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NATURAL HISTORY GROUP WALK

On May 19, a cool but bright day, a small but enthusiastic group met at Send Church to embark upon a circular walk via Potters Lane, the River Wey and back to the church. Spring flowers were growing in abundance, the lesser celandine, beloved by William Wordsworth, growing on the damp banks of the stream near the church. Along the hedgerows the unrelated greater celandine appeared along Church Lane. Some of the other wild flowers observed in Potters Lane were green alkanet, bugloss comfrey, garlic mustard and climbing corydalis. More common were stitchwort, speedwell, chickweed, forget-me-not, red and white campion. Across the field by Crickets Hill Farm the grass had been cut a week or two previously for a caravan club meeting, and low ground cover plants, such as corn spurry and doves, cranes and storks bill geraniums, were plentiful. The water meadows near the river provided the ideal habitat for cardamine pratensis (cuckoo flower, or milkmaids) and spearwort. A vigilant member of the group, Daphne Tappin, found a greater spearwort flower head bearing eight petals. Most ranunculaceae, except lesser celandine, have only five petals. After much research, we concluded that this is a local variation and not a new species. In the same field lapwings were wheeling about in the air, issuing their urgent distracting peewit call.

Ken Bourne

THURSDAY, 7 JUNE - EVENING VISIT TO LEATHERHEAD

Although Pevsner decries Leatherhead as the most pitiful of Surrey small towns, the 26 members who attended this visit on a fine early summer evening found much that was pleasing and of interest under the knowledgeable guidance of Mr Derek Renn of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society. The party met in the forecourt of the elegant cast iron and brick 1867 railway station built for the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway Company. It is one of only two listed railway stations in Surrey. The London & South-Western Railway originally had a terminus at Leatherhead in 1859.

Over the River Mole there are two 19th century brick built railway bridges and a modern road bridge leading to the station, in addition to the Leatherhead Old Bridge taking the Guildford Road. The old bridge, of 14 arches, is partly mediaeval, with the four courses of stone at the base being possibly 14th century. The architect, Gwilt, in 1782, redesigned the bridge in brick with corbelled-out pedestrian refuges, and it was widened on the South side to take two lines of traffic in 1824. There was originally a ford here. The nearby "Running Horse", part of which was a 15th century open hall house, is the inn made famous by Henry VIII's Poet Laureate, Skelton, with the poem "The Tunning of Elynour Rumminge". There is more than one mill stream on the South side of the old bridge. One of the mills became a swimming bath before collapsing in the 1920's.

There are many houses of interest, particularly to members of the Buildings Group. Some have brick front walls with cheaper side walls of locally quarried flint. The Sweech House, near the town centre, is a 16th century house which was originally three properties and is particularly attractive. There is a house of flint, dated 1799, nearby.

The old original crossroads is disappearing under redevelopment. Leatherhead was never more than a small market town, the principal trade of which was wool.

The public library is in a nine-bay house of about 1730 called The Mansion. It is on the site of the earlier manor house of, and is said to derive its name from, the sub-manor of Minchin, which name itself is derived from the word "nun", the manor having been held by the nuns of Kilburn. The shop, coach arch, stables, etc, of Hutchinsons, coal, hay and corn merchants, are still much in their original form.

The oldest parts of the Church of St Mary & St Nicholas are believed to be 11th or 12th century. It was originally the manorial chapel to Thorncroft Manor. The 15th century tower is built on the skew.

The guided tour finished with tea, coffee and biscuits in the Leatherhead & District Local History Society's own museum in the town centre. This had only a few years previously been an extremely dilapidated cottage clad in asbestos sheeting. When the aged occupant died, the Society, realising that it was a 17th century timber-framed building, bought it with the aid of an interest free loan and raised money to restore it. It was never of high quality, having been built on a small plot of wasteland between the street and another house, but by assiduous fund raising they restored it and it is now a very charming building. They already had some objects of local historic interest, but much more has come in since the museum was opened. It provides an example to all local history societies of what can be achieved, and is well worth a visit.

We are grateful to our counterparts at Leatherhead, and in particular Mr Renn, for an extremely enjoyable and interesting evening.
Les Bowerman

TUESDAY, 19 JUNE

VISIT TO THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, GUILDFORD

Twenty-three members of the Buildings Group were shown around the 16th century buildings of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, and given an insight into the way children of that time were taught and accommodated. Mr Mark Sturley, Senior History Master at the school, conducted the tour and gave a most informative talk.

