

No. 310
September 2026

Send & Ripley History Society



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Cover image:

Aerial shot of the beginning
of the new town being built
by Taylor Wimpey on the
old Wisley airfield - see
Editorial on page two

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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

Our museum curator, Clare McCann and I have raised strategic issues with our members fairly regularly over the past few years, but have not been successful in engaging much of our membership in helping us to consider the future of our Society. With the development of the new website, the changing relationship with the village hall committee under the new lease arrangements and the need to consider the evolution of the museum to address the expectations of future generations, we have asked you what you think, but had little or no response.

Everything has changed massively over the fifty-odd years since the Society was founded as has the competition for our leisure time. In my '40 Years Ago' article on page three I mention the fact that a book we published in 1985 – *Then and Now* – achieved sales in its first year of the equivalent of £10,000 at today's inflated prices. This would be unimaginable now. Is this because readers prefer digital books today? Because our books are not as good as they used to be? Because people are not interested in local history? Because they can get the information they need free online? These are the sort of strategic issues we really need to consider.

On the same theme – do people go to museums these days? It seems to me clear that they do – at least to the

major urban ones and to National Trust properties but, as we cannot offer the Bayeux Tapestry, we have to think about what we can do that will attract visitors and interest grant-giving bodies in helping us to deliver. We are not going to get there without more engagement from you, our members and the local community. So please let us know what you think and, if you can spare a little time, consider giving us a hand in helping to keep things going for another decade or two.

Talking of change... the cover of this edition provides a stark snapshot of the massive changes to this part of 'rural' Surrey, changes which the new green belt/grey belt rules can only exacerbate. A new GBC Local Plan is being discussed but its conclusion must be some years away, especially with the local government restructuring... It doesn't get simpler, does it?

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th October 2026.

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40 YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN

Perhaps because I used to be a banker I enjoy looking back at our accounts – here for the year to 31st January 1986. It doesn't seem that long ago but, to match the purchasing power of £1 then, you'd need almost £4 today. Two figures stand out for me: our cash balance was the equivalent of over £20,000 today and sales for the year of just one book – *Then and Now* – almost £10,000! Membership then was 307 compared to approximately 330 today.

In J308 we looked back to John Slatford's article in Newsletter 69 about the structure of Dunsborough House. In Newsletter 70 of September/October 1986 he and his wife Bette added a piece on the documentary history of the house.

The first recorded reference to Dunsborough was in the court baron of 1535. Then Joan Boughton, a widow, surrendered^[1] land called Little Dunsborrowe for the use of Edward Lydgarde. Ten years later this Edward and his wife, Agnes, surrendered the same for the use of William Stanton. At this time there is no mention of a house at Dunsborough.

The land remained in the Stanton family through four generations, for nearly a century (see figure 1). The last member to hold it was William's great grandson, John Stanton, who was admitted in 1621. At this point there was a development, which confuses the issue somewhat. In 1624 it is recorded that John Stanton was: 'granted a piece of land called Le Bowling Alley being 24 yards long by 44 feet wide, lying to the East of his tenement and lands in Ripley'. In 1629 he sought a licence to let out this land, which had been 'lately

RECEIPTS	£	PAYMENTS	£
Members' Subscriptions	492. 00.	Postage and Stationery	114. 84.
Donations	6. 00.	Cost of Speakers	47. 00.
Sale of Refreshments	14. 25.	Hire of Hall	14. 50.
Receipts from Raffles	46. 43.	Insurance	35. 00.
Surplus on Christmas social.	70. 31.	Subscription to Surrey Local History Council	7. 50.
Net profit on Anniversary Dinner	10. 70.	Symposium and Show expenses.	83. 10.
Sale of Church Guides	24. 00.	Photocopying for Newsletters	75. 50.
Sale of Rusby book.	18. 93.	Re-printing Rusby book.	346. 04.
Sale of "Then and Now" book.	2,483. 34.	Printing "Then and Now"	2,152. 82.
Receipts from Calendars	432. 50.	Printing Calendars	668. 23.
Sale of book numbers of Newsletters	8. 50.	Travelling and telephone expenses.	16. 74.
Duplicating service	26. 55.	Binding Parish Magazines	18. 00.
Bank Interest (Nett of £1.50. Charges)	356. 58.	Folk Memory Group	17. 51.
		Documentary Group	112. 24.
		Photographic Group	28. 95.
		Buildings Group	45. 34.
		Expenditure on proposed Dixon book.	37. 71.
	£3,768. 24.		£3,696. 38.
<u>Balance at beginning of year:</u>		<u>Balance at end of year:</u>	
Bank Deposit Account	1,854. 92.	Bank Deposit Account	1,791. 18.
Bank Current Account	118. 07.	Bank Current Account	90. 74.
Cash in hand	20. 84.	Cash in hand	1. 06.
	£2,579. 34.		£2,579. 34.

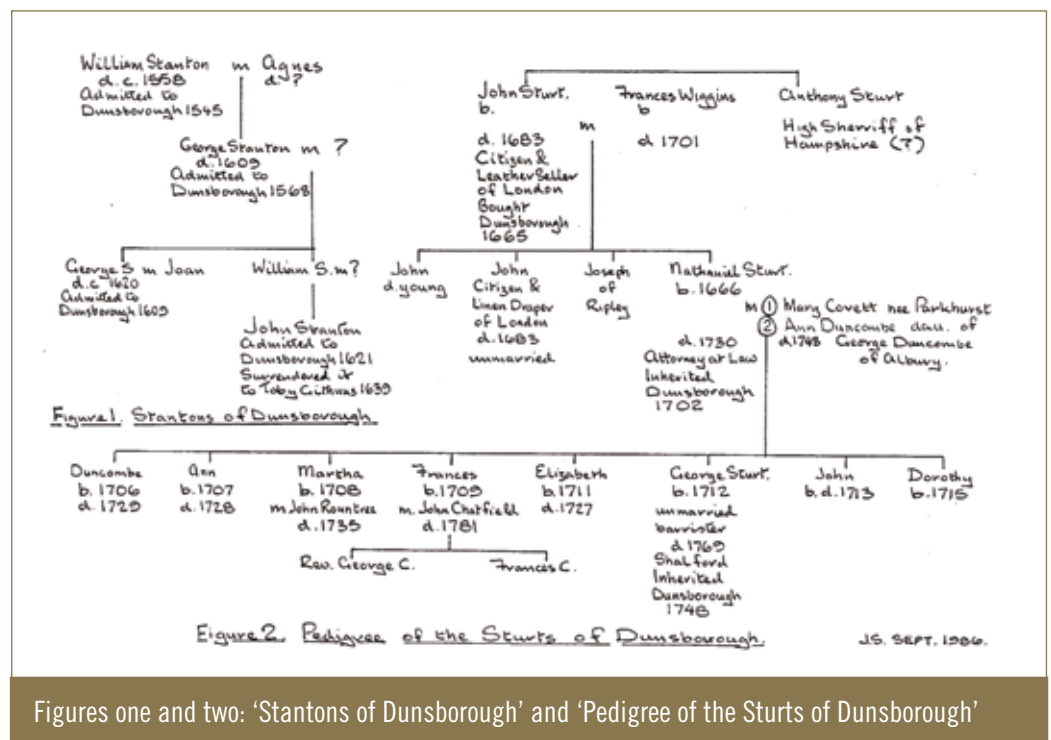
I have examined the above Receipts and Payments account for the year-ended 31st January, 1986, from the books, bank statements and vouchers made available to me, and report that it is in accordance therewith.

Date: 27/2/86

Treasurer: *Donna Hall*

Auditor: *Priscilla Ains* (Hon. Auditor)

1986 accounts



Figures one and two: 'Stantons of Dunsborough' and 'Pedigree of the Sturts of Dunsborough'

an outspoken politician and involved in many controversial issues. During disturbances resulting from one of them, his effigy was hanged. His passion for the 'sport' of cock-fighting earned him the nickname 'Little Cocking George'.

He immediately set about enlarging and modernising Dunsborough, the extension to the South being completed in 1786. This is commemorated with the initials of his family inscribed on the brickwork (figure 3), namely himself, his wife Jane, his daughter Pooley, and sons George Walton and Arthur.

George Onslow served as a JP in his retirement and died in 1792 after an accident when he was returning from the bench in Guildford. In the same year his son, George Walton Onslow, became vicar of Send & Ripley and inherited Dunsborough. Arthur Onslow became rector of Merrow. Pooley Onslow married Sir Francis Drake of Send Grove, albeit briefly, for he died shortly afterwards. Thus Send Grove came into the Onslow family and Pooley regained the Onslow name by marrying a distant relative from Shropshire, Serjeant Arthur Onslow.

George Walton Onslow continued to live at Dunsborough for the whole of his 51 years as vicar until his death in 1844 aged 78. He was granted special permission by the Church to live in his own house rather than Send Vicarage. This was, no doubt, because of his large family of seven sons and five daughters.

The tragic deaths of four of his sons are recorded on memorials in Send Church.

After his widow, Elizabeth, died in 1846, Dunsborough passed to her son, Pitcairn Onslow. Although initially he did not live there, he was in residence at least from 1861 until his death in 1894. His widow, Adelaide, died a year later and the house was sold, thus ending the Onslow

regime, which had lasted for 110 years. An Onslow pedigree is shown in figure 4.

George Maitland-King, JP, is shown in *Kelly's Directories* as resident in Dunsborough between 1899 and 1903. In 1905 Charles Cleverley, also a JP, was living there. He died in 1921 in France; there is, however, a memorial to him in Ripley Church. Thereafter Mrs Cleverley continued living at Dunsborough until her death in 1936.

