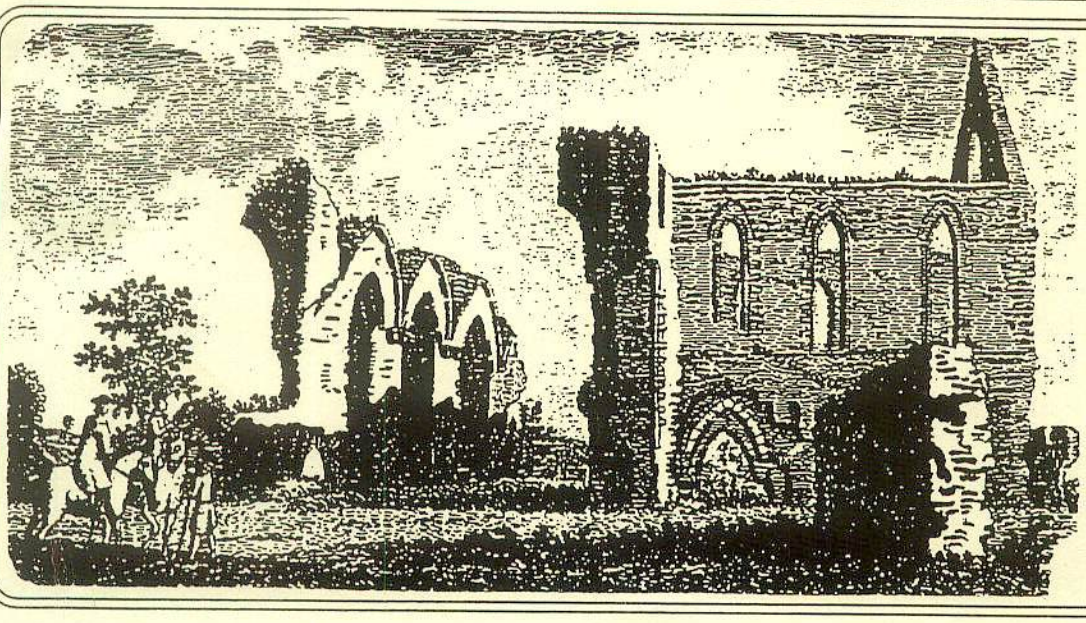
Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 296324



NEWARK PRIORY

Newsletter No.141 July/August 1998

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Cover Illustration: Some of the group attending the visit to Roehampton on May 3

EDITOR'S COMMENT

It was not possible to include information on progress of the photographic survey of Send buildings in this edition, but a more complete report of this will appear in the next Newsletter.

As will be seen from the address on the front cover, the Editor has now moved to the West Country, from whence the next Newsletter will be produced. Articles and copies of photographs can be sent to this address, and any material required to be returned please note with your submissions. All material for the next Newsletter should be submitted no later, please, than Friday, 11 September.

This Newsletter contains, as will be seen, a very interesting account of the six bells at Send Church, which also contains an appeal for volunteers to maintain the strength of the present team to contribute to the bell ringing to mark the Millennium in the year 2000.

On Saturday and Sunday, 18 and 19 July, there will be an exhibition held at St Mary's Church, Send, between 2 pm and 5 pm on Saturday, and from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm on Sunday, when it will be possible to visit the belfry and:

watch a Silence bell ringing,
try your hand at bell ringing,
listen to hand bells (the musical ones, not the school ones),
see display boards on ringing, restoration, etc,
see books,
see a working model of a bell.

RIPLEY - "THE MECCA OF ALL GOOD CYCLISTS"

Part 2 of a Talk Given to the Society by Les Bowerman on 26 February 1998

Please note that the date of the photograph of the Anchor in Newsletter 140 should be August 1886, not 1896.

On 19 March 1881, a concert was given at the Hautboy and Fiddle by George Lacy Hillier and others, as a farewell to Mr and Mrs Ching. The roistering continued until 3.30 am. With the departure of the Chings, the popularity of the Hautboy waned, like that of the Talbot, leaving the Anchor supreme in the affections of cyclists.

An illustrated article, entitled "A Bicyclists' Haunt - Ripley, Surrey", appeared in *The Pictorial World* of May 21 1881, written by C W Nairn, bugler in the London BC, and London correspondent of *The Cyclist*. He later became a founder member of the Ripley Road Club. According to Nairn, the Talbot was the place for sober-minded cyclists to rest, the Anchor was for those youths of great vitality who still have "go" left in them, while the Hautboy and Fiddle was the scene of rare merry-making among cyclists. Ripley is a long straggling village, Nairn observes, with one of the largest and prettiest village greens in the Kingdom. The population is only a few hundreds, he wrote, although it was, in fact, 978 plus one tramp on the road, according to the Census taken that year, but on the Good Friday there were 600 cycling visitors, according to Nairn.

