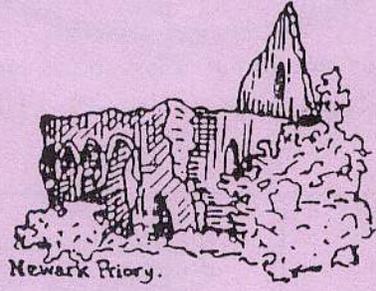
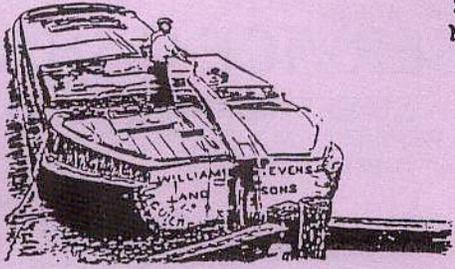
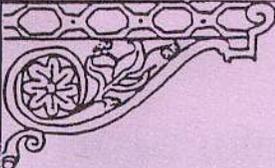


Send & Ripley History Society



Newsletter No.95 November/December 1990



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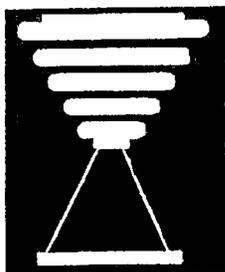
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Newsletter No 95

November/December 1990

| Contents | Page Number |
|--|--------------------|
| Droughts, Deluges and Dust Devils - an illustrated talk by Mr Ian Currie, FRMC - notes by Terry Hewitt | 2 |
| Visit of the Surrey Archaeological Society reported by John Slatford | 4 |
| Mineral Extraction - Part 6 - by Les Bowerman | 4 |
| Surrey Local History Council Symposium - The Artist in Surrey notes by Bob Gale | 7 |
| Milk Bottles and Dairiana - letter from Alan Baker | 8 |
| Autumn Outing to the Museum of English Rural Life by Audrey Sykes | 8 |
| Forthcoming Publication-"Newark Mill in Ripley, Surrey" | 9 |
| Membership Secretary's Report | 9 |
| The Society's New Year Social | 10 |
| Forthcoming Events | 10 |

Cover Illustration: This is reproduced from a drawing by M Howarth, RWA, of Newark Mill - the subject of a new forthcoming publication by the Society (see page 9).

DROUGHTS, DELUGES AND DUST DEVILS

An Illustrated Talk by Mr Ian Currie
Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society

Notes by Terry Hewitt

Ian Currie is a well established local meteorologist who could be said to have started his career when presented with a "weather station" by his parents in 1962. Although he is a full-time geography teacher, he contributes weather expertise to five newspaper groups, broadcasts on Radio Mercury, appears on Cable TV, and publishes books. Ian's latest book, "A History of Surrey Weather", will appear in late 1990.

October could be considered to be an appropriate month for such a talk to take place, for October 26 is the anniversary of the Great Storm of 1859, when the ship, The Royal Charter, was sunk off Anglesey with heavy loss of life. In response to this and to the subsequent pressure by leading authorities like Admiral Fitzroy, the Meteorological Office was created and the system of gale warnings was established. October is not without interest in terms of Surrey weather, too, for 1829 saw an exceptional snow fall. By contrast, no snow has fallen at all in October this century,, and the last nine Octobers have all experienced above average temperatures.

The earth's surface has an average temperature of 15°C, but this represents an adjustment between heat input at the tropics and heat output at the polar regions. The global weather machine, the atmosphere, plays the major role in this adjustment, and the variations in our weather reflect the process in operation. A 1979 view of the earth from space showed weather patterns clearly, with Hurricane David developing in the Caribbean and three million square miles of the Sahara totally devoid of cloud.

However, weather and climate patterns exist right down to the level of local and even micro climates. Thus, within an area the size of Surrey, the rainfall map shows clearly significantly wetter areas, such as the North Downs, near Guildford, Hindhead and Leith Hill. Surrey temperatures are particularly related to altitude. It is significant that expensive houses, built during the period of milder weather in the 1930s, may have splendid outlooks, but are somewhat disadvantaged from the point of view of temperature during the current cooler climate phase. The North Downs also have an unfortunate climatic coincidence in that the section of the M25 on Reigate Hill has a local climate with a very high incidence of cloud and fog.