Sir Oliver Simmonds, MP, subsequently owned Dunsborough for some 12 years until after the Second World War. He was a prominent industrialist and will be remembered in the aircraft industry, in particular, for the range of patent lock-nuts which bore his name. Since 1948, Dunsborough has been the home of Mr and Mrs Charles Hughesdon.

Having traced the continuous ownership of Dunsborough over 450 years, it is interesting to note that for nearly 300 years during that time, there were only three families associated with the property.

NOTES:

^[1] In Tudor property law, 'surrender' was the formal process used to transfer 'copyhold' land from one tenant to another. The land belonged to the Lord of the Manor but the tenant – effectively a leaseholder, whose rights and obligations were set out in his copy of the court roll – could pass his rights on to members of the family or to others, with or without payment.

^[2] *History of Surrey, Vol 4*, John Aubrey

^[3] *Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press

^[4] *The Onslow Family 1528-1874*, CE Vulliamy



OBITUARY – JOHN SLATFORD (1927-2026)

John Mackenzie Slatford was born on 25th May 1927 in Bristol, the eldest of Eric and Lorna Slatford's three children. When he was three, the family moved to Hereford where he lived for the next 23 years. He attended Hereford Cathedral Preparatory School and then the High School for Boys until leaving at 16. Most of his time at this school was during the war years and John himself reminisced that: "My years there were not particularly outstanding". When he left school he joined the local Home Guard which had a platoon for teenagers.

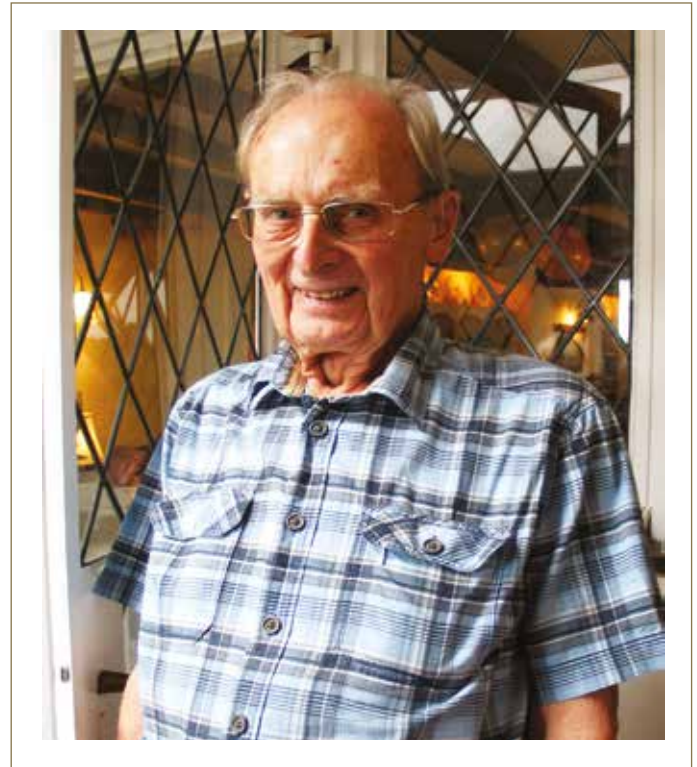
His first job in 1943 was as a trainee draughtsman for an engineering company. After a couple of years he was given the chance to work in the tool room, making aircraft engine valves which were the firm's speciality.

At the end of 1946 John was called up for his two years' National Service in the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy. He narrowly escaped a court martial as a result of a small mishap: while directing a Supermarine Seafire taxiing on an airfield, he instructed it to turn just as one of its wheels was on a manhole cover and its undercarriage dropped into the hole as the cover was dislodged by the turning wheel.

After leaving school John had enrolled in evening classes to study for a National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering. He was able to continue these studies during his National Service and when starting work after returning home to Hereford in 1949. John became a designer at Saunders Valve Company, which set him on the track towards a career in mechanical engineering, achieving the qualification IMechE.

In his spare time he was a keen member of Hereford Rowing Club where he hit the headlines in the local newspaper in 1952, when he was in a racing eight which collided with a bridge on the River Wye when in flood. The boat broke up and the crew had to be ignominiously rescued from the water.

He met his future wife, Bette Wright, after moving to a new job in South Wales. They married in 1955 and lived near Newport where their four children were born. John worked through most of the 1960s at the Llanwern steelworks near Newport and, after one or two job changes, he accepted an offer from the Post Office in 1968, which meant working in London. The family moved to Kevan Drive off Send Barns Lane, where



they stayed for the next 20 years, moving to St George's Farmhouse, Ripley in 1988.

John's new role at the Post Office in Central London was designing and installing parcel handling systems for sorting offices. Later he joined the British Postal Consultancy Service which took him all over the world, persuading other countries to adopt his spiral parcel chutes. The Iranian Post Office was one such client and John was on one of the last flights out of Tehran during the 1979 Islamic revolution.

After his retirement he was able to continue his consulting work independently, exploiting his engineering and design skills on assignments for logistics and airport ground-handling companies for another fifteen years.

Both Bette and John were founder members of the Send History Society (later Send & Ripley). John was chairman from 1990 until 1994 and then President from 2010-2026.

They became highly adept at genealogy, tracing their own family trees back through the generations and then helping people from all over the world to discover their roots in Ripley and Send. He and Bette made an astonishing contribution to local history research in our two villages, not only in the field of genealogy but also in buildings research. Together they wrote a plethora of detailed and expert reports on most of the interesting buildings and families of both Ripley and Send and a mass of research material was left for our Society when John finally moved to his care home in 2025.

John and Bette authored several of our publications, contributed regularly to the Journals and led outings as well as guided walks all around the local area. In 1980 Bette was the prime mover when £880 was made at an autumn bazaar in the Send Red Cross Hall to help fund the Society's first publication, the *Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send*, still in print forty-six years later.

One of John's proudest moments was the project of managing, in 1992, the move of Ripley's NatWest Bank to its current site next to the village hall and turning it into the History Society's museum. In 2015 he was a recipient of the Mayor of Guildford's Award for Services to the Community.

Bette, who had been a committee member of the Society for almost 20 years and as involved with all its activities as John, died in 2010 at the age of 80 from lung disease. John subsequently lost their son Stewart to bowel cancer in 2016, in his mid-fifties. He, like his father, had been an engineer and a very practical man, making the five-bar gate still in use at St George's Farmhouse.

John loved his gardening, proudly winning many classes at local horticultural shows. He enjoyed his greenhouse, his vegetable patch and harvesting his produce. In his workshop at the house he produced wooden bowls and cups on his lathe.

His first car, bought in 1952, had been a 1935 Austin 10 which was followed by a series of quite eclectic cars, including a tiny red Suzuki coupé purchased from Ripley's Town & Country Cars in the 1980s and his family still marvel at how Honda Finance gave him his third successive three-year lease for another new Honda Jazz at the age of 93.

After Bette died John found renewed companionship with Pat Farmer, with whom he shared memorable holidays and experiences.

John was also a man who took pleasure from the simple things in life and spent the last day before he became ill having his weekly trip out with 'Driving Miss Daisy' and a coffee in Squires garden centre.

He was able to remain in St George's Farmhouse in Ripley right up to only a year ago, aided by care and support from 'Home Instead' staff, until he finally moved into Horsell Lodge Nursing Home in Woking in 2025 where he died on 25th May 2026, his 99th birthday.

John is survived by three of his children, Andrew, Jane and Lisa, six grandchildren, Alex, Pippa, Henry, Bertie, James and Katy and two great-grandchildren, Lily and Poppy.



John at work in front of the new Send and Ripley History Museum

VISIT TO SEND GROVE

CLARE McCANN



Send Grove, next to St Mary's church in Send, was built in the mid-18th century by Lt Gen William Evelyn, the great-grandson of the diarist. We have written about various aspects of the building and its occupants over the years. Following an extremely cheeky request on my part to Henry and Sophie Bickerton, the current owners of Send Grove, they agreed to have a visit from some of the members of the History Society in early July. They weren't fazed by the numbers who wanted to join the group and fortunately the weather was kind so that we were able to see the grounds as well as the ground floor rooms.

The Bickertons had gone to a lot of trouble, displaying a selection of memorabilia to do with the house. This was of particular interest to member David Greenman, whose father had worked for a former owner of Send Grove, Major Herbert Paton Holt. It was interesting to see some photos of the rooms as they were in the Duchess of Westminster's day and a preview of how they will look in a forthcoming TV adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*.

We saw an early 'Tudor' building in the grounds, which predates the house. It is, in fact, believed to have been



Stairs (courtesy Bickerton family)



Ditz Brown writes: the library has hardly changed at all since Richard Foster depicted Henry Bickerton's parents in it. His painting now replaces the picture that hung above the door previously © Ditz

built around 1450 as a simple 'hall house' with a fire on the floor and, of course, no chimney. It is thought to have ceased being used as a dwelling in the early 1600s, hence its relatively unspoiled condition.

We then walked to the walled garden, the walls of which are 18th century and from William Evelyn's time, after which we were invited to enjoy the lovely view from the terrace. This was made even more special with Pimms and canapés served by Henry, Sophie and Archie, one of their sons. I am not entirely convinced that he was impressed as it was during an England World Cup match – although we left before the second half when England played much better! Thank you so much.



