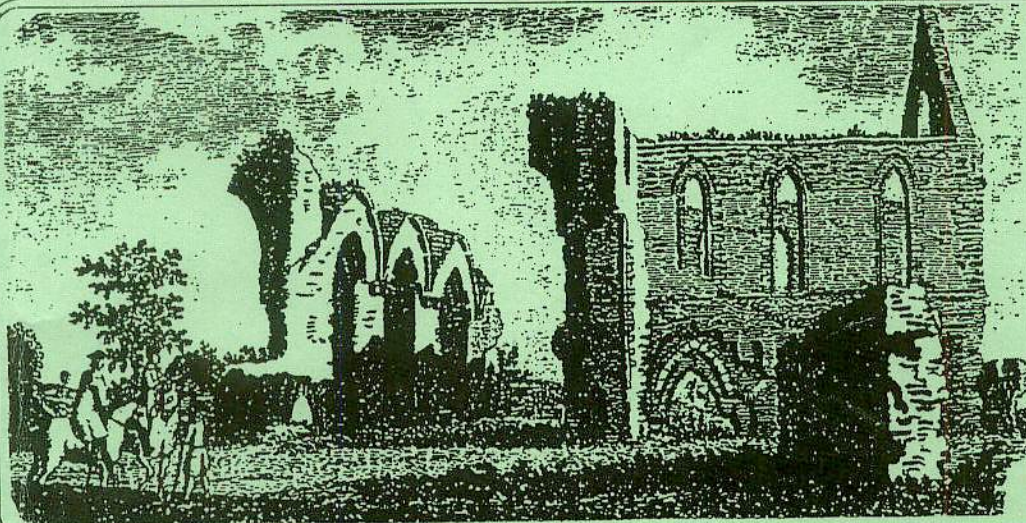


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NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 5 No. 167

Nov/Dec. 2002



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Cover illustration: The photograph, was taken at a Christmas dinner on the 9th Dec. 1931 at The Rio Tearooms Ripley; and is believed to be a group of C T C members, see article on page 7. Photo - courtesy of Charlotteville C C.

Editors Comment

This issue of the Nov/Dec journal at the beginning of December is a little later than usual and it will be the same for the Jan/Feb issue. This is to avoid the inevitable rush associated with publishing the December journal, then almost immediately working on the January journal over Christmas. The new schedule also provides opportunities to include important announcements that are closer to the festive season. From March each year the schedule will revert to the familiar pattern and you should receive your copy during the second week of the first month of each bi-monthly distribution e.g. Mar/April, May/June, July/Aug. Sept/Oct.

Appropriately, we can announce that the publication of the church guide, *The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey* should be available in time for Christmas; further details are at the end of the journal. May we also draw your attention to two other items in forthcoming events, firstly, 'Toys', a new exhibition of toys from times past, commencing in the museum from 7th December, and secondly a reminder of the **Christmas Social** at Ripley Village Hall on 18th December to which members and friends are welcome for seasonal refreshment, and a chance to buy the society's latest publications.

We are very pleased that Catherine Davey, daughter of the late Albi and Reg Giles, has volunteered to become our Membership Secretary. Catherine works in Guildford and lives in Send and knows both Send and Ripley villages very well. She is looking forward to receiving your subscriptions which remain unchanged from last year and are due from 1st January 2003, see **enclosed renewal slip**.

It hardly seems possibly that it was just over a year ago that Chris Parker ceased to type the journal. Apart from the first three issues typed by Jackie Herring (beginning at no.161) the rest have been produced on my computer, which I partly purchased for this purpose. It has often at times been frustrating but ultimately it has become a rewarding experience and I look forward to developing and hopefully improving the journal over the next twelve months. As this is the last issue of the journal for 2002, may I wish all our readers, contributors, advertisers, journal distributors and printer a very **Happy Christmas** and a **Good New Year**.

Surrey Local History Symposium

by Les Bowerman

The Symposium, with the theme of "**The Nineteen Fifties**", was held at Chertsey Hall on 9th November. Six members attended. Clare McCann put together the Society's display showing "A Surrey Childhood in the 1950s" but was unable to attend herself. Jean Carpenter and Les Bowerman set up and dismantled the stand and were in attendance between lectures. Ken Bourne initially assisted and took the accompanying photograph. With plenty of appropriate childhood exhibits, our stand was one of the most interesting, the majority of the others consisting mainly of display board items.

The Lady Mayor of Runnymede opened the Symposium, observing that it is important to record modern history, much having changed in fifty years.

Richard Muir, the Chairman, gave an Introduction to the 1950s, reminding people, among other things, that petrol, at 3/- a gallon came off ration in 1950; the Comet, the first passenger jet aircraft, had its first commercial flight in 1952; the first motorway was opened in 1958; butter and meat ceased being rationed in 1954; and 30% of the world's shipping was built in England.

Dr Denis Smith spoke on the Festival of Britain and the South Bank site, but he prefaced it with a resume of the Great Exhibition of 1851 in Hyde Park, the Committee for which still sits regularly.

Ann Milton-Worsell and Dr Chris French, summarised educational opportunities for local historians in Surrey. Ron Davis gave a nostalgic glimpse of Egham in the fifties, pointing out that their two fine old coaching inns have both been renamed in recent years.



Clare Mc Cann's, 'dolly's tea set' photo Ken Bourne

Other speakers about the fifties were Rosemary Hunter on student life, Dr Richard Christophers, chairman of Woking History Society, on the activities of the Surrey Archaeological Society, Anne Milton-Worsell on Weddings, and Dr Gerry Moss on Reigate. As usual it was a very interesting and enjoyable day out.