On an even smaller scale, minor features such as chalkland clay valleys often portray unique characteristics, even at the micro climate level. A photograph of the Chipstead Valley, near Croydon, showing a winter appearance in early June, illustrated this point, and it was noted that when the London Weather Centre recorded temperatures of 2°C, temperatures of -10°C were being recorded at the same time in this particular area. In contrast, the Chipstead Valley is a sun trap, experiencing high daytime temperatures, that is, it possesses an extreme climate of its own. Mr Currie has been sponsored by Cassella to conduct a research project here.

Thunderstorms and associated phenomena have provided Surrey with a number of spectacular events and they are a characteristic feature of local weather. 1906 saw a great storm in the Guildford/Godalming area. A sunny day became sultry by late evening, and by 8.30 pm the sky was lit by violent lightning and a furious tempest extended from Godalming through Guildford. An inch of rain fell in ten minutes, hailstones fell which were large enough to survive to the following day and a tornado cut a swathe of damage through the town. The new bridge, built in 1900, was severely damaged, two people were killed sheltering under a tree, Godalming Town Band was exposed to the elements when the roof of their hall blew off and a 78 year old man had a remarkable escape when a tree fell through his roof into his bedroom. This severe weather was very local, for example, Merrow was not affected, and it illustrates that warm sunny areas outside

the tropics can experience the severe convectional disturbances which spawn a tornado. Other similar storms mentioned included the Derby Day storm which killed 18 people in North Surrey, a storm in June 1914 in the Mitcham/Wandsworth area and the Wisley tornado of 1965. Strange forms of precipitation, due to severe vertical components of air flow in convectional storms, were noted, including the crabs found in the workhouse drains after an 1829 event, and frogs and toads falling in the Reigate/Redhill area after a storm. Reference was made to the danger of sheltering under trees, with the oak being 60 times more vulnerable than other trees, followed by the ash, with the hawthorn being the safest shelter. Among the slides illustrating this topic was a spectacular one taken in Bramley in April 1990, Surrey's most thundery month. This slide clearly showed the charge travelling **from** the ground **to** the cloud, not vice versa. Attention was also drawn to the enormous size of hailstones associated with thunderstorms, those of the Horsham storm of September 5 1958 weighing up to half a pound.

Whereas there was a one in three chance of a severe winter in Surrey in Charles Dickens' time, the traditional "white Christmas" has only occurred five times in Surrey this century: 1906, 1927, 1938, 1956 and 1970. Nevertheless there have been a number of severe winters. 1940 saw a very severe January, with much snow and dangerous glazed rainfall, and 1941 and 1942 were almost as severe. However, 1947 was the most momentous winter of that decade, although it began in a benign mild way. On January 23 a long run of Easterly winds began, February 1 to February 21 saw a continuous gloom, and by Marley's estimates, it was the coldest February in the records dating back to 1659. The culmination came in March when the snow melt was accompanied by the wettest March on record, causing severe flooding with the Thames a mile wide at Walton-on-Thames. The winter of 1962 was the coldest winter since 1740, with a severe blizzard on December 29 and snow lying throughout January and February. It was cold enough to freeze the Thames in part, although the modification to the river channel prevented the overall freezing of the river, as had occurred during the famous frost fairs of the 17th century. The severity of the weather is indicated by the story that a pack of foxes are reputed to have attacked and eaten a bullock at Thursley and electricity strikes and transport problems made it an unpleasant winter. Other severe and spectacular snow events mentioned included a late snowstorm on April 25 1950, which did spectacular damage to the silver birch trees, and an 18" snowfall on the same date in 1908.

