No. 260
May 2018

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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

I have been keen for some time to see our society reflect its constitutional aspiration to consider the history not just of Send and Ripley but also of its neighbouring villages. Ditz and I have made various recent contributions on both Pyrford and Wisley and I am particularly pleased to publish in this Journal a fascinating contribution from Pyrford resident Carole Gale, on the history of Pyrford Common. Lets have more of these – something from Ockham perhaps?

Boring but important: a new data protection law comes into force at the end of May, the purpose of which is to protect individuals against abuse of their personal data held by third parties. SRHS holds such data on you, its members, also donors to the museum, certain users of our website and respondents to surveys. You do have the right to withdraw your consent to our holding such data so please do take the time to read the note sent with this journal explaining the committee's deliberations and conclusions in detail.

Some of our members need lifts to and from meetings or outings. If you can help please contact Margaret Field, Clare McCann or me.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th June 2018.

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TO GEORGELANDS AND BEYOND WITH GRANDFATHER

MALCOLM ISTED

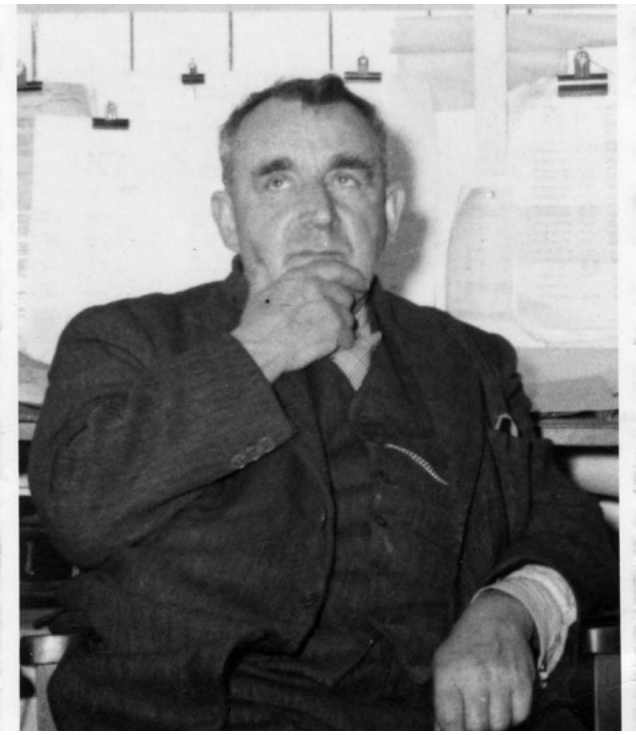
Probably taken on one of our Saturday morning trips, 1953/4. I don't remember grandfather dressed in any other way: tie, suit, and waistcoat - or as he would have said - weskit

Grandfather was a short, stocky man with a mischievous sense of humour whose working life was spent in the construction industry. After the Second World War he worked for Guildford Rural District Council as clerk of the works, finally retiring in 1956 when he was 72 years old! As clerk of the works he was responsible for ensuring council housing estates were built to the architect's and council's specifications. He brought to this job an attitude governed by two guiding principles: he believed in the Victorian maxim that if a job was worth doing it was worth doing well, reflected in his admiration for the skill of a talented craftsman. Honest hard work he also valued, giving, he believed, the industrious labourer status and respect.

Guildford Rural District Council offices were in Millmead but grandad also had small wooden offices on the various building sites for which he was responsible. There he would discuss progress and any problems with the site foreman. Like many people in the 1950s he worked on Saturday mornings and for a few years I went with him on his Saturday morning inspections.

This was a time when a massive expansion of local authority housing took place, both locally and nationally. In 1953 a record 348,000 council houses were built. Grandfather had responsibility for estates at Send, Ripley, West Clandon, Horsley and Effingham.

If he needed petrol it was always bought at Challens Garage where Bill Challen in his brown coat would



Grandad in his Georgelands site office taken on the 10th April 1953

fill the tank of grandad's Austin Seven car. Then we would be off down Tannery Lane between the flat, wide, open fields of Secretts market garden on our way to Georgelands estate.

Today the man we sometimes visited in a cottage on the edge of Secrett's land would risk a fine of £5,000 or six months in prison - that is if he couldn't prove that the birds' eggs laid out in his cabinet of shallow drawers had been collected before 1954. He wasn't the only one hunting for birds' nests, and collecting eggs was attractive to young boys, including me and my friends. We had a policy of only taking one egg each but sadly as knowledge of a nest spread it often ended up being emptied.

Passing the pair of semi-detached houses on Papercourt Lane, where the Collyer and Marsh families then lived, grandfather told me they were built as a consequence of the First World War. At first sight there was nothing distinctive about them; not until you saw the huge plots of land in which they were set did they seem unusual. It was intended that they would become smallholdings, providing those who lived there with food and an income. A tiny realisation perhaps of the 'homes fit for heroes' promise. To increase agricultural self-sufficiency and help families support themselves the government in 1908 passed a Small Holdings Act. This instructed local authorities to acquire land to rent out as smallholdings to those chosen from the 'labouring classes'. Although Surrey County Council set up a committee to identify sites it wasn't until the 1920s that the houses in Papercourt Lane were built. Nationally the expansion of government-sponsored smallholdings took off in 1934 with the creation of the Land Settlement Association. During the 1930s 21 cooperative estates totalling 1,100 smallholdings were established. The nearest ones to our area are Sidlesham in Sussex and Abbots Ann in Hampshire.

As we turned into Newark Lane heading towards Ripley my scant knowledge of brickwork, with which I had been perfectly happy, received a boost. The cottage on the corner is built using rat-trap brick bond, a cheaper method than the solid walls usually built at the time. It's been estimated that 25% fewer bricks and 40% less mortar is needed. The bricks are laid on edge making for two thinner walls linked by a cross brick. With the partial internal cavities created by this method, the wall is no longer completely solid. It is a brickwork bonding seen more in old garden walls; houses built this way are rare.

Grandad's office on Georgelands was a small wooden shed on the edge of the cluttered building site, close to the Portsmouth Road. It had a distinctive, lingering, musty smell of plans and diagrams.

On a table grandad would pore over the spread plans with the site foreman, interpreting what the architect had designed. The interpretation didn't always go without some less than complimentary remarks about the feasibility of the architect's plans.

His name was, I think, Snape, which sounded to me like snake. I therefore gave him, in both cases unfairly, the sinister and furtive qualities I associated with the reptile. Grandfather, originally a carpenter, had taught himself to draw building plans to a professional standard, remained sceptical of those like Mr Snape who hadn't 'worked with their hands'. To grandfather working men with practical skill and strength were, though perhaps lacking social graces, 'rough diamonds'. They in turn, at a time when most workers wore caps, would sometimes raise theirs to him.

Some of the Polish men displaced by the Second World War were - like Poles today - working on building sites. Grandfather was particularly impressed with how hard they worked on the council sites for which he had

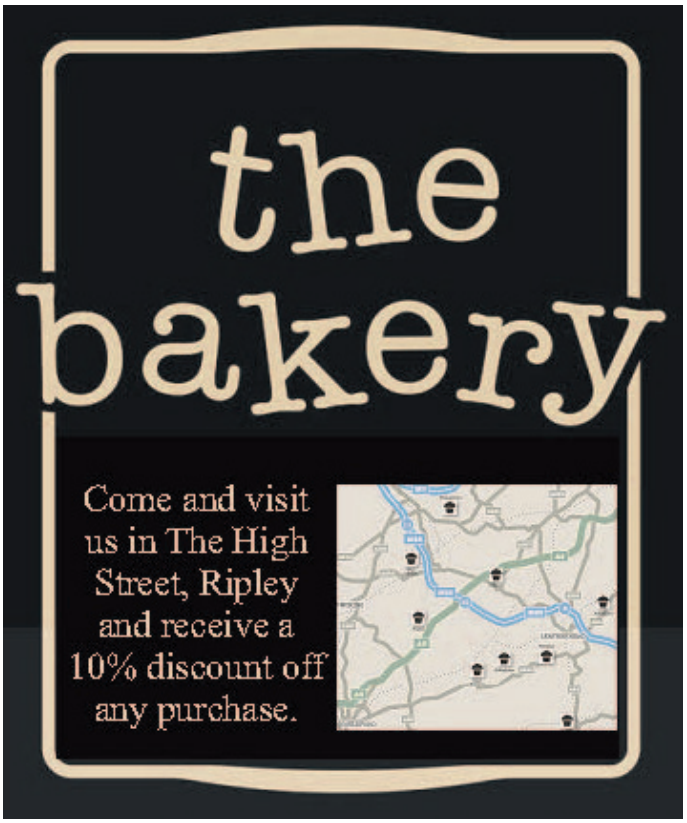
Taken outside the Council offices in Millmead on the day grandfather retired. He is with the girls who worked in the office

responsibility. I think he also felt sympathy for them, employing three to carry out the building of a garage on his own property. The Poles seemed exotic to me but I remember how friendly they were to a curious young boy despite their limited English.

Grandfather believed in traditional methods when, as he saw it, modern methods often cut corners, sacrificing quality for quantity. His most severe criticism was of the houses in Upper Sandlands in Send where he had also been clerk of the works. He had little faith in the PRC (pre-cast reinforced concrete) methods used there and its ability to stand the test of time. At Sandlands the PRC method was called Airey after the building company responsible for the design. At a time of desperate housing shortage these houses could be erected more quickly and with less skill than traditional methods would need. However, as far as grandfather was concerned they were inferior and wouldn't last. He would be proved right. I visited Sandlands recently with Bob Stonard to find nearly all the houses had been rebuilt in brick. Nationally between 1946 and 1955 26,000 Airey houses were built for Local Authorities and government institutions. Thirty years after the last one was built they, together with other PRC types, were labelled defective under the Housing Defects Act. Corrosion of steel reinforcements had led to cracking in the concrete used for the houses' construction. Though grandfather might have been right, he could hardly have known why.

