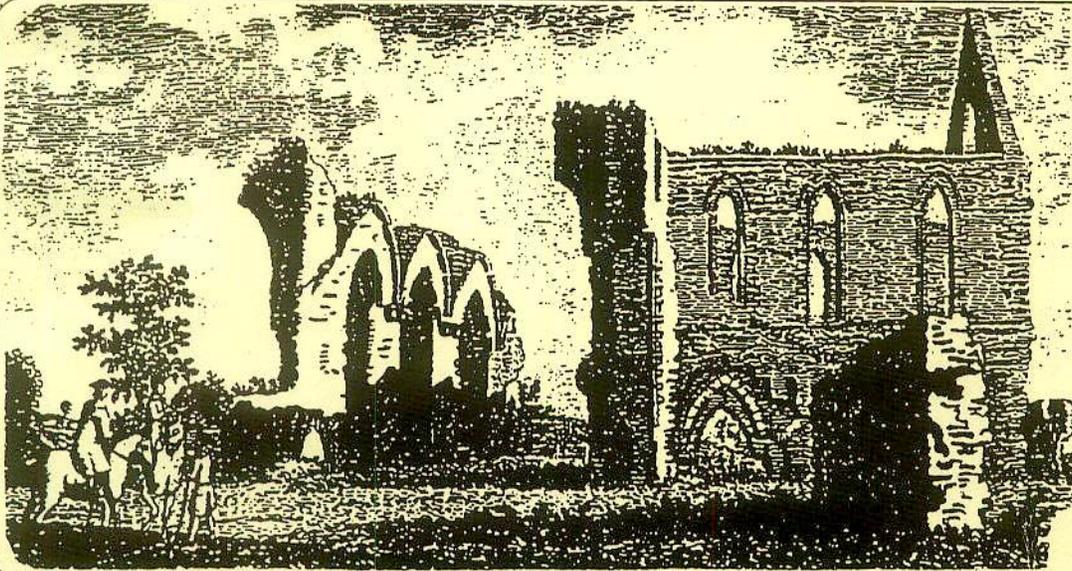


Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 296324



NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 5 No. 150

Jan/Feb 2000

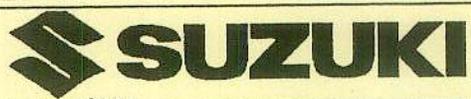
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Send & Ripley History Society

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Typed by Mrs Chris Parker

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Cover illustration Heath Farm, Tannery Lane, where the Inaugural Meeting of the Society was held, 28 January 1975.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This is the first Journal of the Millennium, but the last issue, No 150, of the series that completed the continuous issues of Newsletters since we began, subsequent to our Inaugural Meeting of January 28 1975. It has been decided that the Newsletter will now be called Journal, as it was felt generally that this described more accurately the majority of the contributions and their content, eg historical reporting, with only a small percentage relating to current news and this primarily the Forthcoming Events page.

I would like to start this Journal with my sincere thanks to Chris Parker, assisted by her husband, Geoff, for all the help they've given me during my period of Editorship for the last eight years. I know also that I can add the congratulations of the previous Editors, Dr Bob Gale and Les Bowerman, who, in fact, typed just the first issue of the Newsletter, but all subsequent issues have been produced by Chris, without a break.

Secondly, the other most important individual connected with the production of the Journal, or should I say the distribution, is George Bleach, who has, since my Editorship, been responsible for distribution of all the Newsletters, via the distributors, of whom many of us are unaware, but who carry on this very worthwhile and essential task every two months to ensure our members receive their Journal, or as in the past, Newsletter. George Bleach, of course, is also the Membership Secretary, but more particularly at this time of the year, he visits our advertisers and persuades them to go on for another year, or failing that, finds someone new. This is no mean achievement, and this year in particular, he has excelled in his efforts and added two or three new advertisers. We thank George for his efforts and the advertisers also for supporting this Journal.

I understand that the tickets for the Millennium Dinner on 24 January 2000, at the Hautboy Hotel, have almost been sold out. However, should you have overlooked booking your seat or seats, please contact Patricia Medlen on 01483 760021, without delay.

Last but not least, my thanks, during my period as Editor, for all those who have contributed, some on a pretty regular basis, articles for the Newsletter. The contributors are numerous, but I am grateful in particular to Reg Giles, who died a year or two ago, and Ken French, who both provided an enormous amount of information on the local village life in Send and Ripley, and thereby made my task as Editor so much easier during my early years. Les Bowerman contributes, of course, very regularly, as do indeed John and Bette Slatford, and Jane Bartlett, in a dual capacity of co-author, with Ken French, and also in her own right. It is also easy to overlook members of our Committee, and in particular Tony Medlen and Alan Baker, both of whom have contributed articles from time to time. I would also like to thank the many contributors of articles of local interest, including Pat Clack, David Porter, Clare McCann and Peter Rixon. Without their contributions, the Newsletter could not have been what it has been and the Journal continues to be today - a record of events, principally past, but sometimes present, in the villages of Send and Ripley. On behalf of the Society I thank those mentioned above, and others omitted, for helping to make the Newsletter a success.

REFLECTIONS ON THE SOCIETY'S FIRST 25 YEARS

In Newsletter No 120, I reflected fairly comprehensively on the Society's first 20 years. Nothing of great moment has happened since, so this will be largely a rehearsal of what I wrote then, with a few comments on the last five years.

Having spent my early years in the Mayford/Westfield/Kingfield/Woking areas, in the early 1970s I became fascinated with the history of that locality, as uncovered and recorded by the then Mayford History Society (now Woking History Society). I soon realised that the story

of Send was almost as long (from 960 AD) and at least as interesting. Moreover, there were many elderly Send residents, several of whose families had lived locally for generations. In the nature of life, they were unlikely to be with us many more years, and their knowledge of earlier times would die with them unless efforts were made to record their knowledge. Another factor, the one which finally spurred me into action, was the amount of mineral extraction which was taking place, which gave rise to fears that invaluable archaeological evidence of the past would shortly be lost for ever unless recorded. I therefore invited all those interested in the history of Send to a meeting, which took place on 28 January 1975 at Heath Farm, by courtesy of Ken and Phyllis Bourne. Send History Society was formed then and there.

