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Newsletter No 69

July/August 1986

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Next Open Event An illustrated talk by Dr John L Gower, on "Roman Villas in South-East England", on 16 September. See Forthcoming Events.

DUNSBOROUGH HOUSE, RIPLEY (REF TQ573053)

Part 1: Construction

by
Les Bowerman and John Slatford

Dunsborough House has for many years been one of the most important properties in Ripley. Situated in the central area of the Green, hidden by lime trees, it is actually approached by the long driveway starting in Newark Lane, which leads through the 1939 entrance lodge described by Pevsner as "a strange Tudor pastiche". Dunsborough House itself is a structure of many builds. Tracing these is a difficult task complicated largely by modernisation in recent years.

The name Dunsborough, or its many variations, is one of the oldest in the district and it is well documented, especially in the Send & Ripley manorial records. The earliest known mention is in the Court Baron of 1535, which refers to "a parcel of land called Little Dunsborrowe". One hundred years later, the reference changes to "a message or tenement with appurtenances called Dunsburie". It seems, therefore, that building started here around 1630 according to the documentary evidence. From study of the house itself, it is concluded that the earliest build is early 17th century.

A view of the house, as seen from the Green, is given in figure 1. The central part, which can be seen to be formed of two gable-ended sections joined together, is the oldest, although these sections are of different builds. To the left of the central section is a single-storey Georgian extension which carries a date - 1786. The extensions to the right are of different builds, probably dating from mid 18th century and later.

Of the two central sections, that on the left is considered to be the earlier. Built as a timber-framed house, it has a quality roof of oak with in-line butt purlin construction. The righthand section has a roof of lesser quality with not-in-line butt purlins, but it is not possible to determine whether timber framing was used. What is certain, however, is that the lefthand wing was later brick-skinned and that the brick was taken higher than wall plate level, presumably for a parapet (figure 2). The evidence of this can be seen on a part which is now an inside wall; of further interest here is the presence of some rough-cast plasterwork similar to that also discovered on the West gable of the Ship Inn (Newsletter No 65). The wall in question faces South-West and, therefore, the plaster would have been applied to give some weather protection. The first floor rooms of this central section have pine panelling, which is probably contemporary with the Georgian extension. Behind this panelling, however, there are plastered walls with painted patterned decorations. In one bedroom, the present owners have replaced one section of panelling with glass to expose the painted decorative patternwork. It is understood that this style of painting (figure 3) can be reliably dated to the early 17th century.

The ground floor rooms are also panelled, but this is of recent date, having been acquired by the present owners from Witley Court. The entrance hall is floored with large white ceramic tiles inter-spaced with small black corner tiles. This is a typical 18th century style of flooring and has already been observed elsewhere in Ripley at, for example, Ripley Court and Georgian House; Bridgefoot Farm, it is understood, also has a similar floor.

The Georgian extension consists of two elegant rooms with high ceilings, large windows and pine panelling from floor to ceiling. The roof structure is of softwood with rafters lap-jointed at the apex and no ridge board. In the brickwork

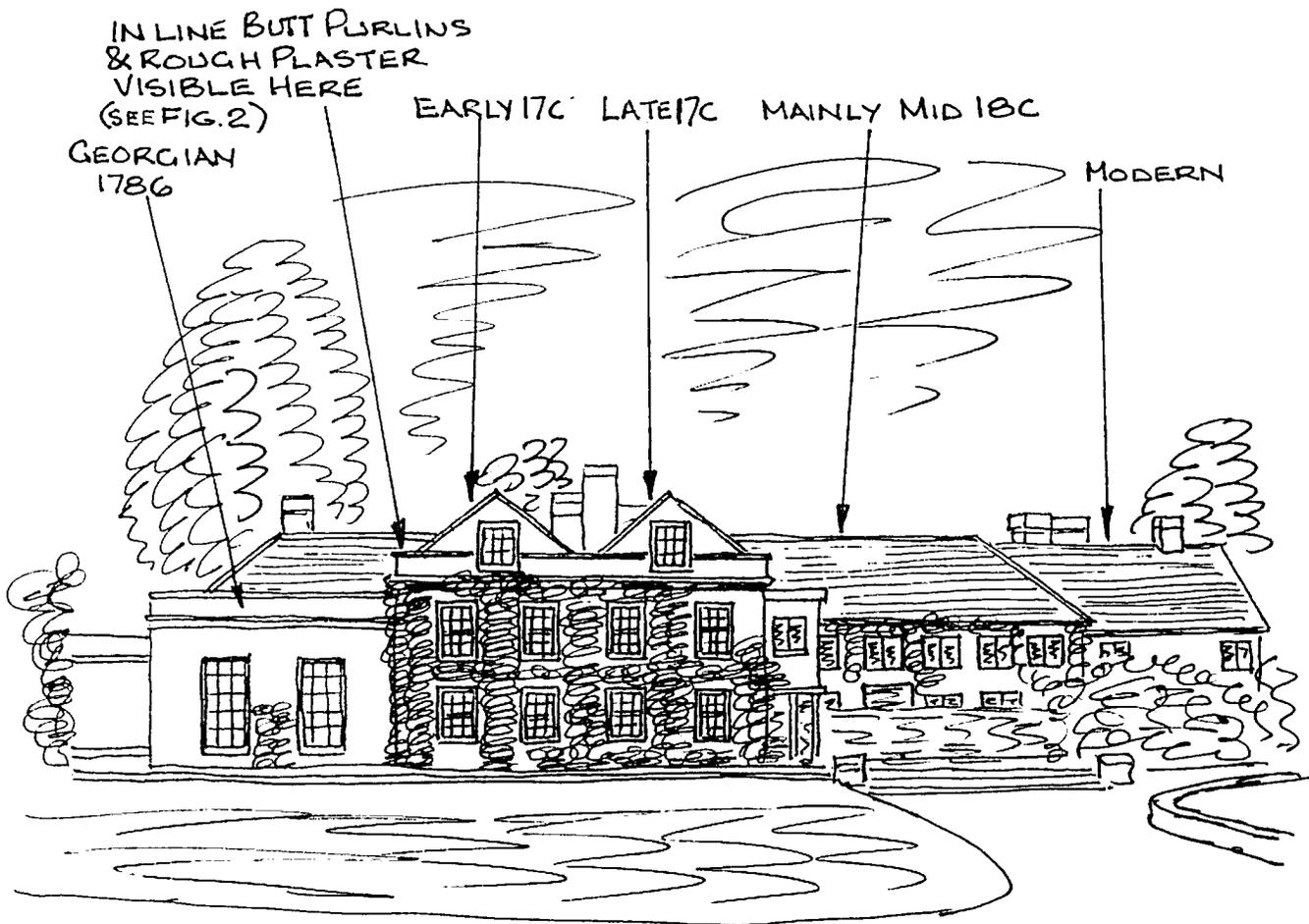


FIG.1. DUNSBOROUGH AS SEEN FROM RIPLEY GREEN.