The walled garden © Ditz

Aerial photograph of Send Grove courtesy Bickerton family



Our group in front of the early Tudor (or possibly Plantagenet) building © Ditz

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STEPHEN HEWLETT'S RECOLLECTIONS OF SOME LOCAL FARMS

ANNE CORNELL

Readers may recall that Steve Hewlett was one of the local residents who contributed to my article about Guilehill Brook in Journals 305, 307 and 309, remembering times spent working at – inter alia – Guilehill Farm. In recent conversations he has kindly added further recollections.

Stephen's maternal grandfather was born in Woodlands Cottage which is now in Shamley Green, although in those days it was all part of Wonerh parish. He was brought to West Horsley when he was three years old. Steve recalls being told that, when his grandfather was a toddler, he was taken to see the 'new Guildford Line', the railway line which was opened in 1845. The family lived in Chalkpit Cottage, West Horsley, before his granddad married and worked as a carter and then a bricklayer on the Ockham Estate. "Grandad said there were only three family names in Ockham: Smithers, Tyrell and Wright, eight in Ripley: Brown, Hill, Shoesmith, Spooner, Hooker, Stocker, Styles and Giles and eight in Horsley: Budd, Clarke, Ivy, Robertson, Robinson, Arthur, Hook, Milliam and Lasham" [author's note: I'm sure these lists will be hotly contested]. Steve's mum Doreen (who featured in J306, January 2026, pictured playing an accordion) was born in Ockham, where she would later be introduced to Cecil Roy Hewlett, Stephen's father. Cecil was from Lewes in East Sussex, moving to Brighton as a teenager before joining the army. He was stationed at Aldershot when, through a relation, he met Doreen – a wartime romance.

Cecil was in the 5th Assault Royal Engineers Regiment part of the 79th armoured division which may also account for Steve's inclination to the mechanical side of farming. On D-day Cecil was on Sword Beach in Normandy and, having survived the horrors there, went on to live into his 100th year. Doreen May and Cecil Roy Hewlett were married in 1947 at Ockham church and lived at Church End, Ockham.

Their son Stephen, also known as Steve, was born in St Luke's Hospital, Guildford, on December 15th 1949 and was the oldest of three children (there were two sons and a daughter) and then lived all his early life in

Ockham. He attended Ockham school which was for both infants and juniors in those days.

He recalls: "We used to call Dad 'Charles' as he didn't like the name Cecil. Mum worked through WWII at the telephone exchange in Ripley, along with other local girls: Ruby Freeman (Ruby Mitchell), Audrey Chandler, Barbara Barrett, Audrey Dye and Rose Clapp. She would cycle from our Ockham home to what was then the manually operated switchboard at the exchange, somewhere close to where Seymours Estate Agents are now. You couldn't see it from the road. There was also a slaughterhouse there because the butchers could do their own slaughtering in those days. Mum once told the family that in all the time she worked as a telephonist, although there was a connection for what was then the Smallpox Isolation Hospital (later Send Prison), there were neither calls into nor out of the hospital, which seems very strange."



Young Stephen, taken at Bentalls in Kingston-on-Thames



Steve driving his tractor



Photograph of Ryde Farm from the 1967 sales particulars

Steve says that he didn't get through the 11 plus examination and so moved on to St Bede's Secondary in Send. Long before leaving school at 16 years of age he had been fascinated by farming – watching the tractors go by the gate and the animals in the fields. When he spoke to his grandad Hook about going into farming, granddad was not that impressed but said “you can work anywhere but don't go to Home Farm – it's all full of pigs down there” adding “why go into a sweated industry?”^[1] Not deterred, from November 1963 to July 1966 Steve was spending evenings, weekends and holidays working for Mr James Douglas Maiklem at Guiles Hill Farm. Mr Maiklem was a Justice of the Peace as well as the tenant farmer, so was well-respected in the area. Then, in July 1966 Steve became full time for a year and there was often overtime in the busy seasons of harvesting, haymaking and crop- sowing. Steve's work was with livestock, pigs and poultry as well as tractor-driving and machinery maintenance. He remembered “The first tractor I ever drove was a new diesel Fordson Major”.

I can add some historical background here: The original Guiles Hill Farm, situated close to Ockham Park, was also known as Home Farm. It was common practice for large estates to have a farm supplying all eggs, milk, cream and butter as well as meat for the 'big house'. The farm was built in 1638 for the Weston family, about halfway up from Ripley Lane, over the brook, to the brow of the hill where the new Guiles Hill Farm was added later. There were two separate families called Weston in Surrey, but they were not related. One branch was a powerful local dynasty, rising to importance in Tudor times: Sir Richard Weston was one of Henry VIII's courtiers and his descendant, also a Richard, lived at Sutton Place

at the time we are looking at. John and Margaret Weston, commemorated in Ockham church were important in Ockham, John dying in 1483 and his wife in 1475. Henry Weston, a descendant, bought the Manor of Ockham from Richard Weston of Sutton Place in 1621.

An early record mentions a tenement and orchard called Geles Hill at the location of Guiles Hill Farm, which would almost certainly have been lived in by tenant farmers, such as Steve's boss Mr Maiklem.

The Maiklem family has a long history of farming the area; Mrs Maiklem told Steve that the Maiklems took over management of Guiles Hill Farm between the two world wars. However, the family farming traditions may stretch back over 300 years, originating in Scotland, with the family migrating south along with others looking for more productive land.

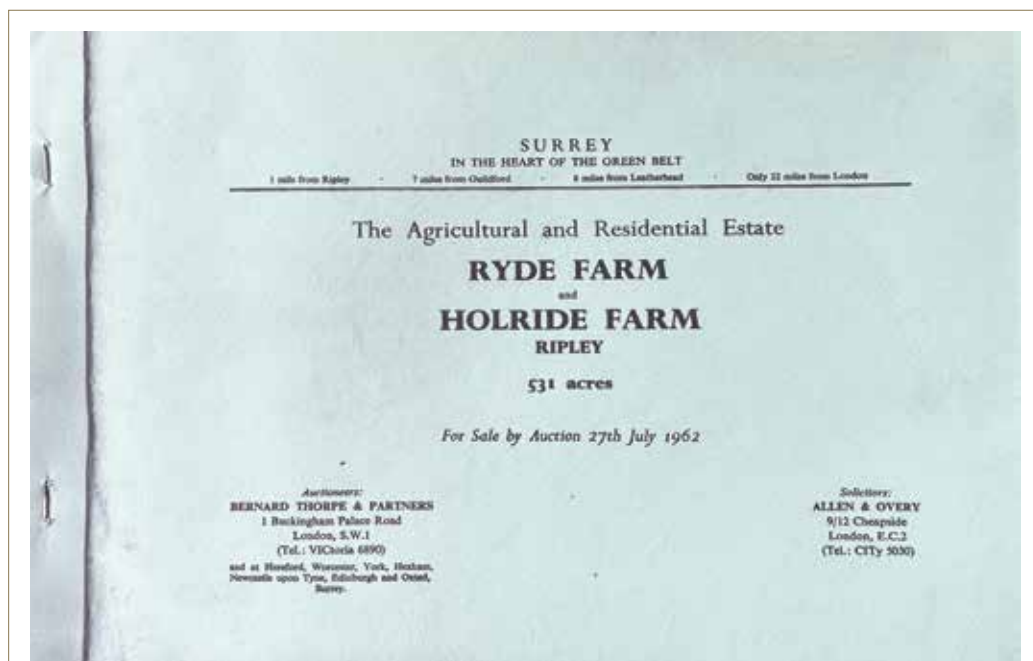
Steve spent a year with Mr Maiklem as a 'farm boy', getting up at 5am to start with his own jobs at home – feeding the chickens and laying the fires. Around 7.00 am he would begin on general farm work, having his mid-morning break at 9.00-9.30 and lunch at 1.00-2.00, before finishing at 5.00 pm. In July 1967 Steve moved on to get more experience and on-the-job training, as well as spending a year studying general agriculture at Merrist Wood Agriculture College.

For the next almost ten years he travelled around, working on a variety of farms as far away as Lincolnshire, moving generally to ever larger farms and developing his enduring interest in arable farming. He returned in September 1972 to Surrey. Filling in “to tide me over” with delivery driving and general work at Guildford Autos Ltd (where his father was

working) until January 1973 when he secured a job at Woodmanscott Farm on land rented from Winchester College, again as a tractor driver and general farm worker on 900 acres (cows, cereals and break crops^[2]), plus other acreage in Hampshire, West Sussex, Wiltshire and the Essex Marshes. A lot of this was land used for military manoeuvres and training. Steve says “the digs were poor” and he felt “they tucked me up a bit”. He only stayed until March the same year and moved on to the Sulham Estate near Pangbourne as a tractor driver for Mr Michael Moon, farming 1250 acres of cereals, break crops and pigs. During all these moves Steve was gaining knowledge, skills and experience before finally, as his tenth move in as many years, returning to his home area to work for the Forte family as a tractor driver at Jury Farm, part of the Ryde Farm Estate. For the next 41 years he lived in Ockham and worked locally until retiring in 2015.

Jury Farm is where Steve spent his longest spell as a full-time tractor driver. Steve explains that Ryde Farm, which now covers over 1850 acres, was originally part of the Lovelace estate. In 1958 Ockham Park Estate, a total of 6,500 acres, was sold in its entirety to a Mr Edmund Howard, a wealthy landowner in and around Leatherhead. Mr Howard planned to keep the estate going as a whole. This was a period of optimism when local workers felt they were going to be alright. Sadly this wasn't to be, because Mr Howard died less than two years later in 1960 and the estate was then broken up into lots and sold again in 1962.

