

Send & Ripley History Society



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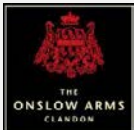


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Cover image:

A group of gypsies
around 1900

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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

With GB having finally left the European Union, the worst local flooding for years, and the country currently collapsing into panic over the latest epidemic – coronavirus – it seems that anything I could write about now would be trivial. At the time of writing public events are being cancelled and there is talk of us being asked to stay indoors for months...

Ripley parish council have recently agreed to step in to save the Ripley Event, the current incarnation of the mediaeval fair, held (on and off) for centuries and organised until recently by the local Rotary Club. Last year it was cancelled because of an incursion of travellers onto the Green. Fingers crossed that this year's is not cancelled because of a virus.

I hope very much that at least some of our talks and outings will go ahead as planned as I certainly do not wish to

spend the next few months watching TV but we have had to cancel some (see p30) and I fear there will be very substantial disruption to our lives for the foreseeable future. We'll do our best to keep you informed of any changes to our programme and will keep the journal going.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th April 2020.

Authors of illustrated articles should submit high resolution (300 DPI or higher) jpgs to the editor by email to ensure best reproduction in the journal, but no more than 10MB in any one email

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FORTY YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN

Just a little over 40 years ago this article from Newsletter No 29 of November/December 1979 records a visit to St Mary's, Ripley, written by Les Bowerman.

On Sunday 21st October a party of about 30 from the Society paid a long overdue visit to the church of St Mary, Ripley. The visit was kindly arranged by our member Gerald Hill, who is one of the churchwardens, and Jim Oliver, our President, gave a learned commentary on the various points of interest.

Only the chancel is ancient, having been constructed about 1160. The nave was demolished and re-constructed by Benjamin Ferrey in 1846 and the south aisle added by Sir Thomas Jackson in 1869. It is unlikely that there was ever an ancient nave to match the late Norman chancel.

The chancel, built of the local pudding-stone, with plain Norman buttresses, is of outstanding interest, for it contains 12th century work of a quality which is unmatched by anything nearer than Iffley in Oxfordshire. There is a complicated vault-pier with triple shafts on either side of the chancel dividing it into two bays, with single shafts in each corner. The shafts have capitals with an involved scallop design and bases with anglespurs like claws. These piers, of chalk clunch, were clearly intended to carry a stone vault (perhaps like that at Compton), but it is unlikely the vault was ever built.

The best feature of the church, and of the topmost quality, is the string-course of highly-valued Caen stone which is carried round the interior of the chancel. The stone is intricately carved into a beautiful design of flower shapes inside a banded diamond pattern.

There are two original Norman windows on the north side of the chancel with rounded heads and internal nookshafts. In the east wall there is a 13th century triple lancet window; in the south wall there are two lancets of similar age. These probably replace earlier Norman windows.

Writing in 1901, PM Johnston expressed the view that ancient chancel recesses might be found behind wall-plastering done in 1845. Johnston had the pleasure of



St Mary's, Ripley © Cameron Brown

proving himself right for in 1934, when directing repair work, he uncovered four such recesses. That in the north wall is thought to have been for an Easter Sepulchre. The recess in the centre of the east wall with grooves for a door probably contained a holy relic of some kind. The recess beside it was clearly a piscina, and the fourth one in the south wall may have been an aumbry (a cupboard or recess for holding the sacred vessels for mass).

There are no records to show why work of such high quality should be found in a little wayside chapel which was not even a parish church until 1878. Why, then, should this chancel be (as Johnston put it) both earlier and more ornate than anything in the mother church of Send?

The earliest known reference is in the charter executed some time between 1171 and 1191 by which Ruald de Calna and his wife, Beatrice de Sandes, granted the church of Send and the oratory of Ripley [presumably the chapel, now St Mary's], among other property, for the construction of a church in a place called Aldebury, which subsequently became known as de Novo Loco and then Newark. Edward VI's Chantry Commissioners [who carried out a survey of all church property in the late 1540s] state that the chapel, 'one mile from the Parish Church, was builded long tyme paste for an hospitale and sythen that tyme altered'.

That is all there is to base speculation upon. Could a band of Augustinian canons from the mother abbey at Dorchester-upon-Thames have set up a small wayside hospice or hospital at what was to become Ripley?

With assistance from Ruald and Beatrice, could they have embarked in about 1160 upon construction of a high quality centre for themselves, and then when their benefactors, so impressed by their good works (or anxious to do the best for their own souls in the future), endowed them in about 1190 with considerable property, did they abandon their earlier grand ideas at Ripley (just finishing the building well enough to serve as a hospice), and move to Newark to build the Priory?

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The Augustinian order was bound to 'care for the sick and the needy' and they built early priories in Southwark (1106) and Merton (1114). Once the Augustinians had moved from Ripley to Newark they will perhaps have retained this small building on the main road as a 'chapel of ease' to St Mary's, Send, which was also under their control, to serve as a place to rest, find sanctuary and so on.

In 1220 Henry III granted to the Prior of Newark the right of holding an annual fair at the feast of St Mary

Magdalen which is, I believe, the first mention of this name. There is a further deed of around 1400 referring to the gift of land to the 'hospital and brethren of St Mary Magdalen of Reppeley'.

We know that at the time of the dissolution of Newark in 1539 the priory maintained an almshouse in Ripley on the site of what is now the Anchor. The Edward IV survey shortly thereafter speaks of a 'hospital'.

The whole of the present nave area is Victorian but there is plenty of evidence from paintings of an early, though smaller nave which could quite possibly have been of the same period as the chancel. For more detailed information about St Mary's see our publication *The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen, Ripley, Surrey* by KH Bourne.

MARILYN SCOTT, MBE

CAMERON BROWN



Marilyn Scott, at the Society's 40th anniversary celebrations

I am delighted to offer congratulations to member Marilyn Scott on her award of an MBE for outstanding service to the community in the 2020 New Year Honours. Marilyn acts as a mentor to the committee on all matters concerning the museum and gave us particular advice and support in our achieving Arts Council accreditation.

She has been director of The Lightbox in Woking since 2001, managing the gallery from the initial feasibility study to the opening six years later, also led the fundraising campaign bringing in over £7 million and still found time to act as secretary of our Society for a while.

Marilyn worked in the past for the V&A, the Science Museum and the National Trust and is currently a trustee of the Geffrye Museum, Brooklands Museum, The Weald and Downland Museum and The Mary Roxburghe Trust.

100 YEARS AGO: MARCH - APRIL 1920

PHIL DAVIE

One evening in early March a serious fire was discovered at a barn at St George's Farm, Ripley, when daughters of the owner, Mr Hill, returned from a shopping trip. Willing hands quickly removed a motor-lorry and other valuables stored therein. The fire spread very quickly and had a good hold before the arrival of the Ripley fire brigade. A third of the barn's roof was saved, despite continual danger to the brigade from falling tiles, but much straw and some general items were completely destroyed. The cause of the fire remains a mystery, alongside several other recent local fires. There was reason to believe an arsonist had been at work in the village for at least six months.

The bravery of fire brigade members John Blythe and Frederick John Foster at an incident in January (see Journal 270) was recognised when each were awarded certificates of bravery and two guineas (£2 2s 0d, now worth £94) by the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire. The men had attempted to rescue two young children trapped by fire and smoke at a cycle shop in Ripley High Street. The children were found but one was already dead and the other died shortly after rescue. It was emphasised that the children's deaths did not detract in any way from the heroic act of entering a burning and smoke-filled building.

A meeting of Send parish council heard that Lord Onslow had responded (in his role as a Surrey county councillor) to a complaint about the dangerous state of the footpath at West End, Ripley, by instructing the County Surveyor to attend to it. Following the formal parish council meeting there was considerable discussion regarding occupancy of the new cottages planned for Burnt Common and Send (see J269) and, in particular, the rights of 'organised working men' to be allocated them. It was stated that relatively few applications to rent the cottages were received, despite many local residents being in need of rehousing. Some speakers felt that the 'organised working men' were intimidated from applying while the parish council strongly disagreed. The matter was not resolved but all expressed disappointment at the slow progress of the project to build more homes.

Social activity in the villages included: a children's fancy dress dance held for 50 children from Miss

Coker's dance class at Gibbons' Hall, Ripley. Prizes were awarded for the three best dances for both boys and girls. Other prizes were given for the two best costumes and two for dancing tests. A series of informal lectures were given at Ryde House school, Ripley, by Mr Whiteman of the Horticultural Gardens, Wisley, describing what he saw while serving in the army in Egypt, India and Siberia (including the trans-Siberian railway). A smoking concert (live music for men only) was given at Send Drill Hall and arranged by Send's vicar. A collection was raised towards re-covering the hall's billiard tables.