Sometimes the low lying fields around Newark Priory flooded and we drove through an aquatic landscape with water lapping at the edge of the road. This detour home took us over the low bridge built, grandfather said, by Italian prisoners of war.

What I gained from these trips was a growing awareness that the journey can often be more interesting and more important than the destination if you pay attention to what is along the way. Rather like life!



FORTY YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN

This article by Jim Oliver appeared in Newsletter 4 in July/September 1975

ROYAL ARMS

Visitors to St. Mary's Church, Send, may miss the Royal Arms of George III which have been relegated to the north wall of the tower behind impedimenta of ringing gear at the rear of the gallery. The Arms are in poor condition, and painted on canvas which is stretched over a surrounding frame of wood; but they can still be deciphered.

A few remarks on Royal Arms may be of interest. When Henry VIII broke with Rome in 1534 and the Reformation in England really commenced, ordinary people were still largely illiterate, and most of the clergy still felt strong affiliations to the Church in Rome, and were reluctant to recognise Henry as 'The Supreme Head on Earth of the Church of England', as confirmed by Parliament. Clergy were also loath to give up the considerable influence exercised over the populace, and to forego the privileges they had held since Thomas a Becket of being immune from the secular courts of the realm and having the right to be tried by their ecclesiastical courts for any offence.

With such an atmosphere prevailing Henry was wise enough to realise that by ordaining that his Royal Arms be displayed in a prominent place in churches (usually above the Rood Screen), he reassured his subjects, and also reminded any clergy who still retained any doubt, that the new 'Supreme Head on Earth of the Church of England' was resident in Hampton Court, Windsor or the Palace of Whitehall, and not in the Vatican City, and that the Supreme Head was also intent on organising his naval and shore defences from East Anglia to Portland, and also generally enjoying himself.

This, then, was the situation in 1534. Henry died in 1547 and his policy was continued by Edward VI (who had the altar furnishings, vestments, chalices and patens at St. Mary's, Send in 1553 delivered into the custody of James Farrant, John Ede, John Willatt and Thomas Bayley, but was reversed by Mary, and most of the existing Arms of the two preceding reigns were destroyed during her policy of returning to the Church in Rome. By 1558 she had died and Elizabeth

set about a continuation of her father's policy with a vengeance. Her Royal Arms appeared in churches and so the custom continued until Victorian times, with a lull during the Commonwealth, followed by a vigorous revival in 1660 at the Restoration.

This brings us to St. Mary's, Send. Each successive monarch since Henry VII has varied his or her Royal Arms according to the major alliances, conquests, acquisitions or losses during that particular reign, and Royal Arms are in fact a form of shorthand of history to the student. Hence the Royal Arms at Send represent (not in the verbiage of heraldry): in the first quarter of the shield, three red lions of England in the recumbent position impaled by the red lion of Scotland in an upright position. In the second quarter the Fleur-de-Lys of France representing our claim to the Kingdom of France. This claim goes back to Matilda, daughter of Henry I, who married the Count of Anjou and was the founder of the Plantagenet line. Her son, Henry II, inherited vast tracts of France (this situation caused the Hundred Years' War with the battles of Crecy, Poitiers and Agincourt). This claim was not relinquished until the Treaty of Amiens in 1801 during an uneasy truce in the Napoleonic War.

In the third quarter, the golden harp of Ireland, which had been introduced by James I in 1603, and in the fourth quarter the Hanoverian devices introduced in 1714, i.e. more lions and hearts, and in the lower third of the quarter the white horses of Westphalia, while in the centre is superimposed a shield with the golden crown of Charlemagne.

Now the date of these Arms. They are before 1801, and they still display the Fleur-de-Lys and the crown of Charlemagne, which was replaced by the Electoral Bonnet of Hanover. They bear the Royal Cipher of George III and so must be later than 1760.
'That is as close as one can get. They bear no date or Churchwarden's name, as does the fine example at Dunsfold, and it only remains to comment that it would be a pity if they were allowed to deteriorate further.

[There follows a postscript to this article]

The first paragraph of the above notes can now happily be amended. The Society has removed the Arms from the wall of the tower, and they have been renovated at the Society's expense by Lt. Col. R. L. V. ffrench Blake, who is recognised as an expert in this field. Restoration has shown that the Arms are of the highest quality. This means that they are probably by a top London artist and not a local man as previously supposed. Although they can be dated at between 1760 and 1601 as indicated above, it is possible that they may originally have been the Arms of one of the two earlier Georges, modified on the succession of a new sovereign. It is very likely that the work was commissioned by the Patron of the Living, who at the time in question would have been the appropriate Lord Onslow.

The work of restoration has been well and carefully carried out and it is hoped that the Arms will be on view in their new position, as kindly offered by the Vicar, above the main entrance door in time for church services on 6th August 1975.

Photograph by Ditz

SEND AND RIPLEY 100 YEARS AGO MAY – JUNE 1918

JAN AND PHIL DAVIE

The War was causing huge numbers of casualties in British forces; 400,000 were suffered during the 1918 German Spring offensive, which took place over the same battle ground as the 1916 Battle of the Somme. Many Ripley and Send families were notified that their relatives were reported missing or killed in France. A very lucky few were told of promotions or medals awarded. For some others there was news of relatives being injured or captured and now German prisoners of war. Collections for the Surrey Prisoners of War fund raised £22 15s 0d in Ripley and £15 10s 6d in Send.

Changes were made to national conscription rules to replace the casualties. Men working on the land and aged between 23 and 31 were to be called up (they were previously exempt). Men up to 51 were also subject to Military Service, with the latest tranche called up being those between 42 and 45. Persons still exempt had skills desperately needed for food production, such as farm employees, equipment repairers, and agricultural blacksmiths. Men called up could apply for exemption via their employers. They were called before tribunals for their cases to be examined - and most failed.

The food rationing scheme introduced in April was reported to be working well by ensuring an even distribution of available supplies. For one adult the standard weekly ration was: meat, 15 oz. (425 g); bacon, 5 oz. (142 g); butter or margarine, 4 oz. (113 g); tea, 1.5 oz. (40 g); sugar, 8 oz. (226 g). From mid-May the rationing of bacon and ham was relaxed for a period of at least four weeks, following arrival of large amounts by ship from America.

Growing food by residents was very important so the parish council considered seriously a petition from the occupiers of Ripley Allotments requesting that the council take steps to prevent trespass and damage, especially by boys. One possible reason suggested was that allotment holders living in Newark Road were taking a short-cut through the hedge to their allotments. The parish council obtained consent to build a small gate from Lady Lovelace and Messrs Allwork were instructed to erect a proper hand gate.

Since June 1917 the parish council had been negotiating with the Onslow Estate to renew the Ripley Green lease. Principal differences concerned access across The Green and the location of posts which restricted access, including that to Miss Camroun's garage. In January both parties had agreed to arbitration by the Commons Preservation Society. In June 1918 the Society delivered a report which supported the parish council in their proposals and the recommendation was accepted.

Due to lack of adult labour the parish council agreed that schoolboys, under Mr Rawe's supervision, could undertake grass-cutting alongside the Send Church path, and at the usual payment of 8/- (eight shillings).

Meanwhile at Send Church Mr Lancaster and Mr Webb were appointed as wardens.

SMOKE BAY HOUSE OR CHIMNEY HOUSE
A QUESTION OF DATING

DITZ BROWN

Church Farm House, Wisley

When we moved to Church Farm House in Wisley we were keen to find out more about its history. The first thing we wanted to establish was its date. After having joined the SRHS we invited Les Bowerman and John Slatford to come and take a look. The house seems to have the typical layout of an early central smoke bay house (a smoke bay was an attempt to confine the smoke from the fire within a narrow timber-framed bay screened with lath and plaster which would have continued to the apex of the roof) but it also boasts a very imposing chimney – facts which indicate conflicting dates. Was our house built in the 16th or the 17th century?

John Slatford thought that his friend Rod Wild of the Domestic Building Research Group might be able to shed more light on this question. When Rod Wild came it transpired that his group (DBRG) had actually previously researched our house in 1979 and that it was then thought to have been built in the early 17th century, although the large framing panels (still visible on the upper floor on the right hand side of the entrance door), the square-set 'Tudor' chimney and a feature in the hearth bay (lamb tongue stops of the spine beam – particular chamfer ends on the main ceiling beam) pointed to the 16th century.

The square-set chimney

Pevsner in his book *The Buildings of England – Surrey* had also thought that it was 'partly 16th century'.

Rod Wild pointing at the chamfer at the end of the main ceiling beam

Rod Wild then suggested that the only way to settle this and get a definitive date was through dendrochronology (tree ring dating) which was then carried out by Dr Andy Moir in 2010 and attended by John Slatford, Rod Wild, DBRG chairman Martin Higgins and Brigid Fice (who recently gave her second talk to the SRHS – see J259) amongst others.

Dr Moir extracting a core sample

Dr Moir found plenty of original oak timbers to work with and established that our house was built in 1575 (and indeed that one large post originated from an oak planted in 1424). The date 1575 was rather a surprise as, although chimneys had existed in grand houses for a while by then, it was rather early to find one in a Surrey farmhouse.

One of the core samples taken as dating evidence against reference chronologies

In 2015 when we had the house re-roofed we learned more. We called Rod Wild again (we needed a professional 'witness') who kindly came at very short notice as we could not leave the house exposed for any length of time and our builder (SRHS member Phill Pestle) 'needed to get on'. What Phill had found were remnants of lath and plaster walls on either side of our large chimney which were rendered on the sides facing the chimney. In other words, the house had indeed been built as a smoke bay house as these walls could not have been rendered with the chimney in situ. However – as those walls were without any trace of smoke whatsoever it meant that the smoke bay had never been used. The farm had always been tenanted but owned by very wealthy landowners who would indeed have been familiar with early chimneys. We can only assume that before our house reached its completion there was a change of mind and one of those fairly 'newfangled inventions' – a chimney – was inserted!