Since 1975, very little has happened on the archaeological front, hopefully because the areas where sand and gravel extraction subsequently took place contained little evidence of human occupation. On the local memories side, however, the Society has done better than anyone could have hoped for, with reflections published in our highly successful Newsletter (as of this issue renamed the Journal), from such delightful people as Marjorie and Ron Sex (school-teacher and Send village blacksmith respectively), Joe Baigent (farmer and last herdsman of the Broadmeads), Jim French (builder and local historian), and perhaps most notably Jim Oliver, farmer at Send Court, who turned out to have an encyclopaedic knowledge of agricultural, local vernacular buildings and general history, and who became our first President. All but the last have sadly died, but we have been enriched enormously by knowing them, enjoying their company and publishing much of what they had to tell us. We did it just in time. When in 1982 we embraced Ripley, due to our shared history, we had the benefit of more local memories, particularly those of Ivy Sopp. Senior Ripley residents have generally been less keen to join the Society than those of Send, but many have nevertheless been willing to put their knowledge on record with our Local Memories Group, run by Jane Bartlett.

In the early years especially, we discovered, copied, noted, transcribed when necessary, and published details from documents spanning the past Millennium, back to the first known recording of Send in 960. In this John and Bette Slatford have done more than anyone, and again we have been successful beyond our wildest dreams in making public the knowledge of earlier times. The same may be said of the old buildings of the two villages, where, led initially by Jim Oliver, and later by John Slatford, we have inspected and worked out the history and development of most of the surviving mediaeval houses, as well as many later ones.

Other notable successes have been the publication of no less than nine books by a variety of members, with more in the pipeline, the creation of an extensive archive of local photographs, principally due to the efforts of Jane Bartlett and Ken Bourne, and, of course, the creation of our own museum. It is a matter of particular congratulation that in all of these fields of activity, the members involved have co-operated to the common good, with nobody seeking to make any personal financial gain. It is perhaps that factor above all others which has made membership of the Society for the past 25 years such a pleasure.

The past five years have been noteworthy in particular for the superb special exhibitions put on at the Museum, largely through the drive of Clare McCann, and for the publication of two books, *Ripley and Send - an Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures*, by Clare McCann and Jane Bartlett, and *The Hamlet of Grove Heath*, by John and Bette Slatford. John also arranged for a further reprint of *Ripley and Send Then and Now*. The Newsletter has continually improved, and the fourth volume of 36 issues has recently been completed, indexed, and several copies bound for the Society and for individual members.

I have touched on only the most important achievements that come to mind. Time and space prevent the detailing of more. Our main failure is that we still have not cracked the history of the moated site in the field behind Boughton Hall.

The principal milestones in the Society's own history remain as they were five years ago.

They bear repeating, with the addition of item 5, which should perhaps have been included then.

1. 28 January 1975 **Send History Society formed.**
2. 25 February 1982 **Name changed to Send & Ripley History Society.**
3. Mid 1987 **Society registered as a charity.**
4. 25 September 1993 **Official opening of the Museum by Lord Forte of Ripley.**
5. November 1994 **Winners of Guildford Heritage Award's Environmental Prize.**
Les Bowerman (Chairman)

KENNETH GRAVETT

At the Surrey Local History Symposium on 30 October, it was announced that Kenneth Gravett, who had always hitherto chaired the day, except once when he was ill, had recently suffered a severe stroke and was in hospital on a breathing machine. Sadly, he died on 21 November, aged 69. The funeral, it is believed, was a private one.

As well as having been a long time member and Honorary Vice-President of the Surrey Archaeological Society, and past President and honorary life member of the Wealden Buildings Study Group, Ken was a very good friend of our Society, especially in its early days, being a mine of information and help. As a close friend of our first President, Jim Oliver, he set us on the right path towards an understanding in particular of the history and development of our mediaeval timber-framed buildings. He gave at least one, possibly two, illustrated talks on old buildings at our open meetings, and was ready to discuss such matters informally at meetings of our Buildings Group. He also helped us to interpret the specific development of some of our buildings by accompanying Group members on inspections.

Les Bowerman

VINTAGE COTTAGE, ROSE LANE - AN UPDATE

By John and Bette Slatford

Much has been written in the past about this most interesting house which the owners, Alastair and Fiona MacMillan, have kindly allowed us to study on numerous occasions. In the past, due to changes made probably in the 1950s, Very little of the original timber framing could be seen externally. It has been only from the external form of the roof that any idea of the age of the house could be gained. The inside of the house and the roof space, however, clearly confirmed the antiquity, with the crown post roof indicating a date of around 1400.

Recently, repair work at the rear of the house has exposed much of the original timber frame, and we are grateful to Alastair and Fiona for inviting us to see the result. The photographs show what has been achieved. The corner post, which appears to be some 14 inches square at the top, has erection notches on two sides. The massive corner brace is further confirmation of the very early build date. It would be very appropriate if the frontage of Vintage Cottage could also be restored to something like the original, but this would, of course, be a major and costly upheaval.



RECENTLY EXPOSED
TIMBER FRAMING.
VINTAGE COTTAGE.
ROSE LANE,
RIPLEY.

RYDE HOUSE SCHOOL

By Ken French

After Marjorie Sex had to close her Kindergarten School, prior to the birth of her first child in 1930, my sister Jean and I were enrolled as pupils at Ryde House School in Ripley. A very traumatic few months were to follow. The memories of this time remain with us to this day.

I was just five years old when my mother took me to enrol, and remember vividly the swivel chair Mr Goodman was sitting in when we entered his office. I also remember watching from the playground the older boys sliding down the banister to the exterior winding stairs, which descended from the top rooms at the rear of the building.

The rest of my story may sound unbelievable, but nevertheless, is true. It mostly concerns the activities of a young girl boarder at the school - aged about nine or ten years.

The first day we caught the Blue Saloon bus outside our house in Send Marsh Road (in those days the bus would stop where you hailed it). Mother had given the fare to Jean - who was 21 months older - and told the conductor where we had to alight. On arriving at the school, we were met by this girl, called Jesse - her name still remains in our heads to this day - who said "Oh, you are new here, are you? Follow me and I will show you where to go." We were led through the building into a small dark room. She told us to wait there and said: "Don't you dare shout or scream!" We were terrified! We were left in the dark until lunchtime was over, when she returned and told us to follow her. "Not a word to anyone that I shut you in there, or you will get this," she said - brandishing a thick stick.

When the teacher asked where we had been, neither of us replied, having been taught not to tell tales, and the thought of that nasty girl's stick. We had also missed our food, which we should have taken with the boarders. We were too frightened to tell our parents what had happened.

The following day, we found our way to the classroom, but when it came to lunchtime, things were not so good. We had to eat with the boarders, who were much older. They hid our cutlery, took our food and shared it out - the only time they left our food alone was when Bubble & Squeak was on the menu, which was loathed by all.