The obvious spectacular flood was that of 14-16 September 1968. The explanation lay in the fact that it had already been a wet dismal summer, so that the soil moisture values were positive instead of showing the normal late summer deficit. Thus, when eight inches of rain, producing 11 million tons of water, fell in two days, the soil could not absorb it and the water went straight into the rivers as surface run off. Urbanisation and drainage of the headwaters of the Mole around Gatwick and Crawley enhanced the run off process in a critical area and, although it has been suggested that the Wey and Mole sluices should have been opened, it is doubtful if anything but the most modern and expensive flood controls would have sufficed. Downside Bridge was destroyed and the Walton-on-Thames and East Molesey area was seriously affected, with 11,000 homes evacuated. Subsequently £19 million have been spent on flood prevention works, the last of which were only completed in the summer of 1990. Photographs were also shown of lesser, but nevertheless spectacular, flood phenomena, such as the isolated storm near Hook on July 6 1973, when 4 1/2" of rain fell in one hour, the tenth greatest rainfall in an hour in the United Kingdom.

In contrast there have been spectacular droughts in Surrey. The 1947 winter was followed by a hot, dry June, for which the media coined the expression "Flaming June", followed by a dry August and an autumn drought. However, some of the most spectacular droughts have been in very recent memory, notably 1976, which produced extreme warmth in a period overlapping June and July, when there were 14 consecutive days when temperatures exceeded 90°F. Although 1976 produced a record number of calls for Surrey Fire Brigade, curiously this was exceeded during the summer of 1990, which also produced the highest recorded temperature on record of 100°F.

Ian Currie gave a thoroughly interesting and well illustrated talk on, for the Society, an unusual and novel subject. We can only look forward with the greatest anticipation to the publication of his next book.

(Incidentally, "dust devils", mentioned by Ian in his talk, are small, spinning vortices of loose debris, formed in hot windy conditions, at ground level in exposed areas. I recall watching, fascinated, on one particular hot day this past summer in an open area of the Surrey Hills as one dust devil after another formed and spun away to oblivion - Ed.)

VISIT OF THE SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Reported by John Slatford

Our Society was honoured on 10 October to host a visit to Send Marsh and Ripley by the Surrey Archaeological Society.

It was a memorable day in that the Society's President, the Viscountess Hanworth, was present together with Vice-President Dennis Turner, Captain Mark Wilson and Ken Gravett. In total some 60 members of the Society and their guests were present. The day started with coffee in the barn at Willow Pool on Send Marsh, thanks to the kindness of Mr and Mrs Crane, and this was followed by a short tour around Send Marsh Green, with Les Bowerman as guide.

After a break for lunch, the visit reconvened in Ripley Church, where Ken Bourne gave a short talk on the church itself. Then followed the main event, the walk about Ripley, based upon our new book of that title. It was, of course, a good opportunity to launch our book, and it does seem to have been well received. We found it necessary to divide the visitors into groups for which Jane and John Bartlett, Les Bowerman, Tony Medlen, Audrey Sykes and John Slatford acted as guides. Fortunately the weather was kind to us, and we believe the tour to have been a great success.

The day concluded in Ripley Village Hall when we gave the visitors tea and refreshments. Special thanks are due here to Anne Bowerman and Ros Hewitt for their work in preparing everything, together with the assistance of Irene and George Bleach and Bette Slatford. The Surrey Archaeological Society used this opportunity to make presentations to Mrs Jean West who was retiring from the post of Visits Secretary, this visit being the last of many that she has organised.

MINERAL EXTRACTION

Part 6 in a Series of Occasional Notes
By Les Bowerman

Is it really five years since I wrote in Newsletter 64/11 "It remains now only to provide a list of sites and a map for reference purposes", and is it really 11 years since the series was commenced in 1979 (N/L 28/4)? The other notes have appeared in Newsletters 36, 41, 43 and 54 and, overall, have sought to provide a general history of mineral working in Send and, to a lesser extent, the Ripley area. This part provides what was envisaged in 64/11.