And finally great excitement was caused when Lord John Sanger's circus and menagerie visited Guildford Market Ground. It featured elephant land-workers, snake charmers, North American Indians, sealions and 'all manner of wonderful things'.

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A ROMANY LIFESTYLE

CAMERON BROWN



Pictured at Sundridge Camp, Old Woking, second from right is Ernest Baker, Geoff Burch's great uncle

On 21st January 2020 David Rose and Geoff Burch gave a talk to some 50 members on the subject of gypsies in Surrey. This is a précis of their talk.

Gypsies are believed to have originated in the Punjab region of northern India as a nomadic people, reaching Europe between the eighth and tenth centuries. They were called gypsies because Europeans mistakenly believed they came from Egypt. The earliest known recorded sightings of these people in England are from the 16th century. By the 19th century gypsy travellers were common throughout Surrey, perhaps more so than in many other counties of Britain.

Their day has passed. Just over 100 years ago the chief constable of Surrey was under pressure by certain local wealthy landowners who wanted him to instruct his officers

to remove gypsy travellers from their land. But he resisted, saying he would not do so unless the gypsies were breaking the law by, for example, a breach of the peace. For years travelling people had been accepted by the 'settled' population of counties like Surrey as they set up camps along roadside verges, in woodland and so on, selling their wares and being employed on farms harvesting crops such as soft fruit, vegetables and hops.

In the 1860s encampments were still located a comfortable distance from the settled population at places like Whitmoor Common near Worplesdon, which was said to be 'a favourite haunt of gypsies'. However, by the turn of the 20th century a different attitude to them was emerging. Despite Surrey landowners such as the Onslows, the Brays and the Lovelaces calling for police action, the chief constable of Surrey, Captain Mowbray Lees Sant, was a

voice of reason. He warned against general persecution of so-called nomads, saying they differed widely as to their class, trades, respectability and so on.

Facts about gypsies in the Woking area are recorded. For instance, in January 1905 the *Woking News & Mail* reported a court case of a Walter and Mary Ann Stanley, 'van-dwellers of Horsell'. They were charged on remand at Chertsey Petty Sessions of neglecting their three children 'in a manner likely to cause injury to their health'. The prosecution told the court that the family lived in a small caravan, hardly big enough for one person, in Lambert's Field off Well Lane, Horsell, and that the 'scantly clad children had become verminous'. An NSPCC inspector said the caravan was totally unfit for occupation and that since the couple's arrest the children had been accommodated in the Chertsey workhouse. A police officer had visited the van the previous December and served a summons on the couple. He said he had known them for six months and that 'the man loafed about public houses and did no work'. He added that 'the woman did cleaning for other gypsies, who allowed the family to have the caravan rent-free'. The court heard that the children did go to school, but it was remarked by another witness that it was a shameful thing that other children should have to sit in school with the three who were in such a bad condition of health.

The van measured 8ft x 6ft long, 5ft wide, 6ft high in the centre and 5ft high at the sides. Behind a curtain there were two shelves on which the family slept. It was heard that the family had lived like this for about six years.

They had previously lived in a cottage, but when they first went to Horsell they lived in a tent. The couple pleaded guilty and were sentenced to three months hard labour. Their children may well have remained in the workhouse and perhaps had something of a better life there.

Just before Christmas 1906 the local press reported: 'No fewer than ten Romany weddings have been solemnised at Woking parish church within the past few days. The gypsies have been encamped in the parish for a considerable period, and they have been induced to take this step by the vicar and a lady worker, who have actively interested themselves in the little community.'

A survey by Woking police officers in 1913, part of a wider survey by Surrey Police, found four encampments with 13 caravans and six tents accommodating 77 gypsies at a place called Sunridge Camp, and at Red Lane and Woking Road in Knaphill in August that year. It appears that Woking was a popular place for travelling people at the time.

When races at Ascot were taking place, Chobham Common was also a popular well-used camping place for travellers. It is estimated that in June 1910 there were about 50 caravans and vehicles there. The common, along with huge tracts of local land, was owned by the extremely wealthy Lord Onslow of Clandon Park. There were calls for policemen 'well furnished with truncheons to keep the disorderly elements in check' to go to Chobham Common. Officers were sent, but with strict instructions not to interfere with the gypsies directly, but 'to stand by whilst the bailiff removed them if he saw fit to do so'. The Chief Constable refused to allow his men to act as agents of the lord of the manor.

Lord Onslow and Chief Constable Sant continued to argue. Onslow called for police officers to evict travellers, while Sant held firm saying his men could only intervene if a crime had taken place. The earl tried to play a populist card by expressing his concern for 'the residents of Horsell, Woking, Chobham, Sunningdale, Worplesdon and Pyrford exposed to this intolerable nonsense'. Lord Onslow ultimately backed down, claiming that he could only send one bailiff and it was impossible for one man to 'keep perpetually on the move some 100 or 200 gypsies'. He sent a report to the Home Secretary saying the duty to protect the ratepayers should fall on the public authority. Sant, in his report to the Home Office, stated that lords of the manor were unwilling to pay for authorised common keepers to do the job while calling on more police time than could be justified. It was a question of funding as well as principle.

At Sparrow Row on the outskirts of Chobham village there was once a group of tiny two-room cottages with a scullery to one side. Single-storey, with a chimney at one end, it is thought they would have originally been built of local materials while made more permanent at later dates. One of them, 5, Sparrow Row, was still occupied until about 1970. When surveyed in 1974 by the Surrey branch of the Domestic Buildings Research Group, it was recorded as retaining some of its original features, including thatching on a section of the roof. The report stated that the outside walls were of thin brickwork, five

to six feet in height. The chimney was of brick with an outside oven beside it and the front door gave direct access to the living room. Some wattle and daub was still evident within the inside partition walls, which probably dated back to when it was built. A feature of note was a sideboard and cupboard built as part of a flimsy wall between the living room and bedroom. Its inglenook hearth had been filled in with an iron grate with a circular revolving trivet in the oven. A small brick washhouse with a hearth and a tap had been added behind the chimney. Who lived in these humble cottages? The research group's report added that 5, Sparrow Row had last been occupied by 'an old man who was well over 90 when he died'. In fact the co-speaker, Geoff Burch's great aunt, Rhoda Baker also lived there. She wrote: 'We moved to 5, Sparrow Row and lived there until my brother, who never married, died in 1969. It was lovely up there, always sunny and dry and Valley End school was very good. There were five cottages and only one well in number 2's garden, but there were good wells over on the common. My father did odd jobs and when he got older he took the allotment on the common and grew vegetables. He had a donkey and a cart and sold the vegetables around Sunningdale. I went to work in service when I was 14, but when mother had twins I came home to help her. Mother fed one baby and father bought a milking nanny for the other one. They were lovely babies but the one I looked after died at nine months; she cut too many teeth the doctor said and it turned her brain. We were very sad and carried her little coffin to Valley End church. Many years back a pedlar was coming down the lane at the other side of the cottages and he was drunk and riding his donkey. A branch got caught in his neckerchief and he was hanged. He used to haunt the old lane. Our dog saw him and howled. The dog would never go down the lane at night after that.'

During the first part of the 20th century one Samuel Boorman picked fruit at Heath Farm, Tannery Lane, Send where they grew strawberries, gooseberries, raspberries and potatoes. He recalled that, although some local people were employed to gather the fruit, much of the picking was done by gypsies who pitched up with their tents or caravans, or stayed in tin huts in one of the farmer's fields. Some arrived in May to pick gooseberries, staying on through the summer to harvest the other crops. Their arrival each year brought the locals out to watch the spectacle of the travellers' brightly-coloured caravans with extra horses tied behind and 'their dogs running around barking like mad'.



One of the tokens used to pay the seasonal workers

It was common at the time for farmers and growers to pay casual workers in light-weight metal tokens, known as unofficial money. It meant that large amounts of cash did not have to

be taken out into the fields and was also a way of ensuring that the workers remained on the farm until the end of each week or until the work was completed. At Send, once the workers had redeemed their tokens for hard cash, they often spent it at a grocery shop at Send Marsh run by Mr and Mrs Collins. It is said that if a gypsy family ran short of money during the week Mrs Collins would accept their metal discs in lieu of cash and change them herself with Mr Boorman on Saturdays.

Geoff Burch's section of the talk was more personal, as he spoke of his own family's experiences in Surrey.