Rod Wild wrote:

'Church Farm (DBRG ref 2748) has been having its roof redone recently and I've been along to have a look. I agree with Ditz and Cameron that the evidence for it being at least designed as a smoke bay was quite compelling; dendro 1575, so could be expected. I thought it could be one of those changes *ab initio*, or maybe a very early change as there was funny timbering round the chimney. Also the chimney is not on the ridge, but just to the side of it, which looked weird to me. As this house had previously been confidently dated to the early 17th century by Harding, Higgins, and Wild but came out as 1575 when dendro-dated, it is another example of the 17th century starting early in Surrey!'

It has taken a few years, but the puzzle of the age of our house and the vexing question as to whether it was a smoke bay house or a house with a chimney had finally been solved.

Photographs by Ditz

CLANDON PARK AS A HOSPITAL DURING THE GREAT WAR

JUNE DAVEY

Cameron Brown writes: this is a précis of the talk given to us by June Davey, a volunteer guide at Clandon House, in March of this year.

When Britain entered the War, on the 4th August, 1914, the Earl and Countess of Onslow at Clandon Park were anxious to contribute. They felt such a house as Clandon might have important wartime uses, and they submitted an application to the War Office. The Countess particularly wanted Clandon to care for 'other ranks,' rather than officers. Medical HQ at Woolwich operated as the clearing centre for the incoming wounded. They were concerned about the problems of supervising an improvised hospital some thirty-five miles from Woolwich, as there were very few ambulances at this stage. Clandon was accepted, but at first as an Auxiliary Military Hospital. Later, as circumstances and challenges changed, it became a Primary Care Hospital, which meant that patients could be received directly from the ports of disembarkation.

The Countess was asked to provide 100 beds. Rooms were cleared of furniture and hospital beds acquired: some of the rooms on the second floor became nurses' accommodation. The Earl's dressing room, on the ground floor, became the operating theatre, as it had running water and reliable north-east light. Transport of the wounded to Clandon was initially by train, until 1916, when the hospital had its own ambulances.

On 12th October 1914, a telephone message from Eastern Command asked Clandon to prepare for 100 patients later that day. Antwerp had fallen and military patients from Belgian hospitals were evacuated to England. They arrived at West Clandon Station from Southampton, at 3.00 a.m. on 14th October, desperate, destitute and hungry: some were serious hospital cases. The Earl describes the effect the arrival of these shattered men had upon those who saw them: "This was the unvarnished truth of war."

Two of the young Belgians, Armand Brancard and Francois Ghislain died within a few days. The children from West Clandon School attended the military funeral, along with villagers who supported the Belgian walking wounded. There was a bearer party from the Home Service Battalion of the Royal Surreys, and the Stoughton Band played the Dead March. The Earl of Onslow walked behind the coffin.

By mid-December, most of the Belgians had been discharged and had rejoined their regiments. The Military Medical Commandant at Clandon became seriously ill, and ultimately Lady Violet took over as Commandant. The first British patients arrived in March and April 1915, but there were lulls during that year, when no convoys arrived and Lady Violet was left with no patients and a restless medical staff.

She went to Woolwich headquarters to plead Clandon's case as a Primary Hospital. She was told by Sir Alfred Keogh, that the war was entering a new phase, when more beds would be needed, along with Auxiliary Convalescent Hospitals for Clandon. She managed to increase the beds to 132, with 18 in the Marble Hall. Mrs Butler of Heywood, Cobham, (now the American Community School) offered her house, with 50 beds, and Mrs Wilbraham Cooper, of Broom House, West Horsley, provided a further 40 beds.

> The flow of the wounded to Clandon which followed comprised casualties of the great battles of the war. One large convoy came from the Dardanelles, and again the appearance of the men arriving at Guildford Station shocked everyone.

The Woolwich authorities were concerned that a full-blooded epidemic of cholera could result from the nursing together of wounded surgical cases and those with typhoid and dysentery, but as the Countess pointed out, the soldiers had been treated this way during the long voyage from the Dardanelles. Only one patient, who arrived in a critical condition died, and there was no cholera outbreak.

Ypres, with its accompanying battles, appears in the Patients' Book many times, along with the Somme. There was an influx of Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders from the long Passchendaele offensive. Some soldiers returned to the Front only to be re-admitted to the hospital later in the war with fresh injuries.

The graves of some of the international soldiers who died at Clandon Park Hospital are in the cemetery,

opposite West Clandon Church. One young private, Alfred William Holloway, aged 22, actually took his own life while at Clandon: he was buried with full military honours. British soldiers who died at the hospital, but are buried near their homes, are remembered on the Celtic Cross in the cemetery.

In 1909, the War Office had authorised the British Red Cross and St John Ambulance to organise Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs) who would offer medical assistance in war. Lady Violet describes the scorn experienced by VAD nurses and women in uniform early in the war. Uniforms were associated with servants. She remembers occasions when, in her uniform, she was pushed aside in taxi ranks and station queues in favour of male officers. Attitudes changed as the war continued and the VAD uniform commanded respect.

Events at the hospital impinged considerably upon the village. Villagers turned out for funerals and remembrances, and the schoolchildren visited to entertain the soldiers in the wards. Ladies organised comforts for the patients, and under supervision of Lady Violet there were cards, stockings and presents for everyone. Carols and entertainments were organised when the patients at Broom House, West Horsley, would also attend. There was an 'oriental conjurer,' a whist drive, and on one occasion, a hat trimming competition, in which Lady Violet was awarded the Booby Prize.

The Earl, fighting in Flanders, wrote of his concern that the hospital, in open countryside, offered an easy target for the Zeppelin bombers. There were 12 Zeppelin attacks on Guildford, and one bomb rattled the windows of Clandon. Lady Violet was more concerned about the maids running screaming onto the lawn in their nightdresses.

The hospital finally closed in April 1919. During the war 5,059 soldiers had been nursed and some 750 operations carried out, night and day in the theatre. Between January and April 1919, 157 patients were admitted during the post-war 'Spanish influenza' epidemic. Several patients lost their lives at this time, as well as a VAD nurse.

Lady Violet was presented with a silver salt, now in the Speakers' Parlour at Clandon, for her role as Commandant, and the part Clandon had played in the Great War.

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JOHN SLATFORD

The 5th Earl of Lovelace

On 28th February, an obituary in the Daily Telegraph reported the death of the 5th Earl of Lovelace at the age of 66. He left no children or heirs and thus the peerage becomes extinct. So far as is known, the Lovelaces have had little or no contact with Ripley since the 1958 sale of the Ockham Park Estate. Before that time, however, the family had been hugely influential, having owned or controlled the major part of Ripley, much more so than the Onslow family. A great deal has been written in the early Society newsletters about the Lovelace family but it is worth, on this occasion, restating the history of how they came to be in Ockham in the 18th century and became so important.

Sir Peter King was the son of a grocer in Exeter. He became a prominent lawyer and politician who served as Lord Chief Justice and Lord Chancellor in the 1720s with the result that in 1725 he was created Baron King of Ockham in the County of Surrey, less formally - Lord King. He had then bought what became known as the Ockham Park estate.

His eldest son, another politician, succeeded him as the 2nd Baron King but died aged only 34. He was succeeded in turn by his younger brothers: Peter, William and Thomas. The last was succeeded by his son, another Peter, who became the 6th Baron King. After he died in 1793, the title passed to his son, also Peter, who became the 7th Baron King. His son, William, became the 8th Baron in 1833.

In 1838, William was created the 1st Earl of Lovelace. He had previously married his first wife the Hon Ada Byron, the only daughter of the poet, Lord Byron. Ada was a substantial heiress through her mother, who was the 11th Baroness Wentworth. The Kings were already a seriously wealthy family but became very much more so following the marriage settlement. Ada was also renowned as a mathematician who worked with the equally respected mathematician Charles Babbage, who proposed the concept of an automatic computing machine. There were three children from this marriage. The eldest, Byron, rebelled against his aristocratic upbringing and died at the early age of 26. The second was a daughter, Anne Isabella, and the youngest was Ralph who eventually became the 2nd Earl. Ada died in 1852 and William was remarried to Jane Crawford Jenkins, and a son, Lionel Fortescue King, was born in 1865. He eventually became the 3rd Earl in 1906.

William, the 1st Earl, had acquired the manor of East Horsley and much land in East Clandon, the Horsleys and Ockham from William Currie in 1840 for the sum of £78,285 15 shillings and 6 pence. This included East Horsley Place to which he moved some years later from Ockham Park.

As an accomplished architect and civil engineer he extensively remodelled and extended the property which was renamed Horsley Towers. He was also responsible for much rebuilding of East Horsley parish church and its surrounds as well as the many houses for his estate

The great hall at Horsley Towers

workers within Ripley, East Clandon, Ockham and East and West Horsley parishes. The only example of his flint and brick style of building in Ripley is the cottage Rowborough Wood in Rose Lane. Of a number of bridges he built on his estates, the best known has to be over Crocknorth Road on the hill leading to Ranmore Common. In 1873, Lovelace was by far the most important landowner in Surrey with almost 10,000 acres. This was apart from his many other estates amounting to another 7,000 acres.

Ralph Gordon Noel King became the 2nd Earl on the death of his father in 1893. He married twice, first to Fannie Herriot who died in 1878 and second to Mary Caroline Stuart-Wortley. There was only a daughter from his first wife and no children from his second marriage. Thus there was no heir to follow him directly. With his wife Mary, Ralph lived at Ockham Park until he died in 1906. Mary, as Lady Lovelace, continued living there until her death in 1941. She was not without influence in Ripley and made various contributions to the village. Among these she was responsible for building the six cottages in West End off the High Street and opposite the Village Hall. During the last war Ockham Park was requisitioned and occupied by units of the Canadian Army and, finally, it burnt down in 1948.