The Cyclist Christmas Number for 1882 contained an article entitled "A Romance of Ripley in Three Rides". "All day on the Saturday and Sunday, string after string of enthusiasts wheeled over the famous and beautiful road. Thither came crack and mug alike, the country cousin and the trans-Atlantic tourist. 'Arry, from Battersea, gyrated uneasily from side to side with pipe and gauntlets very prominent. The winner of the previous day's mile at the bridge (Lillie Bridge) pedalled past, methodically and mechanically. The obscure clubman trundled philosophically along, and the timid tyro struggled manfully along, determined to see Ripley - and

dine."

The only remaining member of the Dibble family living in Ripley, our member, Joan Dibble, once showed me a barometer clock, which had belonged to her grandmother, inscribed "Presented to Mrs Dibble by a few member of the Temple BC as a slight recognition of kind attention received at the Anchor Inn, Ripley, Christmas 1882". The Temple BC had been a large club with several sections based in the area of the Law Courts. Among its members had been the Club's Captain, W Bashall, and their 1884 Double Tricycling Champion, Henry St John Hick Bashall, who was later to become, inter alia, first Chairman of Ockham Parish Council and author of *The Oak Hamlet*, the history of that village, where he lived at Elm Corner.

The 1882 cyclists' visitors' book at the Anchor contains some 4189 signatures for the year.

The year 1883 is notable chiefly for the London Tricycle Club's 24 hours road race, which finished in the Ripley area. Sixty-seven riders started at midnight from Caterham. In the three and a half page report in *The Cyclist*, there are fascinating insights which there is little space to relate here. Every entrant's club, make and size of machine is recorded. Most machines had two oil lamps (front only, as there would be no other traffic coming up from behind). Nixon "disentangled himself from his masher's collar, which would have been a superfluous luxury on a long ride". Vesey wore glasses, Marriott had his moustache curled "as if for a dance".

We will go directly to Ripley, the 201 mile point. Various telegrams were being received there by the assembled cyclists. All was expectancy at 9.30 pm when Jack Keen dashed up (doubtless on one of his Eclipse High Bicycles), lampless, warm and jubilant at having out-distanced the force at Guildford. He prepared tea and bread and jam, which was handed to Marriott of the Nottingham and Notts TC, the first to arrive at 9.39. Marriott claimed he was quite fresh. After receiving a bouquet from a young lady, he resumed, escorted by Keen and the Chief Timekeeper. Marriott, on a 42" Humber, finally stopped at the Bay Tree at Merton with the winning distance of 218-3/4 miles, with ten minutes still to go (the present-day bicycle and tricycle records are 525 and 457 miles respectively).

In the meantime, demands for hot soup and eggs were cheerfully complied with at the Anchor up to midnight and beyond. Nixon, of the London TC, on a 48" Premier, arrived at 10.23, and hearing that he was second, decided to retire after a meal of chicken and claret. The Surrey BC rider, Vesey (48" Coventry Rotary), came in at 10.29. Hearing that Nixon was within and had retired, Vesey at once set off and rode to the sandpit on Wisley Common, and then returned slowly to the Anchor to retire after 205 miles, which earned him second place. Gosset, of the Temple BC (48" Premier), arrived at 11.41 and rode to the end of Ripley to qualify for third place over Nixon. Marriott, the winner, had nothing better to do the next day than to ride back down with his two escorts to Ripley, where about 80 dined at the Anchor. When Marriott, with Fred Cooper, marketed a new lightweight racing tricycle in 1887, they named it the "Ripley". S F Edge, later famous for his 24 hours motor records at Brooklands, won the One Mile Tricycle Championship on a Ripley tricycle in 1888.

The year 1884 was seen in with the usual gathering of habitués of the Ripley Road at the Anchor. By this time the cycling journalists were becoming nostalgic. "Many of the old brigade were seated around the board, and for once the Anchor looked as it used to in the good old days", although those days could not have been more than ten years earlier. After the meal, dancing took place until 4 am, when Mrs Harriet Dibble and her daughters, Annie and Harriet, were thanked for their hospitality.

Towards the end of July 1884, a number of riders had the honour of seeing Queen Victoria in an open landau, drawn by two horses on the Ripley Road, at Claremont. The Holborn CC reported that on their way back from tea at the Anchor, they drew up in line and saluted Her Majesty, who "gracefully bowed her acknowledgement".

In September 1884, R H English, of Newcastle, was an outstanding winner of both the

Crystal Palace and Kildare Challenge Cups, competed for in the London area. Desirous to see how London cyclists enjoyed themselves, he naturally wished to see Ripley, of which he had heard so much. Thus a party was formed to cycle down, Newton steering a Humber tandem (tricycle). They swam in the River Wey, lunched at the Anchor and signed the visitors' book. The scenic beauty, which contrasted with that of Newcastle, was much appreciated, but the visitors seemed more impressed with the number of cycles they encountered on the road than with anything else.