My story commences in 1861 when the census shows my great-great-grandfather James Baker and his family living at Thistle Place Cottage, Horsell. My great-grandfather James Baker junior was aged 13 at this time. Twenty years later the 1881 census shows that my great-grandfather and his family are living in gypsy tents at West End, Chobham; his occupation was shown as chimney sweep and he has a wife and young family of five children. On the maternal side, the 1861 census of gypsy tents at The Lye, St Johns, Woking shows the Chapman family with Elizabeth being the head as her husband had deserted her. One of her daughters is Rachel (aged 19), a general servant. In the 1881 census we can see that Rachel is still living at The Lye and has married Peter Eales in 1864. Apart from committing previous crimes, Peter Eales was at this time at Portland Prison in Dorset serving a seven-year sentence for larceny and hence does not appear in the census. On 24th February 1883 Rachel Eales gave birth to an illegitimate daughter at the Union



Gypsy folk who camped in the Chobham area hop picking, location unknown



A 1900s picture postcard of gypsies and their bender tent, location unknown

Workhouse at Guildford and unless it was an immaculate conception, Peter Eales was most certainly not the father. One theory is that Rachel had been working in service at a country house in Mortimer, Berkshire for Sir John Mowbray at the time of conception, and that he was the father - but that is just supposition. That baby girl, christened Clara, was to be my grandmother.

The 1911 census shows my grandparents living at 2, Market Cottages, Old Woking. These cottages were owned by the Rev Wilson's wife, Mrs Edith Wilson and were rented out to gypsy families. By 1913 however, Wilson had managed to persuade a number of local landowners to establish a permanent gypsy site, which became known as Sunridge Camp. My mother's early childhood was spent solely on this encampment except for seasonal excursions to Hampshire for potato, bean, flower and hop picking. Earlier details of life before I was born were gleaned from my parents or brothers and sisters within the canvas walls of my great uncle's tent in the glow of the oil lanterns or fire. There were about six gypsy families living on the encampment: the Williamses, the Pelhams, the Smiths, the Denches and of course us, the Bakers. The Denches lived in what was known as 'the big black house'. My mum's general education was at Church Street school under the watchful eye of the headmaster, Mr Gaffer and their teachers Mrs Rowntree and Miss Tucker.

These were very hard times for them all, working out in the fields in all weather conditions. My grandfather would transport the flowers and vegetables with his horse and cart to Woking railway station to send to Covent Garden market.

His wages were 18 shillings a week, not a lot to bring up a family of twelve. He also bought wood and with his horse and cart sold and delivered logs around the village. All the wood had to be sawn and chopped by hand and he had his regular customers. It wasn't until my elder uncles and aunts were working that they could afford to buy a small petrol engine and saw-bench which made the job a little easier.

September was the hop-picking season and the whole family would go down to Hampshire for three to four weeks. The hops were picked and placed into seven-bushel bins and workers were paid at 1/6d per bin. My mum was never really happy when they went hop picking because it meant the children would miss a month of schooling and would consequently be below the general class standard.

This often would lead to them being ridiculed in front of the others for not knowing the answers to some of the questions asked. However, they were consoled by the fact that the extra money earned on these trips helped them through the winter months.

My mum recalled one particular girl who had been sitting next to her at school. The girl's mother had sent a letter to the headmaster Mr Cooper to say she was sitting next to a gypsy and that she wanted her daughter moved.

Christmas was always an exciting time for my mum and her brothers and sisters. They eagerly waited with high expectations, helping to erect a few decorations in the tent and hanging up their socks. On Christmas morning they would be filled with nuts, oranges and other little articles. Following their Christmas dinner, they entertained themselves by singing carols accompanied by my grandfather playing the accordion with the children dancing. The vicar and Mrs Wilson would also hold a tea party at The Grange and there would be a present for them all placed around the Christmas tree.

When my mum and her twin sister Violet left school at the age of fourteen, they went to work at Cartbridge laundry, walking there and back every day. Their working hours were from 8am - 5pm weekdays, 8am - 1pm Saturdays, and they were paid 8/6d a week. My grandparents could see that working in the constant steam of the laundry was affecting their health so decided to get them a job in the fresh air at Jackman's nursery at Egley Road. Some of my Mum's sisters already had jobs there. My mum worked at what was known as Old Hill and her first task was to hand-weed the seed-beds. Later she was transferred to the workshop where she was shown how to prepare cuttings for the men to plant out. This took place at the end of the summer. The next task was to prepare for Christmas, variegated foliage and potted plants being the order of the day. She said it was also nice to work in the greenhouses, especially in the winter when most of the

work would consist of tying up clematis. Mr Jackman was known worldwide for his clematis and other plants. There was also the opportunity to work in the office in the spring, for this was the time to send out new catalogues and it was my mother's job to address them to the customers.

At that time there were rumours that the Sunridge encampment would have to be moved as the council had bought most of the land around us and were going to build houses on it. My grandparents were quite concerned, because if they were to be moved, their livelihood would be taken away as they wouldn't be able to run the logging business from a council house. They had lived at Sunridge Camp for twenty years and hadn't been any trouble to anyone. The inevitable happened. My grandfather received a letter from the council informing him that the land had been compulsory purchased and that they would be re-housed at Campbell Avenue, Westfield. This broke my grandfather's heart. Just as he was getting a better living, it was all going to be taken away from him. They were only in the house a month when my grandfather developed pneumonia (probably caused by the dampness and condensation within the house as it had only just been built). After some months he recovered from his illness but was never the same after that.

[A longer transcript of Geoff Burch's talk is available from the museum]

Photographs courtesy of David Rose

MASS OBSERVATION DAY

CAMERON BROWN

The Mass Observation Archive records 'everyday life in Britain'. In 1937, for the first time, on 12th May, the organisers called for people from all parts of the UK to record everything they did from when they woke up in the morning to when they went to sleep at night. This was the day of George VI's coronation. The resulting diaries provide a detailed picture of the everyday lives of people across Britain, and have become an invaluable resource for those researching countless aspects of the era.

It was repeated a number of times into the 1950s and then revived as an annual project in 1981. This year is no exception and anyone who wishes to take part on May 12th is welcome to do so. Details can be found at [http://](http://www.massobs.org.uk/write-for-us/12th-may)

www.massobs.org.uk/write-for-us/12th-may. You need to use the website as documents have to be submitted electronically and will be asked to write as much as you can about what you do, what you talk about, what you eat and drink, what you buy or sell, what you are working on, the places you visit, the people you meet, the things you read, see and hear around you, how you are feeling and, of course, what you yourself think. You don't use your real name nor include anything that will identify the people you are writing about so that there is no invasion of privacy.

Some people sign up as regular contributors, submitting material to the archive several times a year but the May 12th annual survey is open to anyone.

THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CAMERON BROWN

On 18th February we held the Society's 45th AGM, my fifth as chairman; 45 members attended. Before the formalities I thanked the committee members and other members who give us their time and help to keep our Society active and thriving. I made particular mention of John Creasey, who has done a brilliant job in selling advertising in the Journal and on our website to local businesses.



John Creasey

After doing this for as long as I can remember he has finally passed the baton to Chris Mealing. I also thanked Chris Brown who has managed our website for a number of years and is now in the process of handing over the job to Chris Finden Browne. Another non-committee

member mentioned was Janet Tice who maintains our photography archive.

We decided to keep the 2021 subscription at the current level of £15 single and £20 double membership, plus postage costs.

Clare McCann reported on the museum activities and current plans. She explained that the internal redesign work we had planned to carry out in the museum in 2019 had had to be postponed because of the village hall development plans. We have, however, been talking to a local architect and propose to push on with an internal refurbishment. The storage issue has not gone away and, while we have temporary storage for which we are very grateful, it is not ideal.

Clare thanked Jan Davie and Mary Trevill for helping with leaflet distribution, Keith Price for battling with the grass and the molehills round the museum, Marilyn Scott

from the Lightbox and Haidee Thomas from SHC for their support and finally the stewards without whom the museum would not function.

The treasurer's report showed that the society's finances are in good shape, subject always to what work needs doing at the museum and what we do about storage in the longer term.

Income for 2019 was £9,163 (2018: £8,839) and expenditure £7,934 (2018: £8,871). The result for the year shows a surplus of £1,229 (2018: a deficit of £32). Subscriptions for 2019 were up to £3,924 (2018: £3,762). Advertising stayed constant at £2239. Sales of publications in 2019 were £827 (2018: £793). Other sources of income are raffles, donations, and gift aid claimed on donations.



Les Bowerman speaking at the 2020 AGM

The whole of the current committee was re-elected but, (see p12) Les Bowerman has, after 45 years as a founder-member, decided that it was time to retire from the committee. He received the sincere thanks of all of us.

I am pleased that Cate Davey decided to put herself up for re-election having

stood down from the committee a couple of years ago. She was elected unanimously.