Most readers might know that Charles Forte bought the 350 acres of Ryde Farm and another 400 or so acres at Jury Farm at that sale. From 1960 to 1963 the farm was run by local contractors until Mr Ken Baker was appointed manager and staff was recruited, including Steve. In 1965 Holride Farm, Ripley, was taken on with another 150 acres, followed by Roundtree Farm, West Horsley, in 1967. This brought the total of Forte farms to four, all with their own dairy herds and the name



The 1962 sale catalogue

Ryde Farm Estate was adopted. The milk produced from these four herds of Friesians and Holsteins (150 cows at Jury Farm, 80 at Holride, 50 at Roundtree and another 50 at Ryde) was sold to the relatively local Milk Marketing Board at Thames Ditton. Around 1978 Ryde Farm started an additional milk processing plant producing cream and yoghurts in waxed cartons which sold all around the locality. In the late '60s and early '70s Home Farm at East Clandon was added (this was the only farm in Ryde Farm Estate that had not previously belonged to Ockham Park Estate), followed by Fullers Farm, West Horsley, in about 1980 as well as some 300 acres of rental land at Hatchlands (from The National Trust). Still expanding in '85-'86, Chapel Farm, rented from Charles Hughesdon, Ripley, was taken on, and given up in '91-'92. The estate consisted of thousands of acres and continued operating the dairy and arable activities. Ryde Farm also had a small flock of sheep – mainly 'stores'^[3] – Dorset Downs and Suffolks for fattening.

All remained steady until the farming and dairy operations were taken on by Sentry Farming Ltd, contract farmers. This continued until about 2004 when the contract ended and at which time cowman Chris Chambers assumed control of Ryde Farm Estate until all dairy operations stopped in 2009. The remaining livestock now are sheep. During his time Steve had three different farm managers, all with their own ways and wishes: Tom Boulton 1974–1982; Ian Scott 1983–1989; David Lines 1989–1998 and finally he worked under Sentry Farming, 1998–2001, when he made his last move.

Steve reflects about the changes that he experienced: “when the farming was contracted out to Sentry Farming this was the way things were going”. He thought this happened around 2000 when cereal prices collapsed to £100 per ton or even as low as £50, leading to a lot of owners of land wanting to cut their losses. Only the big contract farmers were willing and able to ride out the market variations. Steve comments: “When Ryde Farm folded in 1999, I stayed with Sentry Farming for a couple of years, until 2001 when I went to Lower Hammonds Farm, West Horsley, staying until 2015, when I retired and looked after Dad, still in Ockham.” Tony Issacs was his boss there, and subsequently his son Stephen.

Changes not just in farming practices but in rainfall and climate, in food production, prices and marketing trends are all having an impact on farming in Surrey. Steve remarks: “There are really only one, or maybe two, serious farmers in Ockham and the immediate area”. Despite Surrey having attracted farmers from Scotland and Wales in the past, Steve says that the land is only ever Grade three, which means it will never yield heavy crops but was good enough to “make a living”.

Farms and farming practices in our area have changed a lot during the period after WWII and are likely to change even more over the next 50 years. It is hard to see that the traditional smaller farms and the tenant farmers who have looked after the buildings and land can survive.

^[1] An expression used at the time equivalent to ‘sweat shop’

^[2] Break crops are non-cereal crops grown in rotation to form a natural break against pests, diseases and weed cycles, improving the health of soil and restoring nitrogen. Examples are oilseed rape, peas and potatoes, which can all help boost subsequent yields of wheat or barley

^[3] In farming the term ‘store’ can mean a number of different things depending on context – my use here means young, healthy, growing lambs not yet fat enough to send to market. The term can refer to cattle as well as sheep, but also to holding stock being kept on minimal food, to be fattened up when market prices improve

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OBITUARY – MICHAEL MORRIS, 1935-2026

Michael was born in West End, Woking, on 29th December 1935. His parents, Marjorie (Madge) and William (Bill) Morris had moved down to Send from Hull in Yorkshire, as Bill had worked up north in an engineering company, building dredging machines for the canal network. After his company sold one of the machines to the Wey Navigation in Send, Bill was asked to come down to Send and show everyone how to use it. What was a short trip turned into a lifetime as he liked it so much down in Send that he moved himself and his wife to Potters Lane (which was then known as Cartbridge Lane), right next to the navigation. They lived in a lovely bungalow where his father grew beautiful dahlias in the front garden.

At one point in his career Bill worked in the forge in Send, learning a trade as a blacksmith and Madge worked in service at Lancaster Hall. She was always a hard worker and canny with it and she and Bill managed to move to a large red Victorian house on Send Barns Lane.

War broke out when Michael was just three years old but he always said what a wonderful childhood he had growing up in Send. He had lots of adventures during the war, picking through ammunition left lying around. At one time, all the children were told to turn in their ammo at Lancaster Hall and Michael turned up with a working hand-grenade, still with the pin in it – evacuate!

He attended St Bede's School – a very short walk as he lived just across the road. In recent years, he returned to give talks to the pupils on his times as a child growing up in Send, receiving lots of lovely thank you cards as the children loved to hear all his escapades. One of these was when he was in his father's shed at the bottom of the garden and was cooking up some rather dangerous experiments with explosives that he mixed up in tin cans. When he managed to blow the whole shed door off, his father wasn't at all pleased!

Michael also remembered the blast of car engines from all the local garages where they were building custom cars, one of which was Connaught Engineering. Michael and his daughter Sandra saw some of their original racing cars at the Goodwood Festival of Speed just a few years ago, and Michael got his chance to talk to the owner.



His adventures continued after the war, a time when a number of aeroplanes were being bought up by the general public for private use. One time, as a young boy, he went up in a biplane which got into difficulty and ended up in the top of a tree! This probably was the germ of his interest in aeroplanes, as he followed his father working at Vickers at Brooklands, Weybridge. Bill was working on fuel systems and Michael started an apprenticeship. He found the office where Barnes-Wallis worked and, although he was under strict instructions not to interrupt the great man, Michael being Michael, he rather cheekily popped his head into his office to ask how he was! More recently, Michael went with his daughter Sandra to an open day in memory of Barnes-Wallis at his home near Horsley.

Michael went on to work mainly in catering – firstly at Bird's Eye in Walton-on-Thames in the iconic building, but then started his own business 'Matchless Catering', named after his Matchless motorbike. In his spare time he became very interested in history, particularly the Second World War, on which he was a walking expert. Because of these interests, he was very pleased to join the Send & Ripley History Society where he enjoyed the talks very much and helped out as a steward at the museum.

Michael died on 25th March 2026 and is survived by his wife Carole.

WHO REMEMBERS?

DITZ BROWN

At our meeting in April our members were shown Chris Finden-Browne's latest video which is based on an audio recording of Marjorie Sex, who was born in Send in 1903. We could hear Marjorie reminiscing about her rural childhood to an audience of History Society members in 1973. Chris had added photos to her talk and this delightful video can be seen on our youtube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUxtzFCn49I&t=14s>

I'd be surprised if any of our members could remember any of the topics Marjorie touched on but, by way of a little competition, let's see if anyone can and if so, who can remember the most. Please add similar reminiscences from your own childhood and send them to info@aappl.com.

Your chairman offers: Do you remember when 12-year-old boys went to school wearing a uniform including short trousers and a cap, even in the deepest winter?

My own offering would be: Do you remember when one went for a drive and the car's grill and windscreen got covered with insects?

DO YOU REMEMBER...

when the little village girls were expected to curtsy to the owners of Sendholm? ^[1]

when the village cricket team was driven to away matches in Mr S Brown's horse-drawn wagon?

when you could buy a pennyworth of broken biscuits at the Post Office Stores, a ha'pennyworth of sweets at what is now the Victoria Wine shop and farthing buns at Mr Webb's baker's shop opposite the New Inn?

when children walked over the fields to buy skimmed milk at Crickets Hill Farm at a penny a pint?

when wild flowers were picked on the unmade road which is now Send Hill?

when the Broadmead flooded regularly and people had to be carried by horse and cart along Old Woking Street?

when the muffin man, ringing his bell, called on Sunday afternoons?

when the striking clock on the stables at Send Grove, known as Old Wet Neck, could be heard in the village when the wind was in the West?

when the recreation ground was grazing land for Hillside Farm, larks nested there and the rather rare 'totter grass' could be found?

when adult carol singers tramped to the 'big houses' to sing for charity? This usually took three evenings, sometimes through deep snow.

when the ringing of the anvil at the village smithy could be heard throughout the village and children would stand at the smithy half-door to watch the horses being shod?

when the scarlet horse-drawn Post Office cart went the rounds through the streets with the driver stopping at houses and blowing a horn to call people to collect their letters?

when an old postman on foot delivered letters and parcels to outlying parts of the village twice daily and once on Sundays?

when the present angling lakes were the village allotments?

when cars were just coming in and it was a regular Sunday evening walk up to the A3 – then known as the Turnpike – to watch the rare cars pass by?

Marjorie remembered it all.

^[1] I, for one, was brought up to curtsy to grown-ups (both relatives and acquaintances) – albeit in Vienna, where we were rather a formal lot...



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THE DIARY OF EDWARD JAMES RICKARDS, SON OF GEORGE RICKARDS OF SEND GROVE

CLARE McCANN AND JANET TICE

Janet Tice and I went to look at this diary in the Surrey History Centre in the hope that it might shed light on Edward James Rickards' parents' time at Send Grove and perhaps tell us about the stained glass windows in the church, which are thought to have been erected in their memory. Regrettably it was not a very fruitful read from that point of view but nonetheless interesting.

Edward James was the second son and married a local girl, Harriet Millet, from Woodhill House in Send. This is described in much more detail in an article by Bette and John Slatford – see below. For some reason this did not appear in the Journal in their lifetime, so better late than never. There is no date on the article.