After the death of Ralph the earldom passed to his half brother Lionel who was already established at Horsley Towers. His estate there amounted to only one third of his father's holdings in Surrey. He continued living there for another 13 years but eventually sold Horsley Towers and the estate amounting to 2,750 acres to Tom Sopwith who was renowned as an aircraft designer during and after WWI. Lionel was the last Lovelace to live in Surrey, having retired to live on the family estate in Torridon, Ross-shire, which has been the Lovelace family home ever since.

Lionel, the 3rd Earl, had a distinguished career in WWI being awarded a DSO. On his death in 1929 his son Peter Malcolm King became the 4th Earl. He was described as 'an adventurous sort' and settled in Tanzania. He married a Danish widow, Manon Lis. Their son, Peter Axel William Locke King grew up with his mother's four children from her first marriage, living at the family homes in Torridon and in Sweden. His father died in 1964 when he was 13 and he then became the 5th Earl. He married twice and his second wife, an Australian named Kathie Smolders, survives him. Having no children or heirs, the earldom has now expired.

The Lovelace connections with Ripley came to an end with the sale of the Ockham Park Estate on 21st and 22nd October 1958. The sale catalogue, a copy of which the Society holds in the museum, is a comprehensive document of over 60 pages and numerous maps. It covers the sale of 4,984 acres including 15 farms, 17 private houses and 75 cottages, the Hautboy Hotel, sporting woodlands, shoots and fishing in the Wey. Newark and Ockham mills are also included. The home of our chairman, Cameron Brown, at Church Farm, Wisley was Lot 57. It had 319 acres and was let to Charles Hughesdon (of Dunsborough) at the annual rental of £1,030 19 shillings and 10 pence. My home, St George's Farm, was Lots 8 and 13. The farm had 28 acres covering the present day Wentworth Close and the large field surrounding Georgelands, with frontages on Portsmouth Road and Newark Lane. The tenant was Arthur Hill and he paid a total rental of £65 per annum. The Hills, who lived here from 1900 until the 1970s, were market gardeners sending produce to Covent Garden.

Thanks are due to the Daily Telegraph for permission to quote from the obituary. Much has also been gleaned from Wikipedia and from the paper - William, Earl of Lovelace, 1805-1893 by Stephen Tudsbury Turner BA, MLitt in Vol 70, Surrey Archaeological Collections. 1974.

VINTAGE COTTAGE, ROSE LANE, RIPLEY

JOHN SLATFORD

It has been sad to record the departure of Alastair and Fiona Macmillan from their home at Vintage Cottage in Rose Lane. This was to move to Norfolk to be near one of their sons. It was even more sad to learn that Alastair had passed away soon afterwards. They had been at Vintage Cottage for well over 40 years and Society members for most of that time.

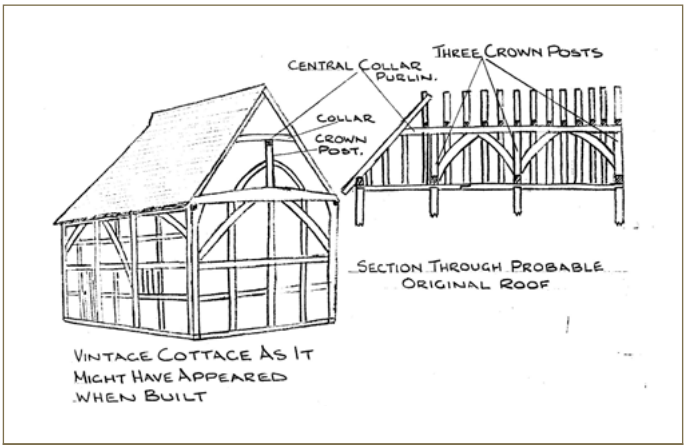
Vintage Cottage today, with a hipped (sloping) roof and modern windows and external chimney-stacks

In the early days of our Society, our buildings group under Jim Oliver were welcomed by Alastair and Fiona to look over and study their house. We were sure then that the house dated from the early 15th century. However, in 2005 a dendochronological study (tree ring dating) was carried out by the Domestic Buildings Research Group which confirmed that the dendro date was the winter of 1390/1391; that is, the trees used in the construction were cut down then, thus making the house late 14th century. This confirmed that the house is not only the oldest domestic building in Ripley but also probably the oldest anywhere nearby. The dendro work was reported in our Journal No 188 May/June 2006

John Slatford's drawing shows how the house may have looked when first built. The front is gabled (straight up and down) and the structure of the oak frame is clear. Of course, no chimneys

Our original findings were recorded in Newsletter No 61 March/April 1985. The basis of this was that the house is of open hall timber-framed construction with three bays and a smoke-blackened crown post roof. As it is at present, the house has a hipped roof with a gablet (originally a small triangular opening to let the smoke escape) at the rear. We found evidence in the roof to show that the frontage had originally been gabled. The alteration to a hipped roof may have dated from the Georgian period and been necessary because of some sort of damage.

The gablet (to let out the smoke) and some of the original oak frame are visible at the back of the building



John Slatford's drawing shows the construction. Crown posts were used to strengthen and stabilise the roofs of Surrey houses until the early 1500s

The addition of the modern windows at some time in the 20th century would not have been allowed today.

Since the Macmillans departed, the house has been sold but while empty, our chairman Cameron Brown and his wife, Ditz, have been able to visit and photograph much of the property, though, unfortunately, the roof space could only be seen from the loft hatch.

Photos by Ditz

This is the central one of the three crown posts shown in John's drawing. Note the soot-blackening of the timbers.

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BOUGHTON HALL AND ALDERTONS BEFORE THE WAR

NICHOLAS & THOMAS GRANTHAM

When we moved in in 1933 this was called Boughton Hall Farm. Aldertons was its Tudor name when it was owned by Monks of Newark Abbey [sic] and leased to a family called Alderton

Clare McCann writes: thanks to the good offices of our member Penny Corlett, the Grantham family has given the society a wonderful album of pre-war photos of Boughton Hall and Aldertons at Send Marsh. I mentioned this briefly in J259, p 30. The two remaining sons, Nicholas & Thomas Grantham, have kindly provided these accompanying notes. The captions for the photographs are taken from the hand-written notes in the album, the whole of which can be seen at the museum.

Vincent and Margaret Grantham were married in 1918 and lived initially in Bombay where Vincent Grantham was the local manager of the trading company Forbes, Forbes, Campbell and also president of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce. They returned to England when he was transferred to the London office of the company circa 1925 and they lived in rented accommodation in Thames Ditton. Vincent Grantham was subsequently elected to the Court of Governors of the then Chartered Bank of India Australia & China in 1939 and became Chairman in 1940.

Our parents purchased and moved into Boughton Hall a few years later. In 1932 the financial crash necessitated economies and they bought and moved into Aldertons, although they were unable at that time to sell Boughton Hall. In due course their growing family necessitated extensions to Aldertons. This work, recorded in the album, took place in 1937. Boughton Hall was commandeered during the war for various government purposes, firstly to house refugees and thereafter as a nursing home. At that time part of the garden of Boughton Hall was transferred to enlarge the garden of Aldertons (see below).

Demolition, June 1937

Vincent and Margaret had eight children of which we are the youngest and sole survivors, Nicholas being born in Aldertons in December 1933, and Thomas arriving on a summer holiday in Lowestoft in September 1937. The children born whilst the family were in Boughton Hall were Elizabeth, 1927 and Anthony, 1930. The family moved from Aldertons in the summer of 1947 to St Osyth near Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.

Our mother, Margaret Grantham was greatly involved in local affairs particularly during the war when she was active in both the Red Cross, as local area Commandant, and ARP in which capacity she was 'inspected' by the then Queen Elizabeth (wife of George VI). Her activities involved instructing and managing volunteer members of the Red Cross and being called out on many a night to deal with the results of bomb damage. She was also an active member of the WI. Our father, apart from dealing with the effects of war on the Chartered Bank's business in the Far East, spent many nights fire-watching on the roof of his City offices. Early in the war a room at Aldertons was sandbagged (see photo) and adapted as an air raid shelter but thereafter a substantial concrete air raid shelter was built, which

At last (June – July 1937) we begin to build up instead of pulling down. Scaffold poles – optimistic sign!

housed the family on many a night. No cars of course so the family all rode a fleet of bicycles.

The ample gardens of Aldertons became, for the duration, a family smallholding in which we were all involved, with chickens, ducks and rabbits, and producing eggs, meat and fruit and vegetables for a large family to ameliorate wartime rationing. Butter, sugar and meat were in particularly short supply, difficult with a large growing family. Our father oversaw the garden and was particularly expert at growing a wide range of fruit; our mother managed the livestock, which not only provided eggs and meat but also rabbit fur for gloves slippers and soft toys.

The sandbags for the early air raid shelter

SEND 2018 POPPY PROJECT

CLARE McCANN

In August 2014, to mark the centenary of the start of WWI, the history society 'planted' 21 wooden poppies in the flower bed at the Send parade of shops, one for each local soldier killed. Now approaching the centenary of the end of that war on 11th November 2018, a project has been launched to commemorate this more joyful anniversary. The wooden poppies will be replanted in early November and a large display of poppies made by volunteers from material will be arranged along the front of the tennis court on Send Recreation Ground.

Inspired by projects in other villages in past years, I suggested the idea of a poppy project in Send to former parish councillor Linda Parker-Picken, and Send Parish Council have taken up the suggestion and generously donated money to buy materials and this has been supplemented by a further donation from the local Rotary Club. Wool is available free from the Send Parish Office and patterns are available on a dedicated page of the Send village website (click on News & Diary). There is also a dedicated facebook group linked to Send's main facebook page, where members can share information and ideas.

As at 15th May, 90 people had reported they were knitting, crocheting or sewing poppies for this project and more than 1000 poppies had already been made! Launched in March, the aim is to create at least 2500 poppies. St Mary's Craft and Chat Club is heavily involved and the WI, Send Scout groups, St Mary's Sunday Club children, Send Evangelical church's Snack 'n Chat group and the school are all expected to participate in this community project. As I am partly responsible for the project, I hope history society members will do their bit – you do not even have to live in Send!