To be continued

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SEND - 50TH ANNIVERSARY - REDEDICATION OF THE CHURCH BELLS

At 7.30 pm on 17 June, the Rev Tony Shutt conducted a service marking the 50th anniversary of the rededication of the church bells. The excellent service was well supported by a large congregation, comprising parishioners, visitors from other churches, bell ringers, expert and novice, and supporters of the ancient art of bell-ringing. Led by the choir, all were in good voice to celebrate this historic occasion.

Ivan J M Saunders, a young man at the time, was Tower Captain when the first dedication took place on Wednesday, 16 June 1948. Members of the present band of bell ringers, including learners, were all given the opportunity to ring on this occasion. Prominent members of the bell-ringing fraternity were also in attendance and joined in.

Immediately after the service, the six bells were rung and refreshments were served.

There is an account of the bells in the Guide to the Parish Church, published by Send & Ripley History Society and available at the church.

The following account is reproduced from a leaflet available in the church, and written by Ivan J M Saunders, Tower Captain, with a foreword by the Rev Tony Shutt.

St Mary the Virgin

Once in a Lifetime, the 50th Anniversary of Send's Bells

The 50th anniversary of our present set of bells could be celebrated on a number of different dates, between February 1996 and November 1998, but this would be far too long a period to have any real meaning.

The first date of historical interest was February 1946, with an estimate from Messrs Gillett & Johnston for six bells and a chiming apparatus for £890. However, on Thursday, 20 February 1947, in a meeting at the bell foundry, the cost of the materials, etc, necessitated a revision of the estimate to £1050.

Between Tuesday, 1, and Monday, 7 July 1947, the three old remaining bells were removed from the tower. One was placed in the porch on Sunday, 6 July, so that people could place money in it to go towards the appeal.

The three bells were taken to the foundry for recasting, with the three new bells being cast at the same time, the work being completed with a new steel frame and erected in the tower from Tuesday, 3, until Saturday, 14 February 1948. The task of training a band of ringers was the next thing to be taken in hand. Nine volunteers came forward, one by the name of Sidney M Strudwick, who was in his late 40s, later to become Tower Secretary and then Tower Captain. Only two of these volunteers were accomplished ringers, namely Mr A Walker and Mr W Loader, who were elected Captain and Vice-Captain respectively.

Ringing practices commenced on Tuesday, 24 February, and then every Wednesday. Mr G L Grover (Guild General Secretary), of West Clandon, kindly offered his valuable services, and under his guidance the seven recruits became capable ringers of rounds within a few months.

Then came the ceremony of dedication, which was performed by the Right Rev C H Golding-Bird, DD, Assistant Bishop of Guildford and Archdeacon of Surrey, on Wednesday

Bell 1, Treble F

evening, 16 June 1948. In addition to the usual being present, a good number were members of the Guildford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, along with Mr B Newson, who represented Gillett & Johnston. After the service, the opening touch on the bells was rung by C E Smith, A E Harman (Guild Master), A C Hazleden (Guild Librarian), G L Grover (Guild General Secretary), W Loader and A Walker. Then other members took the opportunity to try out the bells (and it is recorded), with several delightful "touches" being rung.

On Remembrance Sunday afternoon, 7 November 1948, the memorial plaque was unveiled with the following inscription:

"The peal of six bells was hung as a memorial to those of this parish who lost their lives in two World Wars and as a thank-offering for victory".

It bears the names of those who lost their lives, along with four parishioners who were killed by enemy action. It is situated on the North wall of the nave, opposite the main door to the church.

The First Peal

The first peal on the bells was rung in honour of the birth (14 November) of Prince Charles on Saturday, 20 November 1948, and it consisted of 5760 changes of Plain Bob Minor (720 changes more than required was rung because the conductor miscounted the number of 720s he had to ring).

The year ended with a Watch Night Service, the bells being rung before the service, and then they heralded in the new year of 1949.

It was not until 1949 that the first recorded Quarter Peal on the bells took place. That was on Sunday morning, 3 April, consisting of Grandsire Doubles, rung in honour of the visit of the Bishop of Guildford (Dr J V MacMillan), who conducted a confirmation service. Two of those taking part and ringing their first Quarter Peal were from the seven who had no experience of ringing when they started in February the previous year.

The first Chertsey District Meeting of the Guild (to which we belong) to be held at Send wasn't until Saturday, 6 September 1952, with about 30 ringers attending.

As already mentioned, a good start was made by the band, which included ringing for Sunday morning services some three months or so after their first practice.

Things ere not to stay so rosy with some of the ringers moving out of the district, even though outside help was still at hand in the name of Mr W Goldstone, who lived at Addlestone some eight miles away. At the age of 66 years, he would bicycle over, or if the weather was bad he would bus, and this still left him over one mile to walk. Even with his help, practice nights became poor, so it was decided to join in with Old Woking and practise alternate weeks at each other's tower. This seems to have worked for some considerable time.

To show their appreciation, in 1955 Mr W Goldstone was presented with an eight day clock at the instigation of the young ringers, who were mostly girls, following morning service on his 70th birthday, and still using his bicycle to get to Send.