The Book Launch

by Sheila Brown

The Book Launch held on 20th September to introduce the tenth publication of the Send and Ripley History Society, attracted around 200 people, which was a relief to the organisers who could only make guesses as to just how many, or how few people, would attend!

Society members, teachers, past pupils, and parents and children of both schools, families and friends, all poured through the doors of Ripley CE Infants school to give their support to the occasion. The drinks table, was well patronized by most people and there was orange juice for the children who had come to sing to us during the evening.

Margaret Walker, the Head-teacher of the school, opened the proceedings by ringing a hand-bell in true school-days style. She welcomed the visitors and then handed over to Sue Springall, the Head-teacher of Send CE First School who also said a few words of welcome.

Bob Gale spoke as a Governor of Ripley School assuring the company that the school was doing well and had exciting plans-for-the-future, also reminding us that both villages had a proud and long history of village schools education.

Les Bowerman followed with news of the Send and Ripley History Society and then presented both Head-teachers with a set of the Society's publications for their school. I was asked to say a few words about how David Porter and I came to write the book. I, too, welcomed the several assembled company and was able to draw attention to several of the people from both villages, who had contributed to the book. I was pleased that John Ashcroft, the book designer, was there with his wife, Jean. They had both taken a keen interest in

the book whilst preparing it for the printers and we were able to work closely throughout that time. John also designed the beautiful cover, which came from a watercolour painting of Ripley High Street by Charles E Shaw, 1896. Our President Ken Bourne MSc photographed this painting in 1997, when it was in the possession of Cedar House Galleries, Ripley, and he readily agreed that we could use it for our cover. I was also pleased that Sue Weighton, the granddaughter of Lance Rawes, was able to come to the meeting. I felt that with her presence there was a bridge across time of more than a hundred years, from 1889 when her grandfather took over Send School, to the evening in 2002. Sue had deposited the illuminated manuscripts presented to Lance Rawes, with the Surrey History Centre and she made it possible for us to reproduce them in the book.

There was another bridge across time too. Dora Hockley, who had been the cook at Ripley School from 1945 until 1968 and then at Send School, was on the eve of her 93rd birthday. Also present was the youngest member of the evening, James Newbold just two weeks old, who slept blissfully throughout the evening, thus making the ages of those present spanning over ninety years.

Children had come from both schools to entertain us with their singing. Each school chose their own song to sing, and then they combined to sing one together. It was a delightful addition to the evening.



Authors, David Porter, top left, and Sheila Brown, bottom right, with some of the contributors, from left, Sue Weighton, George Masters, Pat Clack and seated Dora Hockley. Photo. Surrey Advertiser.

The children were so well behaved and sat quiet as little mice whilst the adults were talking! Then the wraps were off and the book "Two Surrey Village Schools" was offered for sale. Brisk trading followed and over a hundred copies were sold. It was very gratifying that so many people wanted to buy the book, and David and I were kept busy signing copies.

During the evening I found myself talking to some of the children who had featured in the photographs in the book. Now in their 80's they were still eager to recall their schooldays and friends and teachers. Some came with photographs and swimming certificates and other memorabilia, and I was shown a 'leaving-certificate' in the form of a letter of recommendation for the pupil, written by the headmaster to be shown to any future employers.

And as I moved around and talked to people and asked their names, I was able at last to put faces to names in the Pupil Lists, which made my evening.

Several people sent their regrets at not being with us, amongst them being Miss Cribb who had looked after the health of the children of both schools for many years. Mr Dixon's daughter, Joan Wilkins, was away on holiday but rang me a few days after the event and was sorry to have missed the evening. And as the evening drew to a close and the children left quietly with their parents I was very aware that although the evening had been about the schools in the past that here in these children was all our futures. They are the next generation, who have yet to go through their school experience and emerge as adults to take their place in the world.

Perhaps one of them will one day in the future write about their schooldays and continue the story about the two village schools of Send and Ripley. The book is on sale at the post offices in Send and Ripley and at Wisley Gardens shop. It is priced at £10, or can be ordered by post, price £12.95 including p&p, from the address below.

Mr J Slatford, SRHS Publications,
St Georges Farmhouse,
High Street, Ripley,
Surrey. GU23 6AF

The end of Colborne Garages in Ripley *by John Slatford*

In 'Changes in Ripley', Journal No 160, I reported that the Colborne business was under new ownership and that the future of the Ripley site was in doubt. As most people already know, the Portsmouth Road premises closed in September and the business was moved to a new site in Slyfield, Guildford.

It is sad to record the loss to Ripley of the first UK Volkswagen dealership, which was established on the Portsmouth road in 1939 by John Baber-Colborne.

A detailed history written by Alan Baker in News-letter No 109 covers the company's development from those early days up to 1993.

Within just a few weeks of the closure, the demolition contractors moved in and the site is now cleared. The building firm, TRY, now have a sign there indicating a proposed development of eight houses



Westminster Maternity Home at Ripley *by Mavis Davies*

Re, John Slatford's article on the above in the previous journal for Sept/Oct, No 166; my cousin, Lily Mayne, was evacuated there in 1943. I wrote to her and received the following reply:

'I was evacuated to Ripley with six other ladies from Westminster Hospital for a month, to have our babies free from the bombs in London. We lived in a chalet owned by a famous artist who loaned it for the

duration. It was situated right opposite a German prisoner-of-war camp, and us "girls" used to wave to them when passing on our way out for a walk. That is really all I can remember.' Her son was born in Ripley in June 1943.