I can see now the boy sitting opposite at the table taking his plate and tipping it under the table. When I looked down, he was kicking it around the floor. I was horrified at the mess.

In later years when carrying out some work for Mr J Richardson, opposite Stansfields' old works in Newark Lane, the lady who lived there - Mrs Stevens - told me she worked as a cook at Ryde House School around 1930, and because of the tight budget for buying food, it was necessary to re-use all leftovers - hence Bubble & Squeak. Perhaps the boy at the table knew this and it is why he threw it on the floor.

After the first day's encounter, Jesse never troubled me again, but she never gave Jean any peace. Our French Teacher, Mrs Le Verve (who lived in builder Mr Holdforth's new house, Iron Latch, Send Marsh Road), was constantly asking - being concerned - why Jean was always crying - especially at mealtimes and in the playground. I knew, like me, she hated going to that school, but never knew until recently how she was being bullied in those days. After publication of the July/August Newsletter, No 135, I was speaking to Jean about Jane Bartlett's article, and, after nearly 70 years, have the answer.

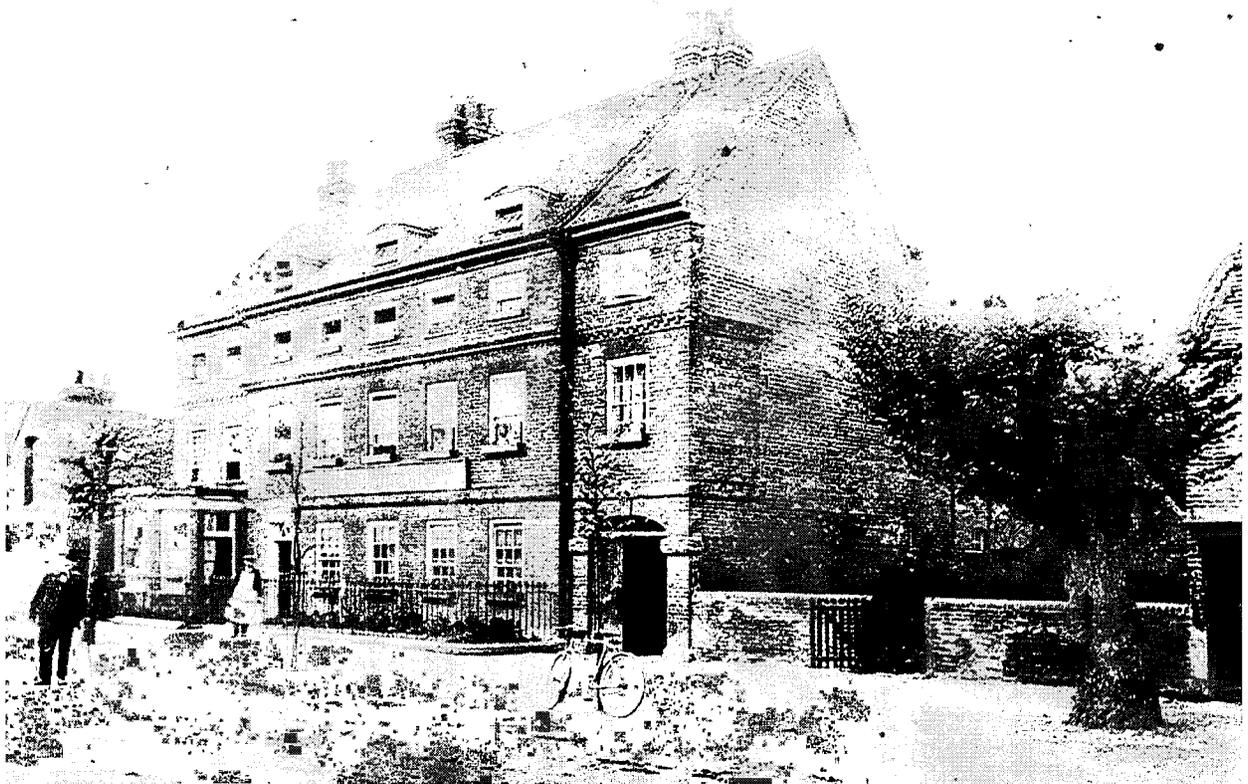
My sister had developed sore spots on her ankles, as had other pupils, so my mother asked the advice of Dr Pearse. He said that he had seen many children with the same complaint and had told Goodman on many occasions to stop the practice of teaching the children to swim in the River Wey. He considered it to be only a cow's watering place, full of biting insects. I believe

I was too young to take part.

Later on, our parents found out about our troubles, for working for Father was a carpenter whose friend's daughter attended Ryde House School and took us under her wing. Being older, she escorted us to the Grove Heath turning after school - which pleased our parents. Our journey home from there was via the footpath from Portsmouth Road to Send Marsh. This footpath ran through Farmer Staines (Sammy) Boorman from Send's strawberry and soft fruit fields. When the fruit was ripe, travellers would be hired as pickers, parking their caravans in the narrow meadow between the stream and rising ground. This meadow stretched from The Kilns to Milestone Close. We would have to walk between these parked vans. The men and most of the women would be working at this time. Only once during that period, when we were crossing the plank bridge, did a small boy throw a pebble at us. His mother, who was doing the washing in the stream, cried out "Don't you ever do that again!" as she hit him several times with a wet cloth across his back. When Boorman's fruit was ready for picking, the continuous sound of caravans and horses could be heard from a great distance as they approached along the highways.

Although we were only five and six years old, our parents always let us walk home alone - it was so different in those days. Many tales were told about gipsies taking young children. My grandmother always said "They only take children when leaving the district." So as soon as they were leaving Send Marsh, we were made to stay indoors and out of sight. Yet, when they arrived, usually on a Sunday, she would stand at the gate with us, enjoying the colourful sight.

We left Goodman's school because Father had lost a lot of money due to the Depression. Starting at Send Church of England School was wonderful after the traumatic times at Ryde House. Miss Palmer, the loving infants' teacher, had such a caring way with new pupils. Any child found fretting would be shown the imitation chocolate bars and the children would play shops. The chocolate bars were made of wood, but had authentic wrappers. These had many teeth marks in them, including mine.