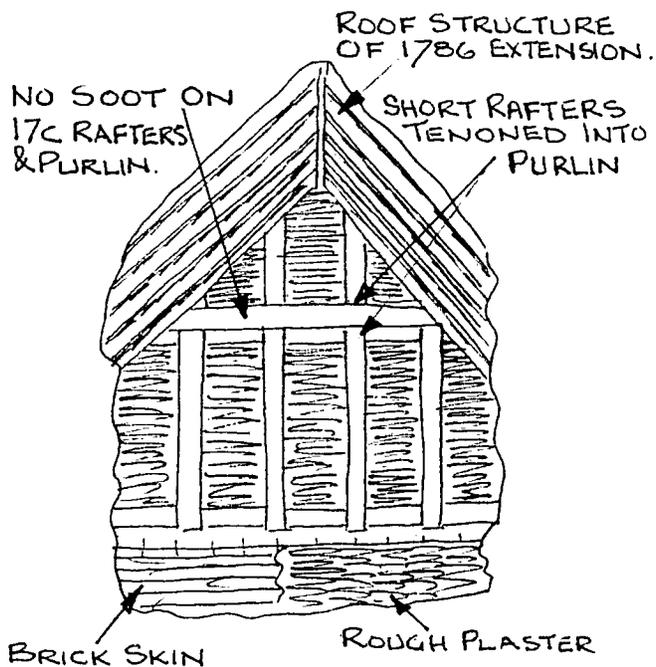


FIG.2. EVIDENCE OF EARLIEST BUILD

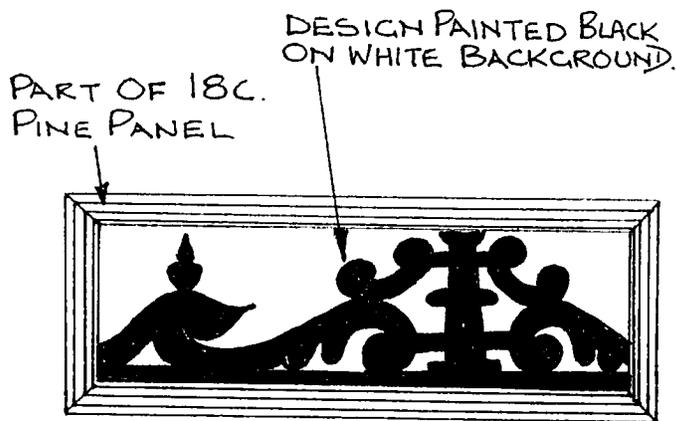
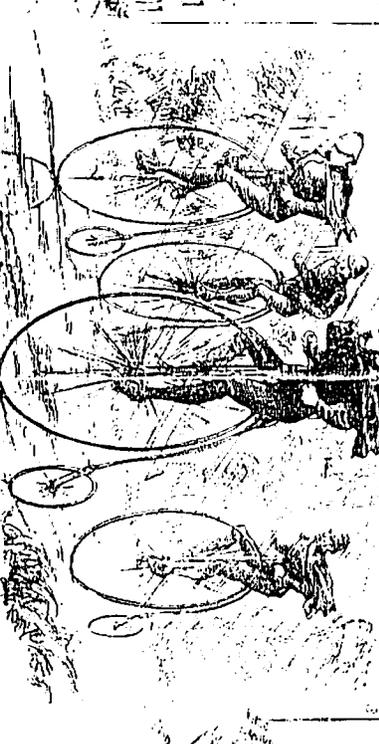
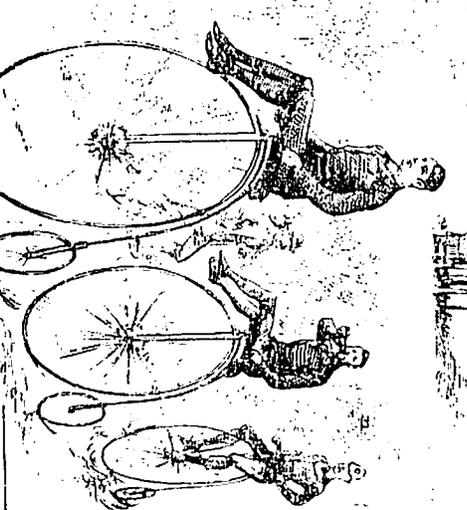
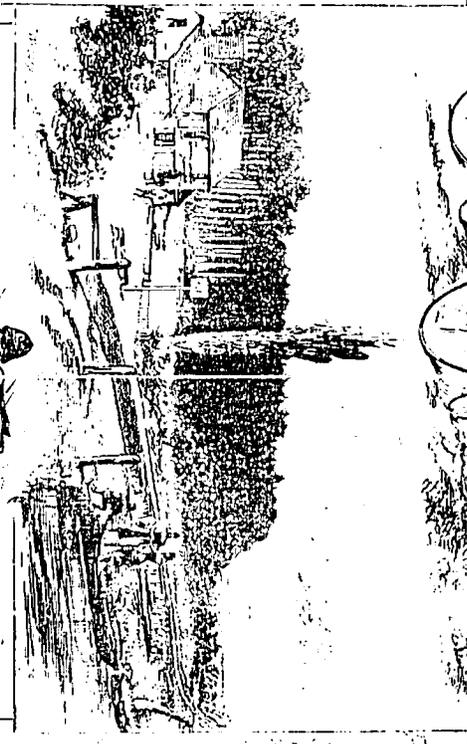
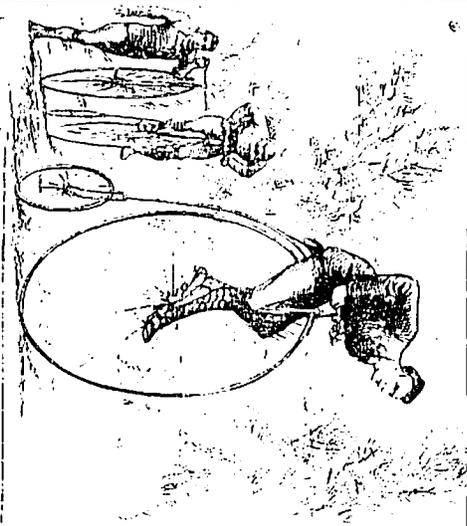
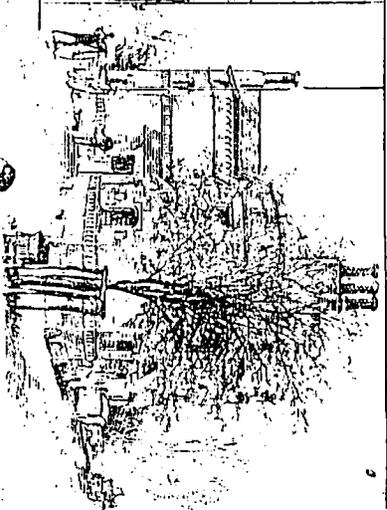
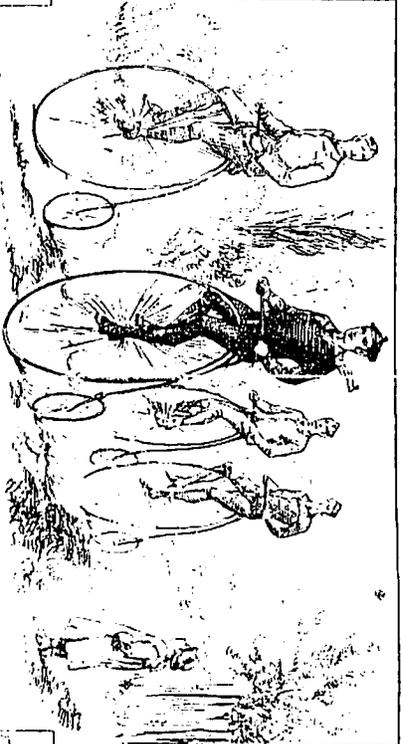
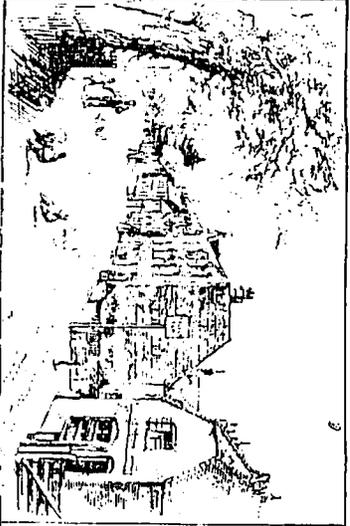