I found this all very interesting. It raised more questions for me, such as who was the artist, where was his chalet and where was the camp? I hope members of the society will be able to shed some more light on this

Westminster Maternity Home at Ripley

by S E Stanley

In your journal No 166, for Sept/Oct, there is a request for information or memories, of the period when Westminster Maternity Home was evacuated to Ripley Court.

In 1942 my late wife Audrey worked there as a Ward Assistant. It was only for a short period from leaving school until she was 18, as domestic work was not considered war work. She left to work at May and Hardy's factory at Fishers garage, and this is where we met.

Not only was it a maternity home for the London mothers but also for local ones. My sister-in-law, the youngest in the family, Mrs Jackie Gibbs (nee Townsend), was born there in 1942. There is no mention of Westminster Hospital on the birth certificate, only Ripley Court as the place of birth. Jackie still lives in Ripley and has kindly lent me her birth certificate to be copied, which I will pass on to Mrs Jane Bartlett.

Ripley Flower Festival

by Jane Bartlett

A flower festival was held at the church of St Mary Magdalen, Ripley, from the 19th – 21st July 2002, as part of the village Jubilee celebrations coinciding with the Ripley Event.

The theme for the arrangements was the words of the hymn 'Who put the colours in the rainbow?' There were over thirty displays contributed by local organizations and individuals and by the neighbouring churches of East Clandon, Send and Ockham.

The church looked beautiful and much originality and even humour was shown in some of the displays such as 'who put the salt in the sea?'

The Send and Ripley History Society contributed an arrangement named, 'All the colours of the rainbow' in the church porch, (done this year by Jane Bartlett).

An organ recital was given on the Friday evening by Johnathan Hope aged 14; including one piece he composed himself. He played both the church organ and an electronic one during the recitals and was accompanied by his younger sister who played a Recorder for one work.

It was an enjoyable performance by two proficient players. Refreshments were provided in the Church Room throughout the weekend for the many visitors and £1,300 was raised by donations, which are to go towards redecorating the church



St Matthew's Church, Hatchford

by Alan Baker

In my brief contribution on the Samuelson mausoleum in the September/October journal I mentioned that Lord Samuelson used to worship at St Matthew's, Hatchford, an Anglican church which was demolished in 1968 because of under-use. Recently I was making a local search in my 'AA Greater London Street Atlas' and quite by chance I spotted that very church, depicted as being a short distance along the drive leading to Hatchford Hall from Ockham Lane, in the twiddly bit on the way to Cobham from The Black Swan.

Interestingly, this street guide was published in 1977, nine years after the demolition job, so it looks as though the AA's updaters were rather sloppy around these parts. This impression is strengthened by a number of 'sins of omission': for instance, Ripley is shown as having no pubs (there were five in the High Street alone, I think, at that time, apart from The Seven Stars and The Jovial Sailor), another non-included hostelry is The Queen's Head (now The Wishing Well - ugh!) at East Clandon, and the Sheepleas are not given any car parks. Fortunately it's different people that get you home when your car breaks down.

Potters Lane

by Les Bowerman

At Journal 166/14 David Roake asked when Guildford Road, Send, became Potters Lane.

Until relatively recent times the local road names do not seem to have been formalised, and indeed there is still no name for the stretch of road on the north west side of Send Marsh Green. David Porter tells us that road name boards did not appear locally until as late as 1962 or '63, although I suspect some may have been removed during World War II ('39-'45). So far as the road from the New Inn at Cartbridge to the London-Portsmouth road is concerned, this is now Potters Lane for the whole of its length. It seems that the part of it from Church Lane to the London road has been Potters Lane from time immemorial. The earliest definite reference I have so far found is in an Aldershot & District bus timetable (given to the Society by David Porter) dated 1st September 1921, but it may go right back into antiquity. The will of Thomas Attryde dated 12.1.1708 (old Guildford Muniment Room Ref. 65/3/33) mentions 'my other tenement and freehold estate...called and known by the name of Send Grove alias Potters Lands...' Until recent times at least Crickets Hill has always been just that.

As David Roake says, the stretch from Cartbridge to Crickets Hill was known as Guildford Road. Geoff Parker, who lives at No. 116 near Briar Road, tells us that his deeds refer initially in April, 1939, to a plot of land in Guildford Road. In 1950 the Valuation list still mentions Guildford Road. In 1952 the then owner applies for Planning Consent re Glenalwyn, Potters Lane, but the 1953 Valuation List, hedging its bets, gives the address as Glenalwyn, Potters Lane, Guildford Road. Finally, in October 1979, the Guildford Borough Council in a notice of the first numbering of houses in the road directs that the road shall be known as Potters Lane.

Ben Hollioake



Ben first came to Send Cricket Club at Sendholme as a youngster at the age of ten with his mother and sister in support of his older brother, Adam, performing out in the middle.

Ben played a few games for Send as a teenager and earned a reputation as a more promising cricketer than Adam. Then he went away to school.

Surrey soon took control and advised Ben to play in the Championship League.

We at Send followed his progress with interest, as we have done with other Surrey players who began their careers at Send, namely Ian Ward.

Without realising his full potential his untimely death in March this year, deprived us all of a talented cricketer at a young age.

Send Cricket Club were represented at Ben's Memorial Service at Southwark Cathedral in July (where every seat was taken) and at the reception at the Oval in the afternoon. Benjamin Caine Hollioake, cricketer, born, 11th November 1977; died 23rd March 2002.