The town school started in 1509 with a legacy from Robert Beckingham, and was then situated near the castle. In 1552 Edward VI granted the foundation of the present school and it was built on a plot of land in the parish of Holy Trinity, and it is this building that lies 25 metres behind the facade to the High Street, parallel to the road. Shortly after the school was built, it was found necessary to provide accommodation for the Headmaster, and a house was built in 1569 by George Austin, who collected money from the public for its erection. The house was built on the West side and linked to the school with its end facing the High Street. Two years later, in 1571, William Hammond built a house for the Assistant Master on the East side, again linked to the school with one end facing the road. The two houses were joined together in 1586 with a gallery, and the facade that now faces the High Street is the North wall of this structure and the ends of the two houses. This formed an internal quadrangle.

The school building is of two floors, rectangular on plan, forming two large rooms. The ground floor was the classroom, which was unheated, and where about thirty boys were taught such subjects as theology, mathematics and science. They were expected to speak in Latin and new entrants were given three years to become proficient in this language. Boys took an entrance

examination and were expected to pay 6d a year for brooms, candles and canes, but tuition was free. In the classroom are two wooden ushers' seats on a raised dais, where the masters sat to teach the boys and keep a very strict regime. Above the classroom the boys lived and had their meals. This room was heated by three fireplaces. It became known as the Great Chamber and is a pleasant room with four large windows, one of which was converted at a later date into a bay window. At one time, in order to accommodate more boys, this room had a floor inserted at roof level and dormer windows built into the roof to provide light. This floor has been removed, but the dormer windows remain. Part of this room was destroyed by fire in 1962, but it has been carefully restored.

We passed from the Great Chamber into the Assistant Master's house on the East side of the quadrangle. The front room of this house overlooks the High Street and is a most attractive room with its 16th century oak panelling and an open fireplace.

From there we passed into the gallery which links the two houses and is now the Headmaster's study. The gallery was built in 1586 and increased in width in 1640. The room has the original oak panelling and contains the Bishop Parkhurst Library, which he bequeathed to the school in 1585. Two rows of the books are chained to prevent removal, the oldest book being dated 1474 and bound in pigskin on oak boards. One of the books contains what is usually said to be the earliest known reference to the game of cricket. The room also contains the original Edward VI foundation charter with wax seal and an unusual 17th century iron document chest.

From this room we entered the Headmaster's house on the West side of the quadrangle, into a most pleasant room known as the Austin Room. Here again the oak panelling is original 16th century, on which is carved the date 1597.

Our tour was concluded by an inspection of the outside of the buildings. The group was most impressed by the South elevation of the schoolrooms with its varied use of building materials consisting of stone, Tudor bricks and dressed flint. The elevation is largely as it was originally built, a feature being three equally placed chimney stacks, corbelled out at first floor level, which serve the open fireplaces in the Great Chamber.

The East boundary of the school grounds is formed by a very high stone wall, running from the High Street to Sydenham Road, which was built by the Duke of Somerset to prevent pupils from looking into, and gaining access to, his garden.

The Buildings Group expressed their appreciation to Mr Sturley for his knowledgeable talk on this most important and historic Guildford building, and also to the Headmaster for his permission to inspect the school.

Derek & Jill Bromley

RYDE HOUSE FIRE MARKS

In Newsletter No 54 this writer referred to the fire marks to be seen fixed to the walls of Ryde House in Ripley. The fact that one of these carried the Sun Insurance number 748701 prompted him to establish its connection with one of the early owners of Ryde House. On making inquiries with the Sun Alliance Insurance Group headquarters in London, it was discovered, through their archivist, that they were able to identify any Sun fire mark which carried a number. It transpired that the policy bearing this number had been

issued in 1803, but that the details were on the original register entry in their archives, a copy of which would be sent on to the writer. The result, however, proved to be disappointing, since it turned out that there was no connection with Ryde House. The policy was in fact issued on 16 May 1803 to John Hobson & Company, cotton manufacturers of Bedburn, Co Durham, on their mill for a total of £2000.

We shall probably never know how this mark came to be on Ryde House, but Sun Alliance say that such changes are quite common. No doubt at various times fire marks have become collectable items.

John Slatford

SEND CHURCHYARD TALK ON LICHENS

On 20 June Mr Frank Dobson met members in Send Churchyard for an exploration of the lichen flora there. If members thought this might be rather abstruse, they found that after 20 minutes they were still clustered around the first headstone. With great enthusiasm, clarity and authority Mr Dobson revealed the complexity and fascination of his subject. A hand lens revealed an astonishingly beautiful world of colour and form.