FIG.3. EXAMPLE OF EARLY 17C WALL DECORATION.

DUNSBOROUGH HOUSE
RIPLEY, SURREY

JMS. JULY 86.



1. Traveling. 2. The Waggoner. 3. Highway and Public Opinion. 4. Uphill. 5. The Way Out of the Hole. 6. Crossing. 7. The Station. 8. Road Making. 9. The Boys' Enthusiasm. 10. A Bicyclist's Haunt — Ripley, Surrey.

at the rear is inscribed a date, 1786, and the initials of the Onslow family, who had bought the property from Lork King in the previous year.

The remaining parts of the house contain further 18th century builds, as well as later additions. In the present kitchen area are substantial softwood girder beams and there is an interesting pantry area, in which the brick floor is raised some two feet above the main floor level.

Although most of the house is of late 18th century construction, the lefthand part of the central section is clearly early 17th century and a structure of some quality. Considerably extended and "modernised" by the Onslows in the 1780s, it has, of course, continued to receive up-to-date treatment to the present day.

We are greatly indebted to Mr and Mrs Charles Hughesdon for allowing us to study their most interesting house and for permission to publish this report.

BURNT COMMON COTTAGE, BURNT COMMON (REF TQ548040)

History and Construction
by
Bette and John Slatford

This property stands at the Northern end of the Burnt Common Triangle adjacent to the site of the former Triangle Cafe. Apparently built originally as a pair of small cottages, there is now a modern extension on the Portsmouth Road side.

The house appears on the 1843 Tithe Map as plot No 1101. It is shown as the property of Fanny Boughton, widow of the last Robert Boughton. Unfortunately, although most properties on the Apportionment show names of the tenants, there are none in this case, and so it is not possible to determine who was living there at that time. Likewise, the census returns indicate only Burnt Common, with no location given. On the 1804 Inclosure Map, the whole of the triangle is shown as being the freehold property of Robert Boughton. So far as can be determined, there are no houses shown on this part of the map, which is, admittedly, rather faded.

The original house is of brick with dentilated courses at eaves level. Most of the brickwork is today obscured by rough-cast plaster. The windows on the East and North sides are in Gothic style, similar to Goodgrove's in Send Marsh Road; these would be a later alteration.

Internally the rooms are spaced around a central chimney, which originally had four flues, with a fifth added later to one side, probably for a kitchen range, but now serving a boiler. Two of the original flues serve main rooms on the ground floor and the others serve the two main bedrooms.

The tiled roof is hipped all round, meeting at the chimney. The rafters are of hand-sawn soft wood of relatively poor quality, with many having rough de-barked edges.

At least some, if not all, the original internal partition walls are of timber studding with brick infill.

Although not shown on the 1804 map, it is probable that the house was here before then. The style of brickwork is typical of many local houses around 1800, although the brick thickness (2.375") suggests a slightly earlier date (because of the brick taxes). It would seem to be unusual, however, to find multiple chimney flues in a humble house, such as this, of relatively early date and therefore poses further questions.

Burnt Common Cottage is an interesting property, unusual in several respects for the district, and we are grateful to the owners, Mr and Mrs Dick, for allowing us to look over it.

THE RIPLEY ROAD CLUB

The Centenary of Its Formation

by

Les Bowerman

In Newsletters Nos 42 and 43, we traced the arrival of the bicycle in Surrey with particular reference to the connection with Ripley, which from the late 1870s to the turn of the century was the "cyclists' Mecca". Without wishing to retrace our wheel marks, so to speak, by covering the same ground again, it may be appropriate in 1986 to recall some events of exactly one hundred years ago which set the seal on Ripley's fame in the cycling world.

The cyclists had formed themselves into clubs to their mutual advantage since 1868, when the first wooden-wheeled and iron-tyred velocipedes, or boneshakers, began to appear on British roads. The Liverpool Velocipede Club may have been the earliest, while the Edinburgh Amateur Bicycle Club, formed in 1869, vied for premier status with the Pickwick Bicycle Club whose formation in Hackney the same year came just ten days after the death of Charles Dickens. The Pickwick still exists as a dining club with cycling connections. The early 1870s saw many others arise and later fall. They were based in particular towns, sometimes on particular inns where they had their headquarters, some were county clubs, while others were limbs of established gentlemen's clubs, and there were also the two university clubs. Thus there were, respectively, as examples, Portsmouth BC, the Sun BC of Wolverhampton, the Surrey BC, the Athenaeum, and the Dark Blue BC. Our particular story can be said to begin after John Kemp Starly of Coventry produced in 1885 the second version of his "Rover" Safety Bicycle, which "set the fashion to the world" and which is essentially the standard design still in use today. It was tested and publicised by a 100-mile race from Twyford to Peterborough and, arising from that, a number of crack North London cyclists, led by one A J Wilson, got together to ensure fast-riding companionship with others of like mind. They formed the North Road Cycling Club in October 1885 to facilitate fast & long distance road riding on and around the Great North Road. To be eligible, candidates were required to have ridden 100 miles in a day. This club turned out to be highly successful and popular and this writer, in fact, participated in two of their centenary events last autumn, a 3-mile time trial (they virtually invented the time trial around 1900) on the earlier old high "Ordinary" bicycle and a 10-mile sociable ride from Barnet to Hatfield and back, on the original Great North Road. So successful was this club right from its start that by the beginning of 1886, the best known riders of the day, who frequented Ripley, decided to form a similar club. For some reason this caused a great deal of ill-feeling with the North Road men and there is a cartoon in "Bicycling News" of 16 April 1886 entitled "Rival Roads", which refers to this. Nevertheless, the magazine had reported on 2 April that the Ripley Road Club was an established body - was to be a "combination of the best metropolitan riders". The headquarters were, of course, at the Anchor Hotel, Ripley. It was intended that this should be the top club, as the Ripley Road (from Ham Common, Richmond, via Thames Ditton to Ripley) was by then the most popular for cycling. However, for some reason the club did not prosper as intended and by October of 1886 another similar club was formed at the New Inn, Ham Common. This was the Bath Road Club, whose members raced on the Bath Road, but did most of their social riding on the Ripley Road. The Ripley RC faded after three or four years, although it was still listed as having 38 members in 1898. Its headquarters had by then transferred to London and one suspects that it was moribund as an active club. The