The numerical order follows that of my notes. For the most part it is in historical order, but should not be taken as necessarily so. A name is given to each site only to identify it, and the name should not be taken as a definitive local place name. The map references are from the Ordnance Survey grid and indicate roughly the centre of the site. Acreage is given only where known, or it can be roughly estimated. The list is not definitive - the precise area, particularly of the bigger sites, varies from time to time. Not every little hole from which sand was dug can be mentioned. Parts of the Heath and elsewhere would have been pockmarked with individuals' private and virtually random excavations.

1. N/L 28/11. 5019 1547. S of Crickets Hill, either side of Potters Lane. Acreage negligible. Time of use presumed ancient.
2. 28/5. 5027 1553. "Sandies", Mays Corner. 3-4 acres. Inclosure Map 1804 Ref No 961. Tithe Map 1845 Ref No 729. For exclusive use of inhabitants of Send and Ripley. Previously unenclosed. Presumed first used c 1815. Site and right to use it still exists.
3. 28/5. 5016 1557. W of Potters (aka Guildford) Lane, between boathouse and Pembroke House. 4 acres. Inclosure Map 994. Tithe 790. Previously unenclosed. Presumed first used c 1815. For Highway Surveyor.
4. 28/5. 5040 1543. S of Bypass, W of Clandon Road. 2 acres. Inclosure 1061. Previously unenclosed. Presumed first used c 1815. For Highway Surveyor. Site exists.
5. 28/5. 5026 1554. Old Send School Site, School Lane. 2 acres. Tithe 730. Previously arable. Well used by 1845, presumed ceased by time of Gift of Land for school, viz 1854. Now private house and garden.
6. 28/5, 54/5. 5036 1564. W of Hall Aggregates main plant, near junction of Tannery Lane with Polesden Lane. Tithe 613. 18 acre "Gravel Pit". Used before 1845. Previously arable. Subsequently part of chicken farm. Now part of Hall's hard-standing and part of later pit.
7. 36/5. 5044 1554. "Brickfield", corner of Send Marsh Road/Portsmouth Road, opposite "The Kilns". 3 1/2 acres. Believed used second half of 18th century. Backfilled in 1950s and derelict.
8. 41/3. 5019 1558. Formerly Spooner's Nursery, between Send Road and Canal from Wharf Lane to Vision Engineering. 18 acres. Tithe 772. In use c 1911-1930. Previously arable in part. Now Winton's field, Scout HQ, and derelict.
- 9 and 9A. 36/6. 5020 1556. Heath Ponds/Woking AC Fishing Lakes, between Potters Lane and Send Road. Part of Tithe 742. 20 acres. Worked by Athertons and Dilkes 1920s-1950s. Previously heath.
10. 41/3. 5022 1557. Behind Church Room, Send Road. Part of Tithe 752. 7 acres. Previously heath. Now part hollow and part Woking AC Fishing Lake.
11. 41/3. 5019 1558. Between Send Road and Potters Lane, near Cartbridge. Tithe 766. Originally Furzy Heath, then enclosed. Now a Woking AC Fishing Lake.
12. 41/3. 5017 1555. Formerly Lewry's Chicken Farm, W of Potters Lane. 1 acre? Part Tithe 799. Used after end of World War 2.
13. 41/3. 5023 1550. Roberts Pit, N side of Send Hill. Tithe 846. 4 acres. Worked c 1930 to World War 2. Previously arable. Backfilled after 1976. No present use.
14. 41/3. 5024 1549. Orchard Way, Send Hill. 4-5 acres. Tithe 847. Previously arable. Believed used c 1937-c 1940. Partially backfilled and houses built 1965.
15. 41/3. 5025 1552. Rear garden of "Morva", N side of Send Hill. 1/4 acre? Part Tithe 848. Formerly arable. Used 1950s, now overgrown hole in garden.
16. 41/4. 5026 1550. E of Orchard Way, Send Hill. 10 acres? Formerly arable. Worked end of 1940s to early 50s. Refuse tip in 1960s/70s. Now believed pasture.
17. 5022 1548. Send Court Quarry, Potters Lane. 24.14 acres. Tithe 939, 840, 841 and 844. Previously and subsequently arable. Currently providing access and weighbridge for No 23.