In conclusion, the syllabus for Ryde House was very good, French being the main subject, I believe. Goodman's financial troubles were caused by several epidemics of children's health problems: scarlet fever, diphtheria, etc. Because of this, all books and bedding in the dormitories had to be burnt. Father had the occasion later on to talk to Tommy Goodman (the son), who told him that they were unable to obtain reasonable insurance cover, which put them in financial difficulties. As a result of this, a few problem children were taken as boarders - to help them survive. Mrs Stevens confirmed this was true, so perhaps the young lady we encountered was one of these - all to no avail, as the school was to close down later. Looking back, Jean and I both think it would have been better to have broken the "no telling tales" parent rules, been brave and defended ourselves.

We were living at Goodgrove, Sendmarsh Road at the time.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT ST MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH, RIPLEY

The following report is reproduced by kind permission of the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Mary Magdalen Church, Ripley, and Rob Poulton, Project Manager of Surrey County Archaeological Unit.

Introduction

On 12 February 1998 the Surrey County Archaeological Unit undertook archaeological work on behalf of St Mary Magdalen, C of E, Ripley, at the church. The evaluation was required prior to a reduction in the earth level within the North Central Section of the nave. This reduction is intended to provide improved air circulation as a method of combatting serious damp problems in the floorboards and joists. It seemed likely that the "arcade" dividing the nave from the South Aisle may mirror the old South Wall of the church, demolished in the 19th century. The trench was therefore intended to be located with regard to this presumption.

Methodology

Although it was the original intension to place a trench along the suspected alignment of the old North Wall, this proved impossible, due to the position of the pews, and was finally located at right angles to the line of the "arcade" (figure 2). After removal of the floorboards, a 0.50m x 2.80m area was excavated stratigraphically by hand to a depth of 0.30m below the floorboard joists. It was unnecessary to excavate to any greater depth as the area will not be disturbed below this, although one small trial pit was dug to 0.50m in order to clarify a specific detail (see below). Following the archaeological investigation, the removed spoil and the floorboards were replaced.

Results

The excavation revealed a sequence of stratigraphy listed by context number below. See figures 3 and 4 for section drawings and plans.

- 100 General clearance (0.06m)
- 101 Compact white/grey chalk and degraded chalk (0.02m-0.14m)
- 102 Dark brown sandy loam with frequent tile and chalk fragments (0.12m-0.18m)
- 103 Flint fragments and mortar in yellow/orange sand matrix (0.02m-0.10m)
- 104 Same as 101
- 105 Trench visible to West of excavation area

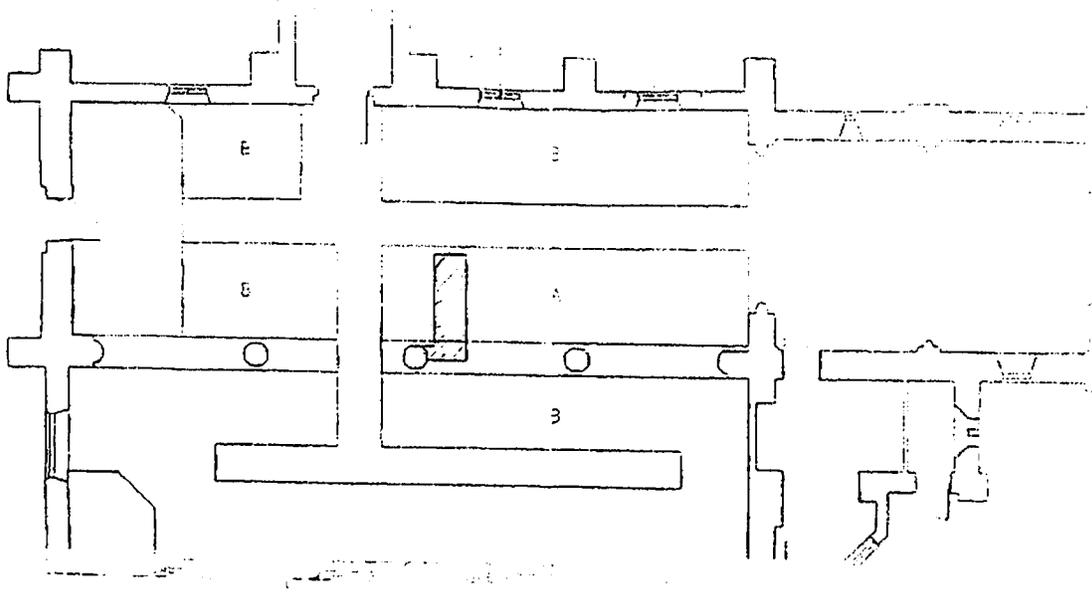


Fig 1 Location plan of trial trench

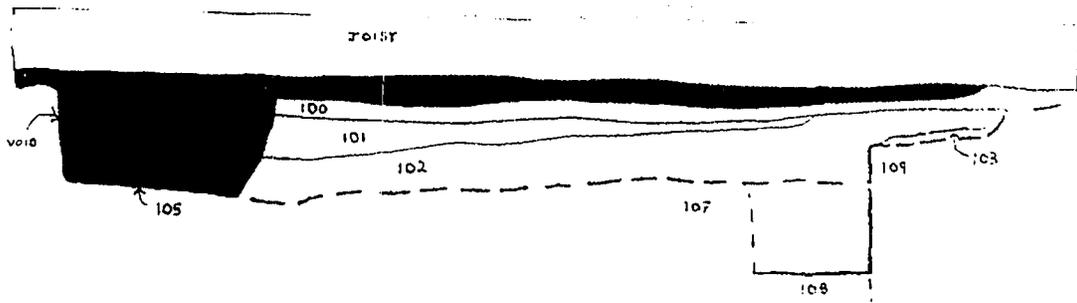


Fig 2 West wall of trial trench

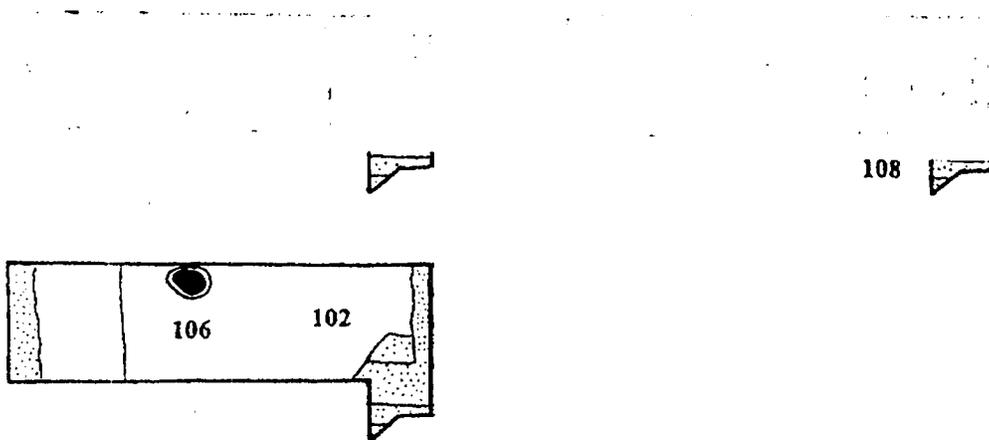


Fig 3 1:50 plans of trial trench

- 106 Post hole (0.20m excavated)
- 107 Mid yellow-orange silty sand (0.20m?)
- 108 Dark grey brown sandy loam
- 109 Probable wall foundations, roughly-faced limestone

A small test pit was excavated against the foundations (109) to be certain of their function and to test the depth of layer 107.