Bath Road Club, on the other hand, went on to become one of the most famous of all the cycling clubs and celebrates its centenary this year. It was very active socially on the Ripley Road and at the Anchor for very many years and perhaps some of its activities can form the subject of a later article.

VISIT TO CLAREMONT GARDENS

by
Val Lewis

On June 3 the History Society was taken on a conducted tour of Claremont Gardens by Mrs Carolyn Ezekeil, who revealed its fascinating history. Owned and inhabited by many famous people, including Clive of India, Princess Charlotte and Prince Leopold, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, it was conceived in the early 18th century as a pleasure ground; a transitional garden lying between the formality of Hampton Court and the rusticity of Painshill Park, and many members may recall its neglected condition before the restoration work undertaken in the 1970s, which revealed, among other features, the shrubs planted by Capability Brown.

Originally a small farmhouse, it was bought in 1709 by Vanbrugh, who built a smaller house than the present mansion. Called Chargate Farm, it was bought in 1711 by Sir Thomas Pelham Hollis, later Earl of Clare, then Duke of Newcastle. In 1715 he enlarged the house and built the Belvedere on a knoll known as the Mount, hence the name Claremont. Designed by Vanbrugh, it was the first building to draw inspiration from mediaeval times. Now part of the grounds of Claremont Fan Court School, which allowed the National Trust to reopen for viewing this oldest feature of the garden, the Belvedere was originally painted white and used for dinner parties and "hazard", a dice game of the time. Looking towards it along the grass platforms, which create an illusion of distance, it must have had a fairy tale appearance in contrast to the sombre building it is now. The Amphitheatre was built around 1725 by Bridgeman. Covering three acres and taking its inspiration from Italian Renaissance examples of Greek theatres constructed in gardens, it is the only known surviving one of its kind in Europe. Never intended for performances, it was built to complement the original round pond as a landscape feature.

Now serpentine in contour with an island complete with ornamental temple, the round pond originally had an obelisk in the centre surmounted by a peacock (from the crest of the Newcastle family), which fell off and was taken by Clive of India, who bought the estate in 1768, when he went to live in Powis Castle in Wales. A replica now stands in the garden near a statue of a boar, which stood at the base of the obelisk. One of the supporters of the Newcastle coat of arms, the boar remained hidden in the undergrowth until rediscovered at the time of the restoration work. The obelisk is now in a private garden in Claremont Drive, but it is hoped that it will be returned to Claremont Gardens to be sited possibly on a small hill near the Portsmouth Road. Near the lake we were shown the site of the old Portsmouth Road before it was moved by Clive to its present location in the cutting. The grotto beside the lake was built in 1730 on the site of a cascade and was intended to look melancholy and awesome. Built also to look naturally precarious, it had an inner case of felspar and stalactites with niches filled with mica and lit by candles to give an air of mystery at night. Unlike many other estates, Claremont never had a resident hermit (the Painshill Park hermit, it may be recalled, had only a short tenure of office).

Passing the remains of a ha-ha (a sunken boundary fence), we reached Camellia Terrace. Designed by Papworth in 1824, it was built for Prince Leopold: his cipher of two "Ls" back to back is incorporated in the design of the newly restored railings around the terrace. The camellias here are the original plants.

At the time they were thought to be tender plants and to need heat, and were kept in greenhouses, which existed until 1959. This is the site of a menagerie, built by Clive in 1774, which contained various exotic animals brought back from his travels. Queen Victoria played here as a child.

Beyond the site of a bowling green, below the Belvedere, and a nine-pin skittle alley, originally housed in a Tuscan Temple, we arrived at what must be the most memorable feature of Claremont: from the site of a teahouse built in 1718, later to be used as a mausoleum in memory of Charlotte (Princess Alice, who kept her gardening tools there, remembered there being a bust of Charlotte and stained glass in the windows), there is a spectacular panorama that early visitors to Claremont came upon as they walked up to the house. It is only from here that the scale of the Amphitheatre can be properly appreciated, looking past cedars, planted by Capability Brown, to the lake and countryside beyond.

Finally, Carolyn Ezekeil took us to the kiosk at the exit, where we saw photographs taken at various stages of the development of the gardens and the restoration work. This had been carried out with financial assistance from the Slater Walker Foundation and with the practical help of Merrist Wood Agricultural College. Those of us who had braved the weather enjoyed a delightful and most interesting visit, thanks in particular to Mrs Ezekeil.

ALL DAY VISIT TO EAST SUSSEX

Alfriston
by
Beryl Gomme

I found Alfriston to be a delightful surprise. After a pleasant cross-country drive, our party of about thirty members began to explore this ancient Sussex village.

Alfriston was founded in Saxon times and has continued quietly, but successfully, ever since; a community based on agriculture in the Cuckmere Valley, bounded by downland.

As we walked, John Slatford and Ken Bourne were able to point out to us buildings of particular interest. Our attention was drawn to the Georgian house, "Tuckbar", with its mathematical tiles. Soldiers were billeted and drilled in Waterloo Square during the Napoleonic Wars. A well-worn cross stands in Market Square, acknowledging the charter to hold markets granted to Alfriston in 1405 by Henry IV.

Originally the Smugglers Inn was probably a meeting house on market days; but it also has a strong history of smuggling and would certainly have been suitable, with its maze of 21 rooms, 47 doors and six stairways.

Further along the road is the 16th century Star Inn, still a pleasant stop for travellers. Underneath the overhanging oriel windows are carvings of mediaeval characters, and at the corner of the building is a former, brightly painted, ship's figurehead. The oldest inn in the village is the George with its half-timbered walls, dating from before 1397. Both the Star and the George have roofs of Horsham slab tiles.