Arthur Andrews

**Rio House & Rio Cottage, High St., Ripley
& The Corrugated Iron Building**
by Les Bowerman

At Newsletter (as it then was) 53/5 John Slatford published a Buildings Group Report on this property under its then name of Ripley Transformers Ltd. He suggested that neither of the two cottages comprising it was built before the early 18th century, although they may contain remnants of earlier construction. He also mentioned the corrugated iron building in the yard behind, measuring some 50ft x 20ft, probably erected around the 1880s, which he said "may have been associated with the Anchor during its cycling heyday". At 60/14 Bette Slatford and this writer speculated that the property may



have been the original Anchor (first reference 1677) at a time when the present Anchor building was an almshouse. We surmised that, with the building in 1738 of a new brick-built Poorhouse in Newark Lane (this building, with the date in Roman numerals, still there), the Anchor moved into the timber-framed almshouse where it has traded ever since. At 145/8 Bette and John traced the ownership of the Ripley Transformers building from 1669 (possibly even 1559) to the present day.

Ripley Transformers Ltd. having recently moved elsewhere, there are proposals to re-develop this Grade II listed building, including the iron building (see photo right) within the curtilage, which is not itself, listed. In view of the listing, the façade at least of the main building is likely to be preserved, but Committee was concerned that the iron building is likely to be demolished. We therefore encouraged Guildford Borough Council Planning to apply to the Department of Culture, Media & Sport for the iron building to have its own listing, and then wrote to the Department in support of the Council's application.



We pointed out that the use of corrugated iron as a quick and relatively inexpensive building material was one of the innovations introduced at the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace in 1851. It is met more usually in the form of "tin tabernacles", more or less instant churches, chapels or church halls.

The coaching era on the main road ended with the completion of the railway to Portsmouth in 1848. From then, until bicyclists came in increasing numbers from the mid 1870s, Ripley was a sleepy roadside village with plenty of accommodation adequate for its needs. However, as the early wooden-wheeled velocipede developed into the elegant high bicycle, Ripley became increasingly popular as a

venue for cyclists ("The Mecca of all good cyclists" as Lord Bury put it before he visited (and signed the Anchor Visitors Book as President of the Civil Service Cycling Club) in 1887), and the low-ceilinged timber-framed Anchor Inn, run by the obliging and hospitable Dibble family, became the favourite port of call with over 7000 visiting in 1887. Extra accommodation had to be found. Sleeping facilities were provided in the "Manor House" opposite, but above all a large dining hall (500 came to lunch on one

occasion in 1895) was needed which would double as a clubroom. The answer was a corrugated iron building constructed behind the Anchor. This was incredibly popular, with different clubs having their own name boards around the room.

We noted for the information of the Department that in the 1880s William Skelton set up as a cycle repairer in the Rio buildings (although he may in fact have been a tobacconist), later converting to the provision of refreshments for cyclists. References to it as such are rare compared to the Anchor, the fame of which was world-wide. However, a report in *Cycling* of 6.1.1894 reads "On Boxing Day, Christmas was kept at 'The Cyclists' Rest', Ripley, in the good old-fashioned way, and Mr & Mrs Skelton, the host and hostess, were presented with a very handsome clock, subscribed for by the many users of the Ripley Road".

Doubtless it can be safely concluded, we wrote, that the corrugated iron building (probably similar to that behind the Anchor) at the back of the Rio dates from the time when the Skeltons provided dinners and teas for cyclists.

Until relatively recently there were two other corrugated iron buildings on the opposite side of the road where Clifford James's shoe shop now is. They were the Church Hall and the Scout hut. With their demolition, the one behind the Rio is the sole survivor of a type of building which at the time was clearly characteristic.

The Society strongly urged that the iron building be listed in its own right as a rare survival, in this area at least. For its age and considering the material of which it is made, it is still in remarkably good condition in spite of a certain amount of corrosion at or near ground level.

On 9th May this year the Department wrote noting that this is a plain rectangular corrugated iron building with a small clerestory to the roof and carved bargeboards to the ends. One late C19 or early C20 window is visible to a side elevation with eight small panes to the top and a fixed casement window. The front has a projecting gabled porch with two-light window divided by a pilaster and the structure is now connected to the buildings on the High Street by a later extension. The interior was not inspected, they noted, but photographs of 1903 and recent photographs show steel roof trusses and tongued and grooved panelling to the walls. The recent photographs are probably those taken by a Planning Officer who has since moved on without leaving them in the file. It is not known what the 1903 photos are. The present writer provided some copies of 1909 *Cycling* photographs of the inside of the Anchor dining hall.

Some examples of late C19 corrugated iron churches have been listed, the Department continued, but only the more elaborate examples with transepts or towers. Although this structure had an interesting original purpose and has not been much altered, it is a plain building with a fairly usual later C19 roof structure, which does not demonstrate technological innovation. It is not sufficiently special architecturally to reach statutory listing quality and it will not therefore be listed.

Although 'The Cyclists' Rest' was clearly well regarded by the cycling establishment in 1893/4, it was not always thus. Eighteen months earlier, in its 23.7.1892 issue, a *Cycling* editorial comment was highly critical. "The rowdy cyler has been very much in evidence this year, we are sorry to say. We know that all sports are open to the cad, and cycling can be indulged in by all classes, but why a man, who is a cad, must before all else display his caddishness, it is difficult to imagine. The rowdy cyler has invaded Ripley, and if he continues to do so, we may reasonably expect that respectable wheelmen will shun the favourite resort. This is what a correspondent to *Answers* says; 'The inn was two doors from the village

church, and the men who put up there were evidently orderly, gentlemanly fellows, with a due respect for other people's feelings. Next door to the church, however, there is a coffee-house, and in there a most riotous meeting was going on. One cyler was presiding at the piano, and playing the latest comic songs, in the choruses of which many were joining; all this taking place next to a church in which Divine service

was being solemnised.' We have noticed the same thing ourselves, and such individuals can have no common feelings of decency; for they not only desecrate the day, but ignore the sanctity of the spot, and have no feelings of respect either for the living or the dead."