If you'd like to join in Linda asks that you email clerk@sendparishcouncil.gov.uk with the subject line *Poppy Project* and content I'M IN, or call 01483 479312; or you can contact me direct on 01483 728546.

Also – does anyone have any bright ideas what we might do with all the poppies once we take down the display?

LETTER

MARCH 2018, FROM JANET HUGHES

In the January 2018 edition (J258) there is an interesting piece on p5 about Hedgecroft Cottages in Newark Lane, Ripley and I thought you would like this additional information for your records.

The occupation of cottages numbers 11 and 12 actually began earlier than 1924 as at the age of six months in 1921 my mum Elsie Best (nee Plumbridge) moved into the newly-built number 12 Hedgecroft with her parents William and Grace (nee Gunner) Plumbridge.

My mum Elsie soon became very ill with pneumonia due to the plastered walls still being damp. Thankfully, she survived. At the same time a Mr and Mrs Stan Tigwell moved into number 11 next door.

William and Grace continued to live in number 12 Hedgecroft until the 1950s when they were allocated a bungalow on Georgelands.

I hope this is useful for you.

Kind regards

WHERE IS THIS?

ALAN COOPER

As I have not been receiving many responses to 'What is this?' I propose to continue only with 'Where is this?' Having said that, our society chairman, Cameron Brown, did correctly identify J259's object as a Jew's Harp (or Jaw Harp), a simple monotonal instrument held between the teeth and twanged. Gives off a droning sound.

Nobody guessed where the bridge was. It was…Bridgefoot, Ripley. The photo would have been taken from the footpath beside the stream adjacent Bridgefoot Farm.

WHERE IS THIS?

An unusual shot from 1905. Where was it taken?

JOURNAL 257 – WHAT IS THIS / WHERE IS THIS?

Mystery object (J259)

Where was it taken? (J259)

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PYRFORD COMMON

CAROLE GALE

This is Cameron Brown's précis of an article by Pyrford resident Carole Gale which, with additional illustrations, can be seen on her website: https://galecarole.wordpress.com/2016/11/20/history-of-pyrford-common/

Pyrford Common is located to the south of Woking with Old Woking Road running along its western boundary and Pyrford Common Road intersecting it to the north.

It is hard to imagine now but there was a time in England when the land was mainly wild and ownerless. Early civilization came in the form of the manorial system, which was established by the Saxons and documented in Pyrford well before the Norman Conquest, at which time the owner of the manor was the Godwin family, of which King Harold was the head.

The lord of the manor required tenants to work his land in lieu of rent. Tenants would have rights to cultivate open fields which were divided into individual strips. There were usually three of these 'common fields' worked on a system of crop rotation. In addition to one or more strips tenants might also own cattle or sheep and these would be allowed to graze on the common pastures and on the open fields once the crops had been harvested. Tenants also had access to the heathlands for wood and turf, with poorer tenants being dependent on these 'wastes' for their subsistence. Commons and 'waste lands' technically belonged to the local manors but were often not cultivated due to the poor soil.

This was in many ways an inefficient system and from the middle ages onwards areas of the commons were consolidated – a process known as 'enclosure' (or 'inclosure') which was, in essence, the removal of common grazing or farming rights from the incumbent tenants. It allowed the landlord to work the larger fields more efficiently but did, on the other hand, disenfranchise the tenants who had previously lived from the produce of their 'own' strips of the common fields. At the end of the 18th century this process accelerated and in 1801 the Inclosure (Consolidation) Act was passed to tidy up and bring consistency to the previous fragmented legislation. There were numerous changes to this Act over the rest of the 19th century.

In 1805 an Act was passed to enclose land in the Manor of Pyrford, owned at that time by George, Earl of Onslow. Part of the heathland was excluded and became known as Horsell Common.

The Act was designed to remove all 'common rights' but there was an exception made in that owners of land within the manor would still be able to graze animals in the common fields, meadows and pastures. Extensive work was required to reassign land ownership and the Act did not come into force until 1815. The document goes into great detail regarding the reassignment of land amongst owners such as William Tegg and Susannah Bolton, surnames which are familiar today in the street names of Pyrford. Several areas of former heathland, referred to variously as Pyrford waste, heath or common were to be enclosed. One of the larger areas of heath was Parcel 752, an area of 39 acres, assigned to Lord King, running from Old Woking Road to a small lake described as Sheer Water Pond.

> The enclosing of common land caused unrest throughout the country, not only for the loss of ancient rights but because the poorest residents, lacking tenancies, relied on the commons and woods for subsistence.

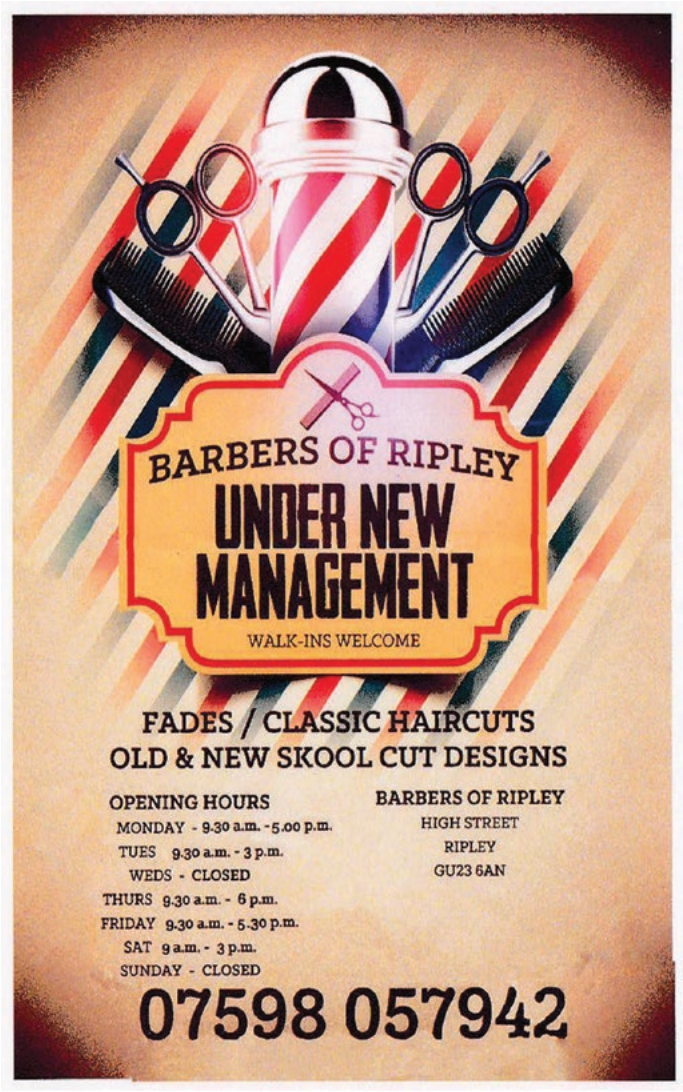
They would now have nowhere to graze the few animals they possessed nor be able to collect fuel and, unlike the tenants whose rented land had been 'enclosed' they received no compensation. Hence there was enshrined in the Act a requirement to set aside a certain amount of land to provide fuel for the poor of the parish, ie those not occupying 'Lands or Tenements' of more than a yearly value of £5. The local vicar, churchwardens and Overseer of the Poor were given the responsibility of ensuring that these common lands should produce 'a reasonable supply of fuel for the consumption of the poor inhabiting said parish, for ever'. The commissioners decided that a parcel of land on Pyrford Heath totalling 51 acres, 2 roods and 26 perches would be adequate

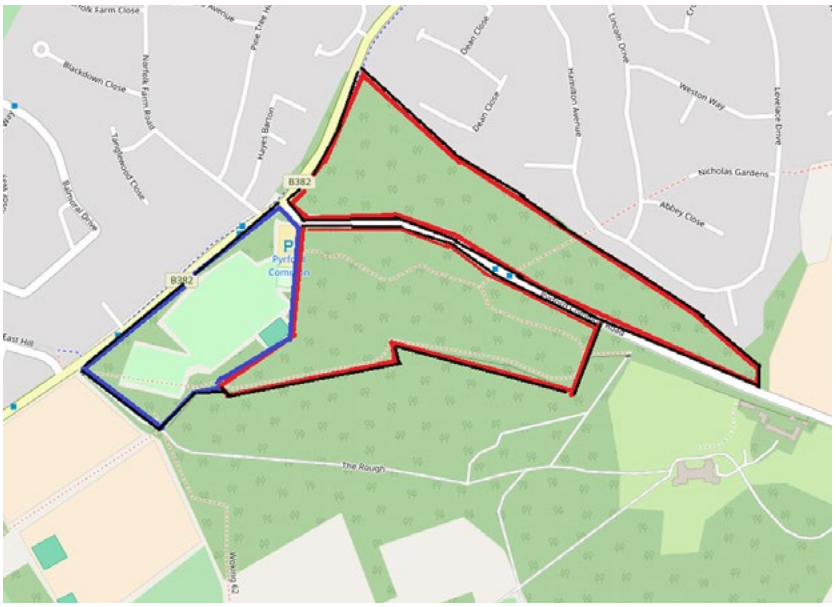
to produce a reasonable supply of fuel for the poor inhabitants of Pyrford. The land would include a highway built across it known as highway 11 – Pyrford Common Road as it is known today.

By the early 20th century the 'Poor Allotment' charity had joined with the Henry Smith Charity, established by a City merchant, who from 1620 onwards set up trusts to dispose of rents and profits of his lands, making gifts to several towns in Surrey for the relief of the poor. In Pyrford the Henry Smith charity distributed clothing vouchers and other forms of support; the Poor Allotment charity distributed fuel in the form of coal or coke. In most years two or three hundred weight of coal was delivered to qualifying cottagers. In the 1930s a ranger was appointed to look after the common and he lived in one of the two charity-owned cottages.