Almost every building in the village is of some interest: the Manor House with its outside chimney; the Bank House in rat trap bond; the Old Farm House with its small windows near the roof - smoke holes? Many houses, by their names - such as the Tallow Chandlery - revealed the industries previously carried on in the village.

We continued our walk down a narrow lane, or "twitten", to the Tye, a wide grassy area below the surprisingly large and fine church known as the "Cathedral of the Downs". The church, built in 1360 of knapped flint, has an unusual circular churchyard. Beside the church and close to the river stands the Old Clergy House, which dates from approximately the same time. This was the first building to be bought by the National Trust in 1896. The setting is perfect for this beautifully restored and preserved 14th century house, half-timbered and thatched, and with a beaten earth floor. It is believed that the emblem of the National Trust, an oak leaf, is derived from a carving on an internal beam. The garden has been charmingly renovated and boasts a splendid old Judas tree.

After lunch, we walked across the foot bridge and up the hill through the flax field to tiny Lullington Church. The present building is really the chancel of an earlier church which was mainly destroyed by fire. After a well-earned rest, we returned to the picturesque village of Alfriston, which, in spite of the thronging tourists, still manages to retain an air of peace and seclusion. In all, it was a very worthwhile and enjoyable day's outing!

Michelham Priory

by

Bob Gale

Some members of the Society made a detour on their return journey from Alfriston in order to visit Michelham Priory - and were amply rewarded for their efforts.

Michelham is Anglo-Saxon in origin, meaning a large piece of land within a river (Cuckmere) bend, and it is likely that there was a Saxon settlement here before the Conquest. The Augustinian priory was founded in 1229 by the Norman Lord of Pevensey, Gilbert de l'Aigle, and was first colonised by canons from Hastings Priory. The construction of Michelham Priory, predated by its sister house of Newark by some 30 years, took almost a hundred years to complete, and the great moat and the impressive gatehouse followed just before 1400. The water mill, first mentioned in 1434, was probably established in the 14th century. The priory was peaceably dissolved in 1536, but the majority of the buildings, including the church, were totally destroyed. The remaining monastic buildings were repaired in the 16th century and incorporated into two Tudor houses. The whole estate, nearly 1000 acres, became a working farm. It was first owned by the Pelham family, then for almost three hundred years, from the beginning of the 17th century to the end of the last century, by the Sackvilles, who let it to tenant farmers. Further considerable restoration work and internal rearrangements were carried out in the present century. After the farmland was sold off piecemeal, the remainder, mainly the buildings, grounds and moat, were purchased by Mrs R H Hotblack in 1959 and presented to the Sussex Archaeological Society for preservation and public enjoyment.

In addition to the architectural splendour, the buildings house the Sussex Archaeological Society's large and varied collection of items and objects of historical interest. No description of the priory would be complete without reference to the impressive and beautiful grounds and gardens, assiduously maintained to create an atmosphere of space and tranquility.

To those who did not make the detour this time, I would recommend that they include Michelham Priory in their itinerary the next time they are in this area.

VISIT TO REIGATE PRIORY

Notes by Bob Gale

By a happy coincidence, the Society visited another Augustinian priory; this time closer to hand at Reigate.

Reigate Priory, situated on the South side of the High Street and looking across 150 acres of beautiful parkland, was founded in 1235 by William de Warenne, 6th Earl of Surrey, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the Holy Cross. The resident canons worked and worshipped here for 300 years, observing their religious discipline, caring for the sick, the poor and the aged, providing hospitality for the travellers and teaching the boys of the town. At the Dissolution in 1536, the Prior and three remaining canons were expelled with a pension of £10 a year.

The Reigate Stone foundations and parts of the wall of the original church are incorporated in the present Great Hall, but the buildings which stood on the South side of the cloistered garth were removed by Lord William Howard, afterwards Lord Howard of Effingham, to whom the priory was granted in 1541 by Henry VIII in return for property coveted by Henry in London. William Howard converted the old priory into a comfortable Tudor home. His beautiful & orthodox daughter, Catherine Howard, became Henry's fifth wife, but when she was beheaded in 1542, accused of adultery, William Howard and his wife were sent to the Tower, although released two years later. William's son, Charles, the famous High Admiral of Armada fame, grew up at Reigate Priory under the tutelage of John Foxe, the martyrologist.

While externally the building now has the somewhat undistinguished appearance of late 18th century, the interior has many notable features, chief among which is the superb so-called Holbein fireplace in the hall. The wooden surround and overmantel are reputed to have been brought from Catherine Parr's house at Bletchingley, by Elizabeth, Countess of Peterborough, granddaughter of Charles Howard. This magnificent fireplace is referred to by John Evelyn, the diarist, in 1655. The inner stone fireplace is thought to be the original installed by William Howard.

Sir John Parsons, a wealthy brewer and social climber, who later became Lord Mayor of London, bought the priory as a country home in 1681. He constructed the grand staircase at the West end of the Great Hall and, it is claimed, employed Antonio Verrio to paint allegorical scenes on the ceiling and walls. The painted staircase is highly praised by Nairn & Pevsner, as "certainly the best of its date in Surrey, and, in its combination of painting and architecture into a homogeneous and satisfying space, one of the best in England."

Sir John's son, Humphrey Parsons, also enjoyed great success and respect, becoming Lord Mayor of London. When he died, his executors disposed of the property in 1766 to Mr Richard Ireland of Dorking. After a fire destroyed part of the priory's West wing, Richard Ireland shortened the East wing and refaced the South front in its present Georgian style.

In 1808, the property was bought by John, 1st Earl Somers and Lord of the Manor of Reigate. Successive Earls embellished the building and benefited the town in many ways. The 3rd Earl was succeeded by his daughter, Isobel, later Lady Henry Somerset, the famous temperance reformer. In 1895 she rebuilt the North-East wing completely, to provide a handsome dining room and excellent domestic and servants' quarters. She moved the Eagle Gates to their present position, reputedly to divert her servants and guests from the alcoholic temptations to be found in Bell Street.

The priory was let on occasions to Lord Curzon and other well-known personalities, including the society hostess, the Honourable Mrs Ronnie Greville, who often entertained Edward VII, and a constant stream of leading politicians, poets and writers, including Winston Churchill and Hilaire Belloc.

When Lady Henry Somerset died in 1921, all the Somers' Reigate properties were sold. The priory was bought by Admiral and Countess Beatty. The property was eventually sold in 1942 to an insurance company who intended to develop the park as a housing estate, although for the duration of the Second World War the house was leased to the Rank Organisation, who used it as their headquarters for administering flour supplies. When the war ended, the proposed development was prevented by public support for the purchase of the priory and consequently the Borough acquired the estate and leased the building to Surrey County Council, who adapted it for use as a school, which it remains today.