During the late '50s and early '60s, there was a lot of coming and going of ringers and changes of practice nights, and Sunday ringing was to suffer. Even though the bells were heard, they were by then being chimed by Sidney and others using the chiming apparatus.

Inauguration

From the time the bells were put in, visiting bands made good use of them in the form of odd Full Peals and Quarter Peals, towers using them for their ringing outings and practice meetings, and, for instance, during the early part of 1950, Horsell used them for practice nights and came on Sundays while their tower was under repair. Then 1970 saw Chobham use them while their bells were away at the foundry, and Old Woking used them for the same reason

during 1972. That sort of help is still around today in all the local towers, which means everyone helps each other.

Ringing almost stopped again at the end of the '60s and the beginning of the '70s. Then Wednesday, 13 October 1971 saw the sudden death of Sidney M Strudwick (aged 71), after 23 years as a ringer and the last ten years as their Tower Captain, after collapsing under the lychgate at Old Woking whilst waiting for the local ringers to arrive for the weekly practice. He will be remembered for his enthusiasm that the bells should be rung for services and not for what he could ring, for he could only really master the treble or tenor behind, yet he did ring in two Full Peals covering behind and 21 Quarter Peals, again mostly ringing the tenor behind.

A New Chapter

It was during the last part of 1972 that a new start was made (by myself in charge). Even this met with the normal ups and downs when a lot of new learners started together, but the years of 1974/75 saw the turning point and progress has grown steadily, and 1977 saw the fulfilment of any Tower Captain with a new and young band, that was to ring a Full Peal in five Doubles Methods (as recorded on the peal board hanging in the belfry). Four were ringing their first Full Peal. It also happened to be the 25th peal on the bells for the Guild and the first by a local band.

Many of the ringers can now ring several Doubles and Minor Methods, a few can even ring Major Methods as well as ringing on ten bells. Sunday service ringing has been what it should be, and practice nights are well attended with a steady flow of learners still coming forward.

Inscriptions and Weights

Bell No	Note	Inscription	Weight cwts	qts	lbs
Treble	F	Gillett & Johnston, Croydon. 1947	4	0	13
2	Eb	In memory of F/O Robert Philip Dixon RAF Killed whilst flying near Silloth, Cumberland, 13th November 1943. Gillett & Johnston, Croydon. 1947	4	3	11
3	Db	This ring of Bells was dedicated to those who died in the Wars of 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 and as a Thank offering for victory. Cyril E. Sylvester, Vicar. R. S. Dixon and T. C. Graham, Churchwardens. Gillett & Johnston, Croydon. 1947	5	1	9
4	C	Richard Phelps made these Five Bells for Send A.D. 1711. Recast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon. 1947	6	0	8
5	Bb	Richard Phelps made me 1711 Recast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon. 1947	7	3	22

Tenor	Ab	Thomas Mears of London Fecit 1803 Recast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon. 1947	10	3	5
		Total weight of bells:-	39	0	12

To Conclude

I hope the foregoing article has been of great interest to everyone and given people an insight in a small way as to what ringers do.

Since the article was written for the Ringing World in 1978, ringing at Send did see a very good "high", with Quarter Peals being rung every Sunday for evensong for about seven or eight years. Again, as so many towers see ringers moving away for work reasons, etc. in our case a whole family and two other members, in a very short time, did this very thing. This meant almost starting from scratch again, but things are looking up.

In Sidney Strudwick we had a good example of what a person taking up ringing late in life can do for a village with his enthusiasm and dedication to the purpose of ringing for service. Due to so many other things in life that have to be done today, ringers cannot attend every service and other ringing occasions such as weddings.

Can I make a plea? We have, as everyone knows, the Millennium coming up in just over 18 months' time and the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers want every bell rung at midday on 1 January 2000, be it at a church with one, two or more bells. It's not just around here, but in the whole of Great Britain that this is to take place and there are not enough ringers to do this. As it takes time to learn, I would ask anyone who would like to have a go to please contact me on Guildford (01483) 821062, or better still, come and see us on a practice night to see what it's all about at first hand. If you would like some literature about ringing with questions and answers, except for the last question (for only you can answer that one!), don't be afraid to ask me for some.

It is hoped every tower would have two and a half times the number of ringers than the number of bells in their tower, to meet all services, and it would mean that some ringers would be able to miss the odd Sunday ringing once in a while.

To finish with, recruits can start from the age of 12, if you are big enough, with no upper age limit. People have started, and still do start, when they have retired from their normal working life, to fill in some of their free time and become involved in another type of social life by meeting people connected with a church.

Ivan J M Saunders, Tower Captain

FURTHER NOTES ON BLUE SALOON BY DAVID PORTER

It has been brought to my notice since writing my article on Blue Saloon (Newsletter 140) that the company operated three Dennis "Ace" buses on our local services. These were DPD 858, DPD 859 and EPK 29. When the Blue Saloon routes were taken over in January 1938 by London Transport and Aldershot & District, the former company acquired DPD 859 and EPK 29, DPD 858 (illustrated in my article) becoming a member of the Aldershot & District fleet.