Old beliefs were dispelled. It is no longer believed that the algae and fungi combination of a lichen coexist in happy symbiosis, but that the algae does suffer from the depredations of the fungi. It is not true either that all species are sensitive to pollution. Members were shown species that colonise areas left bare where the sensitive species have succumbed. There were even species which grow in the centre of London. Surrey's air, we were told, was nearly as polluted as London's. Some species are now increasing in polluted areas. The acid rain does not encourage lichens on the acid sandstone headstones, but neutralises on the alkaline limestone headstone to produce the rich flora thereon - over thirty common species per stone at Send.

Even a single headstone provides a variety of micro-habitats: the shady side/sunny side, the dampest/driest areas, and where the bird droppings have fertilised parts. All are demarcated with their own special lichens.

It was not an evening of scientific exactitudes and Latin names though. Mr Dobson extended our appreciation with talk about the plants' dyeing qualities, production of antibiotics, food values in terms of protein and carbohydrate and their place in food chains. Neat little demonstrations revealed their water absorption qualities and strange chemical reactions.

Members left feeling that green or grey crust lichens, orange star or sulphur lichens, or pixie cups would never be the same again. Here was an important area for further study.

Chris Howkins

NB. Frank Dobson, Richmond Publishing Co Ltd, lichenologist, author of many publications on lichenology, lectures for the Field Studies Council at Juniper Hall, Dorking.

Reading list: "Common British Lichens", by F S Dobson, £1.20
"Lichens, an Illustrated Guide", by F S Dobson, £11.95.

NEWARK PRIORY - A POEM BY THOMAS LOVE PEACOCK

Thomas Love Peacock (1785-1866), novelist and poet and close friend of Percy Bysshe Shelley, lived during his childhood at Chertsey and left school at 16 years, moving with his mother to London. He became an excellent classical scholar and, at the age of 22, became infatuated with an unnamed young lady, with whom he visited Newark Priory ruins in 1807. Their engagement was broken off through, it was stated, 'the underhand interference of a third party'. The young lady's speedy marriage to another, and subsequent early death, must have impressed Peacock, for he wrote the following beautiful lines after revisiting the Priory much later in 1842:

"NEWARK ABBEY" by Thomas Love Peacock

I gaze where August's sunbeam falls
Along these gray and lonely walls,
Till in its light absorbed appears
The lapse of five-and-thirty years.
If change there be, I trace it not
In all this consecrated spot:
No new imprint of Ruin's march
On roofless wall and frameless arch:
The woods, the hills, the fields, the stream,
Are basking in the self same beam:
The fall, that turns the unseen mill,
As then it murmured, murmurs still.
It seems as if in one were cast
The present and the imaged past;
Spanning as with a bridge sublime,
That fearful lapse of human time;
That gulf, unfathomably spread
Between the living and the dead.
For all too well my spirit feels
The only change this scene reveals.
The sunbeams play, the breezes stir,
Unseen, unfelt, unheard by her,
Who, on that long-past August day,
Beheld with me these ruins gray.
Whatever span the fates allow,
Ere I shall be as she is now,
Still, in my bosom's inmost cell,
Shall that deep-treasured memory dwell;
That, more than language can express,
Pure miracle of loveliness,
Whose voice so sweet, whose eyes so bright,
Were my soul's music, and its light,
In those blest days when life was new,
And hope was false, but love was true.

The Society is grateful to the editorial staff of the "Daily Mirror" and the Kingsley Amis column for drawing our attention to the above event.

K H Bourne

FLORA OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Talk by Tony Colmer

Over sixty members and friends attended the Natural History Group meeting at the Red-Cross Hall, Send, on May 16, and were rewarded with an enthralling account of Tony Colmer's travels to Australasia in February 1984. The travelogue, as Tony described it, was well illustrated with excellent slides and was arranged in two parts. Firstly there was a whirlwind tour of Western Australia, covering over five thousand miles in six days, and secondly a short but more leisurely visit to New Zealand, North and South Islands.

Landing at Sydney in a glorious sunset and proceeding onto Canberra, Australia's capital, to recover from jet lag, he then described his impressions of the Australian Bush. Large areas had been cleared and planted with rape, citrus fruit trees and enormous plantations of sultana grapes, the latter being used for a variety of purposes, not least to make excellent wine. We were treated to many scenic views of mountains and parkland, and flora of gum trees and many exotic flowers, both wild and cultivated.

