf, were used to improve appearance; table manners began to assume more importance and even silver salt cellars had made their appearance.

In her conclusion, Anne led us briefly to Tudor times, with images of the pastry cooks, bakeries, pie shops, sweet stalls and muffin men. At this point, time ran out, leaving us with a taste for more, partly satisfied by sample foods of past ages, prepared by Anne, and with the promise of the completion of this most interesting talk on 27 February 1990, after our AGM.

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### PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY AT RIPLEY VILLAGE HALL

The opportunity for the Society to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the invention of the positive/negative photographic process by William Henry Fox Talbot came appropriately in the form of a request to display some photographs in Ripley Village Hall. We are most grateful to the Village Hall Management Committee.

As members who attended the Museum Evening Meeting will be aware, the Society has on display a few views of the village dating from the 1860s. It is intended that the exhibition, which will change from time to time, will feature various aspects of Ripley village life. If any member possesses any old photographs or drawings which they feel might be suitable for display, and is willing to have copies made, please contact me on Brookwood 6532.

Ken Bourne

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### THE RIPLEY SUMMER EVENT 1989

It should not go unrecorded, even though belatedly, that the Society exhibited a display at the Ripley Summer Event last July, using as its theme the 17th century apothecary, Richard Stoughton of Send, Doctor of Physic, and his world famous "Cordial Elixir".

This exhibition, which had already been successfully shown at the Send Scout Fete earlier in the year, was no less successful on this occasion, earning the Society a prize from the Event organisers.

A number of the Society's publications were sold on the day and several new members were signed up. The usual sub-committee members may take credit for what our Secretary, known for his occasional flash of wit, described as another "fête accompli".

Bob Gale

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### SECRETARY'S REPORT

We welcome the following new members:

- Mrs P Lewis, 7 Perseverance Cottages, High Street, Ripley.
- Mr C Sewter & Mrs H O'Shea, 26 Delara Way, Woking.
- Mr & Mrs R Hill, 48 Newark Lane, Ripley.

Total membership stands at 283, being 104 double and 75 single subscriptions.

### **Miss Nancy Palmer**

The death in September of Miss Nancy Palmer is recorded with sadness. Aged 86, Miss Palmer had been a member of the Society since 1977. Dogged by ill health for a number of years, she did not, as far as is known, attend any of the Society's functions, but took an interest, and in 1983, in Newsletter 48/2, we published her "Personal Recollections mainly concerning Send School", which she had written some years earlier. Briefly, her family came to Sandy Lane, Send, in 1923 when she was a young woman. As a school teacher working away from home, she would cycle 12 miles home and back at weekends. In 1924 she took over the infants' Sunday Kindergarten, held in the junior school, Send, under the late Miss Elsie Lancaster. In 1926 she began teaching at the day school, and was eventually made the first Deputy Head Teacher. Her memories of the school in Wartime were particularly vivid. She retired in about 1960. Our condolences go to her surviving sister, Marjorie, with whom she lived, and who has also been a member since 1977, and to her other sister, Phyllis.

**"The Oak Hamlet"** (A history of Ockham) by Henry St John Hick Bashall. A copy of this delightful local history, published in 1900, has been passed to the Society by Jane Bartlett, who was given it by our member, Miss Betty Nokes. There is a contemporary note in the fly sheet recording that this book was given to Nurse Paul of Ripley by the son of the owner, and that she gave it to Betty's father in 1955. We are very grateful for the gift, which is available for loan from Kate Smith, our librarian, at Yew Tree House, High Street, Ripley.

**The Annual General Meeting** Notice is hereby given that the 15th AGM of the Society will take place on Tuesday, 27 February, at 8 pm in Ripley Village Hall. Items for inclusion on the Agenda should be in writing and in my hands no later than Monday, 15 January.

Les Bowerman

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### **LETTER FROM BASIL HOWARD**

Mr Basil Howard, a member whose parents ran the Cedar House Tea-rooms in Ripley High Street for many years between the Wars, wrote recently:

"I read with pleasant nostalgia Jane Bartlett's article about the Ripley Fire Brigade in the September/October Newsletter No 88.

"How well I remember the Ripley Fire Brigade when I was young and lived in Ripley. I am now 83, but it seems like yesterday hearing the Klaxon in the Fire Station in Rose Lane, and witnessing the running, (putting their uniforms on as they ran), Giles and the rest of the members of the brigade, manhandling the appliance before the days of the Crossley tender, and pushing this at a shambling trot towards the fire which occasionally had burnt itself out by the time they eventually arrived.

"Those were the days before the acquisition of the aforementioned Crossley, ex-R.A. tender, which, as I recall, was arranged by the late Mr. Eric Preston who lived in the big house facing the lefthand bend at the top of Rose Lane. Incidentally, this house was formerly the residence of Mortimer Singer, of sewing machine fame, but to return to the Crossley tender, which as mentioned in Jane Bartlett's interesting article, was suitably modified and adapted by Dick Lillywhite from Bland's garage where he and Jack Grace were the mechanics at the time. Lillywhite and Grace, what better recommendation could Bland's have had! However to return to the Crossley which thereupon required a suitable driver: this important vacancy was filled by young Toogood I remember, one of the up and coming products of the motor age.