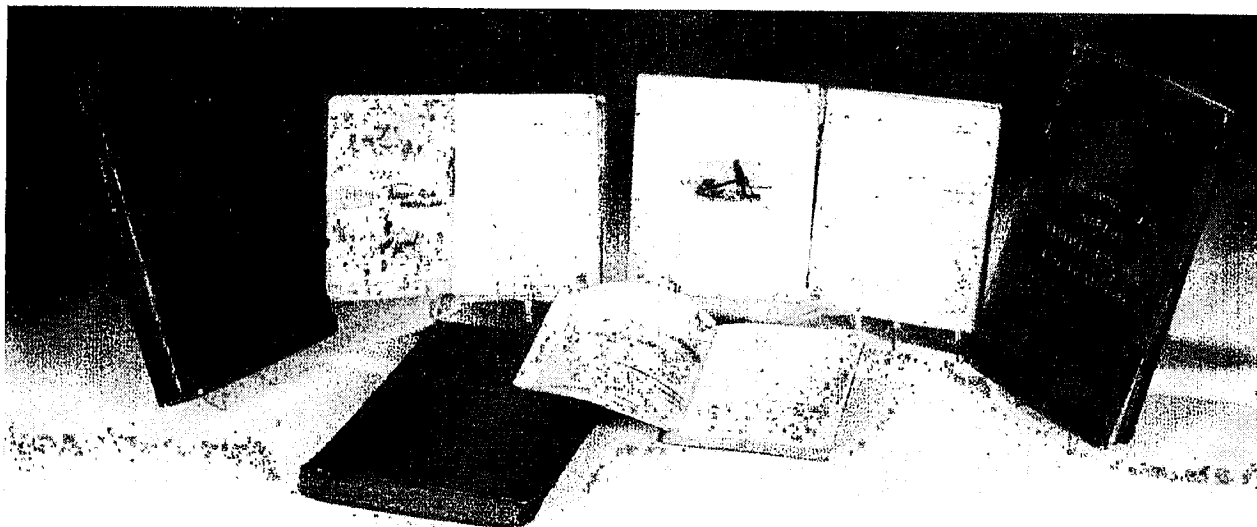
The Anchor Cyclists Visitors Books

by Les Bowerman

It had long been known that some of the Cyclists Visitors books compiled in the 1880s and 1890s when Ripley was the "Mecca" for all cyclists, famous and otherwise, had been kept at the Anchor for over 100 years as licensees came and went. It was therefore assumed that they were part of the permanent fixtures and fittings, although we had long felt that they were at risk and that the County Archivist's strong-room at the Surrey History Centre would be the best place for these important and unique records of local and cycling history. In 1980 I was allowed by the then licensee, J W Beale, to borrow overnight one book, that for 1892, to prepare for the Society's display on "Sports in Surrey" at the Surrey Local History Symposium. At the Southern Veteran-Cycle Club's camping weekend in July 1983 I asked Mr Beale while we were in the Anchor if I could see all the books and he produced seven of assorted years for me to record.

When David Jackson became firstly the manager and then the tenant of the Anchor in 1999 to 2000 he was greatly interested and displayed some of the books in a corner cabinet in the bar. When he was negotiating to assign his tenancy he told me that he would donate the books to the Society.

I did not query his right to do so as it appeared that they would be secured for the future. Before he completed the sale in 2000 he withdrew the offer, saying that his purchaser wanted to keep them.



The Anchor Visitors Books sold at auction on 21st April 2002

photo by Bonhams

Regrettably I made no contact with the purchaser, Mark Smith, during 2001. With horror and amazement, I discovered in a catalogue of a cycling and automobilia auction to be held on 21st April this year that six of the seven books that Mr Beale had shown me were due under the hammer with a price guide of £2,500 to £4,500. There was a comprehensive description of the contents of the books by Bonham's cycling consultant, Nicholas Oddy. With little over a week to go, I ascertained that both Woking History Centre and the National Cycling Archive were interested, but the former had insufficient time and the latter insufficient funds. I made contact with several likely bidders, including some overseas, and all responsibly felt that the books should remain in this area. With funds saved for a replacement van, I attended the auction, hopeful of buying Lot 270 for under £1000 but prepared to bid to the maximum suggested figure.

In the event, an overseas telephone bidder came in at £3000 and outbid me at £6,500. I was subsequently informed that it was Sheikh Al-Thani of Qatar, who had already paid vast sums for other Lots.

I learned that a licence would be required from the Department of Culture, Media & Sport if these manuscript books were intended to be shipped abroad. An application was duly made on behalf of the Sheikh and it was due to be heard ultimately on 5th September. The Departmental Committee hearing such applications is advised by the Curator of Manuscripts at the British Library. She prepared a strong case for retention of the books in the UK on the grounds that they are sufficiently connected with our history and national life and are of outstanding significance to art, learning and history. Local history and feminist history, both present here, are also important factors. Unfortunately, the application was withdrawn before the hearing, the Sheikh having been advised by Solicitors. In practice, the Sheikh as legal owner, can now do virtually what he likes with the books. The likelihood is that they will disappear indefinitely.

In the meantime, concerned as to whether the vendor was entitled to sell the books, I contacted the *Surrey Advertiser*, hoping that the light of publicity would flush matters into the open. The paper learned from Mark Smith that the books had not been in the property he had signed for, and that he would moreover like to recover them with a view to displaying them at the Anchor. An article appeared in the *Surrey Advertiser* of 31st May.