Margaret Osmaston talked briefly about her visit to New South Wales in spring (our September) 1983, and showed her slides of native Australian flora, typically the wattle, a common mimosa-like shrub, baronia, another shrub variable, but similar to lavender, and waratah (*telopea speciosissima*), the national emblem of New South Wales.

From Australia Tony flew back to Auckland, New Zealand, visiting the thermal hot water and mud springs at Rotorua, and described the abundant and verdant growth of tree ferns, the enormous sheep farms with fifteen thousand sheep killed per day in the slack season, Morning Glories (*convolvulus*) climbing one hundred feet to top of gum trees, and California Redwoods, introduced in 1946, growing at twice the rate and now almost as large as the native one thousand-year-old species in America. Tony visited Tongariro National Park, experienced a minor earth tremor from the active volcano Mount Ngauruhoe, and then travelled on to Lake Taupo, the largest lake in New Zealand. From Wellington, a pleasant city set in hilly country amidst native palm trees, Tony travelled to Nelson in South Island, where an important new industry is developing based upon the fish, orangie, discovered ten years ago, and now providing a useful substitute for sperm oil used by the leather industry; furthermore, when the skin is removed it is delicious to eat. Other new industries are being developed as alternatives to sheep farming, angora goats being bred for meat and wool and avocado pears and lichees being grown for the home and Japanese markets. Deer are also bred on large ranches or deer stations.

Although native flowers are predominantly white due to pollination by bumble bees, which prefer white flowers, there are some beautiful exotic coloured flowers such as bourgainvillia, bottle brush, lobster claw, and an introduced wild flower, vipers bugloss, has become a voracious weed. Regrettably space does not permit further discourse on what was a delightful talk, supported by excellent slides, and, hopefully, Tony will return some time in the future to show more of this fascinating part of the world.

In the lively discussion which followed an interesting point was made regarding the difficulty of photographing blue flowers. A suggestion was made from a member of the audience that an infra-red filter can be used to obtain faithful colour rendition.

K H Bourne

THE LORDS AND THEIR STEWARDS IN THE MANOR OF DEDSWELL

In the area covered by the History Society there are three manors: Send & Ripley, Dedswell and Papworth, otherwise known as Papercourt. The present Lord of the Manor of both Dedswell and Papworth, Major J W Molyneux-Child, who is a member of the Society, has prepared this short account for the Newsletter on the Lordship of Dedswell.

Dedswell was a sleepy agricultural manor with a very small population, with the original Manor House located close to the historic Send/West Clandon boundary, North of the railway line and West of Clandon Road. The old building still exists and is now part of Dedswell Manor Farm. The bulk of the manorial lands are located in Send, particularly South of the Portsmouth Road, with some manorial jurisdiction over property at Send Hill and on Send Heath, and with outlying areas in West Clandon Street, on Chalk Hill at Clandon and in Merrow.

The earliest mention of the Manor of Dedswell was in 1327 when John de Deudeswell (alias Wendeswell) held the Lordship of the Manor, and research over the last year and a half has enabled his successors to be identified, together with their stewards, who conducted the Lord's business in the manorial court.

Lord

Steward

John de Deudeswell (alias Wendeswell) (1327-)	
Thomas Weston of Albury, Lord of Weston, married Joan, daughter of above, in 1351 (-1377)	
Thomas de Weston, Lord of Weston, (1377-)	
William de Weston of Hyndale, Sheriff of Surrey & Sussex (1405 c)	
William de Weston, the Younger, Sheriff of Surrey & Sussex (1421 c)	
John de Weston (-1478 c)	
William de Weston, Sheriff of Surrey & Sussex (1478 c-1485)	
Margaret de Weston, sister of above, who married William Welles (1485-1512)	
John Welles (1512-)	
Thomas Welles, Lord of Manor of Cranley (-1539)	
Sir Richard Weston of Sutton (1539-1542)	
Sir Henry Weston of Sutton, Sheriff of Surrey and MP (1542-1592)	
Sir Richard Weston of Sutton (1592-1613)	
Sir Richard Weston of Sutton (1613-1652)	
John Weston (1652-1661)	George Duncomb, Gentleman (1619-1626)