These cottages provided a rental income to the Poor Allotment charity, but the conditions the inhabitants lived in were Dickensian. In 1964 the weekly rent for one cottage was 5/3d and for the other 7/-. In 1971 the decision was taken that it would be less costly to demolish the cottages than to bring them up to modern standards. The Residents Association objected to the proposal to rebuild the cottages so they were not replaced.

In November 1963 Woking Council had voted to approve the purchase of 10 acres of Pyrford Common from the charity for £500, to provide recreational facilities, despite reservations that the ground was too far from Pyrford and adjoining a dangerous road. One of the clauses of the conveyance was 'that they [the council] will not use the property otherwise than as a public open space or recreation ground.' An optimistic map produced by the council showed tennis courts, football, cricket and hockey pitches. Sadly, by 1979 the charity minutes report that 'the tennis courts cannot be used because of vandalism.' In 1979 the council wanted to allow Chobham Rugby Football Club to build a clubhouse on the recreation ground and arrange fixtures on it.





Pyrford Common map showing different boundaries. The red outline shows the area owned by Horsell Common Preservation Society, with Village Green status. The blue outline shows the part owned by Woking council. The whole is designated as a Local Green Space and also a Site of Nature Conservation Importance

The trustees agreed to accept £2,500 for the release of the covenant. Local residents, however, were fiercely opposed to the idea and a 1,000-signature petition was presented to the council. The Residents Association added their support and the proposal fell through.

In an attempt to clarify rights of access to common land a Royal Commission on Common Lands was set up in 1955. This lead to the Commons Registration Act of 1965 and provided for commons and town and village greens to be registered. The Pyrford Poor Allotment charity's objective of using the common to provide for the poor of the parish rather than for the benefit of the community as a whole lead to some soul searching amongst the trustees. An application to register the common was made in 1967, not by a trustee, but by a Brian Vincent Field of Manor Close, Pyrford. In May of the following year Mrs Skinner, the secretary of the Poor Allotment trustees, objected to the application on behalf of the Trustees as 'the land referred to was not Common Land at the date of registration'. This objection by Mrs Skinner was formally recognised and the status of the common remained in limbo until well into the next decade.

In 1977 the registration issue was raised again and trustees were still in agreement that the land could not be common land as it had to be used to provide fuel for the poor of Pyrford. Later that year a hearing was arranged before the Chief Commons Commissioner and since Mr Field, who had submitted the application, was not in attendance to present any evidence, the Commissioner refused to confirm the registration. His decision was not contested and Pyrford ceased to have any claim to possess an official common.

By the 21st century it was beginning to be felt that the objective of using Pyrford Common to provide an income for the poor was no longer viable. By 2005 it was reported that the only income of the Poor Allotment charity was in the form of shares, amounting to £363 per annum. A number of options were considered and finally it was decided that the land would be sold to Horsell Common Preservation Society (HCPS). The sale of the land would increase the income available to provide charitable assistance and HCPS had the expertise to maintain the common for public access and enjoyment. The valuer noted that shooting rights had lapsed, and that since the land was green belt it would not be of interest to developers. The two parcels of land, amounting to about 38 acres, were valued at £19,000.

The Charity Commissioners agreed that it was permissible for the charity to sell the land 'as it is income producing land and therefore falls under the statutory powers of the Trust For Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996'. A Public Notice of the intent to sell the land to HCPS was issued, the responses to which were all positive. HCPS finalised their acquisition of the land in 2006.

HCPS were surprised to learn that the land had not been registered as a common. In 2006 a new Commons Act was passed which allowed landowners to voluntarily register their land as a Town or Village Green. HCPS chose to register their newly acquired land as a Village Green and the common, on both sides of Pyrford Common Road, was duly registered. The decision document notes that 'Town and Village Greens are areas of land used by local people for recreational purposes'. Registration is irrevocable and so the land must be kept free from development or other encroachments.

Thus a new era began whereby the common was now perceived by HCPS as 'a vital open space for the residents of Pyrford'. In a further change the common was to be preserved not only for enjoyment but also 'for the animals and plants that live there'. In recognition of its past purpose to provide fuel for the poor of Pyrford members

of HCPS are able to collect firewood from the common following strict guidelines – the use of chain saws is not permitted, for example.

The area of common previously sold to Woking council has still not been registered either as a common or a village green.

Pyrford Common as we know it now was, for many centuries, part of a wider, sparsely-populated heathland. Although the heathlands of Surrey appear wild it is thought that many large areas were created at least 6,000 years ago when early farmers cleared the original vegetation and trees to grow crops. Over time nutrients were washed out of the soil leaving them poor and acidic. These heathland landscapes were useful for grazing animals and as sources of materials such as heather, bracken and wood and, over the centuries, were kept open by regular cutting for fuel, grazing by animals and burning.

In the 16th century Pyrford Common formed part of the north eastern boundary of Woking Park, the hunting grounds surrounding Woking Palace. The park came into the ownership of the Earls of Onslow in the 17th century but even after the arrival of the railway to Woking in 1838 Pyrford Common saw little change to its environs.

The area was, however, beginning to be seen as a healthy yet now very accessible retreat from the pollution of London.

A piece in the Morning Post of 1853 extols the virtues of taking a train from London to Woking Heath and walking across the moors, until the traveller arrives at 'commons covered with gorse, now in full yellow bloom, and you pass by clumps of wild holly, which, but a few days ago, were tenanted by nightingales'.

After crossing the commons the traveller is directed to arrive at the little old church at Pyrford and is promised that 'a more sequestered, and absolutely rural spot than this, can scarcely be imagined'.

Activities on Pyrford Common, in addition to dog-walking, have included orienteering, camping and shooting, the latter presumably becoming less viable as other recreational uses increased. The early aspirations of the council for tennis courts, football, cricket and hockey pitches were not fully realised and the tennis courts fell into disrepair. The children's playground has been upgraded several times over the years. For around thirty years Pyrford Saddle Club has held twice yearly shows on the common. More controversially, unofficial BMX trails have appeared on the common causing a conflict of interest amongst users.

The wildlife importance of Surrey's heathland is recognised nationally and internationally. In March 2005, the government designated areas of heathland within the Thames Valley as the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area under the EC Birds Directive. Horsell and Chobham Commons and Whitmoor Heath have this protected status, as do neighbouring Ockham and Wisley Commons. These heaths are recognised for their importance in protecting three species of birds – the Dartford warbler, the nightjar and the woodlark.

Pyrford Common is now largely a woodland habitat. Living reminders of its past as part of Woking's extensive heathland can still be seen in the coppiced hazel which is found in different areas. The birch and holly trees which have colonised the site are more recent invaders but patches of gorse (often referred to as furze), bracken and heather, all typical of heathland, can still be seen.

In 1992 Woking Borough Council commissioned a report to identify important wildlife areas which were not covered by other designations. This survey was undertaken by Surrey Wildlife Trust and 38 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance were identified of which 37, including Pyrford Common, were included in the 1999 Local Plan. The common was resurveyed in 2003 and again in 2009. The 2009 survey described the site as 'Relict heathland with a variety of habitats including deciduous, mixed and coniferous woodland, heathland, grassland and scrub'. Although the site was assessed as having declined due to scrub and bracken invasion onto the heath, ling, bell heather and cross-leaved heath were still found to be present and it was noted that the site has good heathland regeneration potential. The common still retains this local SNCI designation.

In 2015 Peter Brett Associates conducted a green belt review for Woking council. They recommended that the field adjoining Pyrford common be removed from the green belt as a potential future housing development site. It was also recommended that the part of the common to the north of Pyrford Common Rd be removed from the green belt to realign the boundary along Pyrford Common Rd. This alarmed local residents and many objections were sent to the council. Fortunately the council did not take this advice and the whole common remains within the green belt. The review was a sobering reminder of how precious and pressurised our green spaces are. On December 15th 2016 residents voted to adopt the Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan designates the whole of Pyrford Common as a Local Green Space. This is in recognition of the importance of this last remaining space in Pyrford where the community can freely roam.

LUTIDINE HOUSE – RIPLEY

AUDREY SMITHERS

Today, the chimneys have gone but otherwise the façade remains unaltered. Lutidine House, now flats and apartments

Whilst sorting through old photographs I came across several taken at Lutidine House, once home to the Stewart, Smith & Co insurance company in Newark Lane, Ripley and memories started to surface.

The property derived its name from a French frigate La Lutine, captured by the British at Toulon in 1793 and re-named HMS Lutine, which sank in 1799 carrying gold and silver bound for Hamburg. Insured by Lloyd's of London, many attempts have been made to recover its cargo over the years and in 1858 the ship's bell was salvaged. It was hung in the atrium of Lloyd's offices and was traditionally rung to announce important news, notably that of ships overdue or lost at sea. The bell has since developed a crack and the last time it was rung to tell of a lost ship was in 1979 and to herald the return of an overdue ship, in 1989. It was also rung on the day of the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in New York on September 11th 2001.

My employment with them began April 1960 and ended June 1976 with the closure of the office. The office had been opened in January 1952 and in 1954 a large two-storey extension was added. At its peak there were 140 people employed there in accounts, contracts, policy and a small Hollerith[1] department.

The original building circa 1905

[1]Herman Hollerith (1860-1929) was an American inventor who developed an electro-mechanical punched card tabulator. He founded the company that, after several amalgamations became IBM and is generally regarded as one of the seminal figures in the development of data processing; his 'concept machines' utilising punched cards were in regular use for almost a century.