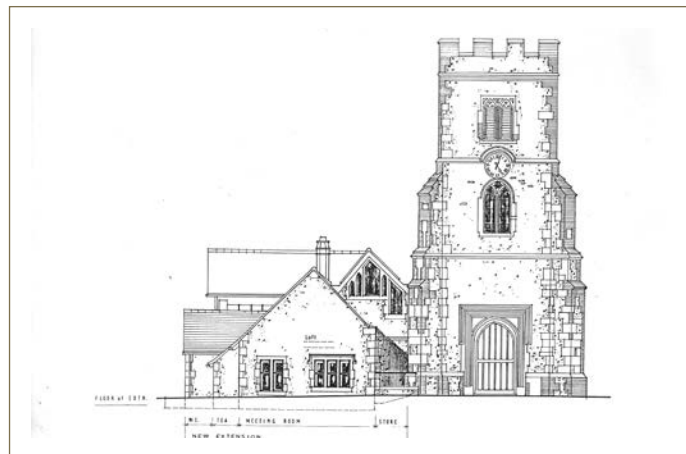
A draw was held for the *Downton Abbey Cookbook* which was won by Angela Patrick.

There followed a slide projection of various archaeological finds from committee-member Bob Stonard's collection whilst committee-member Andrew Jones displayed a large number of items from his metal-detecting activities.

OCKHAM CHURCH EXTENSION DRAWINGS

CAMERON BROWN

Former Ockham resident Graham Johnson has kindly donated to us a series of drawings, together with some correspondence from the architects of an extension which was proposed for Ockham church



in 1992. It seems that the proposal was controversial and did not go ahead. The full set of drawings is available for viewing in the museum.



LES BOWERMAN

JOHN SLATFORD

After over 45 years our founder member and former secretary, newsletter editor, active researcher and chairman, Les Bowerman, has decided to step back from committee duties.



Les at what we believe was the inaugural meeting of the Society, with Eric Wood and Ken Bourne

For those of you who don't know (or can't remember) it all started in late 1974 when Les was involved in a meeting with the St Bede's School Association when local history was discussed. Following this he wrote a letter in the *Surrey Advertiser* suggesting that a Send History Society be formed. There was a lot of interest, which led to the inaugural meeting being held on 28th January 1975. He and Anne have given a great deal to our Society and I know I speak for all of us in saying that we hope and expect to see them at future meetings and outings.

CLARE MCCANN ADDS:

Les has always taken a close interest in local place names and I remember with a smile that when what is now Walnut Tree Place in Send (near the site of the Sex family forge) was first built and a name had to be found, his suggestion of Sex Drive was apparently rejected by the developers!

WHERE IS IT?

ALAN COOPER



Another photo from the collection of Trevor Tice. Where was it taken? Does the bus look familiar? Maybe you travelled on it – but when? Also, can anyone work out the make of bus from the radiator? I have searched for hours and cannot identify it



The answer to the puzzle in J270 was sent in by John Hartley: it is Hartley Antiques, Ripley

COLOURING BOOK

CLARE McCANN

I am planning to develop a colouring book for the under-tens which will feature different aspects of local history. For example we might have a drawing of the Anchor with cyclists outside and a couple of lines of text about the importance of cycling. I am aware of one or two artists amongst our members but if anyone else would like to get involved, please let me know.

cricketshill@hotmail.com

OBITUARIES

EDWARD ('TED') PULLEN (1933 - 2019)

AN APPRECIATION BY PAT CLACK AND
AUDREY SMITHERS

With the death of Ted Pullen at the end of November 2019 comes the end of a long established Send family, apart from one surviving nephew. Ted had five siblings: Winifred, Harry, Peter, Mabel and Evelyn (Jean). I knew Ted all his life and Audrey Smithers, who had also known him for a very long time found him to be a wonderful neighbour. He was born in Send, moved back there at an early age, and that was where he died aged 86.

His dad (Henry) was a butcher, selling meat from his shed in the garden, with a queue of local ladies waiting with ration books during the Second World War (my mum and I included!).

Ted was often sent by his dad to my dad, when he was a lad, with betting slips, and Ted remembered my dad being very kind and helpful to him when his own father died.

Ted had been on his own since his wife Hilda died in 2001, and in 2017 he also lost a nephew, Peter, to whom he was very close. The two of them would come to the Ripley Event with a 'Field Marshall' tractor, and to many other events as well in Surrey and further afield. Peter was the acknowledged expert in the restoration of vintage tractors manufactured by Marshalls of Gainsborough and wrote two books on the subject.



Ted photographed in 2015

After Audrey gave up her car, Ted took her and me a few times to Clandon Park for tea and he recently said it was time we went again. Sadly, we never did. He also loved going on various day-trips using the buses; his favourite was to Kingston. He didn't attend the History Society meetings but was a faithful member, always phoning Audrey when the Journal arrived, to discuss items in it.

He was a keen gardener, keeping his own immaculate and enjoying growing vegetables. He also took part in mowing the Send church grounds. Both Audrey and I will greatly miss him and his chatty phone calls.

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JEAN ROSEMARY CARPENTER (1938 - 2019)

NORMAN CARPENTER

Jean was born in Upton Manor, West Ham on 23rd of May 1938. Her father was an industrial electrician and worked in Aberdeen for two years on the corvettes and landing craft used on D-Day. Jean was a gifted artist and musician, exhibiting twice at the Royal Academy Junior Summer Exhibition.

In 1968 Jean and the family moved to Send Marsh and, after attending a two-year adult teacher-training course, became a teacher at St Bedes primary school. She taught there for 26 years full-time and part-time. Jean also played a full part in the life of Send and became a founder member of the History Society, serving on its committee for 10-plus years. She was one of the few people to witness the museum being placed on its foundations and was amazed how the lorry ever got through the gates.

Jean was also a founding member of Send Help, firstly as a committee member and then as a vetting officer for new recruits before the introduction of police checks.



Jean (centre) with Norman and Mary Milner at the Society's 20th anniversary dinner at the Hautboy

In 2004 Jean was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and was nursed at home until 2017 when she went into the Bernard Sunley care home. She passed away peacefully on 13th of December 2019 and has been greatly missed by her family and her many friends

JANE BARTLETT (1926 - 2000)

JOHN SLATFORD

Jane, who was a very long standing member of our Society, sadly died on January 14th. She was born on 24th May 1926 in the village of Feckenham near Redditch in Worcestershire where her father was the parish priest. Just before the outbreak of WW2 the family moved to a new parish just outside Brighton.

After leaving school, Jane worked variously as an assistant librarian and an assistant English teacher before gaining an Honours BA in English at Bedford College at the University of London. Thereafter, she taught English for several years before first joining the *Daily Telegraph* and then *Picture Post*. Here she was photo librarian for a number of years, culminating in 1955 by which time she and John had married and their son David was born.

Returning to work later she worked for University Microfilm locating and verifying documents at the British Library but eventually for the rest of her career she



Jane Bartlett

joined Merton Council as a visiting librarian, running a service distributing books to housebound people. Of all her jobs she said this was her favourite.

It was on retirement that they left Wimbledon in 1981, came to Ripley and settled into Little Ripley House. They quickly became involved in local history and joined the Society. Jane's particular interest was in recording local living memories, giving talks and contributing articles to the Journal. Jane was responsible for our book *Looking Back* and also played a leading part in producing the original versions of *Pubs* and *Send and Ripley Walks*.

Perhaps just as important as local history was Jane's interest in natural history, especially so with birdlife. She and John would often travel far and wide to follow this interest. They were also both very active with sailing and dinghy racing, especially at Papercourt Sailing Club.

Among other activities she was also a founding member of Ripley Good Neighbours and for some years delivered Red Cross medical equipment loans.

Jane will not be forgotten for all that she contributed to the progress of our Society over many years. She was a

strong and forthright character and did not suffer fools gladly – as some of us found to our cost! We extend our sympathy and condolences to John and his family.

CLARE McCANN ADDS:

I cannot remember exactly when Desmond and I got to know John and Jane Bartlett but it was probably when we moved to Ripley in the late 1970s. Jane's knowledge, not just of local history but history in general was amazing and her enthusiasm infectious. She had a background in photos and it was not surprising that she became the Society's photo archivist. At the time all the records were hand-written but Jane's search engine was her own amazing memory. Some of us were not so blessed. We then worked together to produce the first computer database and also had a very enjoyable time writing the original *Pubs* book and putting on a complementary exhibition in the museum.

One of her enduring contributions to the Society was the collection of local memories that she, Bette Slatford and others put together in the 1980s.



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WHO ARE THEY?

ALAN COOPER

A fascinating photo of a mother and baby show circa 1950, provided by SRHS member Freda Spickett. These shows were an annual event held in the Ripley vicarage garden. Although reported in the parish magazines of the day, winners and participants' names were never included. Maybe someone recognises one or more of the mums? Please get in touch if you do, and also if you have any similar photos we can use for forthcoming journals.



TALBOT PHOTO 1885

ALAN COOPER

The Surrey Postcard Club annual fair held at St Peter's school, Merrow, usually turns up something of local interest and in November 2019 this once again proved to be the case.

