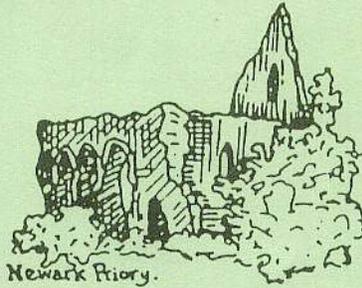
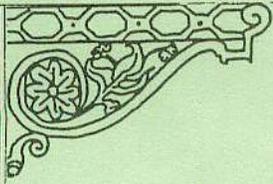
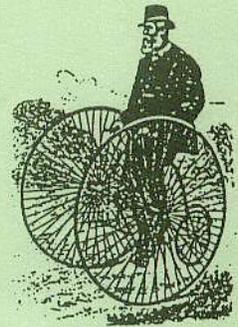
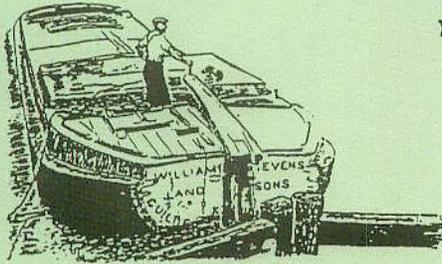


Send & Ripley History Society



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Newsletter No. 77

Nov/Dec 1987



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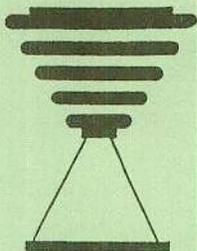
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November/December 1987

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Cover Illustration: A copy of a photograph of Tudor and Cedar Houses (the George Inn), in Ripley High Street, taken in the 1920's. The original was kindly provided by a member, Mr Basil Howard, whose parents owned these properties and ran the then well-known Cedar Tea House at these premises between the Wars. They also owned the garage opposite.

THE GEORGE INN, RIPLEY

(Now Cedar House and Tudor House)

by Bette and John Slatford

The earliest reference we have found to the George Inn in Ripley is from the Send and Ripley Court Rolls, when James Jackson held an Indenture dated 29 October 1537, of a tenement called "The Sign of the George".

The next reference is from the Letters Patent (ref GMR 165/7/36 Henry), when Henry VIII granted the Manor of Send and Ripley to Anthony Browne, Knight of the Honorable Order of the Garter and Master of all our Horse, and stated "all that our messuage or tenement commonly called 'The Signe of the George' in Ripley and all lands, meadows, pastures, closes and other hereditaments to that messuage, formerly belonging to New Place (ie Newark Priory) and now occupied by James Jackson."

By 1544 "The Signe of the George" was in the occupation of John Daws and Beatrice, his wife, and in 1558 Thomas Stanton kept it. He was still there in 1576 (GMR LM 1034/5 - notes by R N Bloxam).

From 1576-1692 no mention can be found of The George, but in Newsletter No 46, however, the present building is dated from 1620-50, therefore we can assume that it was rebuilt about that time.

From about 1711 The George was owned by the Onslow family and in 1722 was occupied by John Nelmes, and on the 1777 Onslow estate map the tenant is shown as John Lloyd.

By April 1779 it had passed to John Williams Onslow and he sold it to Peter Broadley and John Chandler, who in turn sold it and the land to John Whitburn and Sarah, his wife.

A note in the Court Rolls of 1788 states that The George was the meeting place for the Court Baron of that year.

In 1793 John Whitburn inclosed waste on part of the highway near The George Inn and built on it (192 ft) (we think this measurement is square feet and was the eastern corner, which became a butcher's shop).

According to the Land Tax Returns, John Whitburn owned The George and it was let in 1798 to John Mankin, and in 1802/3 to William Halliday.