ICE CREAM MAN - "STOP ME AND BUY ONE!"

The following notes have been submitted by Pat Clack, concerning the note in Newsletter 140, adjoining the photograph of the Walls Ice Cream tricycle van seen outside Valentine's

Cottages in Tannery Lane.

With reference to the photo on page 11 of the May/June Newsletter, the ice cream man was Tom and he used to come in to have a bet with Dad. He brought with him four 2d brickettes of ice cream. If he won, we would splash out on tubs, or even whole bricks. He came round for years - this picture would be about 1935/6 - and he stopped just before the War.

The Blue Saloon on page 8 was one that took my dad from Send to his Woking office. Some of the drivers were Harry Langdon, Bill Clarke and Charlie Moseley. They often came in for a cup of tea. Dad had a season ticket.

MONICA EDWARDS

The following notes have been submitted by Pat Clack in response to the obituary in Newsletter No 140.

The Edwards lived at 116 Send Road (then called "Rupel"), in the 1940s - Bill and Monica and their two children, Shelley and Shawn (that is the correct spelling for his name - she dedicates one of her books to him!). I can't remember Bill's occupation while they were there, but Monica wrote her first book at 116 and the light was on most of the night.

They were very poor, and Shelley used to come in and ask my mum if she would buy three eggs (they kept hens), and that would pay for a ride on a horse. Shelley was horse-mad! At other times she would "muck out" at a local stables to get a ride.

At this time I was about 14 or 15, and my friend, Margaret, and I would do typing and shorthand practice at my house. One day my father said, "If you two girls have occasion to go up and use the bathroom, you are **not** to look out of the window." You can imagine what effect this had - and lo and behold, there was the Edwards family all sun-bathing in the nude. Bill would garden, wearing only a cap and gumboots, and the children ran the streets, starkers, until they were about 11 or 12. I think that would be rather frowned upon now. (Our bathroom window was just about the only place they could be viewed from above!)

At this time, Monica's sister lived with them and was courted by the Rev Winnett, who was Curate to Rev Legg, and took over when Rev Legg joined the Army as an Army Chaplain. I was confirmed and married by the Rev Winnett, who later became a Canon and lived in the Farnham area. He is now dead. One day he arrived and got no reply at the front of 116, so went round to the back and discovered them all in the nude, and the courtship was at an end!

I have nine of Monica's paperback books. When she became famous, they went up in the world and moved to the Punch Bowl, where he was a gentleman farmer, but he had a bad accident on a tractor and was crippled. Shelley married a Charterhouse Master in the chapel at Charterhouse.

One other amusing incident: Monica had a cat, half-Siamese (he was black, but his mother was a Siamese, and he "talked" with the distinctive voice). They called him Saiad-Pasha (I believe after someone to do with the Suez Canal) - we called him "Si". He was ill-fed and would make his way through the two gardens to us - I fed him! After a while, Monica realised this and told my father that as he wouldn't stay with her, she would have him put to sleep, unless my father bought him. Dad gave her 15s and he never returned to 116. He lived with us to the ripe old age of 21 years.

Editor's Note: There is a further account of the obituary for Monica Edwards in the Daily Telegraph for February 5 1998, a copy of which has been passed to the History Society by Pat Clack, for which we are grateful, and is available from the archivist, Les Bowerman, if anyone wishes to refer to it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Readers unfamiliar with the Cathedral may not have understood the reference to Monica Edwards in the May/June issue, Newsletter 140.

The money to build the Cathedral came from many small subscriptions and the architect's wife had the idea of commemorating this by asking helpers to design and make kneelers representing their personal interests. Monica made four kneelers, one in the pen and ink style to represent her vocation, one in a form to show her home, and two more representing her books on the subject of badgers and dolphins.

This is a favourite set of kneelers for guides to use to explain the background of the kneeler project. We use them very often, particularly with the children visiting, and they are kept at the centre aisle seats.

At the Cathedral, we would like to be able to get in touch with Monica's family. Can any of your readers help with the information on their addresses? Please phone 01483 222240.

Fred Colmer

VISIT TO ROEHAMPTON ON SUNDAY, MAY 3 1998

Some 18 members of the History Society met on a bright sunny day at Manresa House, Roehampton, the history of which was described by Marilyn Scrace, who also gave an overview of the subsequent tour of the other buildings. Terry Hewitt then conducted the party around Roehampton, stopping at various buildings to give a very learned and interesting account of their respective histories.

Each member of the party was given a summary of the buildings' histories to accompany the talks and tour. This summary is recorded below, together with photographs of the buildings taken by members during the tour.