18. 54/6 and 74/8. 5038 1564. Hall Aggregates, W of Polesden Lane. 12.09 acres. Tithe 596. Previously arable. Continuous use since 1931 - now site for washing plant.
19. 64/9. 5040 1560. Papercourt Sailing Lake, E of Polesden Lane. 30 acres? Tithe 597 and 599. Previously arable. Worked after World War 2.
20. 64/9. 5036 1559. N of Ben Turner Tractors, Polesden Lane. 15 acres. Previously arable, now allotments.
21. 64/10. 5043 1565. North part of Sailing Lake. 20 acres? Tithe 510, 511 and 513. Formerly arable and pasture. Worked 1960s.
22. 64/10. 5038 1566. Norgon's Pipe Works, Papercourt Lane. 21 acres. Tithe 595. Previously arable. Worked 1976-80. Backfilled with refuse.
23. 64/10. 5020 1551. Crickets Hill, Potters Lane. 20 acres? Previously arable. Worked 1980s. Still being worked.
- 24 and 24A. 64/10. 5030 1558. Secretts/Boormans's, Heath Farm, Tannery Lane. 40 acres? Worked 1980s and still in use. Previously market garden.
25. 64/9. 5034 1563. Northerly extension of 6. Up to Tannery Lane. 21 acres? Previously arable. Now water-filled.

In Ripley a former pond, East of Newark Lane, near the green, and the village pond (now a children's playground), were probably formed as a result of quarrying for sand or gravel. Although this schedule was begun as long ago as 1976, it was finished hurriedly against the Editor's deadline, so there may be errors. Any corrections for the next issue would be welcome.

A plan of the sites is marked on the OS 21/2 map of 1956 opposite. Some of the sites are drawn freehand and should not be taken as indicating precise boundaries.

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM

Notes by Bob Gale

This year's symposium, the 25th, held at the University of Surrey on Saturday, 11 November, had as its theme "The Artist in Surrey".

The Society had a stand, at which it displayed its exhibition, developed earlier this year, showing examples of work by 18th/19th century artists, Hassell (Pere et Fils) and Petrie, and contemporary local artists, Frank Brown, Ray Davies and Frank Lewin. The Society's exhibition was impressive and highly praised, comparing well with those of the many other societies. Thanks are due to Ken Bourne, Tony and Patricia Medlen, Les Bowerman (also centrally involved with the Veteran Cycle Club stand), and Bob Gale, all of whom gave their time unstintingly.

Surrey has led Britain in landscape architecture and painting, and is the most painted county in the country. In the second half of the 19th century, most Surrey villages had a resident artist and they helped to "Londonise" Surrey, followed later by stockbrokers. It therefore provided an admirable subject for a symposium. The lecture programme presented by the SLHC proved to be extremely absorbing. Mention must be made, in particular, of Dr Peter Brandon's presentation covering "The Artist and the Surrey Landscape". Peter, it may be recalled, had spoken to our Society earlier this year on Georgian Surrey. The detail and, at the same time, breadth of his knowledge, as well as his experienced, easy and humorous style, marks Peter as an outstanding lecturer. His presentation was a delightful review of the artists' approach to, and treatment of, the Surrey landscape. He produced a plethora of names, one of which, new to me, was a revelation - John Linnell,

father-in-law of Samuel Palmer, who took up residence on Reigate Hill in the mid 19th century. Linnell was an artist of intense vision. Peter Brandon had tracked down some of Linnell's pictures as far afield as Cleveland, Ohio, and recommended a visit to Preston Art Gallery, where several Linnells are on view.

Miss Iris Rhodes, Curator of Guildford House Gallery, presented a review of Helen Allingham's cottage watercolours. Undoubtedly sentimentalised as they were, nevertheless Helen Allingham's watercolours are a delight to the eye. Miss Rhodes, with the help of excellent slides, did her subject full justice.