<u>Lord</u>	<u>Steward</u>
Arthur Onslow, MP, later Sir Arthur Onslow (1661-1688)	Richard Heath (later knighted) (1661-1669) John Childe, Gentleman (1680-1688)
Sir Richard Onslow, Bart, MP, later Richard Lord Onslow (1688-1715), Lord Lieutenant of Surrey 1715	John Childe, Gentleman (1688-1696) Leonard Childe, Gentleman (1707-1716)
Thomas Lord Onslow (1717-1740) Richard Lord Onslow (1740-1776)	Leonard Childe, Gentleman (1721) John Chatfield, Gentleman (1753-1759) John Chandler, Gentleman (1759-1772)
George Lord Onslow & Cranley, Rt Hon George Earl of Onslow (1776-1814)	John Chandler, Gentleman (1778-1790) Thomas Sibthorpe, Gentleman (1793) Joseph Pickstone, Gentleman (1793-1838)
Rt Hon Thomas, 2nd Earl of Onslow (1814-1827)	
Rt Hon Arthur George, 3rd Earl of Onslow (1827-1870)	Joseph Hockley, Gentleman (1811-1858)
Rt Hon William Hillier, 4th Earl of Onslow (1870-1911)	Frederick Ferdinand Smallpeice (1873-1923)
Rt Hon Richard William Allen, 5th Earl of Onslow (1911-1945)	
Rt Hon William Arthur, 6th Earl of Onslow (1945-1971)	
Rt Hon Michael William, 7th Earl of Onslow (1971-1984)	
Major John Walter Molyneux-Child (1984 - present)	Desmond Robert FitzPatrick, BA (Dunelm) (1984 - present)

Lords of the Manor

Thomas de Weston, Lord of the Manor of Weston, had married John de Dendeswell's daughter, Joan, in 1351 and shortly afterwards, when his father-in-law died, was to inherit the Lordship. The de Westons were to provide, between about 1360 and 1512, the next six Lords. Of these three holders of the manor, all named William, were all High Sheriffs of both Surrey and Sussex.

In 1512 the Lordship passed out of the de Weston family with the death of Margaret de Weston, who had married William Welles, and it was this latter family who were to provide the next two Lords. Thomas Welles was also Manorial Lord at Cranley, the old spelling for Cranleigh.

Another branch of the Weston family in 1539, headed by Sir Richard Weston, was to return to the manor and to provide the next five Lords of Dedswell. Sir Richard's son, Sir Henry, the 12th Lord of the Manor, was active in County affairs, was Sheriff of Surrey and a Member of Parliament.

The 15th Lord of Dedswell, John Weston, sold the manor in 1661 to Arthur Onslow, MP for Guildford and High Steward of Guildford 1673-1686. Sir Arthur Onslow died in 1688 and the manor passed to his son, Sir Richard Onslow, Bart, who, like his father, was an MP and, in 1715, was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Surrey.

Many of the Onslows were High Stewards of Guildford and also active in the affairs of the County. However, the 22nd Lord of the Manor, between 1827 and 1870, Arthur George, the 3rd Earl of Onslow, became a recluse and abandoned Clandon Park, the family seat, and it is unlikely that he took the slightest interest in his manor of Dedswell.

His son, William Pillier, the 4th Earl of Onslow, in contrast to his father, played an active part in the nation's affairs, holding many offices of state, including in 1887 the office of Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, and was Governor of New Zealand.

Michael William, the 7th Earl of Onslow, who was the 26th Lord of the Manor, until it was conveyed to Major Molyneux-Child earlier this year, is an active member of the House of Lords.

Stewards of the Manor

Stewards, or their Deputies, presided over the Lord's court, which was known as a Court Baron, and were responsible for running the legal aspects in Dedswell, including the issue and surrender of copyhold tenancies and the regulation of the affairs of the manor on behalf of the Lord. From our Court Rolls, which are incomplete, the earliest steward recorded was George Duncomb, who acted for Sir Richard Weston between 1619 and 1626, and whose granddaughter, Elizabeth Sturt, daughter of Nathaniel Sturt, Steward at the neighbouring manor of Papworth, has a memorial in Ripley Church. George Duncomb had also been Lord of the Manor of West Clandon (1638-45) and, with Sir Richard Weston and others, had been appointed Commissioner of the Wey Navigation.

When the Onslows came to Dedswell in 1661, Arthur Onslow appointed Richard Heath as his Steward. Richard (later Sir Richard) Heath was a gentleman of influence in the County and resided at Hatchlands at East Horsley. In 1688 he was Recorder of Guildford and, like many of the Lords' Stewards at Dedswell, was a lawyer.