ROEHAMPTON IN MEDIAEVAL AND EARLY MODERN TIMES

1. Roehampton has always been associated with Putney and, in the past, it was included in the ancient parish of Putney (which in itself was technically part of the parish of Wimbledon until 1860). However, Roehampton and Putney were often considered as distinct entities, and although lacking a church until the 19th century, Roehampton had its own manorial and parish officers from mediaeval times. This probably reflects the geography in that Putney, the core settlement, was located off centre in the North-East on the Thames. This, in turn, reflected the influence of London, which is only six miles away, and the significance of Putney's location was further emphasised in 1729 when the bridge from Putney to Fulham was built (at that time the only Thames crossing between London Bridge and Kingston Bridge). In contrast, Roehampton is more remote, located on the Thames terraces and London Clay, towards the Beverley Brook, the Western boundary of the ancient parish, with the royal deer park of Putney Park to the East of the original village site inhibiting communication between Roehampton and Putney. The isolation of this offshoot of Putney is indicated by the fact that its inhabitants were given rights of way to allow them easier access to Putney, an arrangement confirmed in an Elizabethan chancery decree.

2. There is scattered evidence of early settlement in the area, eg the Iron Age Caesar's Camp on Wimbledon Common and possible Romano-British settlement. Putney itself appears in the Domesday Book as "Putelei", but Roehampton does not appear in documentation until 1273/4. At this time it is called "Hampton". In documents of 1318 and 1332 it is being referred to as "Est Hamton", and by 1350 as "Rokehampton", while the aforementioned Elizabethan chancery

decree talks of "Roughhampton".

In mediaeval times, the village was located North of the present site, in the area of Downshire House, with the open fields around it. The common land lay to the South, including the site of the present village, and with evidence of the division between open fields and common land in the form of an earthen boundary bank to the rear (North), of the King's Head. Like many of the Thames-side communities, Putney was well populated, and there is evidence that it was in Roehampton the resources for expansion of arable land could be found to meet the needs of the mediaeval population expansion of the 12th, 13th and early 14th centuries. Gerhold (1994) notes the following field name evidence of assarting (the mediaeval process of clearance for arable, from the French, "essarter", to "grub up"); the Grubbing Ground (behind Queen Mary's Hospital); the Breaches (a new cultivation name, Templeton area); New Field and Stubble Field (in the sense of tree "stubble" - stumps, Alton Estate); Newlands (around ASDA). He estimated a population of 150, with 28 houses, by the early 14th century.

The Black Death, commencing 1348/9, saw a dramatic population decline, with Roehampton more affected than Putney - this could be expected as withdrawal from the most recent expansion of arable, relating to the mediaeval population rise, was a common response to the loss of population. A 1497 survey shows the beginnings of recovery, but with only 14 houses and a possible population of 80, with some 280 acres of open field. Roehampton was enclosed, by "mutual consent and agreement" (Northamptonshire Record Office, SOX 136), IN 1558. There would have been a small number of land holders, and possibly assarted land held outside the common fields, and thus it provides an example of enclosure of open fields by general agreement, as opposed to the more familiar forms of imposition by the Lord of the Manor, or an arrangement by Act of Parliament. After enclosure, the village initially seems to have extended Northwards along Roehampton Lane, possibly as people tried to settle nearer their now consolidated land holdings, and by 1617 there were about 30 houses. However, as early as the 1490s, Thomas Jennings unlawfully erected a squatter's cottage on the common near the present site of the King's Head - perhaps representing a local shift towards the assarted land, or a response to the recent enclosure agreement. Another alteration was that the royal hunting ground to the West of Roehampton was rationalised and extended by the enclosure of Richmond Park by Charles I in 1637. Thus the Western boundary of Roehampton - the Beverley Brook - was now clearly within the park, and a considerable proportion of the agricultural land had been lost. It is recorded that Charles was willing to make the landowners an offer which they couldn't refuse, but the issue was pushed through regardless and was extremely unpopular.

3. There were five major houses in Putney itself by 1497. These were in the hands of courtiers or rich merchants, and reflected the easy access to London. In contrast, this form of development did not commence in Roehampton until a Huguenot, David Papillon, bought land there in 1619. He clearly had an eye for property development, building Elm Grove (Digby Stuart College site) in 1622, Roehampton Great House (Froebel College site) in 1625, and a house opposite this (possibly a forerunner of Roehampton House - Queen Mary's Hospital) in the same year. By 1626 Papillon had moved on, but he had demonstrated the potential of the area with an enclosed land holding situation, which made purchase of property for the building of large houses easier, in a location with access to open country and parkland, and with magnificent views from the high ground of the Thames terraces. The development boosted local employment and economic opportunities and the village grew, so that the 59 houses and approximately 350 inhabitants of 1664 represented a doubling of size in just under 50 years.