The Lutine Bell, displayed at Lloyds of London

In the first year, coach transport was provided from Surbiton, but soon London employees moved nearer to Ripley and many new staff were recruited. Cyclists would come from all directions and anyone arriving late stood little chance of finding a space in the long bicycle shed to the rear of the property. After being interviewed by the Director, Mr McDonald, I received a letter offering me the position of filing clerk in the policy department, my salary being £169 per annum along with luncheon vouchers of 3 shillings per day. A bonus of 10% was also given, 5% in June and 5% in December. Office hours were 9.30 – 5.30 with 2 weeks annual leave, rising to 3 weeks after 5 years of service, the extra week to be taken during the winter months. To start at 9:30 was heaven and, bicycle deposited, it was up to the top floor to file away. Everybody was friendly and helpful and so I soon got into the routine of office life. Every day a car would arrive from London with suitcases of work for the various departments, policies and endorsements being booked in and out in large ledgers. Then more filing appeared. Mr Harris was my first manager, then John Acton, both a pleasure to work with. Music played an important part in the office. The Chairman, Mr GJ Stewart had the idea that music helped to increase efficiency. The London office also shared this idea but somehow Ripley, instead of office music, had Sousa marches! All right for typing to but not helpful for book-keeping. Likewise, the Strauss version of the *Trish-Trash Polka!* The music system allowed a set of twelve records to be changed every two weeks but often Ripley had the same records four weeks running. *Around the World*, played eight times daily for four weeks by the massed bands of the Brigade of Guards, very soon lost its appeal. From filing clerk, I moved into the bureau sheet typing room (the music system long since disconnected).

l - r: Audrey Smithers, Leslie Brown, Dot Marshall, Richard (?), Pam Brown and Denise Gammon (seated)

Over the next year I was joined by three friends from school: Jackie Biddle, Margo O'Brian and Pat Woodhams. We all enjoyed our work and to this day are still in touch with one another and remain firm friends. Margo and Pat moved down to the Hollerith department whilst Jackie and I were introduced to the 'flexowriter' machine[2], a large electric typewriter, which, by using control tapes, selected information for various forms for Lloyd's, the Institute of London Underwriters and other insurance companies. The business had two of these.

[2]The Flexowriter was a teleprinter, a heavy-duty electric typewriter capable of being driven not only by a human typing, but also automatically by several methods, including direct attachment to a computer and by use of paper tape. Much of the design dates to the 1920s, and variants of the machine were produced until the early 1970s, finding a variety of uses including being among the first electric typewriters, computer input and output devices, forerunners of modern word processors, and with roles in the machine tool and printing industries. The machine was born out of the Remington Typewriter Company when, in 1925, they introduced their first electric model. After several business takeovers, IBM took control in 1933 and by the end of the decade had a nearly complete monopoly on unit record equipment and related punched card machinery. During World War II, competitors developed new versions and by the 1950s demand was enormous. Friden, a maker of electronic calculators, bought out most of the competition and created many variations. Friden was acquired by the Singer Corporation in 1965. A major redesign then took place and the new machine, the 'Model 2201 Programmatic', was introduced. A brute of a machine, the body was made entirely of metal and it weighed 132 pounds (60 kg) and cost £2,900. The final version, the 2300 cost only £1,400 but by now the introduction of the 'daisy wheel' printer, magnetic tape and video terminals which were twice as fast and gaining in popularity hastened their demise and production ceased in the early 1970s.

Audrey Smithers operating the flexowriter – model 2201 programmatic - 1967

l – r: Pat Woodhams, Margo O'Brian and Jackie Biddle outside 'The Crow's Nest'

Margaret Kurkowska was the Scottish housekeeper who with her team of ladies kept everything spick and span, whilst her husband Jan maintained the building and kept the boiler ticking over, coping well with the fuel shortage and the three-day working week[3].

The firm owned a bungalow, 'The Crow's Nest', in Worthing, which employees were allowed to visit for weekend breaks. Peggy Reeves and Nina Herring would make the arrangements and Jackie, Margo, Pat and myself – aka 'the four musketeers' were always willing to fill a gap should there be a last-minute cancellation, and we were able to visit several times. We left the office at 4 o'clock and arrived at the bungalow at 8 o'clock – having taken four changes of buses – but we got there. The housekeeper, Miss Hopkins, came in on Saturday mornings to cook breakfast, which was always skinless sausages, bacon and tomato, plus toast and pots of tea.

Rear view of 'The Crow's Nest'

> The hub of the office was the post/telephone room, the first door on the left by the entrance. This housed the 'telex' machine, which always needed feeding. It was here that Pauline Finch, exuding patience, helped me conquer the switchboard with its array of plugs, lights and the extension 'dolls eyes'.

I was also warned about the direct line over to Charles Hughesdon at Dunsborough House, which was to be attended to immediately should it light up. Hughesdon was Deputy Chairman of the business, which also employed his adopted son, Michael, who was very well known in radio and television circles for his commentary on golf tournaments. Along a short corridor to the left of the post room was the print room, where my uncle John Phillips operated the press. It was here that his last assistant, Nora Jones, very neatly packed the finished printing into brown parcels ready for delivery to the various departments.

One day, much to the surprise of Pauline Finch and Dot Marshall, Charles Hughesdon appeared in person in the telephone room. 'Have either of you ever been up in a helicopter before?' he enquired. Both answered no and before very long were viewing Ripley from a very different perspective.

[3]Throughout the mid-1970s, the British economy came under pressure from high inflation. To tackle this, the government capped public sector pay rises which in turn caused unrest among trade unions. This extended to most industries including coal mining, which provided the majority of the country's fuel. To reduce electricity consumption, and thus conserve coal stocks, the Prime Minister, Edward Heath, announced a number of measures, one of which was the 'Three-Day Work Order'. The effect was that from 1st January until 7th March 1974 commercial users of electricity were limited to three specified consecutive days' consumption each week and prohibited from working longer hours on those days.

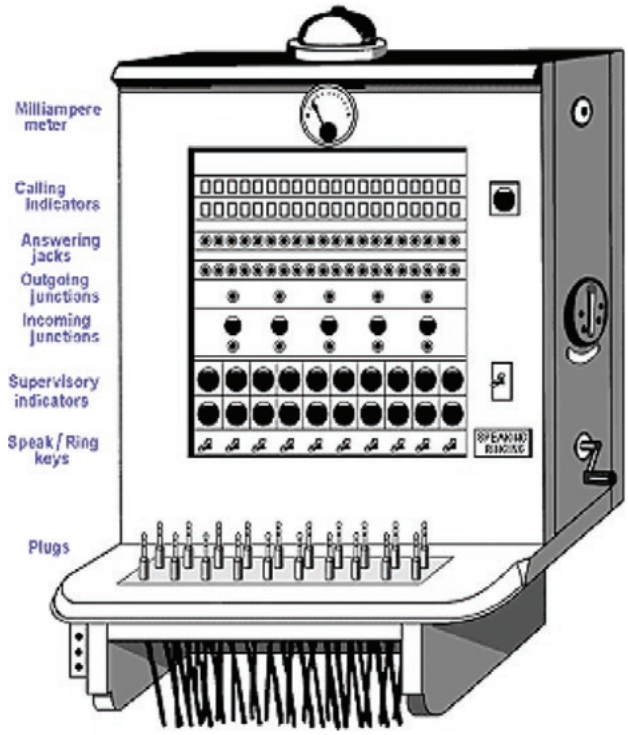
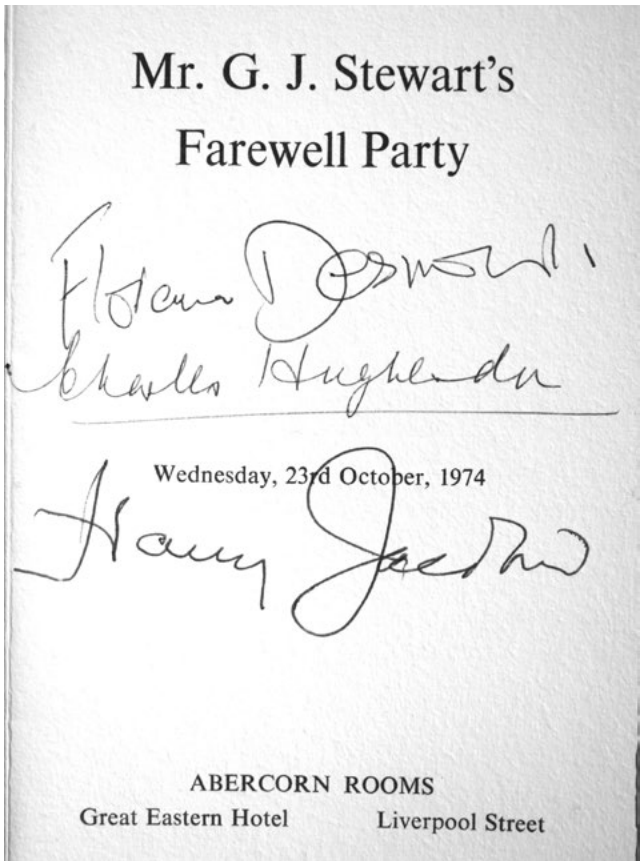


Diagram of a 'doll's eyes' switchboard[4]



The autographed retirement menu

FINAL DAYS

In May 1972, news of the merger with Matthews Wrightson trickled down to Ripley. Changes were inevitable, with the Hollerith, contract and accounts departments moving either to London or Kingston Bridge House. The business vacated Lutidine House leaving just the policy department to keep the flag flying, moving down to the former contract room. The Flexowriter machines were no more.

Mr Stewart retired in 1974 and a farewell party was arranged for Wednesday 23rd October in the Cambridge Suite of the Abercorn Rooms, the Great Eastern Hotel, London. I received an invitation and a good time was enjoyed by all. I still have the menu complete with the signatures of Mr Stewart, Charles Hughesdon and his actress wife, Florence Desmond.

At last came the news the Ripley branch was to be closed and the building sold. The policy department relocated to Royal Thames House, Thames Ditton. Mary Wood moved there as well, but the warmth and friendliness of Ripley had vanished and the atmosphere was never the same. Margaret Kurkowska locked the doors for the last time on 30th June 1976.

Lutidine House continued to be used as commercial premises until its conversion into luxury flats and apartments in 2015.

It is rumoured that at midnight on the 1st anniversary of the closure, a convoy of cyclists was spotted following the white line, ever-ready lamps twinkling, saddles creaking and bells ringing to the tune of *Around the World*. A mist encircling them, a blink and they were gone, the lights of London far, far away.