In 1680 he was succeeded by John Childe, who was Mayor of Guildford in 1676, 1681 and 1691, and who lived in Guildford High Street in the building now used as a picture gallery by the Borough Council and known as Guildford House. By 1707 his son, Leonard Childe, who was Town Clerk of Guildford in 1688 and a lawyer by profession, had taken over the Stewardship. Both John and Leonard Childe were persons of substance in the locality and were Lords of the Manor in their own right, at Bridley alias Crastock, which is near Mayford. John in 1677 held the benefice or advowson to appoint the Rector of Cranley.

John Chatfield, by 1753, had succeeded to the appointment, and a memorial to his wife, Frances, is in Ripley Church, and in turn the office passed to John Chandler by about 1759. John Chandler had been the Guildford Mayor in 1776 whilst he was still Steward to the Lordship.

Joseph Pickstone, Mayor of Guildford in 1788 and again in 1794, was Steward between 1798 and 1838 and was most probably one of the longest serving Stewards, although Joseph Hockley had also acted as Steward, or perhaps Deputy Steward, for part of this time.

Frederick Ferdinand Smallpeice, a partner in the Guildford solicitors' practice of Smallpeice & Merriman, served the Earls of Onslow between 1873 and 1923; again over a very substantial period. The solicitors' practice acted for the Onslow family until the 1970s.

The current Steward is Desmond Robert FitzPatrick, who is also an active member of the History Society.

Major J W Molyneux-Child

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr Bowerman,

I was very interested in your article on the tannery in Newsletter No 56. I remember seeing what was said to be the monks' kitchen in the old section at the rear of Tannery House. On the left of the kitchen fireplace was a low-ceilinged opening. It had a half door, open at top and bottom, and the story was that this was a penitentiary cell so that the cock could make sure that the penitent was not sitting down.

Also on the other side were a blocked-up well, and what one was told was a blocked-up tunnel. This always puzzled me as it was so close to the water. I assume it must have been there before the canal was dug.

Does anyone else remember seeing this? Also there was the beautiful Georgian door in the side of the building - said to be the finest in Surrey.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret B. Stuart.

Editorial Note: In the absence of any precise report, we cannot be sure about the dating of the former Tannery House. It is possible, of course, that even if the house had been built about 1700 (vide Newsletter No 56/7), it may have had an earlier core predating the completion of the canal in 1653. From the strict historical point of view, tales about monks and tunnels always have to be treated with extreme caution in the absence of any detailed evidence, and we must remind ourselves that Newark Priory was dissolved in 1539. What is of particular interest to members of the Buildings Group is that the opening at the side of the fireplace as described is similar to one in the 18th century part of Vine Cottage in Newark Lane, the inside of which has recently been inspected. A supplementary account of the interior of Vine Cottage will be published in due course.

Dear Les,

I note from a brief perusal of Newsletter 55 the evidence of the path having been diverted away from Ashburton House, a practice which I believe was quite common during the 18th and 19th centuries. Paths and roads may often have passed quite literally beneath the front windows of manor houses etc. and were only diverted when horse drawn through traffic seems to have increased as never before. This would appear to indicate the parochial nature of these tracks traditionally.

There is hardly any need for me to mention what I think of the parish boundary change (N/L 56/8) - totally sacrilegious. Many such boundaries go back to Roman times ... and I intend to prove it one day!

Best wishes

Richard Colborne.

Editorial Note: The above is an extract from a longer letter which is part of a series of letters written by Richard Colborne. Further extracts and comments thereon will appear in a later issue of the Newsletter.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mr & Mrs G Stathopoulos, The White House, Kiln Lane, Ripley.
Mr & Mrs D P Conisbee, 36 High Path Road, Merrow, Guildford.

Total membership now stands at 86 double and 83 single subscriptions.

Display of Old Farm Machinery and Barbecue

On 24 May, one of the few fine spring evenings this year, Ted & Rita Goldup welcomed the Society to their garden at Burnt Common to see their collection of veteran tractors, ploughs, etc, which had been put out on display by them for the occasion. All of the machinery had been used in West Surrey, the earliest being 1907.

The evening was concluded with a sumptuous barbecue, prepared and cooked by Rita and Phyllis Bourne. Thanks are accorded to all the others who helped.

Local History Talks at Ripley Parish Meeting

After the Annual Parish Meeting in Ripley, illustrated talks were given by John Slatford on old Ripley houses and by Ken Bourne on Ripley Church.