The trend continued, so that by the 18th century the old village core shifted with the sale of the original village land, with its attractive site potential, for mansions and villas, while the village community redeveloped on the present site in the small valley on the edge of the one time

common land - the site of Roehampton High Street and Medfield Street today. However, as the 18th century progressed, the trend was to replace the concept of large mansions with substantial villas - "elegant houses of moderate size in beautiful grounds where a pleasant country life could be lived in summer in distinguished company within easy reach of London" (Gerhold, 1994). Most villa owners had a London house as well, so their villas were often moderate in size, eg Mount Clare had a hall, dining room, saloon and small study on the ground floor and all the household services in the basement. The villas required a few acres to give privacy, but they did not require the extensive parkland of the earlier great houses, eg the Roehampton Park of Roehampton Great House (there was another Roehampton Park attached to Parkstead - Manresa House later), which was broken up between 1870 and 1876, and a number of new villas were built on parts of it - Mount Clare, Templeton, Clarence Lodge and Lower Grove House. Although the villas brought employment, their owners had little else to do with the local community, in contrast to the owners of the original great houses of the 17th century. By the 19th century, the era of villas and mansions began to disappear and the area had become less exclusive, especially with the advent of the railway, although in more isolated Roehampton the villas and large houses retained their attractiveness rather longer than those in Putney - long life for some of them to pass into institutional use in the late 19th and 20th centuries, and thereby survive.

4. SIGNIFICANT ROEHAMPTON MANSIONS AND VILLAS

Manresa House - was built about 1760 for the Earl of Bessborough, and originally called Parkstead. It has a sunken wall, a ha ha in front of the house and its new park, called Roehampton Park, was the area of the Alton Estate.

Dover House - was built in 1764 and demolished in 1919/20 for the construction of the LCC Dover House Estate.

Clarence House - was built about 1780, but had become a school by 1867. It was demolished to provide a Bank of England office with the grounds as the sports facility.

Downshire House - was built about 1770 for General James Cholmondeley, but became the residence of the Marchioness of Downshire around 1800. It was an Army and Navy Academy from 1900-1910 and is now part of Greenwich University. Part of Alton West Estate lies on the original grounds.

Elm Grove - now Digby Stuart College, RIL. The first house was built here in 1622 by Papillon and a significant resident was William Harvey (circulation of the blood), who lived here in the 17th century. The original house burnt down in 1795 and was replaced in 1797 by a new property for Benjamin Goldsmid, the financier, who built a tunnel, which is still there, to connect it to property on the other side of Roehampton Lane. Nelson spent his last night in England at Elm Grove. It was bought by the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1848, bombed in 1941 and replaced by Harvey Building, an academic building of Digby Stuart College.

Mount Clare - was built by George Clive, the cousin of Robert Clive of India. He probably used Henry Holland as architect and also used Capability Brown, as both had worked on Robert's house, Claremont, Esher - hence Mount Clare. It was completed in 1773 and the land cost the high figure of £300 per acre because of the view.

Roehampton House - Queen Mary's University Hospital - was built between 1710 and 1712 for Thomas Cary, a merchant. It had various other residents, eg the Earl of Albemarle, and became a hospital in World War 1, specialising in limbless patients.

Roehampton Great House - Roehampton Grove - Grove House - Froebel College, RIL. Papillon's original house was sold to Sir Richard Weston, Lord Treasurer to Charles I, later Earl

Roehampton Great House (Froebel College)

Mount Clare

of Portland, who enlarged it so that in 1664, it had 57 hearths. However, Weston died in 1635, his son was obliged to sell off land, and Roehampton Great House came into the hands of the Royalist, Dawes' family. The house had strong Royalist connections. The equestrian statue of Charles I, now set up in Charing Cross, was commissioned by Weston, located in Roehampton Great House, confiscated by Parliament and survived to be placed in its present position. The next owner was the Countess of Devonshire and this family was followed by a succession of owners in the 18th century. In 1792, it was in the hands of Sir Joshua Vanneck, who had the old house pulled down, replacing it with the present house and a new name - Roehampton Grove, perhaps because there was now another Roehampton House across Roehampton Lane. The architect was James Wyatt, and the lake and ornamental bridge were constructed at this time. In 1843, the house came into the hands of Lynne Stephens' family, who have their mausoleum in the grounds. It was briefly in the hands of Charles Louis Fischer, a German American, from 1911 to 1914, after which it was used by the Royal Flying Corps, until acquired by the Froebel Educational Institute in 1921. Fischer was responsible for the grotto - built so that the sound of the cascading water would drown out the sound of bells from the convent next door.

Templeton - was one of the villas built at the end of the 18th century in the parkland of Roehampton Great House. Its most famous resident was Sir Winston Churchill, who lived there briefly during his "bad" spell just after World War 1. A painting of one of the trees in the garden is included in his collection of works, but the tree itself was lost in the 1987 storm. It is now a student residence and the Headquarters of the Incorporated Froebel Educational Institute - the parent body of Froebel College.

JOHN BUCKINGHAM

It has come as a great shock to learn of the death of our member, John Buckingham, who suffered a heart attack whilst on holiday in Barbados last February.