Other enquiries revealed that it was not David Jackson who had taken the books to Bonhams, but somebody who said he was the son of a licensee at the Anchor in the 1980s and that some of the books had been thrown out due to flood damage at the premises. The connection of that person with David Jackson is not known.

Mark Smith then told me that the present brewery owners of the freehold had confirmed that the inventory of furniture, fittings and effects which Jackson signed for when he bought the tenancy included a "quantity of old original visitors books to display case". He was thus entitled to dispose of them. Later, Mark rang excitedly to say that the brewery, on checking their records, had discovered five more of the books, which he was entitled to sell. To avoid the hassle and delay of sending them to the next auction he offered them to me, together with yet another very dilapidated book he had found on the premises, for a price a little lower than the Sheikh's successful bid for the first six books. Fearing that all the books might be lost forever to the cause of history, I bought these forthwith as related in a second *Surrey Advertiser* article which appeared on 21st June.

As hinted at in this issue of the Journal in the paragraphs on the Rio Café, the Visitors Books are at the same time extensive and very interesting. Among the fascinating facts to be gleaned is the knowledge that H G Wells visited several times as a member of the old Guildford Cycling Club. The signature of G B Shaw appears a number of times as a member of the Civil Service Cycling Club, but research is required to confirm that it is indeed the famous dramatist. There is also much social history to be learned about inter-class mixing and about the women, local and otherwise, who were among the first of their sex to ride bicycles. The books are at present kept at a secure location whence they can be retrieved and made available for study on reasonable notice and on proof that any request is from a serious researcher. The intention is that they go permanently to Surrey History Centre at the appropriate time.

The Sheikh owns the books for 1881, 1882 (2 volumes), 1885, 1892, and 1893, 4 & 5 (1 volume). I own 1883 (from 21st May) (the very dilapidated volume), 1884, 1887, 1888, 1890, and 1891. It will be seen that volumes for the first part of 1883, 1886 and 1889 are still missing. I have a request out in the *Veteran-Cycle Club* magazine for any information about these, and as a last throw of the dice I have suggested to the Sheikh's Solicitors that a very secure and inexpensive repository for his books would be the Surrey History Centre. I am not optimistic about that.

Rumour has it that the Sheikh may use his collection, or parts of it, as an international travelling exhibition. Whether he incorporates his Visitors Books into that remains to be seen. At least it is known which books he has and we have Nicholas Oddy's summary of them, and it is likely that a man of his

means will take proper care of them. They may re-surface some time in the future. The position is actually better than at any time in the past 100 years when it was not known which had survived and access was difficult. Thanks are owed to numerous people, including Bonhams auctioneer Peter Card and consultant Nicholas Oddy, various collectors for realising that the books belong here, fellow members of the VCC, the Curator of Manuscripts at the British Library, staff at the Department, the *Surrey Advertiser*, Mark Smith at the Anchor and not least Dr David Robinson, the County Archivist.

And my van? Well, guaranteed access to six of the Visitors Books is more important to me than a mobile metal box. And one final thought. It is annoying to find that something which may have been regarded as of little monetary value until recently is now worth a vast sum, but doubtless all the thousands who signed the books would be gratified to know that their combined signatures are now so highly regarded across the world

Les Bowerman

Connaught occasion

by Alan Baker

The latest of my previous contributions on the Connaught theme was entitled 'Last lap for Connaught' and was published in the November/December 1999 issue of the journal. However, a recent event indicated that more is yet to come, though not on the motor-racing side. The site developers, Longwood Developments Ltd, held a sort of 'topping-out' function at the new Connaught House at Burnt Common on October 23, primarily for the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by the main entrance, honouring the marque's historic victory in the Syracuse Grand Prix on that same date 47 years earlier, but also to show off the impressive office accommodation that has arisen where the Connaught works used to be.

Appropriately, the unveiling was performed jointly by Tony Brooks, the driver of the car on that historic occasion, and Mike Oliver, key survivor of the Connaught team's top brass (see my original article in the Jan/Feb '99 issue). Equally appropriate was the raucous song of two of the grand prix cars which, still going strong in classic racing, were brought along specially and were run briefly alongside the plaque. The lunch that followed, in the building's big conference room, was worthy of the occasion, and the speechifying was ably carried out by our host, Longwood's John Walker, and motorsport broadcaster/journalist Simon Taylor. It was a good 'do' to mark the end of one era and the start of another!

How much do you know about Surrey?

For instance: Where is the county's smallest church? where, near Guildford was there one of England's most famous racecourses until about 1850 and where did Mother Ludlum live?

All these, and many, many more questions (and answers!) on a variety of topics, such as famous Surrey people, music, gardens, theatre and a picture quiz, can be found in a new addition to the Society's library, "**A Surrey Quiz Book**", by Brigid Chapman.

Why not have a go and test your knowledge? There are so many interesting books about our county and even wider afield held in our library at the Museum, and Ann Bowerman deserves our thanks for helping to publicise them by bringing a selection of the books to several meetings.

So next time you are on duty at the Museum, why not borrow a book?

Mavis Davies, Hon. Librarian.

Answers to questions about Surrey:

Wanborough. St Bartholomew's Church, built about 1060.

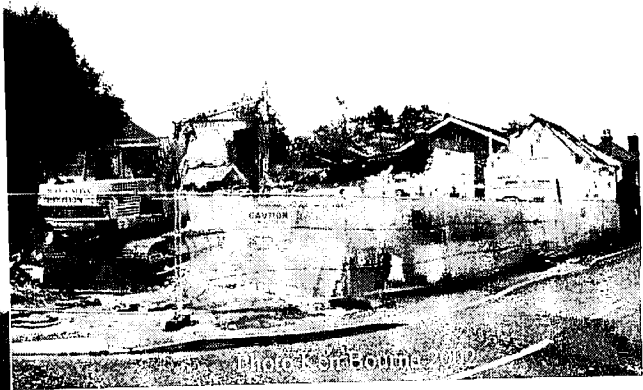
Merrow Down. Races were held there every Whit week from Seventeenth to Nineteenth Centuries.