Conclusions

In all probability, the roughly-faced limestone blocks (109) represent the original foundations for the South Wall of the church. They appear to be on the correct alignment for such an assumption and it is also possible that context 103 may be the remains of the wall itself, although this is somewhat more dubious. In all likelihood, layers 101, 102 and 107 either reflect the detritus produced from the 19th century demolition of the church or site levelling at around the same time. Although it is impossible to be certain, it is reasonable to assume that the post hole (106) may be connected with this demolition. There is little that can be said about context 108 as it was only visible at the base of the small test pit, although it was clearly not the natural underlying river gravels present in the area and therefore represents some form of human activity.

Recommendations

It is almost certain that the material that is intended to be removed in the nave area is demolition layers. The test pit proves that these layers extend some 20 m deeper than the level of reduction. This material is not sufficiently significant archaeologically to necessitate further investigation. Therefore it is recommended the work be allowed to proceed without archaeological involvement.

FESTIVE FOOD

A Talk Given by Ann Jones, Curator of Farnham Museum Wednesday, 17 November 1999

Mrs Ann Jones has specialised in the history of food over the last 2000 years and, on 17 November 1999, gave us a most interesting talk on *Festive Food*. It is difficult for us to realise how the nature of food has changed so much, especially in the last 100 years. Today we in Western Europe are fortunate to have every sort of food available at all times of the year. We are surrounded by tropical and exotic foods of all types, and almost anything can be air freighted in from any part of the world to arrive on the supermarket shelf at a reasonable price. We need to remember, even in our own lifetime, how things were before everyone had a fridge. From the Middle Ages, food for the poorer classes was very boring. The staple diet was bread. This would have been made using the whole grain of wheat and would have been a hard, coarse, brownish bread, but because the grain was not refined, it did contain far more nutrient value than the steamed white bread of today. Bread was used to thicken the other main food, which was pottage. Pottage was basically anything that could be cooked in a pot and most households, particularly the poor, would have had a pot going on the fire, to which would be added whatever vegetables or meat that might be available. Thus the poorer classes would have lived on more or less bread and vegetable/meat stew.

It was not until the 18th century that potatoes began to become more popular and available to working people. Dried fruits and spices were the preserve of the rich and these were used at festive times to swank and show how wealthy one was. It is important to realise that food festivals provided a welcome relief from the boring diet normally available to the lower orders.

and, of course, Christmas is the most important and follows on from the harvest and Advent. Charles Dickens gives a wonderful description of the Christmas goose and plum pudding in *A Christmas Carol*:-

"Such a bustle ensued that you might have thought a goose the rarest of all birds: a feathered phenomenon, to which a black swan was a matter of course - and in truth it was something very like it in that house. Mrs. Cratchit made the gravy (ready beforehand in a little saucepan) hissing hot: Master Peter mashed the potatoes with incredible vigour: Miss Belinda sweetened up the apple-sauce: Martha dusted the hot plates - Bob took Tiny Tim beside him in a tiny corner at the table: the two young Cratchits set chairs for everybody, not forgetting themselves, and mounting guard upon their posts, crammed spoons into their mouths, lest they should shriek for goose before their turn came to be helped. At last the dishes were set on, and grace was said. It was succeeded by a breathless pause, as Mrs Cratchit, looking slowly all along the carving-knife, prepared to plunge it in the breast: but when she did and when the long expected gush of stuffing issued forth, one murmur of delight arose all round the board, and even Tiny Tim, excited by the two young Cratchits, beat on the table with the handle of his knife, and feebly cried 'rah!'

"There never was such a goose. Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose cooked. Its tenderness and flavour, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration. Eked out by the apple-sauce and mashed potatoes, it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family: indeed as Mrs Cratchit said with great delight (surveying one small atom of a bone upon the dish) they hadn't ate it all at last! Yet everyone had had enough, and the youngest Cratchits in particular, were steeped in sage and onion to the eyebrows!"

The safe gathering in of the harvest was vitally important to everyone. We had need to realise what an anxious time it was. Whether the yield was good or bad, it was essential to get it in before the loss of daylight and the onset of autumn and winter. The grain had to be saved to provide bread over the non-growing season of autumn and winter. The Harvest Supper, so well portrayed by Thomas Hardy in *Far from the Madding Crowd*, was a great feast for all the agricultural labourers and families who had helped to bring in the harvest, and was the way in which the landowner thanked all his workers, often up to 100 or more, for safely gathering in the crops - originally not a religious event at all - but it now lives on as Harvest Festival.

Christmas is a combination of Roman festival and the Pagan festival of Yule celebrated by the North Europeans. They take place at the winter solstice, when the sun is on its journey away from us. People did not accept that it would necessarily return and the loss of daylight meant great limitation on what one could do. We can imagine how grateful they would be when the mornings and evenings started to lighten and the sun came out. One can see how completely natural it would be to worship the sun.

In the middle ages, the boar's head was dressed and cooked to provide the centrepiece of the Christmas festivities amongst high society, but this was superseded by the goose, but perhaps lives on as brawn. Geese were fattened on the corn stubble from October to January and were at their best at Christmas. We must also realise that the average home did not possess a kitchen oven as such and thus had no means of roasting poultry. This would be done by the local baker on Christmas Day. The goose, favoured by the Victorians, gave way to the 20th century turkey, which seems now to be popular. Turkeys originated in South America, but were imported by Spain and introduced into Europe. Certainly, turkey was available at the time of Henry VIII. Traditionally, East Anglia was the favoured area for the production of turkeys and the birds at Christmas were driven from East Anglia to London for the London Christmas market - what state they were in on arrival remains a mystery.