Many thanks to Mary Wood for reminiscing with me and helping with names and events.

All photos c/o Audrey Smithers collection.

Editor's note: I am intrigued as to why *Lutine* became *Lutidine*. According to Wikipedia lutidine is a natural heterocyclic aromatic organic compound with the formula (CH3)2C5H3N. It is one of several dimethyl-substituted derivatives of pyridine. I do not understand this; do you? Is it relevant?

THE CORNISH UPRISING OF 1497, AND SEND

ANDREW JONES

There is an mention in *Royal Tapestry, Some Royal Connections With West Surrey* by Christopher Howkins of the Cornish uprising of 1497 and of a skirmish which may possibly have taken place in Send or somewhere between Ripley and Ockham.

The roots of the Cornish Rebellion of 1497 lay in the tax imposed by Henry VII to pay for a war against the Scots. The terms of the levy violated the Stannary Charter of 1305. This charter gave certain rights to towns in Cornwall which were reliant upon tin-mining, ('stanneries' from the Latin stannum – tin), including an exemption for tin-miners from the imposition of tithes. In 1496, after disagreements regarding new regulations for the tin-mining industry, Henry VII suspended the privileges of the stannaries. In late 1496 a forced loan was imposed to which Cornwall contributed a disproportionately large share. The Cornish felt that they had already contributed significantly to the Scottish expedition, even though they were not affected by any border incursions.

THE MAIN PLAYERS IN THIS UPRISING:

For the Cornish rebels:

Thomas Flamank, the eldest son of Richard Flamank or Flammock of Boscarne and Johanna or Jane Lusombe of Bodmin, who held the manor of Nanstallon in Cornwall. He was born circa 1455 at Helgen Managissey, Cornwall. A lawyer by profession, he married Elizabeth Trelawny, daughter of John Trelawny of Menwynick, a knight, and his first wife Blanch Powna. They had a daughter, Joanna Flamank.

Michael Joseph An Gof, a blacksmith (An Gof is Cornish for blacksmith) of St Keverne. He was considered the spokesperson for the rebellion and wanted to petition the king, Henry VII, about unfair taxes.

James Touchet, 7th Baron Audley. He was born circa 1463 at Heleigh Castle, Staffordshire, the eldest son of John Touchet, 6th Baron Audley, and Anne Echingham and first married Margaret Darrell (in 1483) daughter of Richard Darrell of Littlecote, and Margaret Beaufort, countess of Stafford and daughter of Edmund Beaufort,

The statue of Flamank and Joseph near St Keverne, Cornwall

2nd Duke of Somerset. From this union he had a son, John, later to become 8th Baron Audley. His second marriage took place around Michaelmas 1488, to Joan Bourchier, daughter of Fulk Bourchier, 10th Baron Fitzwarin, and Elizabeth Dynham. Joan died on 3rd March 1532. James was executed on the 28th June 1497.

For the Crown:

Henry VII, King of England.

Giles Daubeney, 1st Baron Daubeney, eldest son of William Daubeney of South Ingelby in Lincolnshire and South Petherton and Barrington Court in Somerset. His mother was the youngest daughter of John Stourton, builder of the Abbey Farm House, Preston Plucknett and owner of Brympton d'Evercy in Somerset. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Arundell of Lanherne in Cornwall. They had two children – Henry, who later became 2nd Lord Daubeney and 1st Earl of Bridgwater, and Cecily who married John Bourchier, 1st Earl of Bath.

Both Touchet and Daubeney were experienced military men.

Thomas Flamank asserted that it was the northern barons' problem to deal with the Scots and believed the tax unfair. Along with Michael Joseph he and about 15,000 men marched across the south of England and were unopposed militarily until just outside Guildford,

then at Deptford Strand and finally at Tower Hill, London. James Touchet joined the rebels at Wells in Somerset and took charge of the forces, as he had military experience. It thought that this was because he was bankrupt and needed money. The rebel army was mainly made up of archers and men with simple weapons such as billhooks, with no cavalry or artillery support.

The first military contact was just outside Guildford, probably at Send, at a location called St Thomas' Waterings.

According to Christopher Howkins St Thomas' Waterings was where travellers watered their horses when on a pilgrimage to the shrine of Thomas a Becket in Canterbury. It is thought that this location was in the region of the top end of Potters Lane or at the stream at the bottom of Fell Hill or a little further up the main road (now the A3) at Send, but no further reliable information is available. It is known that Giles Daubeney dispatched a scouting party from Kingston, a force of 500 spearmen on horseback, to Gill Hill (or Gill Down) said to be just outside Guildford, to test the rebel forces. I cannot locate Gill Hill/Down. There was a similar name in Guildford, near the Mount and there is Guileshill Lane in Ockham.

The commemorative plaque at Blackheath, in Cornish and in English

In the skirmish which took place on Wednesday 14th June 1497 the Royalist troops of Daubeney were repulsed and retreated over Pyrford Hill to regroup and re-equip. It is not known if there were any casualties on either side. The fact that troops retreated to Pyrford could point to either Ockham or Send as the location of the fight.

The rebel army then continued on their way to London and made their last camp at Blackheath. The battle of Deptford Strand, as it is sometimes known, was started on Saturday 22nd June. Daubeney was taken prisoner early on in the battle but was released and later Touchet, Flamank and Joseph were captured and the rebel forces were routed. It was believed that about 300 men on both sides were killed and about 1,500 Cornishmen were captured.

The three leading conspirators were executed. Touchet, being of noble birth, was beheaded at Tower Hill and stripped of his lands and title, later reinstated to his son, in 1518. Flamank and Joseph were condemned to be hanged, drawn and quartered but the king was merciful and hanged them both until they were dead, then quartered their bodies. All three had their heads displayed on pikes on Tower Bridge. All of the others were released and went home.

There is a commemorative plaque in Cornish and English for Michael Joseph and Thomas Flamank mounted on the north side of Blackheath Common, south east London, near the south entrance to Greenwich Park.

In 1997, on the 500th anniversary of the uprising, the route and battle areas were walked and a statue of Flamank and Joseph was erected in Cornwall. Plaques were left at the battle locations including Guildford. Does anybody know the location of the plaque as that might help pinpoint the proper location of the skirmish?

I would like to thank John Slatford for his help. Other sources of information are Christopher Howkins and Wikipedia, the free information website.

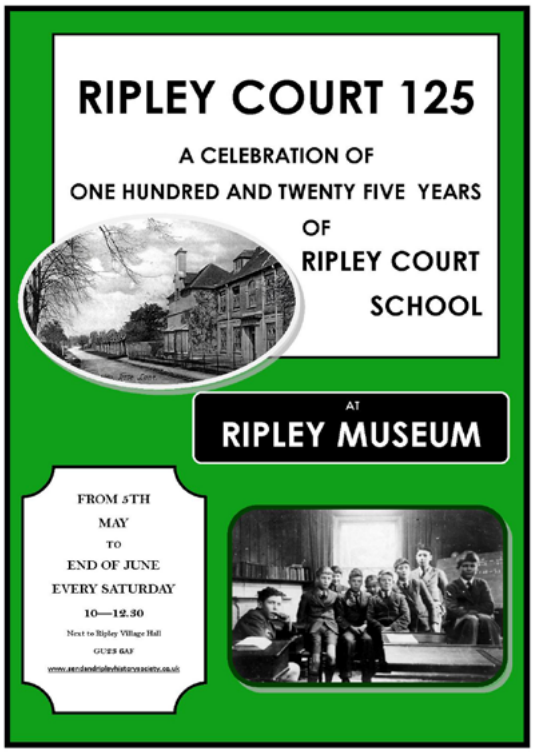
SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MUSEUM NEWS

The last exhibition 'Send Inside Out' has come to an end but I think it had a record number of visitors; thank you to all who came. The postcards are still on sale for the time being so please come and stock up to support this valuable project. The new exhibition 'Ripley Court 125' marks a milestone for the school and will include this delightful photo which has recently been purchased by the Society. These pupils look on the young side but during the war the school was evacuated from Ripley and the building was used as a maternity hospital.

Ripley Court 1941, bought recently from a press photo agency in USA, via eBay

The new exhibition has, in the main, been put together by the pupils and staff at the school with some input from noted local historians Mr and Mrs Christophers. It will run until the end of June so please come along and support these young museum curators and learn more about this lovely building in Rose Lane.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

DATES	EVENTS
Thursday 14th June	Day outing to Dorking, including a guided walk and a visit to Dorking Museum – cost £4 plus a chance to visit Dorking Caves (£5 extra – places limited). Lunch at Denbies wine estate (cost not included)
Friday 13th July	Visit to Tilford Rural Life Centre. Cost £10 including talk and tour. Lunch at the Old Kiln Café (cost not included)
Tuesday 18th September	Iain Wakeford talk: Industrial Woking
Friday 28th September	Quiz night (to be confirmed)
Tuesday 16th October	Paul Backhouse talk: Alan Turing – Guildford's best kept secret
Tuesday 20th November	Paul Cook, project manager for National Trust talk: Clandon, the Fire and the Future
Tuesday 11th Dececember	The Christmas Social – members only

Further details can be obtained from Margaret Field 01483 223387

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS

OPEN: SATURDAY MORNINGS 10.00–12.30
throughout the year (check bank holiday opening times)

Also open on 3rd Sunday of each month to coincide with Ripley Antiques Fair in the Village Hall

Other times for school groups and small parties by arrangement

Contact Clare McCann on 01483 728546 if you require further information or wish to help in the museum

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

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

All the publications are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, from Pinnocks Coffee House, Ripley, or via the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk

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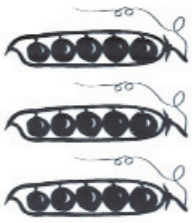

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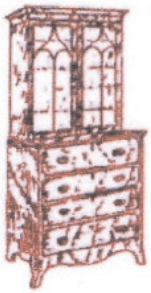

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