THE RICKARDS FAMILY OF SEND AND LEATHERHEAD BETTE AND JOHN SLATFORD

'Our editor recently asked us if we knew anything about a Rickards family who were named in connection with four windows in Send church. He quoted from a record in *Notes on Send Church* by a churchwarden, AC Curtis, in 1910. This refers to four lancet windows in the chancel, said to be 'In memory of some of the Rickards family'. We discovered from our records that this family came to Send soon after 1841, probably from London. They were not here very long and the later history about them is mostly in Leatherhead.

George Rickards was a solicitor, born in 1779 in Worcester and lived for the latter part of his life at Send Grove. His wife was born Frances Kettilby around 1782 in London. They had five children, all born in London, of whom four were at the Send family home in 1851. The eldest son, George Kettilby Rickards, born in 1812, was by then already married and living in London. The four at home, all unmarried, were listed in the 1851 census as: Edward James, solicitor, born 1815; Frederick Charles, farmer of 300 acres, born in 1820; Cordelia Ann, born 1821 and Caroline Louisa, born 1826. Of the sons, George K and Edward J were both educated at Eton.

Also living in Send at Woodhill in 1851 was Frederick Millett, described as a retired Bengal civilian in the 1851 census, with his family and 12 servants. There were other



Harriet Louisa Rickards (née Millett) photographed by Cuthbert John Hopkins in the late 19th century (© Bourne Hall Museum)

servants in Woodhill Cottage. His eldest daughter, Harriet Louisa, born in India, was married on the 7th January 1852 to Edward James Rickards, the second son of George and Frances.

Frances died in 1855, followed by her husband George in 1857. There is a memorial to them in Send churchyard. They are the only members of the family recorded in the burial registers, so it follows that the lancet windows would have been installed after 1857. This would seem to be the end of the family's association with Send since the next records are to be found in Leatherhead.

By 1871 Edward James Rickards was living in Leatherhead at a house called Elm Bank off Downs Lane with Harriet Louisa and their five children, two sons and three daughters, all born in the Epsom area. He had followed his



From left to right: The lancet windows of Mathew, Mark, Luke and John at St Mary's, Send © Ditz

father into the legal profession and was a successful solicitor in Leatherhead. His sons Lionel and Francis later followed him into the profession. They were a much respected family in Leatherhead and Edward was for many years the churchwarden and, for 19 years, chairman of Leatherhead Parochial Council. He died in 1893, followed by his wife Harriet in 1907. The elder son, Lionel, in 1882, followed in his father's footsteps and married the 'girl next door'. She was Isabel Budd whose family were close friends of the Rickards. They lived at Vale Lodge which was only separated from Elm Bank by Downs Lane. Lionel died in

1897 age 43. There is a record of Elm Bank being sold by Mrs Rickards in 1924. It was eventually demolished and the area today is part of a large housing estate.

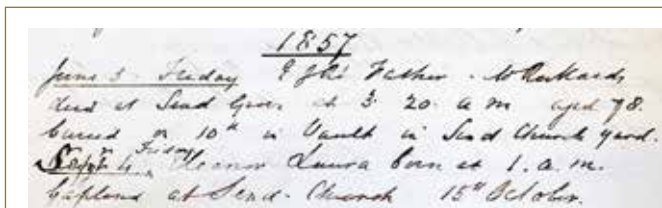
The eldest son, George Kettlby Rickards, was a distinguished barrister in London. In 1881 he was living in Southwell Gardens, Kensington, with his wife Julia, three unmarried daughters and six servants. The eldest and youngest of the daughters were born in St Marylebone but the middle one, Edith Cordelia, was born in Merrow. Among his various appointments, George was Counsel to the Speaker of the House of Commons for over 30 years at



Hassell painting of Elm Bank (© Surrey History Centre)

the end of which he was knighted in 1882. By 1901, only his daughters, still unmarried, were recorded in the census as living together in Kensington.

The youngest son of George and Frances Rickards, Frederick Charles, did not follow the family's tradition of the law but became a farmer. In 1851, although present at the family home, he was listed as a farmer of 300 acres but where was not, of course, stated. This would, however,



Diary entries from 1857, noting his father's death that year. Immediately underneath is the baptism of his daughter Eleanor at Send which was just four months after his father had died. Perhaps he was in Send sorting out Send Grove as she is the only child baptised here (© Surrey History Centre)



The grave of George Rickards (the one with the broken cross - his wife's grave on the right) in Send churchyard (© Ditz)

most likely to have been in Dorking because he is recorded in the local directories, at least between 1872 and 1887, as being at Box Hill Farm, which is located about one mile from the town, just off the Reigate Road. By 1881 his farm had expanded to 436 acres and he employed eight men and four boys. It seems he maintained his association with Send because he is recorded as a visitor in the 1861 census, staying with the Honourable Francis Scott at Sendhurst Grange. He never married and, some time after 1887, he retired from farming because by 1897 he was living in Cliftonville Road, just off the Horsham Road in Dorking.

Of the daughters of George and Frances Rickards, Cordelia and Caroline Louisa, no further records have been found. We are grateful to the members of Leatherhead History Society for their help with the later history of this family.'

But back from the Slatfords' article to the diary... It follows Edward James's life from the time of his marriage, living briefly with his father in law and then in a series of rented properties round Ewell, Epsom and Cheam, but ultimately living in some style in a house called Elm Bank in Leatherhead, where they kept servants, carriages and horses. The purchase of horses features prominently in the entries and Janet and I were astonished that he found time to make any money as a solicitor as he seems to have travelled a great deal round the country and spent a huge amount of time hunting on various estates in Surrey.

Locally he visited Dunsborough and hunted in Ripley, visited Hatchlands, also Wisley Common and there are several mentions of the Kennels^[1].

He spent time at Sendhurst Grange. Mr Scott^[2] of Sendhurst Grange seems to have been a particular friend. Edward James obviously had good connections in the county.

There are entries regarding the death of his parents – his mother in 1855 and his father two years later – and their burial in Send churchyard. He uses the word 'vault' but, as far as we know, there is no Rickards vault.

When not writing entries about hunting, Edward James mentions the arrival of his various children. Their first-born, a girl, Constance, was baptised in Albury on 21st November 1852 but sadly buried there two days later. Lionel and later Francis (Frank) get considerably more entries than the daughters, Geraldine, Eleanor (Nelly) and Amy but we did not read to the end of the diary, so maybe he mentions them more as they get older. His

health is another topic that features quite extensively – especially a propensity to suffer from boils.

A few national events are referenced; he witnessed the funeral of the Duke of Wellington from a house in Piccadilly and Queen Victoria's review of the fleet in 1856 at Spithead when it returned from the Crimea.

Sadly, as we had found no reference to the windows in Send church and his diary carried on until 1881, we decided to look at other records. There was a book of various bits and pieces compiled by a churchwarden (possibly the one mentioned in the Slatford article in the early 20th century). As you can see from the photo this mentions the likelihood of the windows being in memory of the Rickards, but nothing definitive.

An enjoyable morning but perhaps not very productive.

^[1] The Kennels – Janet Tice writes: I spent a lot of time trying to find out where the 'Kennels', that Edward mentions in the diary, was. It must be near to, if not in, Send & Ripley parish because in October 1870 Edward Rickards writes that he 'drove to Sendhurst and Kennels' and a later entry says 'met at Kennels, killed at Oldlands'. I searched in the Surrey History Collection of records and found this, 1320/47/1:

Nov. 18th Witnessed the Great Duke's (Wellington) Funeral Procession from Mr Hope's New House. 116. Piccadilly.

Mention in the diary of the Duke of Wellington's funeral (© Surrey History Centre)



'The Naval Review at Spithead, 23rd April 1856' by Sir Oswald Walters Brierly, Queen Victoria's official marine painter (© Royal Collection)

Lease for 21 years at 60pa A H Summery to William Hillier, Earl of Onslow; the Pendys Farm, the Kennels, Send and Ripley 41 acres 2nd Jan 1885 (the Onslows were 'master of hounds' of the Surrey Union Hunt).

On the 6 inch OS XXIV NW map, dated 1920, there is a Kennels marked on the left hand side of the Clandon Road (going towards the station), just after Green Lane. So that may be where it was as, of course, that was in Send at that time

^[2] Mr Scott: Janet has found more information about Mr Scott – in fact the Honourable Francis Scott MP. He sounds sufficiently interesting to warrant some further study and an article in his own right, so more anon

There are two good lancet windows on either side of the Chancel now filled with representations of the four Evangelists in memory of some of the Rickard Family who from time to time were living at Send Green

A reference to the lancet windows in the notebook of an unknown churchwarden (© Surrey History Centre)