John Whitburn died in 1802 and his trustees, Francis Whitburn and Anthony Sterry, decided to sell The George in three parts. The house was sold to William Halliday (already living in the western half) and to Henry Harland (the eastern half). The land to the west, described as "the stable, woodhouse, cartshed and ground, being part of the yard called The George Inn yard, in the occupation of William Halliday" was sold by auction to John Thompson for £120. He sold a year later to John Dawes for £136, who, it seems, built the house which is now Ripley Vicarage (see Newsletter 64). It was probably at this time (c 1802) that The George ceased to be an inn.

Henry Harland died in 1808, and his widow remained owner of the eastern half until her death in 1820. A butcher, Philip Daws, related by marriage to the Whitburns and the Harlands, then acquired the property, including the butcher's shop, and was there until his death in 1852. He was followed by two of his sons, who were both butchers; first Charles and, after he died in 1862, Alfred. By

1881 Thomas Woodbury is listed as the butcher living there, and by 1919 Grimditch and Webb, also butchers, had acquired it.

In the Inclosure Award of 1815, William Halliday was awarded grazing rights for two sheep (owners of Tudor and Cedar Houses have retained these farren rights, which give them each the right to graze a sheep on Ripley Green). He was described as a grocer and tea-dealer. He died in 1841, aged 71, and is buried in Ripley churchyard.

According to the Census Returns, Dr Joseph Harvey Sutcliffe, the village doctor, was the occupant of the western half in 1861 and 1871. He moved to Fairfield House, later the Clocke House (now known as Michels Restaurant), where he remained until his death in 1921, aged 92.

In 1881 Robert Boreman, estate agent, lived there with his two unmarried sisters. One of these, Jane, remained until her death in 1916, after which Wallington Eldred was resident. So by 1919, Grimditch and Webb owned the eastern half of The George and Mr Eldred owned the western half, which was then known as Cedar House.

At the end of 1919 Mr and Mrs Howard purchased the then Cedar House and there opened their tea house. Around 1930 they acquired the other half, including Grimditch and Webb's butchers' shop, and extended the tea house into it. Mr and Mrs Howard retired just before the Second World War. They let the original Cedar House (but now called Tudor House) to Mr and Mrs Burnside as a private dwelling. The corner tea house was let to Miss Taplin. After the War, the properties were sold and the tea house became the Cedar Restaurant for a number of years and is now, of course, Cedar House.

Since the property was in two separate ownerships after 1802, it would seem logical to suggest that construction of the roof took place earlier. This conclusion is contrary to that reached in Newsletter No 46, which put the butcher's shop at 1800 and the roof at around 1840. From the documentary evidence, it seems more likely that the work was undertaken by John Whitburn some time after 1793 when he inclosed and built on part of the highway. Since the western end changed hands after the death of William Halliday (1841), the conclusion in Newsletter No 46 that the bow windows were added around 1840 would seem to be substantiated, especially so since the feature applies only to the western half.

Sources: Guildford Muniment Room
Send and Ripley Court Rolls
1841, 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1881 Census Returns
Send and Ripley Parish Registers
Piggott's and Kelly's Directories
Send and Ripley Land Tax
The Bishop of Guildford's Registry.

HISTORY OF PRISON SITE, SEND

Talk by T G H Spoons, Education Officer, HM Prison, Send

Notes by Eric Ferris

Tom Spoons had intended this to be an illustrated talk, but having assembled a number of slides, the Prison Security Officer, not surprisingly, refused to allow them to be shown. However, in spite of this lack of visual aid, we heard an interesting and informative talk, not only on the history of the site, but also on life in a detention centre.

The salient historical details of the site have already been recorded in an article by Les Bowerman (Newsletter No 74). However, history basically chronicles

change, and the changes in use of the site during this century reflect the different concerns and needs of society at the time, as do most other developments that we see about us.

When the isolation hospital was built in 1907, there was concern about an outbreak of smallpox; when the site became a Detention Centre in 1962, it was intended to meet a perceived urgent need to deal with delinquent youth, and, as recorded in Hansard, the answer was to be "a short, sharp shock treatment for youth with a misguided sense of adventure". Now, with the courts making less use of Detention Centres, we have the latest change - a conversion to a prison.