The Christmas or plum pudding has undergone enormous change. In mediaeval times it was derived from the meat stock, flavoured with dried fruit and spices and served with the meat

courses, and only available to the landowners. The Tudors were fond of adding the very popular dried plum, or prune. The arrival of the pudding cloth, a French invention, made a tremendous difference to the availability of puddings in working class homes, and again they would be boiled in the pot or, in Victorian times, baked in the copper, and again there is a wonderful description in *A Christmas Carol*:

"Mrs. Cratchit left the room alone - too nervous to bear witness - to take the pudding up and bring it in.

"Suppose it should not be done enough! Suppose it should break in turning out! Suppose somebody should have got over the wall of the back yard and stolen it, while they were merry with the goose - suppositions at which the two young Cratchits became livid! All sorts of horrors were supposed.

"Hallo! A great deal of steam! The pudding was out of the copper. A smell like a washing day! That was the cloth. A smell like an eating-house and a pastry cook's next door to each other, with a laundress's next door to that! That was the pudding! In half a minute Mrs. Cratchit entered - flushed, but smiling proudly - with a pudding like a speckled cannon ball, so hard and firm, blazing in half-a-quartern of ignited brandy, and bedight with Christmas holly stuck into the top.

"Oh, a wonderful pudding! Bob Cratchit said, and calmly too, that he regarded it as the greatest success achieved by a Cratchit since their marriage. Mrs. Cratchit said that now the weight was off her mind, she would confess she had had her doubts about the quantity of flour. Everybody had something to say about it, but nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family. It would have been flat heresy to do so. Any Cratchit would have blushed to hint at such a thing."

The traditional fasting at Lent and Advent served a double purpose in that they occur at times when stocks are running low and also provide a restraining influence immediately before what were described by Mrs Jones as enormous binges.

The evening ended as we viewed and studied a few of the books and exhibits Ann had brought with her. It was interesting to hear that Mrs Beeton had many of her recipes sent to her and she simply published them without necessarily trying them out, and many of them simply did not work. Farnham Museum has much to offer on the history of food and the evening gave us an insight into this interesting subject.

Tony Medlen

Editor's note We thank Audrey Sykes for organising this evening, and it was regrettable that more members were not able to attend.

THE PRIDE OF ST BEDE'S SCHOOL

By David Porter

During the planning of the 1992 School Reunion, I was fortunate to obtain this photograph from my former Art Teacher, Mrs Pat Hughes (née Dangerfield).

The photograph was definitely taken during my period of education there. However, I can only recall the names of two of the pupils, namely, Anthony Craven and Robin Yallop, both of whom, I believe, came from Ripley. Robin is seen standing on the left and Anthony on the extreme right in the driver's seat!

The Triumph Herald car on the left was owned by Mr William (Taffy) Davies, the Mathematics Teacher, and was new in 1964, bearing a "B" suffix letter registration number. I left the school in April 1965 and during my final months there, Robin Yallop paid a brief return



visit, having left school the previous year to join the Police Force.

These two factors suggest the photographs were taken during the spring or early summer of 1964. The pupils are either part of Class 4A, with Miss Constance Ayre, in Room 7, or the Fifth Year, comprising a small class destined to stay at school until 16 years of age. This class was in Miss Ryder's hands, who taught English Language in Annex 3.

Two girls and one boy are to be seen wearing chrome badges, which suggests they held a position of either Prefect, Head Girl (or Boy), House Captain or Vice-Captain, the colour of the badge indicating to which House they belong. House Meetings were held each Thursday morning, after Assembly in the hall. Weavers (green) had their meetings in Room 3, Potters (blue) used the hall. Room 5 and Annex 2 were used by Farriers (red) and Thatchers (yellow) respectively, to the best of my knowledge.

These eight pupils are pictured during their final months or weeks at St Bede's, the "pride of the school". Hopefully, the photograph was taken by Mr Willis, a young teacher who had recently come to the school, his Classic MG sports car barely visible behind and beneath the pupils!

NOTES ON CELEBRATIONS IN SEND 1953

I have studied the photographs provided by Peter Parvin (Newsletter No 149, page 8, November/December 1999), and can provide the following information on the vehicles taking part in the procession.

The tractor is one of the very popular Fergusons, which were always grey in colour. Several examples could be found at Ben Turners in the years following the war.

The lorry is an Austin, one of the K series, and this example appears to have a payload of 5 tons. Often these were mistaken for Bedfords, as they looked (and sounded!) almost identical. However, the Austin has a slightly wider bonnet and radiator grille, the latter displaying a vertical chrome strip and three horizontal stripes. Powered by a 6 cylinder overhead valve petrol engine, the lorry dates from around 1947/48, I believe.

The car following the lorry is also of Austin manufacture and dates from around the same period. The design of the front offside wing suggests either an A40 Devon or Dorset, the former a two-door saloon and the latter a four.

David Porter

COMMUNICATIONS IN SURREY: "THE WEB WE WEAVE"

Surrey Local History Symposium Report

Held at Chertsey on Saturday, 30 October 1999, this was the first Symposium Anne and I had been able to attend for a few years. It was very pleasing to re-acquaint ourselves with the unique atmosphere and with the crowd who attend at Chertsey Hall. The most noticeable difference was the absence of the Society's old friend and advisor, Ken Gravett, who was incapacitated, and we were later to learn died on 21 November. The Symposium was very much the creation of Ken, who had hitherto chaired all except one, I believe since its inception some time before our own foundation 25 years ago. The County Archivist, David Robinson, competently stood in for Ken, but it wasn't the same.

SHRS did not put on a display this year, the subject not having inspired the Committee to envisage any obvious form of exhibit. As it transpired, most of the stands were flat, ie few three-dimensional objects. In retrospect, we could probably have mounted a display at least as interesting as the others, with the old Ripley Post Office letter sorting rack as the central object, perhaps surrounded by some of the vast number of picture postcards which are available of Ripley, and to a lesser extent of Send.

The first talk was on *The Early Postal History of Surrey* by Peter Moorey. Although I don't recall hearing the speaker's background mentioned, one had the impression from his detailed inside knowledge that he was possibly a postal worker intensely enthused by his subject. Although seemingly not an academic, he impressed the audience, including the professionals, with his grasp of his subject, from the earliest days in 400 AD, via Royal Messengers in 1100. Universities and religious houses operated similar messengers. The Royal Messengers were brought into public service by proclamation in 1635. Shortly after, one of the earliest types of private postman was Thomas Wilmot of Shalford, who in the third quarter of the 17th century had his own trade tokens produced, showing himself dressed in doublet and hose, who apparently (judging by the staff in his hand), walked around making his deliveries and/or selling his wares. He certainly appears to have operated in the Send and Ripley area, because some years ago, I turned up one of his tokens in the back garden of Send Manor, presumably dropped by somebody at about the time the house was built. It is also possible that, at a time of shortage of small change, because all official money was silver or gold, these tokens were simply being used as change. Peter Moorey also made an intriguing reference to a highwayman robbery in the Ripley area. We have heard of this before, but have never been able to authenticate it. It would be useful to ascertain what evidence, if any, he has.