GEORGE LANGRISH AND FAMILY

ALAN COOPER



Local carrier George Langrish. The photo dates to late 1870s / early 1880s



A painting of the village workhouse in 1820 attributed to John Hassell



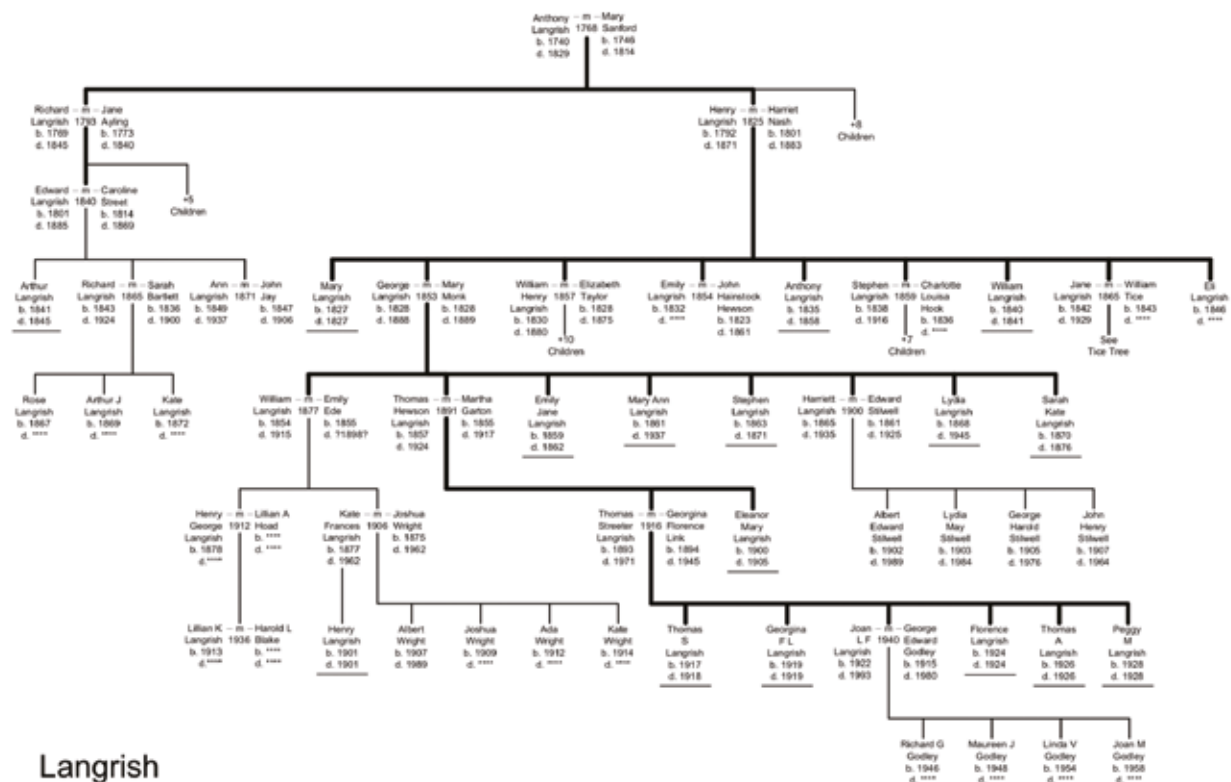
The same view of the four remaining cottages today

I recently stumbled upon a wonderful advertising *carte de visite* (known to collectors simply as CDV's) dating to the late 1870s / early 1880s.

The CDV was a format of a small photograph patented in Paris in 1854 by photographer Andre Disderi. Each photograph was the size of a visiting card, an albumen print on thin paper and glued to a slightly larger and thicker card of size generally measuring two and a half inches x four inches.

These images were not popular in England until John Mayall of Regent Street, London, was given royal approval to publish a series of portraits of the royal family in 1860. Advances in photographic technology during the 1870s and 80s sounded the death knell for the CDV and, with the introduction of the 'Kodak' in 1888 and the 'Brownie' in 1900, photography became available to the masses. What had been the mainstay of the professional portrait photographer quickly faded into oblivion.

The image concerned shows local carrier George Langrish with what was once the Ripley Workhouse in



Extract of the family tree indicating the principal names mentioned in this article

Newark Road in the background. ^[1] The Workhouse was built in 1738 and continued in that usage until 1838 when, following the formation of the Guildford Poor Law Union in 1836, it was leased for private occupation as there was then no requirement for a separate parish poor house. The property, by then converted into eight cottages, was eventually sold by auction at the Talbot Hotel in 1893 to local businessman William Tedder. By the outbreak of World War Two, eight cottages had become six and, in the aftermath of Nazi bombing attacks on nearby Brooklands, only four now remain.

Langrish is not a local name I'm familiar with, so curiosity led me to uncover the tragic story of the members of a fairly large family, some of whom moved to Ripley from Sussex. However, in four generations, they had vanished. Amazingly (considering their age), four headstones (at least) in St Mary's churchyard are all that remain to remind us of this family's presence in the village.

THE LANGRISH FAMILY COMES TO RIPLEY

In the 1700s the Langrish family were established in and



Grave of Jane Langrish (1773-1840)



Grave of Richard Langrish (1769-1845)



Grave of Edward (1801-1885) and Caroline Langrish (1814-1869)



Grave of Henry Langrish (1792-1871)

around the village of Cocking, West Sussex. Richard Langrish was born in Cocking in 1769. Electoral registers tell us that Richard and his wife Jane relocated to Ripley sometime before 1811, having purchased copyhold premises in both Newark Road and the High Street. His son Edward, born in Midhurst, Sussex, in 1801, arrived in Ripley in 1836. He purchased copyhold houses and premises in Newark Road (today Nos. 28 and 30 Vine cottages), where he started a wheelwright's business and, aided by his father, also a wheelwright, continued with it for the next thirty years. Following the death of his wife Jane in 1840 Richard moved in with Edward and his wife Caroline at their home in the High Street.

Henry Langrish, brother of Richard, was born in Cocking in 1792 and together with his wife Harriet relocated to Ripley shortly after the birth of the sixth of their eight children, some time between 1839 and 1840. They lived initially in Newark Road (property unknown) where Henry worked as a wheelwright. Whilst it is difficult to be exact about their business relationship from the very early records available, it appears highly likely that Henry came to Ripley to work for Edward, his nephew.

Following the death of Richard in 1845, Henry continued to work for Edward until he surrendered the copyhold of his cottage and workshop in 1866 to James Woodger of Ripley.

Henry died in 1871 and, at the time of his death in 1885, Edward was living in a property located somewhere between The Half Moon and Elm Tree House.

What became of the wheelwright's business remains unknown. Edward and Caroline had three children: Arthur, who died aged 4, Richard, who married in 1865

and moved to Bramley, Surrey, where he ran a grocery business, and Ann, who married in 1871, becoming a farmer's wife in Rudgwick, West Sussex. It appears the business either ceased completely or was absorbed into another of the several wheelwrights plying their trade in the village at that time.

Of the eight children born to Henry and Mary, the first-born died shortly before her first birthday. The remaining seven all reached adulthood and, whilst having fairly unremarkable careers, it is worthy of mention that in December 1858 Anthony died in Dinapore, Bengal, India aged 23. Dinapore was a key staging and garrison post during the final stages of the Indian Rebellion (mutiny) of 1857-1859 from where the remaining rebel insurgents were engaged. It is unclear when he joined the army and whether Anthony died as a result of combat or disease. In 1870 Eli, the youngest child, emigrated to Queensland, Australia, aged 24.

GEORGE LANGRISH – CARRIER

George, the second child of Henry and Mary and the subject of the CDV, was born in Blendworth, Hampshire, in 1828. He married Ripley girl Mary Monk in 1853 and moved to live next door to his parents in Newark Road. Breaking with the family tradition of being a wheelwright, George initially worked as an agricultural labourer but, at the time of his marriage, was a carrier's labourer. As George and Mary's family grew in size, they moved to the Manor House in the High Street opposite the Anchor, occupying one half of the property. By now George was running his own carrier's business, aided by son Thomas. Interestingly, the other half of the Manor House was occupied by his sister Jane, who had married carpenter and undertaker William Tice in 1865.

When I mentioned this to our founding member Janet Tice, she was intrigued and later confirmed that William was her late husband Trevor's great grandfather's half-brother.



Vine cottages, No. 30 (centre) and No. 28 (right). It is believed that the centre cottage was the wheelwright's workshop ^[2]

And now, the tale of woe begins. Of George and Mary's eight children, three died in childhood and two daughters died without issue. Eldest son William worked for Stansfield Brothers as a mineral water maker but, following his wife's early death, appears to have gone 'off the rails'. He gave up the Stansfield job to become a stable groom and eventually

ended his days as an inmate of the Guildford Union Workhouse, in Warren Road, in 1915.

George Langrish died in 1888 and Mary the following year. Both are buried in St Mary's, Ripley, but their headstone/s have perished.

Following his father's death, son Thomas Hewson Langrish, b.1857, took over the family's carrier business and moved, along with his mother, to No. 4, Little Horrells (cottages in Newark Road. His cottage, along with Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Little Horrells, was demolished during World War Two following a bomb strike on No. 1).

Thomas ran the family business with the help of his son Thomas Streeter Langrish, b.1893, until Thomas Junior received his call-up for war service in 1916. He immediately applied for full exemption but was unsuccessful in his attempt to achieve this. *The Woking News and Mail* of 31st March 1916 reported that: 'Exemption until May 1st was granted to Thomas S Langrish (23) who stated that if he were called up, his father, who has been the carrier from Ripley to Guildford for 50 years and suffers from rheumatism, would have to give up the business.' Clearly this was an exaggeration, as his father would have been working at the age of nine to have been carrier for that long and indeed, records show that at age 14 he was still at school!

Thomas Senior was even more dramatic, stating that the entire family would starve if his son was sent to war. Notwithstanding this, *The Woking News*

FOR SALE.
A PEDIGREE FOX TERRIER DOG, smooth, tan, marked. — W. Mills, Thistlecroft, Hersham. 15199
FOR SALE, CARRIER'S BUSINESS, HORSE, VAN, HARNESS and CHAFF-CUTTER: price £25.—Apply, **Thomas Langrish**, Ripley, Surrey. 14998
FOR SALE, TRICAR, with Tradesman's Box, fitted in front. Bosh Magneto, B. and B. Carburetter, in good condition, 4½-h.p. — Apply, Mynors, Newsagent, Updown Hill, Windlesham. 14837
HANTS, near Basingstoke. — Two **SMALL HOLDINGS**, tiny old-fashioned Cottage and five acres, £295, including timber value £50; modern cottage and three acres, £250.—Huckle, 223, Richmond-road, Twickenham.
LIFO POULTRY MEAL, is a perfect substitute for expensive biscuit meals, and is much cheaper: 2½s. per cwt., 1s. 7d. per 7½lb. bag.—J. Hutchinson, Corn Merchant, Cottenham. m398

The Carriers' business for sale in the small ads of *The Surrey Advertiser*

and *Mail* – 26th May 1916, displayed the name of Thomas Junior as one of many refused further exemption.