Surrey Archaeological Society Policy on Treasure Hunting

Surrey Archaeological Society, with which this Society has close connections, has asked us to bring to the attention of our members the fact that they have adopted the policy of the Council for British Archaeology on treasure hunting. The CBA statement reads as follows:

"In the view of the CBA treasure hunting constitutes a grave threat to the country's archaeological heritage and is thus contrary to the national interest. The concept of treasure hunting is totally at variance with the objectives and practices of archaeology in studying and safeguarding our tangible past for the public good of present and future generations. The Council recognises that many users of metal detectors are motivated by a genuine interest in the past and its remains. Such members are welcome to join the active membership of British archaeology but they must accept the methods and disciplines of archaeology."

Les Bowerman

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

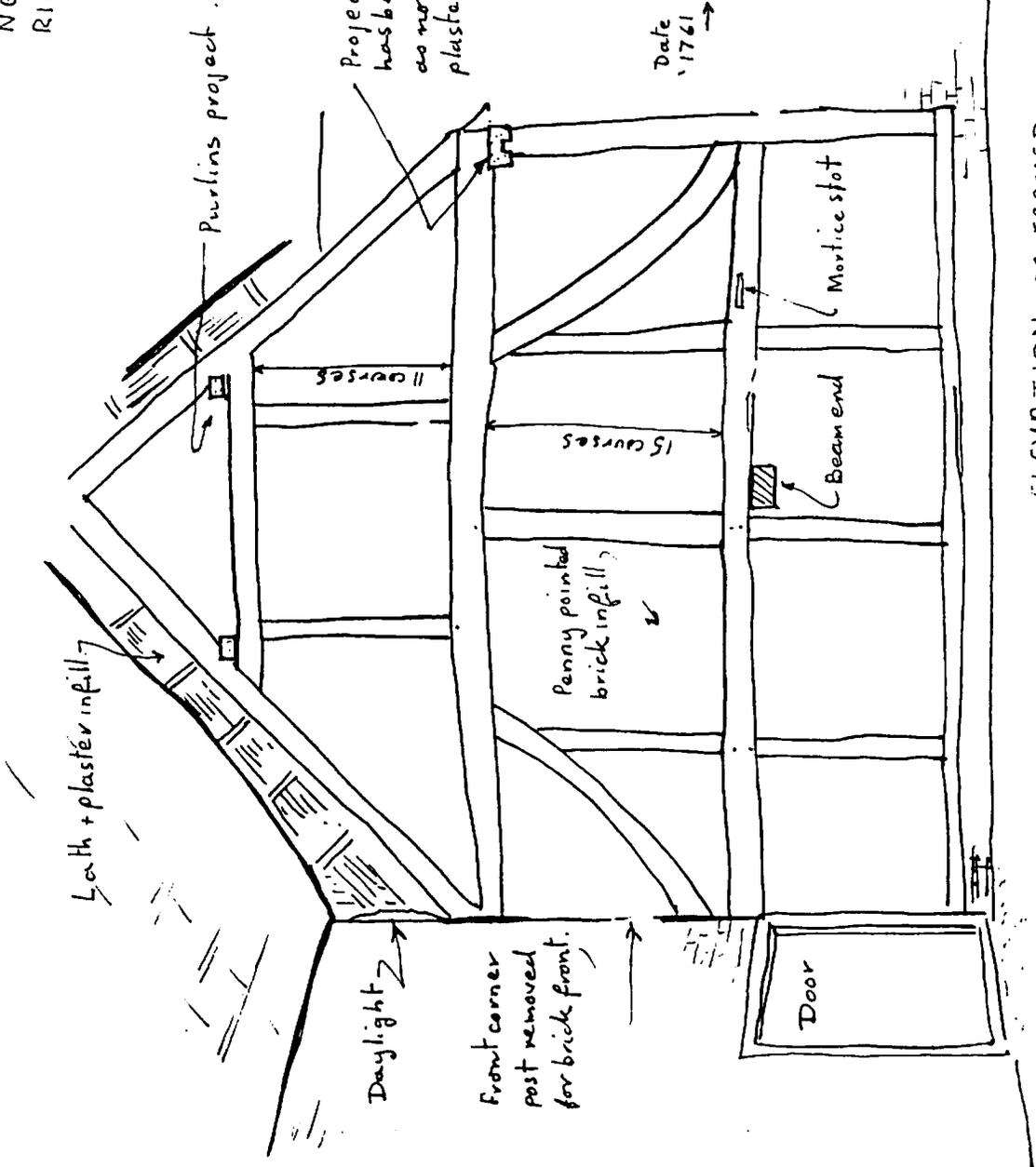
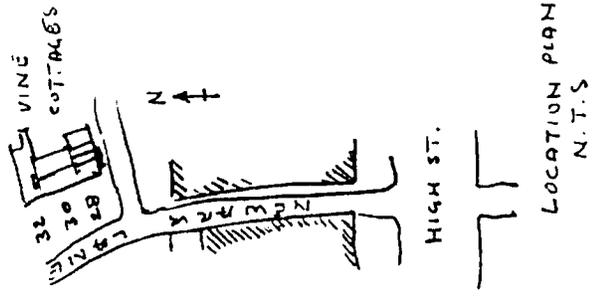
Tuesday, 18 September ... Open meeting, commencing at 8 pm, at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, when Mr Desmond FitzPatrick will give an illustrated talk on the buildings of Hampton Court.