This was not a postcard, but a photo glued to thick card depicting the garden to the rear of the Talbot and dated 1885. The named figures are not locals but one of them can be positively identified as Edward Osborne Fountain. He was born in Uxbridge, Middlesex in 1857 and educated at Pembroke College, Cambridge. At the time the photo was taken he was a doctor of medicine whose practice was in Ruislip, Middlesex. What he was doing in Ripley can only be imagined but cricket or cycling readily spring to mind.

I am fascinated by the thatched structure. Maybe some of our members have ideas or firm knowledge of its exact purpose? If so, please make contact.



The rear garden of the Talbot Hotel photographed in 1885

STENCH POLES: VICTORIANS GETTING IN A STINK

ANDREW JONES

Recently I was contacted by a couple of members who live in Wentworth Close, Ripley, as they knew that I had written a previous article on stink poles and they had one in their garden. Unfortunately it had almost collapsed over onto their neighbour's property, was connected to its base by about four inches of metal, and only the ropes tying it to the house stopped it collapsing completely.

Stink poles or stench poles, to give them their correct name, came about due to the cholera epidemics of London which killed 40,000 people in five outbreaks between 1831 and 1866: this was due to raw sewage being dumped into the Thames whilst the local water companies were drawing water off for drinking purposes.

The smell of raw sewage in the Thames became a serious problem which came to a head in 1858 when it was so bad that Parliament had to be suspended. It became known as 'the Great Stink' and led to the immediate passing of new laws designed to tackle the problem. The government commissioned two men to design a new sewage system which could contain the effluent: they were Sir Joseph Bazalgette who designed the sewage system and Sir Goldsworthy Gurney who designed the poles which usually ran alongside the sewer main. Stink poles were a necessary addition to this Victorian sewage system as they vented harmful gases such as hydrogen sulphide, methane and ammonia into the air. If trapped within the sewers these gases would be highly toxic and potentially explosive, so needed to be dispersed safely.

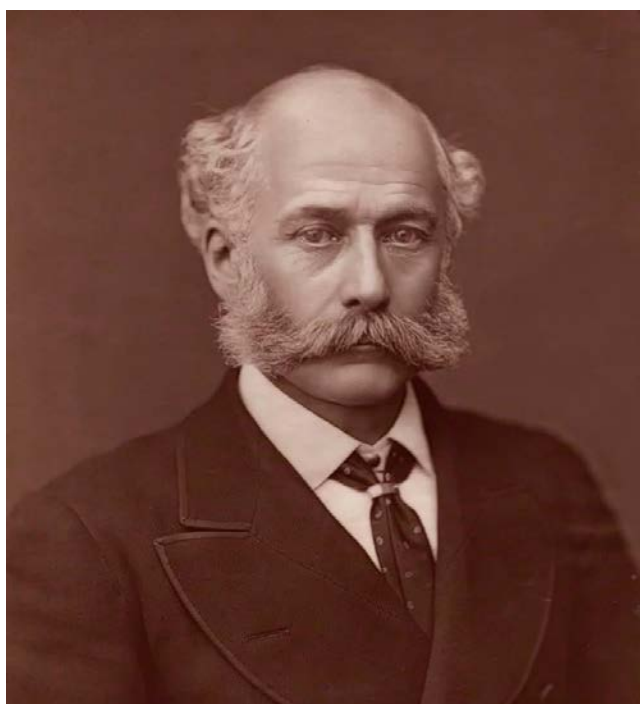
Ripley has at least two of these poles, the one in Wentworth Close and the other in the High Street, near Ryde House. The one in Wentworth Close was near the old sewage pumping station which pumped sewage to the local sewage beds affectionately known as Ripley Castle.



The pole in Wentworth Close, photographed in 2011. This has now collapsed (Photo Andrew Jones)

The High Street one is also near an area which was once sewage beds. I am not aware of any in Send Village.

This pole in Wentworth Close was once very similar to the one on the High Street, but with some differences. For some years it has been missing its top, which looked like the crown on the High Street example, and is smooth down to about the last four feet above the base, where it is decorated all round by a series of spots, then a horizontal ring below which consists of a vertical set of rilling. The base is about 15cm wide and supported a pipe of over six metres in height, though this has also recently collapsed and little is now visible. The one in the High Street is now covered in ivy but also has straight vertical lines or rilling at the base. Both poles and bases are cast iron and were probably made and installed at about the same time. This general structure seems to have been the norm across the country although designs varied immensely, some being highly decorative and others rather more utilitarian; they first appeared in 1858.



Sir Joseph Bazalgette

SIR JOSEPH BAZALGETTE

Joseph Bazalgette was born on the 28th March 1819 at Hill Lodge, Clay Hill, Enfield, the son of Joseph William Bazalgette (1783-1849) a retired Royal Navy captain, and Theresa Philo, born Pilton (1796-1850), and was the grandson of a French protestant immigrant. He began his career working on railway projects, gaining sufficient experience (some in China) in land drainage and reclamation works that he was able to set up his own London consulting practice in 1842. He married his wife Maria Kough (1819-1902) in 1845 and was working so hard that he suffered a nervous breakdown two years later. While recovering, London's Metropolitan Commission of Sewers ordered all cesspits closed and house drains to be connected to the sewer system which discharged directly into the Thames. This act was the cause of the first cholera epidemic, which was made worse by the invention in 1851 of the water closet. It was

first shown at the 1851 exhibition at Crystal Palace and could be bought for a very reasonable price, so proved extremely popular. Manufacturers such as Thomas Crapper and Thomas Twyford produced the first 'public water closets'. In 1849 Bazalgette was appointed assistant surveyor to the Commission of Sewers and then took over as Engineer in 1852. In 1856, championed by fellow engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Bazalgette was appointed Chief Engineer of the new Metropolitan Board of Works (the Commission's successor). He held this post until 1889 when the MBW was abolished and replaced by the London County Council.

In 1858, the year of the 'Great Stink', Bazalgette's proposals to revolutionise London's sewage system were immediately accepted, despite the huge expense. It is interesting to note that cholera was thought at the time to be caused by bad air, known as miasma, although physician Dr John Snow had earlier surmised that cholera was caused by bad water - but he was ignored at the time. The new sewage system was successful at almost eradicating cholera and reduced the typhus and typhoid epidemics as well. The plan included major pumping stations at Deptford, Chelsea and the Chelsea embankment, Abbyhill, Erith Marshes, Becton and Crossness. The construction of the Thames Embankment took place under this plan which allowed for new roads, new public gardens and the Circle Line of the London Underground. The Victoria Embankment was officially opened on 13th July 1870. Holding tanks in Becton and Crossness collected the outfall of the northern and southern sewage which was discharged into the Thames at high tide, downstream of populated areas.

The intercepting sewers constructed between 1859 and 1865 were fed by 450 miles of main sewers which themselves conveyed the contents of some 13,000 miles of smaller local sewers. Construction of the interceptor systems required 318 million bricks, 2.7 million cubic metres of excavated earth and 670,000 cubic metres of concrete (Portland cement) to strengthen the tunnels, which are in relatively good order 150 years later.

Bazalgette had the foresight to double the originally-planned width of the pipes to cope with increased requirements in the future which meant that only relatively recently has the sewage network needed expansion. The system was opened by Edward Prince of Wales in 1865 but completed 10 years later.

Bazalgette was knighted in 1875 for his achievements and was elected president of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1883. He lived at 17 Hamilton Terrace, St Johns Wood, North London, for some years. Before 1851 he moved to Morden, then in 1873 to Arthur Road, Wimbledon, where he died in 1891 and was buried at St Mary's church nearby. There is a monument to him on the riverside of the Victoria Embankment and a blue plaque at 17 Hamilton Terrace.



A portrait of Goldsworthy Gurney

SIR GOLDSWORTHY GURNEY

Surgeon, chemist, lecturer, consultant, architect, builder, gentleman scientist, inventor and the man who gave us the stench pole.

Goldsworthy Gurney was born in the village of Treator near Padstow, Cornwall, on 14th February 1793. His unusual Christian name was his grandmother's surname. He was schooled at the grammar school at Truro where he showed an interest in contemporary science. After school he studied medicine and by the age of 20 had his own medical practice. In 1814 he married Elizabeth Symons, a farmer's daughter and the couple settled in Wadebridge where their daughter Anna Jane was born

in January 1815. Apart from being a surgeon he became interested in chemistry and mechanical science, was also an accomplished pianist and constructed his own piano.

Gurney was an exceptionally gifted engineer and invented one of the first so-called steam carriages to be used on public roads. This was, however, not a commercial success and there was also controversy about his claim to certain patents/inventions in this field but he clearly has his place in the history of motorised transport.