Local military service tribunals were made up of local civic leaders, magistrates and a military representative and were unsympathetic to the pleas of the Langrish family. With his exemption being temporary, Thomas was barely given time to settle the affairs of the business – which resulted in a tiny three-line advert in *The Surrey Advertiser*, Wednesday, 13th December 1916, which read simply:

'For sale, Carrier's business, Horse, Van, Harness and Chaff-cutter: price £25. Apply Thomas Langrish, Ripley, Surrey'.

What a sad end to a multi-generational family business – but worse was still to come!

Thomas Streeter Langrish had married Georgina Florence Link from Maidstone, Kent, in 1916 – just before his call-up. Their son, also named Thomas Streeter, was born the following year but



Little Horrells Cottages, with an arrow pointing out No. 4

joy soon turned sour following the death of his mother Martha on 28th September 1917 and his son on 29th April, 1918.

And now, physically shattered by his continuous years of war service – having served as Pte 202586 5th battalion East Surrey Regiment, Pte 397003 371st Reserve Labour Company, Labour Corps and Pte 52841 Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Thomas returned to civilian life where events would, yet again, immediately take a turn for the worse.

With the war finished and no business to return to, Thomas Junior joined his father, Thomas Senior and lived for two years (1921 and 1922) at Highlands Farm before returning to Newark Road and reuniting with his wife, who had spent time with her cousin in Portsmouth while he was at war as she had no regular income. Their second child Georgina F L, b.1919, died later that same year in Portsmouth. The third, Joan L F, b.1922, survived to adulthood but his father died in 1924 and his next three children: Florence, b.1924, Thomas A, b.1926 and Peggy M, b.1928, all died before their first birthdays.

Distraught, Thomas and Georgina left Ripley for Portsmouth in 1929 where Thomas worked as a gardener until the death of his wife in 1945, whereupon he moved to Tonbridge, Kent, to be close to his only surviving child, daughter Joan, where he died in 1971.

Workhouse painting c/o Send Ripley History Society archives

All other photos c/o Alan Cooper collection

^[1] Electoral Registers suggest that Newark Road changed its name to Newark Lane in 1957

^[2] For further information regarding the history of Vine Cottages, refer to SRHS Journal 63 (July/August 1985). In addition, when owner Graham Rudkin recently renovated these cottages, evidence of a thatched roof was discovered above the centre cottage (No. 30)

A LOCAL BIRD MAKES IT INTO *THE TIMES*

DITZ BROWN

Originally the S&RHS covered Natural History as well and once in a while we'd still like to report when something special happens in our area, such as when Jon Hawkins found himself in the right place at the right time. He was at Papercourt Meadows, Send, at around 9pm in June and lucky enough to capture a beautiful barn owl with his camera. The result turned out to be rather magical and made it into *The Times* on 23rd June 2026 with the caption:

Jon Hawkins photographed this barn owl in Send, Surrey, in the evening light. For a split second, it seemed the bird was more interested in posing than catching dinner'.

We would like to thank Jon for kindly giving us permission to reproduce this photograph in our Journal as well.



MY VERY SHORT TV CAREER

CLARE McCANN



As the curator of our museum, I was approached earlier this year via the Surrey History Centre, to assist the BBC with a recording of 'Fake or Fortune'. For those of you who don't watch it, this is a programme where the art expert Philip Mould and presenter Fiona Bruce endeavour to prove the authenticity of artworks that might, or might not, be by a famous artist. The BBC wanted us to help with a painting that was of Newark Mill which, the owners hoped, was by an artist called André Derain.

I signed endless consent forms – if I had read all the small print I would probably discover I have signed my life away to the BBC – but now, as I shall explain, I probably don't need to worry. In March Fiona Bruce and the 'crew' arrived at the museum. The producer had already been to do a recce. Desmond and I had collected the model of the mill from the store and we replaced part of the Dunsborough House exhibition with photos of the mill. Fiona must have the patience of a saint as it took three 'takes' just to get her through the museum door! We talked through the photos and postcards of the mill and compared them with the photo of the 'Derain' painting. All seemed to go smoothly and

they left to examine the site of the lost mill.

Of course I was looking forward to sharing with you all the date of the broadcast and hoping that our little museum would get a boost as a result. Sadly they have decided not to go ahead with the programme which means that all we have is Fiona Bruce's autograph in the visitors' book and this photo...

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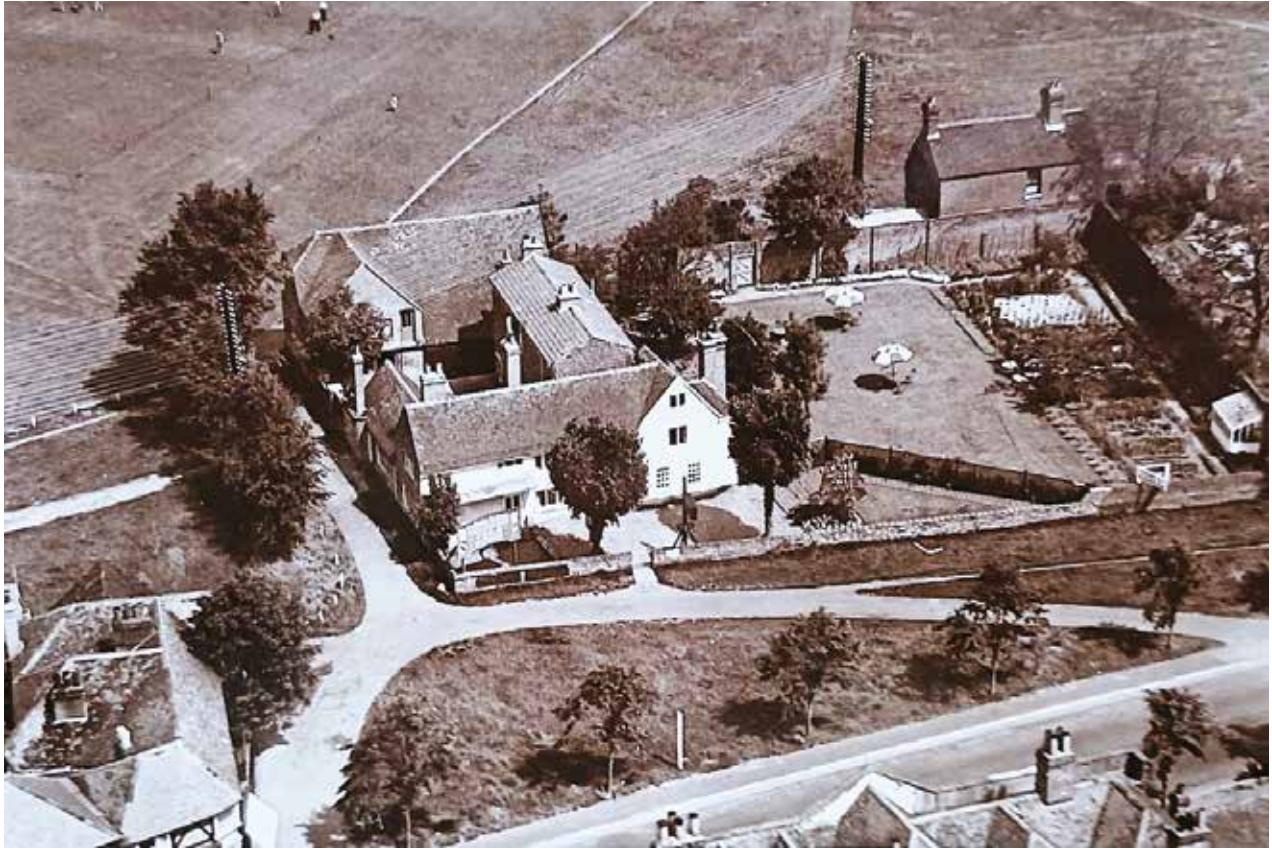
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WHERE IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

AN AERIAL VIEW THIS TIME, BUT OF WHERE?



WE ASKED IN JOURNAL 309 WHERE THE ROADSIDE CAFÉ ON THIS POSTCARD WAS AND WHAT IT WAS CALLED.

This was The Triangle Café, located on the junction of Burnt Common Lane opposite what is now a Bentley dealership.