Tuesday, 16 October ... Open meeting at Ripley Village Hall, when Mr J Dendy Evershed will give a talk on family history, with particular reference to the Evershed family.

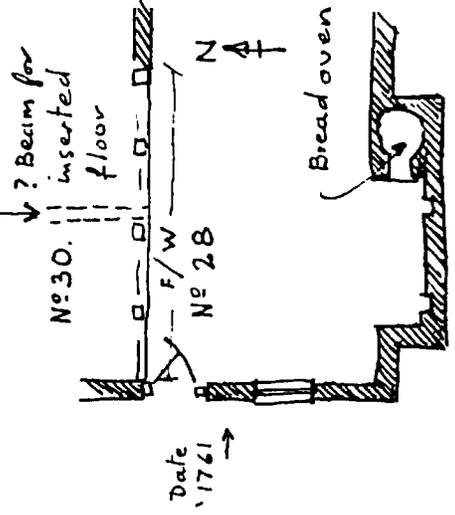
Tuesday, 20 November ... Open meeting at Send when Mr Frank Lewin will speak about the usage of the inside of some local church towers.

Friday, 14 December ... Christmas Social in Ripley Village Hall.

SEND AND RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY REPORT ON:-
 N°28 VINE COTTAGES,
 NEWARK LANE
 RIPLEY, SURREY



Projecting horn of plate has been cut away so as not to project through plaster (now removed).



PLAN OF S.W CORNER
OF N°28

ELEVATION OF FRAMED
WALL F/W

Closing Date

The last day for the receipt of material for the next issue of the Newsletter will be Monday, 3 September.

28, 30 AND 32 VINE COTTAGES, NEWARK LANE, RIPLEY

Vine Cottages lie back from Newark Lane on the right leaving Ripley, and can be recognised by the distinctive chimney at the Ripley end.

A dated brick to the left of the front window of No 28 reads 1761, and from external appearances it would seem that the whole group dates from this time.

Renovation work now in hand has revealed a timber gable frame in the wall dividing No 28 from No 30 dating from the 17th century or before. On photographs taken in March 1984, when the interior floor and partitions of No 28 had been removed, it can be seen how the higher and later roof of No 28 required the foot or so gap between it and the older roof of No 30 to be filled with lath and plaster (see illustration).

It would seem that extensive modernisation work took place during the 18th century, with the front of the old building being replaced by brickwork in Flemish Bond and a catslide-roofed rear extension added at the back of this centre cottage. Brick infill panels to the timber frame are "Penny pointed", an external decorative finish to the joints between the bricks used in the 18th century.

The old cottage may not have been fully floored until the 18th century, as a beam end supported on the infill brickwork can be seen.

There is little weathering to the gable frame woodwork, indicating that No 28 replaced some previous structure after only a few years.

No 28 was built with a "Valley" roof, a large fireplace with alcoves and bread oven downstairs and an upstairs fireplace with its own flue.

No 32, the North end cottage, dates from the 19th century, as it is not shown on the Inclosure or Tithe Maps and is built round the once external chimney stack of No 30.

Further work is being done to discover the early history of this group of cottages.

J L Bartlett

STOP PRESS

Members who are readers of "The Guardian" will have been interested to see that one of the contributors to this issue, Major John Molyneux-Child, made front page news on Monday, 16 July, with his long-running dispute with Surrey County Council over the chain-linked posts outside his home, "Croxteth Hall", in Kiln Lane. It is not for us to comment, beyond observing as a historical fact that this is the first time a member has been featured on the front page of a national newspaper. It may even be that it is the first time that either Send or Ripley has so appeared. The following day there was a similar feature on the television on Thames "News at Six".