"To start the engine of the Crossley a rag used to be stuffed into the air intake on the carburettor, and sometimes, in their haste, someone forgot to remove this before heading towards the scene of the fire. I remember one occasion seeing the Crossley come to a grinding halt as it swung out of Rose Lane into the High Street, and the driver frantically trying to pick out the rag, then sucked well inside the carburettor air intake, followed by several members, in turn, swinging the starting handle in an attempt to re-start the choked up engine.

"Fires in Ripley in those days, serious as they were at the time, often had their humorous memories in retrospect, due to the occasional inappropriate breakdowns and the amusing antics of the brigade members. I recollect the occasion when Giles was laying out fire hoses on the road in Rose Lane, when some naughty boys cycled over them while he was attempting to roll them up, and his roars of abuse and wild gesticulations as a result.

"On another occasion we had installed a replacement kitchen boiler in my then home, the Cedar Tea House, now called Tudor House. This had set fire to a previously unsuspected oak beam situated within the chimney construction. The brigade, when called, had knocked down a portion of the adjacent inside wall of the kitchen in order to get to the seat of the fire. When the fire was eventually out I remember Mr. Allwork, the captain of the brigade at the time, who was also the local builder, standing up to his ankles in water and brick rubble in the devastated kitchen and telling my father how much it was going to cost him to have everything put right again!

"I have little doubt that latterday fires in Ripley are far more efficiently dealt with than in those early days, but, I feel, lack the lighter side, and sometimes more amusing aspects. Those were the days. Oh, for Ripley's happy memories when I was young."

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 12 December . . . Open meeting at 8 pm at Ripley Village Hall. Dr Ron Cox will speak on "Spoons for the Workhouse", describing the treatment of the poor during the period from Elizabeth I to Victoria, with our own history of Poor Houses in Ripley and at Burnt Common before the time of the Guildford Union Workhouse. It should be most interesting.

Wednesday, 10 January . . . Local Memories Group Meeting at 8 pm at Little Ripley House, High Street, Ripley.

Saturday, 27 January . . . The Society's 15th anniversary social at 8 pm at Lancaster Hall, Send. As it is intended to hold a Victorian Music Hall entertainment, given by the Send Amateur Dramatic Society, it is hoped as many as possible will wear Victorian costume. There will be a Newsletter quiz. Refreshments will consist of a buffet and punch. Tickets will be available from members of the Committee, price £5.

Saturday, 3 February . . . Surrey Archaeological Society Excavations Committee Annual Symposium, at Dorking Halls, Dorking. Doors open at 10 am, admission £2 in advance (tickets from the Society's office, cheques payable to "Surrey Archaeological Society"), or £2.50 on the day. The programme will include reports on recent field-work in the County, and will feature a review of Saxon Surrey. Speakers will include: Stewart Lyon on Saxon mints and coins, Phil Jones on Saxon pottery, and John Hines on the Saxon settlement pattern. There will also be a report on the progress of the Surrey Historic Landscape Study Project.

Tuesday, 27 February . . . 15th Annual General Meeting of the Society, at Ripley Village Hall, at 8 pm, followed by a talk by Anne Bowerman, continuing and completing a presentation entitled "A Taste of History" (see page 7 of this Newsletter).

Tuesday, 27 March . . . Open meeting at the Red Cross Centre, Send, at 8 pm, when Ms Penny Bruce will give an illustrated talk on archaeological excavations at Merton Priory, the mother house of Newark.

Tuesday, 24 April . . . Open meeting at 8 pm at Ripley Village Hall, when Mrs Avril Lansdell, former Curator of Weybridge Museum, will give a talk on 19th century country life.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members and their families!

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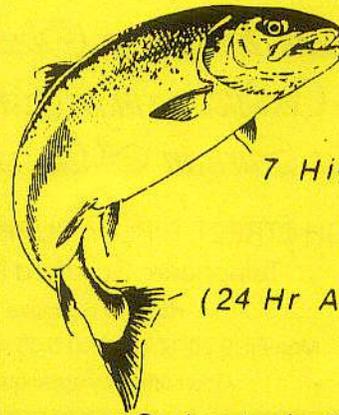
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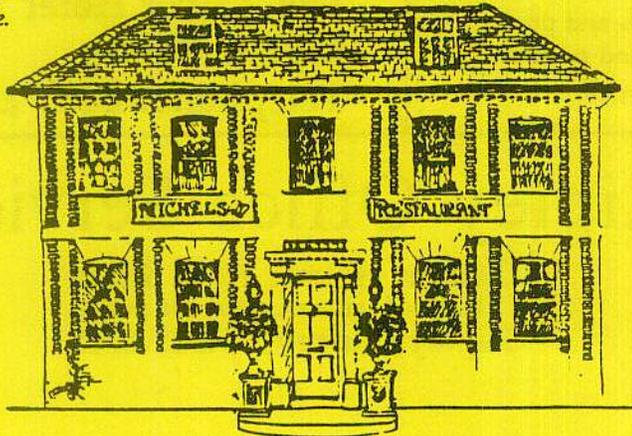


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