Dr Gerald Moss, from the Surrey County Council Archive Department, gave a talk on the prolific Hassell output, while Ms Fiona Gibbon spoke about the Surrey Illustrations Collection held at Lambeth Archives Department (formerly the Minet Library), and urged greater use of this collection by Surrey local historians.

The 25th anniversary of the symposium, presided over by Ken Gravett, was marked by the cutting of a specially made cake, pieces of which were distributed to all who attended.

MILK BOTTLES AND DAIRIANA: CORRESPONDENCE

The following letter was received from our member, Alan Baker, of Clova Cottage, Rose Lane, Ripley:

Newsletter No 94 report of Tony Durrant's dairiana presentation made me go all nostalgic! I was born and spent my boyhood in Merton Park which, when I can first remember it in the early 1920s, was still Surrey and literally on the fringe of the country. At the bottom of our road, just round the corner from the big house, was one of Tony's "small dairy shops", which indeed had its cows in the field at the back. That field extended to our back fence, so we had cows too!

Our milkman used to deliver by push-pram via a large churn and a ladle, and we and our neighbours had tin-coated lidded cans which, with capacities of up to a quart, were provided by the dairy - presumably at a price. My mother would leave one or more on the hearthstoned doorstep so that she didn't have to go to the door when the milkman cometh.

We all regarded the transition to bottles as a retrograde step because they made the morning delivery a less personal affair as well as noisier. Mind you, not having to ladle-out for everyone must have speeded things up for the milkman. At that time you could have half pints and quarts - I don't recall the 1.5 pint size - as well as the "pinta" that is Hobson's choice today, and there were gill (quarter-pint) bottles for cream. The waxed cardboard press-in "closure" disc was more resistant to attack by thirsty birds than the modern aluminium variety.

I still have a half pint bottle from that era. Moulded on its flank, in elegant flowing script, is the name "Rees Price", so it may well have come from a Welsh dairy. Confirming Tony's remarks on lightening through the years, it is much thicker glass than is used today, weighing **just over 12 oz** whereas a modern Unigate pint bottle is just under 9 oz on my scales.

AUTUMN OUTING TO THE MUSEUM OF ENGLISH RURAL LIFE

Notes by Audrey Sykes

In spite of dull, damp weather, 13 members attended the last outing of 1990, to the Museum of English Rural Life in Reading. The exhibition is laid out in a light and spacious building, and whilst there are no facilities for refreshment, there is a shop and a bookstall.

The Museum was created in 1951 to preserve the old farming equipment and accessories that were being replaced so quickly at that time by modern machinery, thanks mainly to the need to produce food for the nation during and immediately after the Second World War.

The Ransomes Hall houses mainly early tractors and machinery, since, although tractors were in use to a small extent during the first war, it was not until 1939-45 that they really began to have any impact on the country scene. Three were shown, ranging from a massive International Titan, to the Standard Fordson, and the versatile and nippy Ferguson. Ploughs were represented, from the single furrow horse-drawn to the steam plough, which the writer was lucky enough to see in action on a farm in Sussex about 1944. It must have been one of the last.

In the Hall, as well as outside in the courtyard, were the old four-wheeled wagons, from all over the country, demonstrating the craft of the wheelwright and carpenter, who would perhaps build one during the slack winter months.

In the second hall were displays of all the other rural crafts: thatcher, blacksmith, farrier, saddler, hurdle maker, basket maker, to name but a few. The domestic side of country life was not forgotten, making one realise how labour intensive life was, even within living memory - the farmer's wife being adept at baking bread, supervising the dairy, making the ale and cider to be taken to the harvesters in the fields in summer, and washing the clothes using a "dolly", which looked like a milking stool with a strong handle through the seat that was thumped up and down on the washing in the tub. Even the soap had to be home made.