Mother Ludlum lived with her dog in a cave at Moor Park, near Farnham

Change in the Villages – Send

by Les Bowerman

Back in 1980 at Newlsetter 33/9 I commented on the closure of a number of grocery shops in Send, specifically Send Marsh Stores (now residential as Pip's Cottage), May's Stores at May's Corner, and



the Co-op in Send Road. I observed that three remained – Send Post Office, the shop on Send Parade now Forbouys, and Gladdings Stores (at that time Quilter Cave Ltd.) at Cartbridge. Sadly, the building, which housed the last-named, dating from some time between the Inclosure Award of 1814 and the 1861 Census, has recently been demolished in preparation for more residential accommodation, (see photograph above, right). The postcard view on the left was taken around 1920 and shows the corner site when occupied by Webbs as a Grocers and Bakery. Webbs' sold the business to Bert Lemon at the beginning of the last war. Lemon's or Gladdings Stores as it was called, provided a delivery service well into the late 1960's and sold the business to Quilter Cave in 1978

However, the good news is that the other two appear to be thriving. Additionally, Patel's Newsagents (formerly Gardners) and Claytons Family Butchers (formerly Bettsworths), both in Send Road, also sell appreciable quantities of groceries.

Cheslyn (Lyn) Geoffrey Mileham

Lyn Mileham died peacefully at home on 24th September 2002 after a short illness, aged 86 years. Well known by many and respected by all who knew him Lyn had been a member of our society right from the beginning. He was a mine of information particularly on all forms of early transport giving memorably talks on several occasions. He was also a regular contributor of first class articles to this Journal (formerly Newsletter). One of the earliest appeared in Newsletter 37/4, 1981, concerning the rebuilding of Broadmead Bridge in 1915, which coincidentally over 2001/2 has undergone major repairs.

Lyn had a photographic memory, which enabled him to recall the minutest detail of past events: names of people and facts and figures, which most of us would certainly admire but few could match. He amply demonstrated this ability at a society meeting on 29th April 1993. The speaker having failed to appear, Lyn volunteered to stand in as speaker for the evening and subsequently gave an enthralling account for over an hour, without hesitation or notes of any kind, recalling his visit to Egypt with his parents in 1932. A summary of that talk, transcribed from a tape-recording of the evening appears in NL110/6 and illustrates his amazing ability to remember not only facts, but to recall his vivid impressions at that time of his travels by P&O Mail boat from the Thames, via The Mediterranean sea to Alexandria and Egypt. Lyn said that 'he learnt more geography in those 9 weeks than on any occasion at school'. It was probably this trip that also awakened his love of history.

Lyn was born on 2nd December 1915 at Pimlico London moving around the suburbs with his parents; his father was an Architect and Surveyor. He attended Enfield Grammar School, leaving to study Engineering at Battersea Polytechnic (now Surrey University). He joined the Engineering Consultants, L G Mouchel & Ptrs's at their office at 35, Victoria Street, Westminster, subsequently moving to Mayford in 1965 to be near the company, which had by then transferred its offices to West Byfleet.

He remained with Mouchel's all his working life and after retirement was often consulted by the company to help fill in the details from memory on past projects, not in the archive records.

He married Alice Davis on 15th June 1940 and having joined the Territorial Army before the war was among the first to be called up in 1939. By 1942 he was taken prisoner in North Africa by the Italians, spending the remainder of the war in captivity until his release in 1945.

During this period of considerable hardship, Lyn, with great courage applied his inventive mind to sabotaging the trucks in a concrete works where he was part of the prisoner labour force and to making a portable blower-assisted water-heater that he could use to heat water to a sufficiently high temperature to make hot drinks; an invention in great demand and used as a form of barter. A talk of his wartime experiences with a sketch of this invention can be seen in NL122/8.

Lyn was a founder member of Mayford History Society, (now Woking History Society) supporting it as newsletter editor throughout the seventies and becoming a Vice-President. He was the first winner of the Atherstone Cup with an essay on the Bisley tramway and he won it again in 1996 with an essay on Sir Samuel Peto ; he was also a member of the Addlestone History Society.

His wife Alice, died on 1st April 1993. He leaves an only son Geoffrey who lives at Pyrford with his wife Moraima and their daughter Alice to whom we offer our sincere condolences.

Ken Bourne

New church guide for St Mary Magdalen Ripley Surrey

The guide originally intended as an update to the previous guide in 1963 by R N Bloxam, was expected to be started after the guide to St Mary the Virgin Send was published by Send & Ripley History Society in 1980. Janet Hill, then a member of committee, advised that this was in hand and, subsequently; she produced a brief guide. About 6 years ago it was decided in the light of the continuing accumulation of information by this society that a more comprehensive guide was possible and the task was willingly undertaken by the author.

The book that has resulted is more detailed than earlier church guides, consistent, with most modern publications of this type, but is arranged in a way that enables the casual visitor to apprise quickly the important features of the church and for the reader seeking more background it is hoped that sufficient information has been included.