When the Home Office acquired the site, it was necessary to increase the accommodation, and their treatment was very sympathetic. All the extensions carried out at that time were in the same honey-coloured brick as the original buildings, using the same Flemish bond. Unfortunately a boiler house, added later, was built to a price, and, in Tom Spors' words, "sticks out like a sore thumb".

Likewise the vast majority of mature trees are still standing, the only exception being a few trees felled to provide a car park, yet another result of ever changing needs. Further on the subject of change, it was amusing, if somewhat macabre, to learn that the old mortuary was admirably suited as a fresh meat store.

EBENEZER STRICT BAPTIST CHAPEL, NEWARK LANE, RIPLEY

by Bette Slatford

A few yards on the left along Newark Lane from High Street, Ripley, is a tiny chapel, complete with graveyard, with a very interesting history. This Strict Baptist Chapel was built in 1812 for William Meryett. He was minister here until his death in 1845. Inside the chapel is an epitaph as follows:-

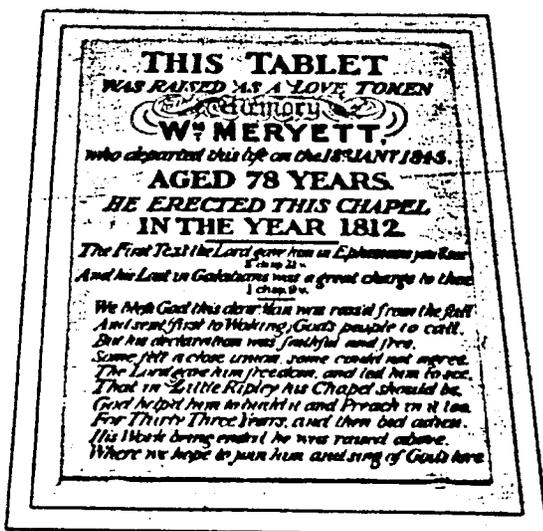
"This tablet was raised as a love token to the memory of Wm Meryett who departed this life on the 18th January 1845 aged 78 years.

"He erected this chapel in the year 1812.

"The first text the Lord gave in Ephesians you'll see 2 chap 21 v.

"And his last in Galatians was a great charge to thee 1 chap 9 v.

"We bless God this dear man was raised from the fall,
And sent (first to Woking) God's people to call,
But his declaration was faithful and free,
Some felt a close union: some could not agree.
The Lord gave him freedom, and let him to see,
That in little Ripley his Chapel should be,
God help'd him to build it and preach in it too,
For thirty three years, and then bid adieu.
His work being ended he was raised above
Where we hope to join him and sing of God's love."



We can definitely trace the ownership of the land back to 1686, when William Stout, who held a cottage, a garden and a half acre near Ripley Street, rent 2/- pa, died and Henry Stout, his son, inherited. In 1696 Henry Stout of Ripley, waggoner, encroached upon the waste soil of the Lord of the Manor and

enclosed a rod of land and more and thereon built a stable. Henry died in 1699 and his heir was his son, another Henry, who was then seven years old. He subsequently surrendered the property, described as a messuage, orchard and garden, in occupation of William Johnson to George Stout of Ripley, butcher, who was probably his brother.

George did not keep the property for long and in 1720 he surrendered messuage, garden, orchard, yard (still in the occupation of William Johnson) to Richard Harrison of Staines.

Richard appears to have lived there until his death in 1728, when the property was bequeathed to Sarah, his wife, for her widowhood. Sarah lived until 1781 and after her death the property went to her son, Thomas Harrison. He died in 1802 and left the property to William Meryett, his nephew.

When William Meryett, who was a grocer, died in 1845, his will directed that his wife, Charlotte, should sell copyhold "messuage, garden, orchard and also a chapel used by dissenters called Baptists".

In 1846 William's son, John, a shopkeeper, bought the property from his mother, Charlotte, for £500. According to the Tithe Apportionments of 1843, William Meryett also owned the house today known as The Hollies, and this was afterwards owned and occupied by his eldest son, William.