After lunch, Richard Muir spoke on *Admiralty Telecommunications in Surrey*. This mainly concerned the semaphore system, designed to relay messages before the age of the electric telephone from London to Portsmouth. Incredibly, this method of communication by shutters or wooden arms atop strategically placed towers enabled messages to be conveyed some 75 miles in five or six minutes. We take a particular interest in this because, of course, Send and Ripley, albeit without a tower in our territory, were in direct line between the Chatley Heath tower and that on Pewley Down. Chatley Heath, in nearby Ockham, is of special note because the line branched there with the intention that it should extend to Southampton. The branch was never completed, although towers were constructed in the churchyard at Worplesdon and on the Hogs

Back (now incorporated into the Hogs Back Hotel), and possibly further down.

Finally, Dr Gerry Moss gave a paper on *The Web and the Surrey Local History Council*. This outlined the history of communication by computer from the initial two-character communication between two computers in 1968 and the incredible mushrooming of the Internet since its start as recently as 1990. The Surrey Local History Centre has a Web-site, and Dr Moss showed examples of how it operates and the type of information available from it. With the massive growth in the power of computers and additional Web-site facilities to take advantage of these, Dr Moss explained how he avoided using the latest graphics technology, so that the SLHC Web-site would be available to those whose computers were not the latest state of the art.

I am grateful to Chris and Geoff Parker for checking my notes and in particular for help with the paragraph on computers. Next year's Symposium will be on 28 October and the theme will be *Music in Surrey*. Thinking caps are needed if we are to have an exhibit!

Les Bowerman

MEMBERSHIP

Our good strong membership of nearly 300 bodies still holds steady. We lose a few, for obvious reasons, but we gain a few and very welcome they are. What about your neighbour? Just a word to George and we'll get him!

A quick word for any of you who have yet to renew your membership for the big 2000: I'm waiting!

Of course, all our readers and members find it hard to believe that the lady who types what used to be known as the Newsletter is blind. Chris Parker and her husband, Geoff, have been a cornerstone in the production for many years and are recognised elsewhere in this issue. But all Chris's efforts would be of no avail if we did not have a band of stalwarts willing to face the elements throughout the year to deliver the result to the doors of all our far-flung members. Modest as they are, we now proudly bring them to your notice:

Mrs Elizabeth Harris, 81 Linden Way, Ripley
 Les Bowerman, The Manor House, Send Marsh Green, Ripley
 Mrs Jackie Strange, 17 Tuckey Grove, Send Marsh
 John Slatford, St George's Farmhouse, High Street, Ripley
 Dr Bob Gale, 44 Newark Lane, Ripley
 John and Jane Bartlett, Little Ripley House, High Street, Ripley
 Mrs Audrey Sykes, Kevan Cottage, Clandon Road, Send
 Tony and Jennie Colmer, Woodside, Send Barns Lane, Send
 Phil Carter, 12 Send Barns Lane, Send
 Mr and Mrs Dawson, The Gables, Send Hill, Send
 Mrs Clare McCann, Crickets Hill House, Potters Lane, Send
 Lloyd and Mavis Davies, 190 Send Road, Send
 Eric Ferris, 21 Send Close, Send
 Tony and Patricia Medlen, Muir House, Brooklyn Road, Woking
 Alastair and Fiona MacMillan, 17 Rose Lane, Ripley
 John Revell, 5 Winds Ridge, Send
 Peter Spindler, 5 Papercourt Lane, Ripley
 How you spell Indispensable?

George Bleach (Membership Secretary)

PHOTOGRAPHIC REPORT

The death of Ken Gravett, which has been mentioned elsewhere in this Journal, has reminded me of the Surrey Local History Symposium. Ken was the Chairman and a benevolent, knowledgeable, and large man in every sense. His presence made historical gatherings, and in particular the gathering of many local history societies under the auspices of the Annual Symposium, a special occasion. In the early days of the Society, and indeed for the first 20 years, I had the pleasure of setting up exhibitions almost every year, including those at the Ripley Event and the Send May Day Fête. The Symposium, initially, was held at the Dorking Halls, then transferred to Surrey University and, latterly, Chertsey.

This involved the production of numerous photographs, some original, but many which were copies of local topics supplied by members. Albie Giles, Reg's wife, gave many photographs to the Society, which really started off the photographic archive. This sparked off in me a latent interest in photography, which my father and brother had practised before me from the '20s and '30s. It seemed, therefore, the most natural thing in the world to set up my own Dark Room, buy the necessary equipment - another camera, etc - so that images, hopefully good ones, could be produced quickly and cheaply whenever needed. This included slides for lecture purposes. For me, This was a happy marriage between my interest in history and the Society's need coupled with my love of photography.

Ever since Fox Talbot produced his first negative/positive photographs in 1839 up to the present day, the principal process has been performed by chemical means. Many still consider this to be the most satisfactory way to create good images. However, it will not be long before this will change, and although there may be parallel chemically produced and electronically produced images for many years, certainly, for convenience and ease of access, electronic images will be the way forward. Therefore the future - and that means almost from now, or at least, early in the year 2000 - we should see very satisfactory pictures developed electronically, and I hope to be involved in setting up the system for achieving this, with the objective of enabling storage, manipulation and retrieval to be so much easier and more accessible to our members.

When contemplating writing something to summarise the History Society's involvement in this subject over the last 25 years, I was tempted to include my favourite image, but this has proved to be impossible. This has led to the idea that an exhibition could be set up to take the best images that have appeared over the last 25 years, and are in our archives, or perhaps still as yet out there among our members, to make a very interesting display in our Museum. This could be coupled with a fresh approach to display techniques, particularly type-setting and size of text, to suit the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Ken Bourne

19, Veronica Ave,
Newcomb 3219,
Geelong,
Victoria,
Australia.

Tele. 0352481913

1/11/99



Dear Mr. G. Bleach,

This is to introduce ourselves David and Pat Bowers and ask a big favour. David's brother Noah Bowers has been sending out few of the Send/Ripley History Society Newsletters to us which we are finding very interesting. He asked us to contact you. We were hoping to have them sent out here if we can make some arrangement that would be lovely. If you can tell us how much in costs.