In the early 1850s he invented a new domestic lighting system which, by use of prisms and lenses, distributed light to every room at his house, 'The Castle', in the town of Bude. This became known as the Bude-Light and was subsequently used to improve the lighting of theatres, which at the time used a system known as limelights, where intense illumination was created when an oxyhydrogen flame was directed at a cylinder of quicklime (calcium oxide) - hence the expression 'to be in the limelight'. The Bude-Light utilised a standard flame producer such as an oil lamp and, adding oxygen directly into the flame, produced a dramatically-increased bright white light.

A most important invention of his was the steam-jet or blast pipe which served to increase the draw of air through pipes. Previously used in an earlier form in his steam locomotives he extended its use to the cleaning of sewers, bridging his mechanical and medical knowledge in the service of the eradication of cholera in the metropolis. It was also valuable in dealing with mine fires, notably bringing under control a fire known as 'the burning waste of Clackmannan' which in 1851 had raged for more than 30 years over an area of 26 acres, at the south Sauchie Colliery near Aloo. Gurney injected chokedamp (a mixture of nitrogen and carbon dioxide) into the mine by means of his steam-jet to extinguish the combustion and after three weeks drove water into the mine as a spray from the steam-jet to bring the temperature down from 250F (121C) to 98F (37C). It is said that extinguishing this fire saved property to the value of some £200,000 (£28 million at today's prices).

Arising from his successes with mine ventilation Gurney was commissioned in 1852 to improve the gas lighting, heating and ventilation of the new Houses of Parliament. Bude-Lights were fitted and it is said that just three lights could replace 280 candles. They lit the House of Commons for sixty years until the arrival of electricity. It was for this that he received his knighthood. His lights were also used in Pall Mall and Trafalgar Square. He extended his work to lighthouse lamps, introducing a unique on-off pattern in each location, enabling seafarers to identify which lighthouse it was they saw flashing.



An ornate pole top (photo Andrew Jones)



The Ryde House pole in 2020, completely swathed in ivy (photo Cameron Brown)

He had some success with ventilating Parliament but had not managed to eradicate the smell from the Thames. His partial solution, pending Bazalgette's complete replacement of the sewers, was the sewerage ventilation pipe or stench pole, involving the erection of a pipe from the sewer system. Tying a pipe to the clock tower of Big Ben and standing at the top with a lighted match, he caused two small explosions in the sewer. He was fortunate not to have blown up Big Ben as the sewerage system was blocked by excess sewage at the time. Nevertheless his concept of the sewerage ventilation system was endorsed and used country-wide.

Another invention was the Gurney stove which he patented in 1856 and which was used to heat a wide variety of buildings. The stove's most interesting feature was the use of external ribs to increase its surface area. It is believed that some of the Gurney stoves are still in use in the cathedrals of Ely, Durham, Chester, Hereford and Peterborough. There is also a surviving example at Gurney's house in Bude.

In 1863 Gurney was knighted by Queen Victoria but later that year suffered a paralytic stroke which ultimately killed him. He passed away on the 28th February 1875 and is buried at Launcells parish church.

After his death Gurney's daughter Anna Jane appears to have engaged in considerable promotion of her father's claims to various of his inventions. His gravestone reads: 'To his inventive genius the world is indebted for the

high speed of the locomotive, without which railways could not have succeeded and would never have been made'. She also, by hand, altered 'the blowpipe' to 'his blowpipe' in her copy of the *Dictionary of National Biography*. In 1880 she donated £500 to memorialise his steam-jet at the ceremony of laying the stone for Truro cathedral, managing somehow to get the then Prince of Wales' children to present the money. The inscription on the stone reads: 'In memory of her father Sir Goldsworthy Gurney, inventor of the steam-jet, as a thanks offering to almighty God for the benefit of high speed locomotion whereby His good gifts are conveyed from one nation to another and the word of the Lord is sent unto all parts of the world'.

In 1889 Anna Jane presented a chiming clock to St Olaf's church at Poughill in Bude which was inscribed: 'His inventions and discoveries in steam and electricity rendered transport by land and sea so rapid that it became necessary for all England to keep uniform clock-time.' A final tribute from his daughter was a stained glass window in St Margaret's, Westminster (destroyed during WWII), with an inscription, part of which reads: 'He originated the Electric Telegraph, High Speed Locomotion and Flashing Light Signalling. He invented the Steam Jet and the Oxy-Hydrogen Blowpipe.'

All information from *Wikipedia*, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, *The New World Encyclopaedia*.

Photographs as credited, or from public sources.

PETER SMITHERS

MY ARMY EXPERIENCES 1960 - 1963

ALAN COOPER



RAF Weeton (January 1961) – Peter (far left standing) on an airframe construction course

SRHS member Peter Smithers was born in Send in 1939. What follows is a light-hearted, irreverent account of 23784070 Private/Craftsman Smithers, Peter T, and his basic training undertaken between April 1960 and April 1963. In 1960, like the majority of his contemporaries, Peter received his call-up papers for National Service. Whilst most people begrudgingly accepted this intrusion into their personal life, Peter decided to reject this and instead, signed up for 3 years of service in the Regular Army.

Peter recalls:

On a lovely summer-like day on the 12th April 1960 I was invited to join her majesty's forces but instead I decided to sign on for three years in the Regular Army. That way you could have a say in which regiment you would join, and, with forward-

thinking, what career to follow afterwards. So, I took the 'Queen's shilling' and enlisted into the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers.

I was immediately given leave without pay, until 27th April 1960; 15 days leave and I'd not even started - this seemed too good to be true!

When I finally made it to Blandford Forum camp in Dorset on 28th April to start my basic training, we arrived late, but were served food – rice pudding, two slices of bread, a pat of butter and jam, all on the same plate, plus a mug of tea. "Don't worry, lads" the sergeant said to his latest intake as we eyed the 'meal' with some concern, "it all goes down the same 'ole"! After eating we were kitted out with our uniforms, one for best and one for working. They all appeared to be the same size,

and we were not! The sergeant's response to this was the sort of thing we came to expect every time he spoke from then on: "If the beret's too big, shrink it. If it's too small, stretch it".

Next day, we underwent medicals, were designated our army number and our religion was established. This was all then stamped into our pay-books. As we lined up to get stamped the dour looking corporal asked us in turn our religion. The first soldier replied "C of E" - stamp, stamp, the paybook was returned whilst the corporal's gaze remained focused on the desk. He did not look up. "Next", "C of E" stamp, stamp; still he didn't look up. This followed through Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic and so on until one soldier blurted out "Plymouth Brethren". Stamp, stamp - and finally the corporal looked up and slowly said "you're C of E from now on".

One morning during breakfast the duty sergeant and duty officer – the ones that wear a red sash – came around to make sure everyone was happy with their meal. You very soon learnt to answer "yes sir", but there was always one who would answer in the negative. On this occasion he said "no sir, my egg's funny". The sergeant turned, addressing us all as one and said "listen to this, lads, this soldier thinks his egg is funny" and the unfortunate private was ridiculed in front of everyone by having to stand on his chair and laugh at the egg.

As we considered ourselves starved, we soon learnt to get an extra breakfast by tipping our plate forwards and sliding extra toast, sausage and bacon underneath the plate. I never did master getting a second egg!



Rule one for new recruits: never volunteer for anything in the army. One day on parade we were asked if anyone was good at athletics, running in particular? As before, there was always one who was quickly singled out by the sergeant before being ordered to "run up to the NAAFI¹ and get me ten Woodbines and a box of matches." The only time you did volunteer was to be a waiter in the officers' mess at night functions which were held quite frequently. Once the champagne and wine was flowing it was not uncommon for the odd bottle to be dropped out of a window into the grateful hands of comrades waiting patiently below.

Farcical situations occurred on an almost daily basis. One rather young-looking lieutenant, probably fresh out of Sandhurst,² berated one of the old sweats³ for not saluting him. He proceeded to order him to salute for ten minutes. The captain present stepped in and reminded him that, upon being saluted he should salute back and so for the next ten minutes, the two stood facing and saluting each other. The young officer was posted soon after and was never seen again.

The camp had a brass band, made up of volunteers with second-hand instruments. The sound produced left a lot to be desired at the best of times but became almost riotous when, one day whilst marching, the trombone player managed to nudge the hat of the bass drummer in front of him over his eyes. This resulted in the band splitting into two and marching away from each other. 'Sir' was not amused.

On-the-spot kit inspections occurred regularly and one officer's batman would often put said officer's boots on his own bed to be examined. We were once given a taste of life under canvas for two days on Salisbury Plain. After driving aimlessly around for a couple of hours an officer suddenly jumped out in front of our lorry and directed us off-road and up a track whereupon the lorry came to rest in the middle of a large clump of blackberry bushes. We were ordered to pull down the camouflage sheets for cover. To do this we had to trample the bushes down and complete the task pretty smartly as an aircraft was about to swoop down and photograph our position, which was a sea of green with a trampled ring in the middle. It stood

out like a tanner on a sweep's backside! The photograph taken included the officer furiously waving a clipboard at the plane.