John Meryett divided his property and surrendered (ie sold) the part containing "a brickbuilt messuage with yard, stable and garden and a strip of orchard with cowshed" to a George Austen. The occupier at that time was Arthur Stansfield, who established the mineral water factory which is still there today. In 1889 Silas Austen sold "all that dwelling house, shed and factory" for £555 to Arthur Stansfield, whose sons, Albert and Abraham Stansfield, were then the occupiers. Arthur Stansfield was born in West Clandon and in 1841 is listed as a grocer in Ripley. He was living in West Horsley in 1851, where three of his children were born, but by 1861 was back in Ripley.

John Meryett's son, John Mitchell Meryett, inherited the chapel in 1873. He seems to have got into financial difficulties, as he took out a conditional surrender for £1000 to a Richard Beale of Frensham. John died, aged 37, in 1875, before paying back the loan.

In 1878 the chapel was bought back by a Mr Shillingford of Guildford, on behalf of the Baptists when it was put up for auction.

There are two houses built in the present chapel grounds. A plaque on one of them states "Erected with bequeathment of the late James Bolton for the support of the adjoining chapel 1893". James Bolton was a deacon of the chapel and died in November 1892.

The other cottage was built in 1906 through the benefices of a Mrs Hodd.

The chapel is still functioning as a place of worship today. The caretakers are Mr and Mrs Heys, who live in the adjoining house and whom we wish to thank for all their help in allowing us to see the chapel, the graveyard and the baptism and burial registers.

"HOPE AND GLORY"

A Note by Bob Gale

Some local members may have noticed a considerable amount of activity earlier this year on the disused Wisley Airfield. Some may have thought that after having eluded the grasp of businessmen who wanted to develop this Second World War airfield a few years ago, the site was now being used for a residential building project. That is, until barrage balloons appeared one day in the skies over the development. Moreover, the houses appeared to have more in common with the 1920/30's than modern architectural styles and, even more curious, a gas-holder loomed in the background.

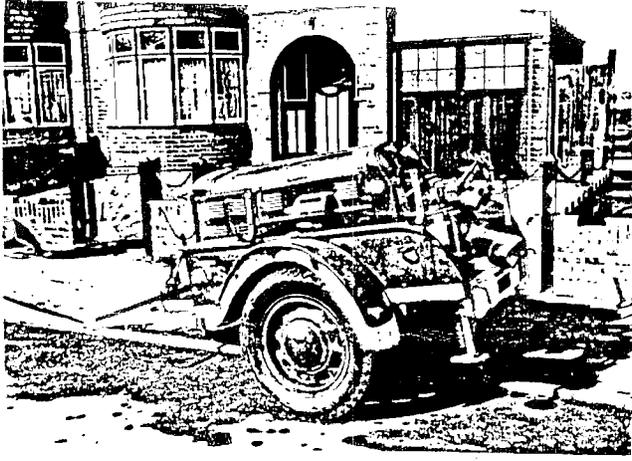


The game was given away on closer inspection, revealing that the buildings were just facades or backdrops supported by scaffolding. Many of the "blimps" which



seemed to hang over the distant horizon were, after all, miniatures held on wires in the foreground.

It was in fact a film set used by the director John Boorman for shooting the film "Hope and Glory", the story of a young English boy (played by David Hayman) growing up during the Second World War on the "Home Front" in a London suburb. I saw the film recently and was struck by the similarity to my own personal experiences of that period, though mercifully we did not suffer the attention of the Luftwaffe's blitz to the same extent. I thought it was extremely well made and acted. I tried unsuccessfully to detect any flaws in the sets which might have given away the locality. Bombs burst, buildings burned and collapsed, people struggled into Anderson shelters, Spitfires flew overhead and performed victory rolls and a German pilot parachuted to the safety of captivity before the terrified civilians. The boy and his gang played on the bomb sites and constructed their camps and avidly collected shrapnel the morning after the air raids. The war formed an exciting backdrop to his growing up and initiation into the puzzling world and mysterious rites of adulthood.