The Society is indebted to Mrs Audrey Ward, a teacher and head of the school museum, whose knowledge of the history of the priory and infectious enthusiasm for her subject seemed boundless. The Society is also grateful to her assistants for providing refreshments. In all, this was an unusual and enjoyable visit.

DOMESDAY

A Visit to the PRO 900th Anniversary Exhibition

by Bob Gale

"Then at Christmas, the King was at Gloucester with his Council ... [he] had much thought and very deep discussion with his Council about this country - how it was occupied or with what sort of people. Then he sent his men over all England into every shire and had them find out how many hundred hides there were in the shire or what land and cattle the King himself had in the country or what dues he ought to have in twelve months from the shire. ... What or how much everybody had who was occupying land in England, in land or cattle, and how much money it was worth. ... There was no single hide or a yard of land, nor indeed (it is a shame to relate but it seemed no shame to him to do) one ox nor one cow nor one pig was there left out, and not put down in his records: and all these records were brought to him afterwards."

These words from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle were intoned, first in Anglo-Saxon and then in modern English, by the monk from Peterborough, a pale, striking figure whose eyes moved restlessly over the bemused onlookers. The uncanny realism of this holographic projection, together with a similar one for William the Conqueror, is a feature of the 900th anniversary Domesday Exhibition mounted by the Public Records Office in Chancery Lane.

Domesday - it acquired this nickname within 90 years of its compilation by analogy with the Book of Life which would be opened on the Day of Judgement and against which there was no appeal - was completed in less than twelve months in 1086. The population of England - densest in East Anglia - is estimated to have been at the time 1,250,000. The information brought back to Winchester appears to have been collected by the appointed commissioners from existing sources, such as geld records, church records and estate accounts, and assembled in the Shire and Hundred Courts. The Commissioners then visited the courts, heard sworn evidence and considered the written material. The questions asked by the Commissioners are known to have been:

What is the name of the manor? Who held it in the time of King Edward? Who holds it now? How many hides? How many plough teams, in domesne (ie on the Lord's land) and among the men (ie the rest of the village)? How many villeins, cottars, slaves, freemen, sokemen ("independent" farmers)? How much woodland, meadow and pasture? How many mills and fishponds? How much has

been added or taken away? What was and is the total value? How much had or has each freeman or each sokeman?

The Domesday Survey was carried out not only for the purpose of tax assessment (according to the old music hall joke, only two things are certain in life - death and taxes), but also so that "every man should know his rights and not usurp another's". Domesday Book consists of two volumes: Little Domesday, covering Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk, and Great Domesday, covering the rest of the country as far North as Yorkshire. Only Little Domesday is dated and opinions have varied as to when Great Domesday was completed. It will be of interest to the Society to note that one of the major pieces of evidence used to date Domesday is the charter from William to the Abbey of Westminster granting eight hides in the manor of Pyrford, Surrey. This charter is dated "after the survey of the whole of England" and the transaction probably took place very soon after the inquiry, for, in Domesday Book, Pyrford is described as being held by the abbey.

In addition to Domesday Book, which has recently been rebound in five sections, many other interesting and relevant documents are displayed in the exhibition. There is also an attempt to recreate an impression of the country, the everyday lives of the people and the social system at the time of Domesday, though I felt this was the least successful part of the exhibition. However, one point which interested me was the estimation that only 15% of England was tree covered, less than modern France. The giant trees of the old primeval forest, the Wild Wood, had long been cleared and the land had been intensively worked since Roman times. Small churches, built of wood or stone, dotted the landscape; some were at the centre of a cluster of houses, some stood in the fields, serving the scattered farmhouses around. Contrary to my beliefs, it is claimed that a rider could not travel for a day without passing a small walled town, or one of the painted wooden or whitewashed stone castles which the Normans were building to secure their conquest. Another point strongly emphasised by this section of the exhibition is the very tightly knit social order of the time, later to become known as the feudal system, based on the manor under the control of a "Lord". It is even estimated that ten per cent of the population were slaves, bought and sold - costing 4d in Lewes market - with no property rights.

The exhibition also includes calligraphy and a demonstration of parchment making, and also features the development of Lincoln, "a Domesday city through the ages". The pedigree roll of the Lords Sudeley of Toddington, dating back to Anglo-Saxon royalty, is displayed at the entrance of the exhibition.

In the Surrey (SVDRIE) section of Domesday Book, the following entry on Send (SANDE) occurs (translation: Phillimore, edited by John Morris - quoted in Newsletter No 3, May/June 1975, by Les Bowerman):

"Land of Alfred of Marlborough
"in Woking Hundred

"Alfred holds SEND from the King and Reginald from him
"Carl held it before 1066. Then and now it answered for 20 hides.
"Land for 10 ploughs. In lordship of 2 ploughs and 8 slaves;
"14 villagers and 10 smallholders with 6 ploughs.
"A mill which pays 21s 6d. A church; 5 fisheries which pay 54d;
"Meadow, 100 acres less 16; woodland at 160 pigs.
"Of this land Walter holds 1½ hides and Herbert 9 of villagers' land.
"In lordship 2 ploughs and 7 slaves; 1 villager and 16 smallholders.
"A mill which pays 2s.
"Total value before 1066 £20; now, the lordship £10, the rest 110s."

It is assumed that Send then included both Ripley and Newark.

A visit to the exhibition, which continues until September, is recommended (entrance fee £2.50).

CLAY PIT WORKINGS RESTORED TO WOODLAND POND

The area around Kiln Lane, Ripley, was used for tile- and brick-making over quite a long period and the Court Rolls refer to matters appertaining to the kilns from 1559. Brick-making actually continued into the mid-19th century and later. Clay and brick earth was collected from the surrounding area and was dug out wherever suitable pockets of winnable material could be found. Clay was dug in parts of what is now Croxteth Hall Wood, a stretch of ancient oak woodland with an underwood of coppiced hazel trees.

One of the small clay pits was on the South side of Kiln Lane and this area became incorporated into the woodland under the Send & Ripley Inclosure Awards. In 1803, the enabling legislation allowed much of the remaining manorial waste of the three manors that made up the ancient parish to be closed and sold off.

Accordingly, the clay pit, which had become a wayside pool, was included in Award No 1031 and added to the woodland, then in the freehold ownership of Thomas Drewitt - with fairly extensive local land-holdings.

Since the time of enclosure, the pond has served no useful purpose, such as its probable hitherto use for watering animals using the lane; it became silted up and filled with rubbish. At the beginning of this July, after two months of hard work, a team of local enthusiasts have renovated the pond in Croxteth Hall Wood and the Fire Brigade pumped some 10,000 gallons of water to fill up the pool. It is being planted with a variety of water and bog plants and should provide a haven for wild life.