A bit of our history; We left Send in May 1969 but David has familys in the Send/Ripley areas. we both went to Ripley Primary. and St. Bedes Secondary later. David from 1943 to 1953? I moved to Georgelands, Ripley in 1952. started school in the old church hall near the then papershop. Mr. Porter was my teacher. Then up to the primary school up next to St. Marys Church and later onto St. Bedes Secondary. We married in St. Marys Church 1962 and later went to live on Upper Sandfields Est and left Uk for Australia with our 2 children Heidi and Shane. We have a friend that also lives out here from Send. Mr Anthony Friend and his wife and a brother Raymond came out recently to live. They also have been reading the Newsletters. Tony and Liz came out here in 1976? And Tony and Ray went to Send Primary and St. Bedes. Secondary.

Both my sister Gillian Scrimshaw: nee Wood and brother Alan Wood are in Australia too since April 1964 and attended both Ripley Primary and St. Bedes Secondary. I can send a few school photo's for your archives which we read about in the earlier addition if you would like them.

David's sister Pat Gregory; nee Bowers has been sending us out a few of your History books on the Send/Ripley area which we have for friends to learn about where we grew up. Which has been great.

We had been in contact with David Porter earlier last year for Family Tree information and he has not had much luck, but he was very helpful, so please say hello when you see him We know David's mother and Father William and Rose Bowers were married in Ripley Church 24/8/1913 and a couple of David's brothers and sisters were also. Two of the Bowers babies are in the cemetary. Willie 1914. Albert 1917. Another of Davids sisters ashes has been laid to rest 27/8/99 in Send Cemetary with her husband. Violet and Tom Johnson. Violet was of Ripley/Ockham and latter after Tom died went to Liverpool. He was killed in Ockham 1953. David is one of 14 children so a lot of family history in area.

So as you can imagine it's lovely after all this time to catch up on old history. William Bowers worked for Lord and Lady Iver of Guinness. Farm. Pyrford. for about 40 years. Noah could help out with that story. as it's hard to get a lot of the family storys these days.

We hope to hear from you.

*Yours sincerely
David and Pat Bowers*



David Bowers 1948 10yrs
Ripley Primary



< Patricia Wood 1952 - 1957
Ripley Primary — St. Bedes Sec
9yrs 14yrs



< Alan Wood 1953 7yrs.
RIPLEY PRIMARY

Alan Wood 1959
St Bedes > 14yrs



< Gillian Wood 1958 5yrs

Gillian Wood 1962 10yrs >
Both Ripley Primary



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 24 2000 - 7 pm - the Hautboy Hotel, Ockham

The Society's 25th Anniversary and Millennium Dinner. This must be booked in advance. Please return your application form for tickets with your remittance. This is now almost fully booked, but if you contact Patricia Medlen on 01483 760021 and check beforehand, it may be possible that there are places still available at £20 per person.

Thursday, 24 February 2000 - 8 pm - Send Church Room

Society's AGM. There will be a short illustrated talk by Ken Bourne on *The Stained Glass Windows of St Mary Magdalen Church, Ripley*.

Thursday, March 9 2000 - 8 pm, Ripley Annex

A talk on *Polesden Lacey* by Andrew McElwee.

Thursday, 13 April 2000 - 8 pm, Ripley Village Hall

A film by the Circle 8 Film Group. The film is entitled *Guildford, This Is Guildford!*. It covers the period from 5 May 1845, when the newly formed Guildford railway junction opened its branch line to Woking, and continues up to the present day.

Monday, May 1 2000 - Send Recreation Ground

May Day Fête and Dog Show. It is hoped that the Society will have a book stall at this event.

Journal Contributions

The closing date for contributions to the next Journal is Friday, 18 February 2000.



SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

OPEN: May-September, Saturdays 10-12.30 & 2-4.00.
October-April, Saturdays 10-12.30

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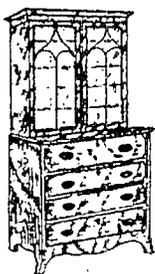
Other times for school groups and small parties
by arrangement.

*Please contact George or Irene Bleach on 01483 222233 if
you require information or wish to help in the museum.*

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

"Ripley & Send Then and Now, the Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life"	£10 Reprint 1998
"Guide to Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Send"	£1.25
"Then and Now, A Victorian Walk around Ripley"	Reference copy only
"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

The reference copy is available at the Museum. All the others are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of "Ripley & Send Then and Now" is additionally available at Send Post Office.



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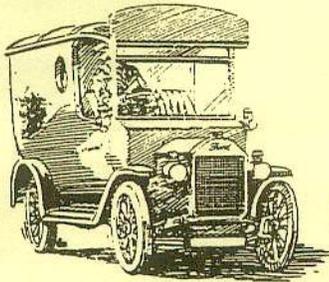
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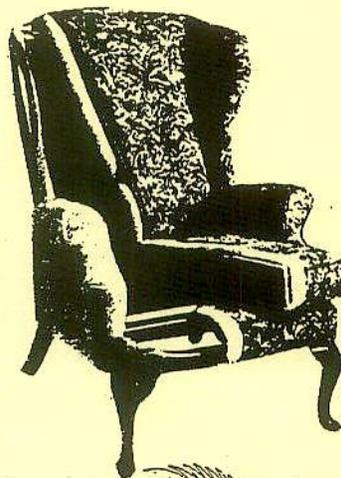
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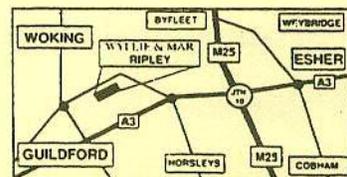
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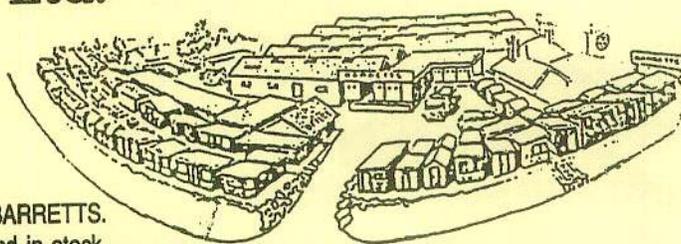
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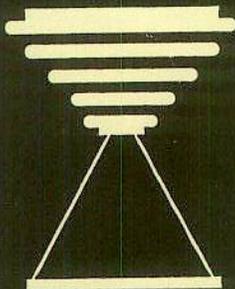
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