Ripley is fortunate in that it possesses an ancient church, its 12th century (1160) chancel constructed to a very high standard that predates by 35 years the nearby Augustinian Priory in Newark Lane. Who built the church? Was the original nave constructed at the same time? Why was a new nave built? There are many more questions than answers, but the author in this guide attempts to answer some of them. At the same time the 'new' nave, the work of the architect Benjamin Ferrey in 1845/6, is examined in detail since much work done by the Victorians, which was in the past glossed over in the guide books, is now becoming more appreciated for its style and craftsmanship. The same can also be said for Victorian stained glass and again this church possesses some excellent examples of the glass-painter's art, notably the 'Dibble' window in the south aisle.

The drawing circa 1900 of Ripley High Street and the church, shown above, is reproduced from the front cover and although the artist is unknown it is very similar in style to the 1896 watercolour by R L Shaw, which is depicted on the title page within the book. The R L Shaw watercolour and the Dibble window are reproduced in colour and all of the remaining illustrations are in sepia.

The guide will be available before Christmas, price £5, from Ripley Post Office, St Mary Magdalen Church, Ripley and the Send & Ripley History Society's museum on Saturday mornings, as well as at the society's meetings.

At the MUSEUM
A
New Exhibition of
TOYS

Commencing **Saturday morning 7th December**, an exhibition of Toys of past-times, 1950's or earlier.

On Saturday 21st December there will be a children's activity morning.

If you are able to bring along toys or games to exhibit please contact Clare McCann tel. 01483 728546.
Valuable toys should be insured by the owner

Winners of the 'Design a Millennium' Mug Competition

The two boys on the right are **Peter** and **Thomas Hill** winners of the 'Design a Millennium Mug' competition held in June this year. Their prizes, were the opportunity to transfer their designs onto their own mugs at The Ceramic Café, Ripley. The Ceramic Cafe sponsored the competition. Congratulations to Peter and Thomas



Forthcoming Events

All the meetings are at the Ripley Village Hall or the Village Hall Annex unless stated otherwise.

Saturday 7th December, 10am to 12.30pm – Exhibition of Toys at the S&RHS Museum Ripley.

Come and see this fascinating display of pre-1950 children's toys on each Saturday morning, 7th, 14th and 21st December. Also, on the 21st of December there will be a children's' **Activity Day**; Contact Clare McCann 01483 728546 for further details

Wednesday 18th December, 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall

Christmas Social. Members and friends are invited to a buffet supper to include Christina's special Punch and a 'historical' quiz. Tickets £2 per person available from Anne Bowerman at The Manor House Send Marsh Green, tel. 01483 224876

Tuesday 21st January 2003, 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall

Two films by the Circle 8 Film Company – 'Royal Guildford' & 'The Building of Guildford Cathedral'. Choc. Ices! Come early for the best seats.

Wednesday 19TH February 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall

A G M. Nominations for committee can be made to the secretary anytime up to and including the evening of the meeting. The formal part of the evening being short, will be followed by member's reminiscences of longer meetings, or past-times. There will also be a second-hand bookstall. Anyone wishing to donate books well beforehand please contact Anne or Les Bowerman.

Wednesday 19th March 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall

An illustrated **talk on 'The History of Guildford Castle'** by Mary Alexander, Collections Officer of Guildford Museum

Wednesday 16th April 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall

An illustrated **talk on Syon House** by Andrea Cameron

Wednesday 21st May 1.50 pm – The Manor House, Send Marsh Green

A **visit to Syon House.** Meet at The Manor House at 1.50pm or at Syon House car park at 2.30pm.

Sunday 22nd June 2.0pm – The Manor House, Send Marsh Green

A visit to **Wisley and Pyrford churches.**

Sunday 20th July

An all day visit to Rottingdean, Sussex, details to be announced.

Wednesday 24th September 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall

A talk on **The History and development of Pyrford** by Ian Wakeford

Wednesday 15th October 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall

An illustrated **talk** by Carol Brown of Guildford Museum, entitled '**Follow the Drum**', Women in the army from 1790.

Wednesday 19th November 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall

An illustrated talk entitled **The Wey Navigator and other Surrey Waterways** by Gordon Knowles.

For further details of the above events, contact Anne Bowerman; Programme Organiser, tel. 01483 224876.

Journal Contributions: Closing date for the next edition is **Friday 20th December 2002**



SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

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March -December

Also open on 3rd Sunday of each month,
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Other times for school groups and small parties
By arrangement

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

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

'Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life'	£10.0 Reprinted 1998
'Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send'	£1.25
'Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley'	Reference copy
'The Straight Furrow', by Fred Dixon	£1.50
'Ripley and Send - Looking Back'	£4.95
'A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey'	£2.00
'Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey'	£2.95
'The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey'	£4.00
'Ripley and Send - An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures'	£6.00
'Two Surrey Village Schools - The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools'	£10.00
'The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey'	£5.00

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

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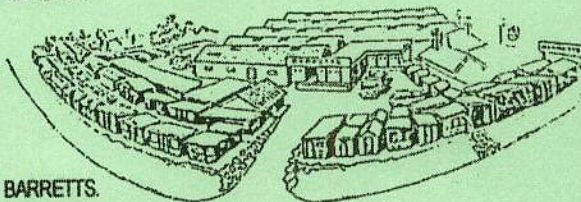
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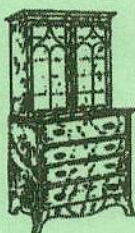
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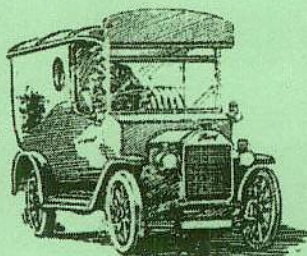
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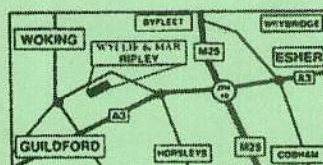
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