John Molyneux-Child

SEND CHURCH FETE

On a beautiful sunny day at Send Recreation Ground, the Society's Fete Subcommittee (Kate Smith, Duncan Jennings and Bob Gale), now well versed in the art of putting up the tent, presented a display based on Send Church and Churchyard. The display, which attracted considerable attention, featured a superb cross-sectional drawing of the bell tower by Frank Lewin. The latter, ably assisted by Jenny Lewin, Piers Lewin and Paul Craven, provided appropriate musical entertainment with their handbells.

Receipts for the sale of two calendars, two Send Church Guides and one Munby amounted to £4.50.

No complaints on this occasion from the fete team, who enjoyed basking in the sunshine and viewing the other events.

Bob Gale

LOCAL MEMORIES

The Grove Family: Master Carpenters of the Wey Navigation

There have been four generations of the Grove family working on the Wey Navigation at Send. The three children of Norman Grove recounted to us some of

their memories of living there. Their great grandfather was lock-keeper at Triggs Lock; their grandfather, Walter Grove, was master carpenter at Worsfold Gates and also ran the boat-house, while their father, Norman, was master carpenter for W Stevens & Sons from 1930-66 and their Uncle Ewart ran the boat-house. Mr Grove's job was to control and maintain all the lock gates and banks, and monitor water levels from Godalming to Weybridge. In the canal workshops at Worsfold Gates, they had a forge where they made all the ironwork for the lock gates and the canal, even down to the nuts and bolts. There was a carpenter's shop for all the woodwork required to be done. Many of the locks were constructed with timber bottoms and sides, sometimes the bottom of the lock being of whole tree trunks placed with alternating tapers. Usually a pair of gates was replaced every year and this maintenance usually sufficed; but there were always running repairs to gates and banks. There was a pervading smell of heating tar from the shop and Mrs Grove could always tell if any of the children had been in there. Occasionally the pot overheated and caught fire. One good thing was that they were never short of hot water in the house, as whole tree trunks used to be pushed into the side of the store and given an occasional shove by a passing foot.

The canals had to be kept dredged and free from weeds, so a working barge and horse were kept there. The men cut the reeds or cleared the bottom with long-handled shovels (hand dredging buckets), walking from one end of the moored barge to the other. There were no powered pumps to empty locks until the National Trust took over the canal, and all pumps were made and maintained in the workshop. Three men were required to operate the biggest one.

The 80 ton wooden barges, made and owned by the proprietors, William Stevens & Sons, were drawn by two horses in tandem. They met the tugs from the London Docks at Cox's Lock at Weybridge, where corn, coal, hides, timber and other products were off-loaded, reloaded and carried to Guildford or to Godalming. During the War, food stuffs were taken from the docks to the Godalming depot. The men on the barges were paid tonnage. Often two of the twelve company horses were stabled at Worsfold Gates (as they were at Newark Mill and the Anchor at Pyrford), so that looking after the horses was also part of the job.

Sometimes, when an empty barge was coming downstream in a hurry to meet the tug from the docks, they would open the gates and sluice it through - it would rush past like a steam train! This kept the bottom scoured, but speed had to be controlled or it would damage the banks. Grandfather Walter Grove, an ingenious man, had a pipe laid to the cellar of Worsfold Gates Cottage so that he could check the head of water at any time of the night or day. However, when Mrs Norman Grove saw a rat come out into the cellar, she decided that they could do without it. Grandfather Walter used to run the boat-house, but in the next generation, Mr Ewart Grove managed the boat-house and Mr Norman Grove the workshop. There used to be about fifty pleasure boats, punts, skiffs, canoes, etc. These all had to be kept sanded and varnished, and the cushions repaired. The Wey Navigation was privately owned, but these boats could be hired for about 1/6d an hour. It was a popular place for local people until the widespread ownership of cars gave people greater scope to go further afield for the day.

Snippets of recollections of life in Send in the 1920s and 30s were also recounted. Miss Lancaster of Sendholm used to hire a barge for a children's outing and would throw handfuls of sweets to the children. Webbs, the corner store with a bakehouse at the rear, had a shop full of little square mahogany drawers with recessed handles. Bromfields' shoe shop kept nails and brads in little trays, and when the heavy hammer at Sex's forge started up, they would bounce out onto the floor. Harkers of Woking had a van round, supplying dolly blue, grate blacking, soap bars and hardware. The paraffin tank was located under the van, and baskets and buckets were stored on top, restrained by a rail running around the roof. To the delight of the local children, occasionally

something from the top of the van was picked up by a branch of an overhanging tree, rather like a lucky dip. Brown, the carrier, who worked between Woking and Guildford, was popular because he used to give the boys a lift to school. The mediaeval farming land strip system was still operated on the Broadmead, worked by different people.

A fleet of Halls' lorries used to come over the Broadmead Road every day to be hand filled by the men at the sand pits.

Gypsies used to come each summer to help with the pea packing at Bourman's Farm.

Send, at the beginning of the century, was virtually divided into three separate villages: Cartbridge, Send Barns and Send Marsh, each with its own sense of identity - there were even three football teams - before they were more closely linked by the inevitable development in the area. Mr Grove's daughter, Anne, well recalls being pushed in her pram to one match by her two brothers, then being forgotten and temporarily abandoned by them.

Jane Bartlett

Do You Remember ...

... when the little village girls were expected to curtsy to the owners of Sendholm?

... when the village cricket team was driven to away matches in Mr S Brown's horse-drawn waggon?

... when you could buy a pennyworth of broken biscuits at the Post Office Stores, a ha'pennyworth of sweets at what is now the Victoria Wine shop, and farthing buns at Mr Webb's baker's shop opposite the New Inn?

... when children walked over the fields to buy skimmed milk at Crickets Hill Farm at a penny a pint?

... when wild flowers were picked on the unmade road which is now Send Hill?

... when the striking clock on the stables at Send Grove was known as "Old Wet Neck" because, when the wind was in the West, it could be heard in the village?

... when the Recreation Ground was grazing land for Hillside Farm, larks nested there and the rather rare "Totter" grass could be found?

... when the Broadmead flooded regularly and people had to be carried by horse and cart along Old Woking Street?

... when the muffin man, ringing his bell, called on Sunday afternoons?

... when adult carol singers tramped to the "Big Houses" to sing for charity - this usually took three evenings, sometimes through deep snow?

... when the ringing of the anvil at the village smithy could be heard throughout the village and children would stand at the smithy half-door to watch the horses being shod?

... when the scarlet horse-drawn Post Office cart went the rounds through the streets with the driver stopping at houses and blowing a horn to call people to collect their letters?

... when an old postman on foot delivered letters and parcels to outlying parts of the village twice daily and once on Sundays?

... when the present angling lakes were the village allotments?

... when cars were just coming in and it was a regular Sunday evening walk up to the A3 - then known as the "Turnpike" - to watch the rare cars pass by?

I remember it all.