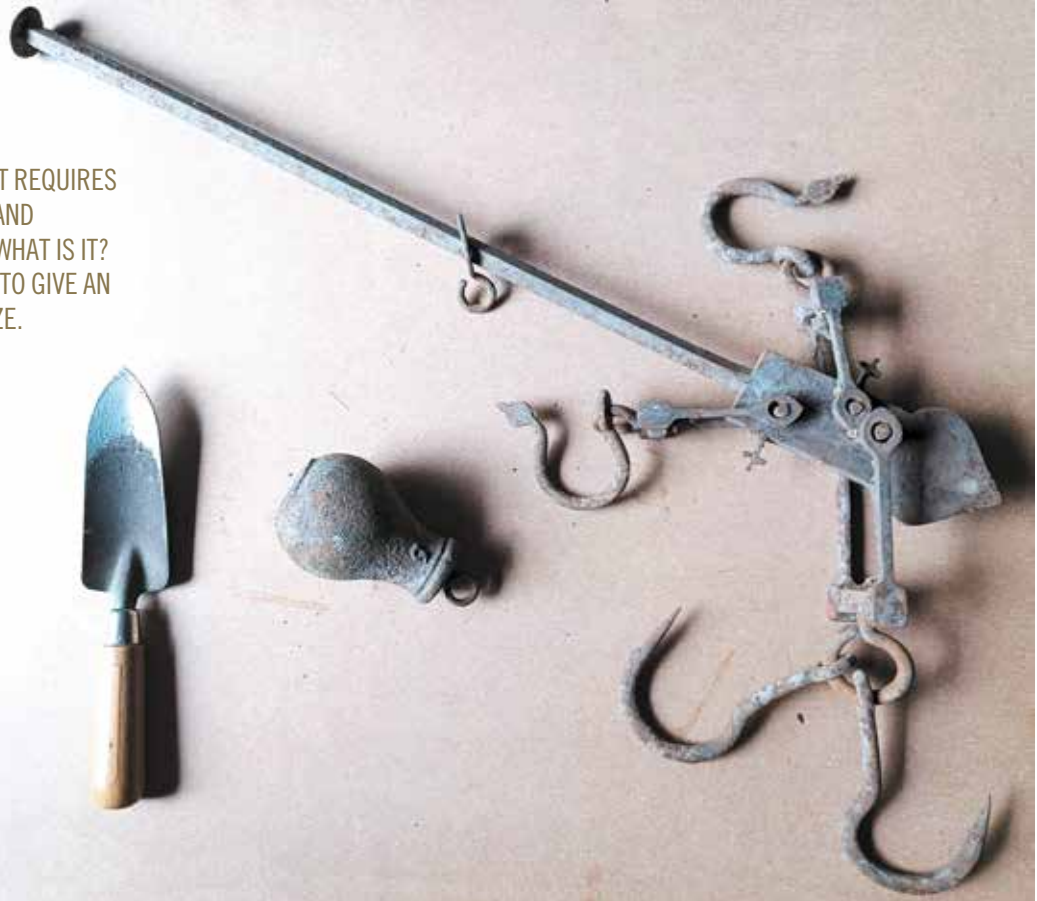
Correctly identified by: Joe Gervasio, Terry and Ruth Harvey, Audrey Smithers, Peter Smithers and Vernon Wood

Joe Gervasio told us that The Triangle Café was one of his father's regular stops as a cyclist on his trips out of London.

WHAT IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

THIS STRANGE OBJECT REQUIRES LIGHT RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION, BUT WHAT IS IT? THE TROWEL IS USED TO GIVE AN INDICATION OF ITS SIZE.



IN JOURNAL 309 WE ASKED WHAT THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF THIS STRANGE LOOKING ITEM FROM MY TOOLBOX WAS AND WHO WOULD HAVE USED IT.

This is generally known as a bossing mallet, used by plumbers or anyone working with soft metals.

Correctly identified by: Ian Mason, Paul Milton, Carol Morris, Peter Smithers and Vernon Wood



WEY AND ARUN CANAL OUTING – 24TH JUNE 2026

HELENA FINDEN-BROWNE



The narrowboat 'Wiggonholt' with Helena Finden-Browne and Peter Croucher at the bow



Inside the canal boat

After the unexpected cancellation of this visit in 2025 due to exceptionally low water levels, everyone who had booked on the previous outing was very keen to attend. In the event our canal boat trip took place on the hottest June day ever recorded, with 36 degrees clocked at Wisley! Undaunted, 35 hardy souls took to our trusty electrically-powered craft 'Wiggonholt' and cruised for two hours along the still and peaceful waters.

The river banks were alive with invertebrates, dragon flies – including broad bodied chasers – southern hawkers, black tailed skimmers, common blue damselflies and a large range of butterflies. We were also treated to families of mallards, coots and moorhens plus some confusing sightings of small orange fish; but whether these were escaped koi or native rudd was beyond the expertise of those who saw them!

Conceived as a military supply route, the Wey and Arun Canal was built to connect the river Thames to the South Coast to bypass dangerous coastal waters during the Napoleonic Wars. Today, The Wey & Arun Canal Trust is actively restoring this historic 23-mile waterway.



Approaching a lock, going through it and the tranquility of the canal

The history of the canal unfolds across several key phases: All photographs © Ditz

- **Military Origins & Construction (1810-1816):** Proposed by the Earl of Egremont, the canal was designed to provide a safe inland route for Royal Navy supplies from London to Portsmouth, avoiding French privateers. However, the war ended in 1815 and the 23-mile canal opened in 1816, arriving too late for its intended strategic purpose.
- **Commercial Decline (1816-1871):** Because peace returned to the seas, commercial traffic remained low and the canal was never a financial success as, by the 1860s, the rise of the railways provided faster transport. The waterway was formally closed by 1871 and left to decay.
- **Restoration Era (1971-Present):** After more than a century of dereliction, The Wey & Arun Canal Trust was formed in 1971 to preserve the remains and eventually restore the full route. Volunteers have successfully reopened several miles of the canal, featuring restored locks and a dedicated showcase site at Loxwood, West Sussex.

Despite the extreme heat, afternoon tea of delicately made cucumber sandwiches (by Des McCann) followed by scones with clotted cream and homemade jam (by Clare McCann) was enjoyed by all.

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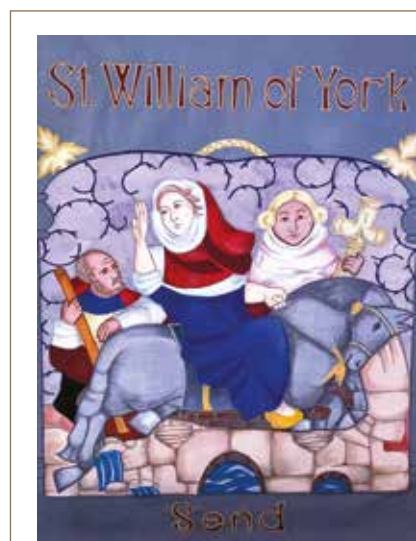
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MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN

A thousand years and more of worship in and around Send and Ripley is the subject of our current exhibition – **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE PRIORS.**

Christianity in Surrey took root in the mid-late 7th century with the founding of Chertsey Abbey. It had been present during Roman times but by the time of the arrival of the Saxons most of the country had reverted to paganism.



Banner now displayed in Send Church rooms. It used to hang in St William of York's, Send's former Catholic church, built in memory of William May of Ashburton House, Send

As Christianity spread, isolated Anglo-Saxon settlements, supported by a handful of major monasteries, evolved into a patchwork of parish churches serving their immediate localities. After the Reformation most of these became the bedrock of the new Church of England but a variety of nonconformist groups also

flourished. In our two villages we had St Mary the Virgin in Send – the parish church of Send and Ripley until the 20th century – and the 12th century chapel which was to become the Church of St Mary Magdalen, Ripley.

As well as these we have a Congregational Church at Cartbridge – saved from planned demolition in 1974 – and chapels for the Methodists and the Ebenezer Strict Baptists, plus, of course, our Augustinian Priory.

Come and learn more about their history, admire our model of Newark Priory and find out the origins of its name and what became of it in 1539. Hear some atmospheric plainsong. And, thanks to Guildford Museum, see some of the finds from the site of the priory ruins.

Follow the story of Christianity over the centuries and into the 21st century when not only Send and Ripley both have women vicars and Woking girl Sarah Mullally has become the first female Archbishop of Canterbury.

Finally, an appeal to all readers: we have quite a few slides which we need to digitise. Does anyone have the kit to convert slides to jpg format and if so, could we possibly borrow it please?

Clare, Museum Curator 01483 728546
info@sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Ripley Village Hall. Doors open for all evening talks at 7.30pm for an 8.00 start. Tea/coffee and wine available. NB – payment by cash only.

2026 DATES	EVENTS
Wednesday 14th October	Julian Pooley talk: <i>Photography in Surrey Hospitals</i>
Wednesday 11th November	Jean Wickens talk: <i>The History of Allotments</i>
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas Party. Members only.

Further details can be obtained from Helena Finden-Browne helena_findenbrowne@compuserve.com

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS



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We can arrange to open at other times by appointment

Please contact Clare McCann on 01483 728546 or
cricketshill@hotmail.com for further information or if
you wish to help in the museum

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Ghosts Along The Wey, a Rural Childhood in Send		£10.00
Bygone Days, Send and Ripley Remembered		£10.00
A Walk About Ripley Village	New, extended edition 2025	£5.00
Frank Brown, Ripley to Rothesay – Journeyman Painter		£4.00
History Colouring Book (price includes felt tips and a carrier bag)		£5.00
Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life	Reprinted 1998/2006	£5.00
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£2.50
Ripley and Send – Looking Back	Reprinted 2007	£5.00
Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2026	£5.00
The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£4.00
Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures	New Edition 2017	£5.00
Two Surrey Village Schools – The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools		£5.00
Memories of War		£5.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£6.50
Heroes All		£20.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.00
The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey		£1.00
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£4.00
Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£4.50

All the publications are available from the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk, the museum on Saturday mornings or email srhistorysociety@gmail.com. A selection is available from Pinnock's Coffee House, Ripley

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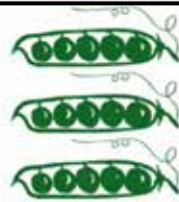
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