We first met John some three years ago when he came to the museum seeking background information on Newark Priory and to talk about his interest there. He was a keen metal detector enthusiast and had been searching the Newark Priory field, with the permission and support of the owner, Mr Rubin, for around 18 years. During that time, he had recovered well over 400 small artefacts, with some being of considerable importance. He treated his hobby very seriously and thoroughly researched his finds.

In our museum we have an album of photographs given by John, showing examples of the various artefacts he found. The complete collection has been deposited with Guildford Museum, where it is presently on display. John will be remembered for the most interesting talk he gave to our members last year, describing his experiences in searching the Priory field and in researching the articles he found.

We extend our sympathy to his family in their loss.

John Slatford

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday-Sunday, 17-19 July - St Mary's Church, Ripley - Flower Festival

The History Society is taking part in the Flower Festival, which this year is being organised, as in previous years, by Jill Bromley.

Sunday, 19 July

A walk around the ancient town of Odiham, Hampshire - meet at Send Marsh Manor House 1.45-2.00 pm, or in front of Odiham Church at 2.30. Time permitting, a visit to King John's Castle nearby will be included. Any queries contact Tony Medlen on 01483 760021.

Thursday, 24 September - 8 pm, Ripley Village Hall

Mrs Hazledine, by popular request, has agreed to give a further talk on Queen Victoria and her doctor.

Thursday, 8 October - 8 pm, Send Church Room

Our long term member, Lyn Mileham, is giving an illustrated talk on steam road transport.

Sunday, 25 October - Visit to Cobham Bus Museum

See details below.

Saturday, 7 November - Surrey Local History Council Symposium

Advance notice of Surrey Local History Council Symposium. The theme is "Water"

Thursday, 26 November - 8 pm, Ripley Village Hall

Continuing Mrs Hazledine's talk on Queen Victoria and her doctor.

SOCIETY OUTING TO COBHAM BUS MUSEUM

A half-day trip to Cobham Bus Museum is planned for Sunday, 25 October 1998. It has been suggested that a party from the History Society travel to the museum by coach, using a former Greenline vehicle formerly run on the 715 service from Guildford to Hertford. The coach is one of only four survivors of a batch of 90 AEC Reliance vehicles used on the Greenline London network when all services became one man operated in 1972. The vehicle on which the Send & Ripley History Society will travel is RP 90, the last of the batch, which spent its working life based at Guildford Garage. It has been restored to a very high standard in original London Country livery.

If the party exceeds 45 in number, then a second Greenline is available. Taking into account the early nightfall at this time of year, it is planned to leave Send Manor at 1400 hours precisely.

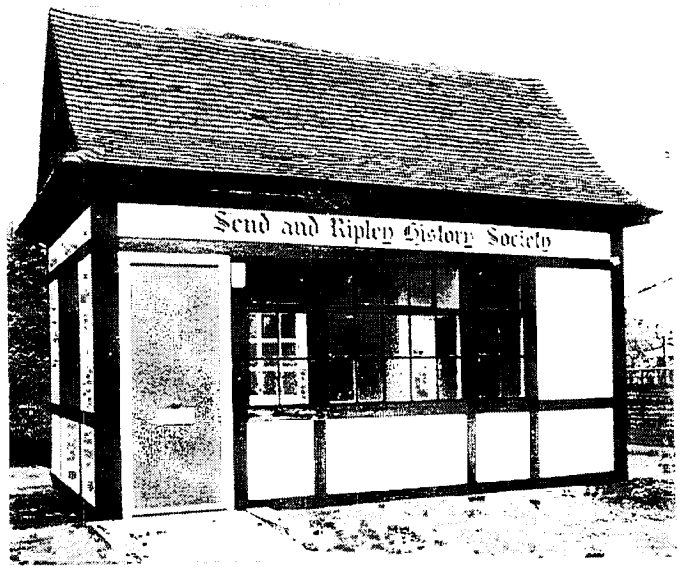
The proposed date is the last open day for Cobham Bus Museum in 1998 and coincides with the RF running day, a type of vehicle extensively used in Send and Ripley in the '50s and '60s. There will be much activity at the museum, with many vehicles on display, and our Society will be given a guided tour by a senior member of Cobham staff. Refreshments and souvenirs will be available in plenty.

Although this is some time ahead, anyone interested please contact me on 01483 222982 (evenings only, please), so that the numbers attending can be assessed.

David Porter

Newsletter Contributions

The closing date for contributions for the next Newsletter is Friday, 11 September.



SEND & RIPLEY
LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

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

ALSO: 3rd Sunday of each month, so as to coincide with Ripley Antique Fair, in the Village Hall.

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

"Then and Now, Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life"	Reference copy only
"Guide to Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Send"	£1.25
"Then and Now, a Victorian 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"	£2.85
"The Hamlet of Grove Heath, Ripley, Surrey"	£4.00

The reference copies are available at the museum, and all the others are available from the museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office.