There was a display of smocks, which it would have been nice to examine in more detail, but unfortunately time was running out. Each region had its own particular type of smock, decorated with stitching appropriate to the wearer's trade. Our visit was a pleasant and informative event, and certainly a good way of spending a dreary afternoon. For those who could not manage to be with us, a visit to the Museum is highly recommended.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION - "NEWARK MILL IN RIPLEY, SURREY"

Following the recent highly successful launch of the Society's latest publication, "A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey", a second booklet in this intended series is in an advanced state of preparation: "Newark Mill in Ripley, Surrey". This is an account of the magnificent five-storey weather-boarded water-mill on the River Wey, close to Newark Priory, which, regrettably, was destroyed by fire in 1966.

This illustrated booklet should be published soon, probably early next year, and will be available at the same local outlets as the first - Ripley and Send Post Offices and Ripley newsagents. The price has not yet been decided.

Editor

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mr & Mrs J Luke, 4 Burnt Common Close, Ripley.
Mrs J Manow, 8 Willow Drive, Ripley.

Total membership stands at 290, made up of 110 double subscriptions and 70 singles.

THE SOCIETY'S NEW YEAR SOCIAL

The Society's New Year Social is to be held this year on January 19 1991, at 8 pm in Ripley Village Hall. The refreshments will consist of cheese and wine, and entertainment, it is hoped, will be provided by the Byfleet Players.

The Social will also feature a silent auction in aid of our two churches, Send and Ripley. To make this a success, we need as many objects donated as possible, not necessarily brand new, but something you would perhaps buy yourself, even though second hand, for example: China, pictures, costume jewellery, books, kitchen ware, etc, as well as cakes, chocolates, bottles of wine and fruit.

And just what is a silent auction? Well, all the articles are arranged on tables, and next to each one is a pencil and paper on which to record your name and the amount you are willing to pay for the article. There is no limit to the number of bids, or the amount. All bidding ceases when the bell rings towards the end of the evening, the cards are collected, and the last named (ie highest bidder) pays up and collects his or her purchase.

If you have anything you would care to donate, collecting points are Kevan Cottage, Clandon Road, Send (tel 222060), 11 Hawthorn Road, Ripley (tel 224128), and St George's Farmhouse, Ripley (tel 222107).

Come and enjoy yourselves, it will be a great evening!

Tickets for the social are £6, available from all members of the Society's Committee, particularly from the above addresses. Please support the Society.

Audrey Sykes - Secretary

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 19 January . . . The Society's Social at Ripley Village Hall - see above.

Wednesday, 27 February . . . Annual General Meeting of the Society, at 8 pm at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send. This will be followed by a question and answer session on matters of local history.

Wednesday, 27 March . . . Open meeting at 8 pm at Ripley Village Hall.

Wednesday, 24 April . . . Open meeting at 8 pm at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send.

*A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all our Members - Editor*

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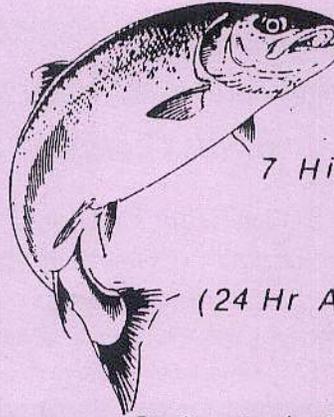
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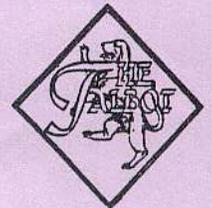
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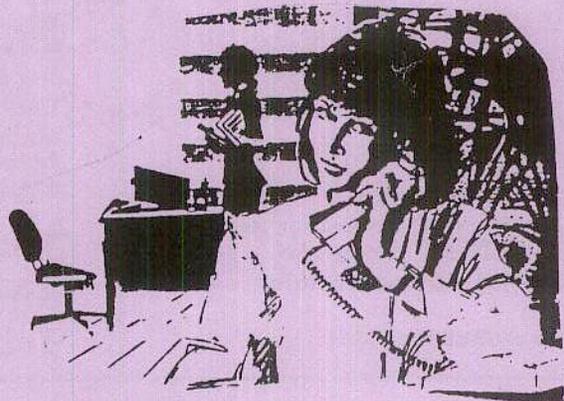
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