Marjorie Sex

Moving from Hersham to Byfleet - a Conversational Note

This event took place on St Swithin's Day 1916 (15 July). We were moving from Hersham to Byfleet and I call this "My Journey into Space". My father, being a policeman, was moved from Hersham Police Station to Byfleet to be constable there and to us it was like going to a foreign country. We were moved by a horse-drawn van, or vans - I think there were two actually - and I was on the back of one of the vans, sitting in a chair with a chicken coop beside me with our chickens in it, and, as we went along, all the familiar sights sort of vanished. I was in the choir at St Peter's Church, Hersham, and that all disappeared as we turned the corner from Burhill into Burwood Road and on towards St George's Hill. I had just started at a new school next to the station at Walton-on-Thames. It was a brand new secondary school, but that's now gone - they've taken it down and now there's houses. It was a wonderful school and we did some wonderful things there coming from the old village school. We started doing woodwork, which was very interesting, and I was leaving all that. So, we went up the Burwood Road, past Askew's Park, where my father used to chase poachers around the park on his bicycle - and catch them. In those days the biggest crime in that area was poaching and Askew's Park was a big park, now all opened up, and a couple of old ladies who used to live there frequently called at the police station to say that poachers were running around, so the police had to go up and chase them.

We eventually got up to the top of the road and turned off to the left, along the Seven Hills Road - that was leaving a very familiar area 'cos we knew St George's Hill well, we used to go up there for picnics - and then straight on, up and down the hills, until we got to the other side and turned off right, wondering where we were going. I must have been about eleven at the time and it was quite an experience. The horse-drawn vehicle continued and we were pleased when we eventually got to Byfleet. We had a cottage in a row of four. After leaving the big police station at Hersham, it seemed quite a little place and we just wondered how we were going to settle down. I don't think my mother was very keen about it, but my father had no choice. Anyway, eventually we settled down and things turned out quite well. This was in the early days of Byfleet and, of course, one of the first things we were aware of were the aeroplanes flying around, 'cos we hadn't seen any planes at Hersham, which was too far away from Brooklands. Brooklands was a rare place for aircraft in those days, as they were training pilots in old bi-planes called Maurice Farnhams. They often used to miss the track and land all over the place, which intrigued us no end.

Once we became familiar with the locality and I joined the local school, the vicar came round to see us. He had a letter from the vicar of Hersham and I joined the choir at Byfleet Church and that was the beginning of a new life for me.

Bill Titcombe

RE-ENACTMENT OF LOCAL COURTS BARON

John Molyneux-Child, a member of the Society, who acquired the Lordships of the local manors of Dedswell and Papworth (Papercourt), has decided to hold a historical re-enactment of Courts Baron for both manors at "Croxteth Hall", Ripley, at 8 pm on Wednesday, 1 October 1986. This dramatic reconstruction is intended to commemorate the 900th anniversary of Domesday Survey.

John wishes to invite up to 25 members of the Society to attend this event and those interested should contact him direct ("Croxteth Hall", Kiln Lane, Ripley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6EX - telephone number, 225435), no later than 11 September.

The Manorial Court of the Lordship of Dedswell was last held 103 years ago; Papworth slightly more recently. The modern re-enactment will follow, as far as can be determined, ancient custom in considering matters of the day affecting manorial territories in Send and Ripley.

SEND CHURCHYARD

At the time of writing, the churchyard has never looked better, thanks to an enthusiastic team who have spent the last 12 Saturday mornings on this project. The first phase of general ground clearance and tidying up is complete and routine maintenance on a two or three week basis is all that is required. In the autumn, a good clear-up should be all that is required until next spring. Among the many helpers, thanks are especially due to Les Bowerman, John & Bette Slatford, Audrey Sykes, Tony & Patricia Medlen, Pat Hannon and John Wynburne. Also Margaret Hannon, who provided very welcome refreshments on many occasions.

The next two maintenance visits are 9 and 30 August.

Ken Bourne

THE STRAIGHT FURROW by Fred Dixon

Members will be interested to know that our new publication is expected to be available shortly. It is Fred Dixon's account of his time as Headmaster of Ripley C of E School from 1936 until 1961. In it he recalls many of his experiences, the people he knew and the children he taught during this period. We believe it to be an important piece of local social history and hope it will bring back vivid memories, especially to those who knew, and still know, Fred.

As with our "Then and Now" publication, we are making a pre-publication offer to members: the book-shop price is likely to be £2.95, but we are offering it at £2.25 up to the date of publication.

If you wish to reserve a copy, or copies, please complete the slip below and return it to me with your remittance (cheques should be made out to "Send & Ripley History Society"); 15 Kevan Drive, Send, Woking, Surrey GU23 7BU.

John Slatford

.....

Please reserve for me copy/ies of Fred Dixon's "The Straight Furrow" at £2.25 per copy.

I enclose £..... to cover the total value of my order.

Name:

Telephone number:

Address:

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership

We welcome the following new members:

- Mr & Mrs D Bolt, 12 Heath Drive, Send.
- Mr & Mrs B Jackson, 17 Orchard Way, Send. (rejoined).
- Mr & Mrs T Gold Blyth, Ockham Court, Mill Lane, Ripley.

Membership stands at 95 double subscriptions and 78 singles. As a result of certain teething problems in computerising the membership list, members who joined the Society in the period November 1984 to the end of 1985, and have omitted to renew their subscriptions this year, did not receive reminders. Those letters will be issued with this Newsletter and it is hoped that the members involved will respond quickly.

Mention of computerising brings to mind that under the Data Protection Act, people have to be reminded of their right to object to having their particulars stored in this way. All that is recorded in the case of this Society is the name, address, telephone number if known, whether subscription paid, and the distribution round. The information is used exclusively for the direct purposes of the Society for communicating with members.

Les Bowerman

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Tuesday, 16 September ... Open evening, commencing at 8 pm, at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, when Dr John L Gower will give an illustrated talk on "Roman Villas in South-East England".
 - Wednesday, 24 September ... Committee Meeting, commencing at 8 pm, at the Manor House, Send Marsh.
 - Thursday, 16 October ... Open evening, commencing at 8 pm, in Ripley Village Hall, when members will report on recent local research. All are invited to participate in the ensuing discussion.
 - Saturday, 18 October ... Photographic exhibition on the theme of "Past and Present", in the Methodist Church Hall, Ripley.
 - Saturday, 25 October ... As immediate item above, in the Lancaster Hall, Send Road, Send.
 - Tuesday, 11 November ... Open evening, commencing at 8 pm, in the Red Cross Centre, Send, when Dr Derek Renn will give an illustrated talk on "Castles in Surrey".
 - Tuesday, 16 December ... Christmas Social at Ripley Village Hall.
- Horsley Countryside Preservation Society Open Day and Exhibition.
"Horsley Then and Now". Saturday, 27 September, 11 am - 4 pm.
Les Bowerman