Everything, please or offend, had a nickname. Members of the Royal Artillery were known as 'long-range snipers'; our drivers and signalers were all artillerymen. A lance-corporal had one stripe on his arm which was referred to as one bent Woodbine. Corporals had two stripes and Sergeants had three whilst warrant officers class 1 & 2 had 'scrambled egg' on their wrists.



Top: RAF Middle Wallop – 1962 – A recovery vehicle
Bottom: A 'mashie wagon'⁴

There was a spate of thieving at one point, in particular our boots, which would go missing overnight. To combat this, you lifted up your bed, placing two of its legs inside the boots. Cookhouse staff were also frequent jokers and a favourite trick was to put a scrubbing brush into the urn of brown Windsor soup – it was always brown Windsor soup! After we had all been served the cook would peer into the empty urn and announce "look Sergeant, I've found that scrubbing brush we lost last week!"

In 1961/2 we had a visit from the then Secretary of State for War, John Profumo, who at the time was being more than a little friendly with two young ladies named Christine Keeler and Mandy Rice-Davis – say no more! We had to spruce up the camp for the visit. My mate and I were 'picked to volunteer' to paint black and white curbstones around part of the camp. He started with alternate black curbs at one end and me white at the other end. This was done to allow the paint time to dry but inevitably we ended up with 2 white ones in the centre. Once again, 'sir' was not amused.

My basic training, followed by three years in the army, was certainly an eye-opener. We were not invaded and we



RAF Middle Wallop – Royal Army Ordnance Corps stores
Peter second left with papers in hand



Peter Smithers



The infamous blue beret

slept comfortably in our beds, despite being led by some wonderfully outstanding officer material! My service career ended with a transfer to the Army Air Corps, (long before Prince Harry turned it into an officer's flying club). At least the Russians chose not to cross over into Germany! The Army Air Corps was formed in 1957 from a mixture of Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers, Royal Artillery, Fleet Air Arm and Royal Army Ordnance Corps. We wore a very distinctive pale blue beret – which always attracted wolf-whistles from other branches of the armed forces.

On a more serious note, all ended as planned. The education and training provided by the army was far superior to any apprenticeship available anywhere and my three years of service provided me with much

amusement, but more importantly skills and qualifications that have supported me throughout my life.

Period photographs c/o Peter Smithers collection

Cap c/o Alan Cooper collection

¹ NAAFI - The Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes. This acronym is of a company that runs recreational facilities for the Armed Forces on their bases and ships covering anything from bars and cafés to launderettes, selling goods to both service personnel and their families

² Officer Training College

³ A soldier with years of experience

⁴ A 'mashie wagon' was, quite literally, a 'mobile' machine shop, equipped with a lathe, bench drill and other associated tools and equipment



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THE HISTORY OF SEND REC (CONTINUED)

LINDA PARKER PICKEN

In Journal 269 in November 2019, the origins of Send Recreation Ground were explained.

Now, in the rec's centenary year, a scrapbook of memories has been compiled by Send's *Get Creative* group. It runs to 123 pages and highlights include:

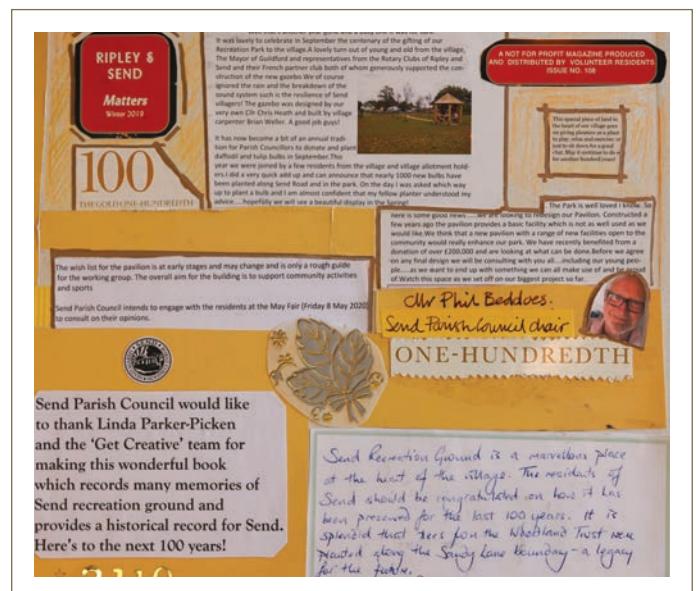
- Copies of the Trust Deed from 1919 and the Conveyance to Send and Ripley Parish Council in 1924
- The original Byelaws
- Photographs of a baseball game with Canadian soldiers in 1943, contributed by SRHS member Pat Clack
- A copy of a full page article from the *Woking News and Mail* for the week ending 15th May 1965 about the Send May Fair. This was recently uncovered in the History Society store. It had been blown up and presumably displayed at the 1995 May Fair, as a handwritten sign above it asked 'Are you on any of these photos of Send Fete 30 years ago?'
- Plans from the building of the pavilion in the 1990s, with mention of an 'overhanging oak tree'
- Photographs of that oak tree, which fell onto the pavilion roof in 2011
- Photographs of Send United Football Club from its origins in 1977
- Morris dancers in the 1980s
- One World and Trapdoor events in the '80s and '90s

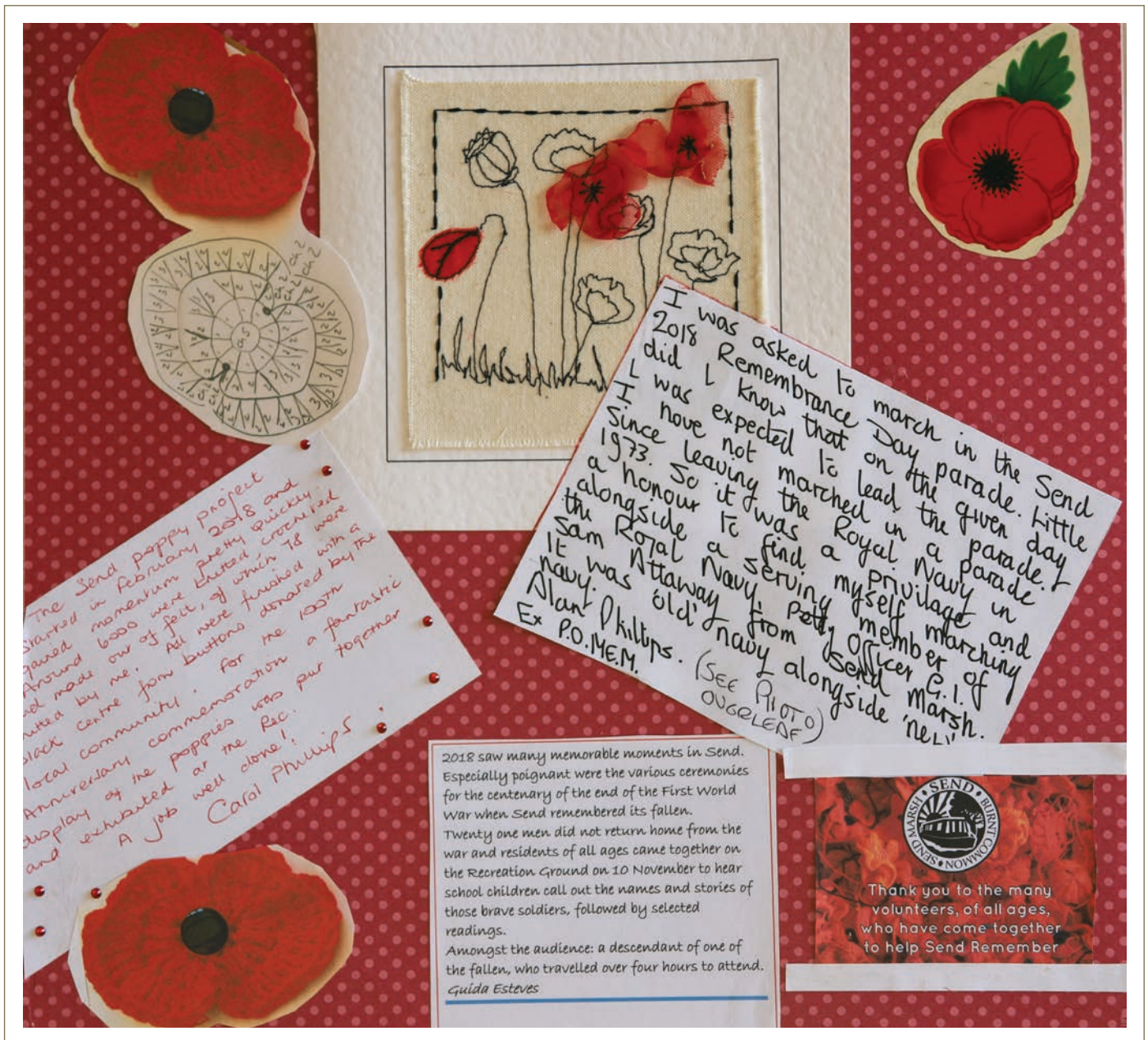
- Many May Day memories
- Development of the rec's equipment and landscaping
- The poppy project in 2018 to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One
- The centenary celebration in September 2019
- Many other photos and hand-written memories contributed by local residents

A book will be available shortly - cost £9.50

A hard copy and/or DVD versions may be produced.

Email sendartsandcrafts@gmail.com to express an interest.





MUSEUM NEWS

SIR ANTHONY BROWNE

CLARE McCANN



Sir Anthony Browne (National Portrait Gallery)

Our current exhibition at the museum is about Sir Anthony Browne. What follows is a précis of the much more detailed exhibition contents.

Sir Anthony Browne's father (also Sir Anthony) was born at Betchworth Castle in Surrey. He was Standard Bearer of England and later Constable of Calais, where he died. Young Anthony's mother was Lady Lucy Neville, daughter of John Neville, 1st Marquess of Montagu. She was an ardent Yorkist and her loyalty to the monarchy seems to have been in some doubt, which makes her son's later closeness to Henry VIII all the more remarkable.

Young Anthony is thought to have been born around 1500, therefore was only about nine years younger than Henry VIII and became his close and trusted friend. His first official appointment was in 1518 when he became Surveyor and Master of Hunting for the Yorkshire castles and the lordships of Hatfield, Thorne and Conisbrough.

Quite what his duties were in this role we do not know. He then became one of the group of officials sent to hand over the town of Tournai to King Francis I of France following the Treaty of London and on the 1st July 1522 Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, knighted him. In 1525 he was made lieutenant of the Isle of Man. We do not know if he spent any time there as by 1527 (not yet aged 30) he was ambassador to France.

In 1536 there were uprisings in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, known as The Pilgrimage of Grace. These were in protest against Henry VIII's break with Rome. The king sent Sir Anthony, amongst others, to suppress the protests and, perhaps in part, to test his loyalty. Browne, a life-long Catholic, executed the task and maintained the king's trust from then on.

In 1528 he married Alice Gage, daughter of Sir John Gage and Philippa Guildford who was born in Brockham, Surrey, circa 1506. She and Sir Anthony had seven sons and three daughters. Some time after 1540, his wife having died, Anthony Browne married Lady Elizabeth Fitzgerald, daughter of Gerald Fitzgerald, 9th Earl of Kildare, and Lady Elizabeth Grey. They had two children who both died young.

Browne was elected to parliament as Knight of the Shire for Surrey in 1539 and in the same year was appointed Master of the King's Horse, an appointment for life. In 1540 he was made a Knight of the Garter and given ownership of Battle Abbey and the priory of St Mary Overy in Southwark, both confiscated in 1538 as part of the dissolution of the monasteries.

In 1537 Sir Anthony had been present at the christening of the future King Edward VI and was one of the knights who guarded the silver font used on that occasion. As a Conservative and a Catholic, Browne

had to be careful not to be brought down by factional politics at the court of Henry VIII. He became so trusted by the king that in the king's latter years, Browne held a dry stamp of Henry VIII's signature to use for minor letters. During the last illness of Henry, Browne with 'good courage and conscience' undertook to tell the king of his approaching end. Henry appointed him guardian to Prince Edward and Princess Elizabeth,



Portrait of Lady Elizabeth FitzGerald by Steven van der Meulen, 1560 (National Portrait Gallery)

made him one of his executors and left him a legacy. On the king's death Browne broke the news to the young prince and when, as Edward VI he made his public entry into London, Browne, as Master of the Horse, rode beside him.

Browne survived Henry VIII by only one year and died at his house at Byfleet on the 6th of May 1548. He was buried with great pomp at Battle next to his first wife, Alice.

DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES

When Cardinal Wolsey fell from favour with Henry VIII because of his failure to secure a divorce for the king, it set in train a whole new relationship between church and state. After the fall of Wolsey, Thomas Cromwell masterminded a raft of statutes – initially driven by Henry's wish to marry Anne Boleyn, which had required the break with Rome.

Cromwell was a reformer at heart and in 1535 he set about an impressive and detailed assessment of all clerical incomes from bishops to vicarages to chapels and concluded that the income of the church was more than three times the income of all the Crown estates. Little wonder that Cromwell came to see this as a financial opportunity waiting to be exploited. He also saw religious houses as inefficient and often corrupt. In due course the rising power of Protestantism might have led in any event to reforms but in the 1530s the driving force was economic, not religious. Henry had steep military costs, both to confront the threat of invasion and to suppress internal rebellion, as well as the day to day running of an increasingly complex apparatus of government.

The first round of dissolutions in 1536 affected religious houses with incomes of less than £200 per year. Clerics could either leave religion altogether with a pension or transfer to another, larger house. The heads of these institutions received often quite generous settlements but the average was about £5 or £6 per annum. Cromwell set up a Court of Augmentations to manage the former monastic lands and administer the revenues. By 1544 these amounted to an annual income of £253,292, not to mention the one-off disposal of bullion, plate and other valuables. There was a wholesale destruction of beautiful buildings, the melting down of precious reliquaries and jewels, the dispersal of libraries and a loss of scholarship. Some of the land was given to favourites or to reward support, but the vast majority was sold.

The dissolution year of Newark Priory was 1539. At that time there were nine canons in residence as well as 41 servants and farm workers. The valuable items of silver were all sent to the Master of the Jewels in the Tower of London to be melted down.

Other ornaments and utensils, corn, hay, cattle and farm equipment were sold for under £100. Browne was initially appointed 'farmer for the crown' to administer the estate and in 1544 he was granted the manor of Ripley including Newark, but neither he nor his family ever lived here. It is believed that he removed the good building material from the priory site and used it to rebuild his house at Byfleet.

Browne was also awarded the manors of Send, Jury and East Clandon, together with Brede, Sussex, which

included a considerable part of the town of Hastings. The Surrey History Centre has a document listing the properties given to Browne. An extract is shown in the exhibition but just a few of those which you may recognise include the vicarage of Send, Ripley chapel (now St Mary Magdalen), Chapel Farm, Send Barns,

Jury's Farm, Aldertons, the George Inn, Ryde Farm, Newark Mill, various farms in West Horsley, Send, Ripley, Ockham, Woking, Pyrford, Wisley and more...

The exhibition would have remained open until the end of April had we not had to close the museum.



Byfleet Manor, watercolour by Hassell (Surrey History Centre)



Sir Anthony Browne's coat-of-arms

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CLARE McCANN

Under the current circumstances there may be further cancellations.

Doors open for all evening talks at 7.30pm for an 8pm start at the Ripley Village Hall. Tea/coffee available.

DATES	EVENTS
Tuesday 21st April	June Davey talk: <i>West Horsley Place, the House and its History</i> – CANCELLED
Tuesday 5th May	Outing to West Horsley Place, 2pm – CANCELLED
Wednesday 17th June	Outing to Loseley House, 1.45pm – TBC
Friday 17th July	Members' BBQ Venue TBC
Tuesday 15th September	James Dickinson talk: <i>Margaret Beaufort</i>
Tuesday 20th October	Kenneth Bare talk: <i>60 Years of the Surrey Hills</i>
Tuesday 17th November	Cherrill Sands talk: <i>The Creation and Restoration of Painshill Gardens</i>
Tuesday 15th December	Christmas Social (members only)

Further details can be obtained from Helena Finden-Browne.

helena_findenbrowne@compuserve.com

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS



THE MUSEUM WILL REMAIN CLOSED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life	Reprinted 1998/2006	£10.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.25
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£4.00
The Straight Furrow, by Fred Dixon		£1.50
Ripley and Send – Looking Back	Reprinted 2007	£9.00
A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£2.00
Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2012	£4.00
The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£4.00
Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures	New Edition 2017	£8.00
Two Surrey Village Schools – The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools		£10.00
The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey		£5.00
Memories of War		£8.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£10.00
Send and Ripley Walks (revised edition)		£7.50
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£8.00
Special Offer: Purchase Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£10.00

All the publications are available via the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk



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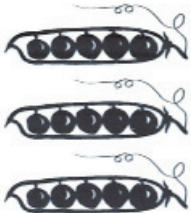
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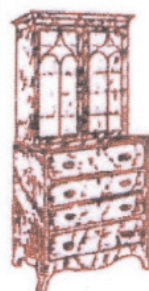
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