The film might, by coincidence, be almost regarded as a contribution to the theme of this year's Surrey Local History Council Symposium - "Surrey at War".

Our thanks to our member, Alan Baker, for providing photographs of the set.

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE ANCHOR

101 Years Ago - Taken from The Bath Road News

Extract Provided by Les Bowerman

One may talk about Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, with their toasts and kind wishes, wines and good dishes, mistletoe boughs and sweet kisses, but there are few Cockneys, putting egotism aside, who possess the hardihood to face the bitterly cold, dark, dreary journey as did the band of cyclers who assembled at Ripley one Friday night at the end of 1886 to inaugurate the wheeling season for 1887. They comprised that portion of the wheeling world whose season ends on December 31st, and commences on January 1st. The first to arrive were P. Ellacott and C. A. Smith (of the B.R.C.), next E. S. Cheel (of the London Wheelers), third the brothers Frank and A. R. Salsbury (of the B.R.C.) rolled up, closely followed by J. S. Day (Stanley B.C.) and Sid Chalk (Anfield) on a tandem. The night was very cold with a thick fog all the way. As far as Ditton the roads were fair, but terribly bad afterwards - in fact, the last few miles into Ripley were more like a ploughed field, with a few icebergs thrown in, than anything else. Even the oil froze in the riders' lamps, and they went out.

The solemn singing of "Auld Lang Syne" in the "shed" as the village clock announced that the moment to begin a new visitor's book had arrived, was but one incident in the course of a night of festivity.

In those days, if anyone wanted thoroughly to enjoy a winter night he had to contrive, by hook or by crook, to get invited to Mrs. Dibble's annual New Year's Eve Dance. I had the good luck to receive such an invite for the night in question, and, in addition to those whose names I have mentioned, a goodly company was assembled. The rooms were very tastefully decorated with masses of evergreen and Chinese lanterns.

On arrival I found the decorator-in-ordinary to the Anchor still hard at work putting on the finishing touches, and was cordially greeted in a well-known voice with "I say, old man, come and lend a hand. I haven't half finished yet. Try this tobacco." The half that remained to be done only consisted of putting up a few more Chinese lanterns, and very charming the place looked when all was done.

There were, perhaps, not so many of the big guns of wheeldom as in the preceding year. We missed the skin-tight nether tackle of the short-haired one and the well-waxed moustache of the amateur champion of the German Empire. But of the staunch supporters of Ripley in all weathers there was no lack, the members of the Clubs whose names adorned the walls of the ballroom being present in great force. Amongst the others I must not forget Brewer (B.R.C.) from - well, we may safely say, from the Talbot.

About one hundred guests sat down to supper under the chairmanship of Mr. Alfred Dibble. The supper was as merry a meal as could be wished. Lor! how the poor table writhed under the pressure of the substantial edibles, but it was a pity that Alfred the Thick was such a poor shot, as the corks he let fly at us from the Clicquot bottles caused no mere sham pain. The toasts of "The Cyclists," "The Ladies," and "The Dibble Family," were drunk with the utmost enthusiasm, and three times three were given for "Mrs. Dibble and all the little Dibles." Terpsichorean revels were resorted to to facilitate digestion. Brewer the gentle made himself a first favourite by his excellent rum-tumming on the piano. Sid Lee opened the Ball with the celebrated sword-dance. Then the genial "A" led off Annie for the first valse, and soon jinks were high. A country dance was put specially on the bill for Mrs. Dibble's staff of faithful servants, all of whom, especially Martha, pronounced the "squeezing" as awfully jolly. The festivities were carried on far into New Year's morning, concluding with Sir Roger at about 6 o'clock.

AN ILL WIND ...

Friday, 16 October 1987, will live long in the memory of the inhabitants of Southern England and parts of East Anglia. It was in the early hours of that day that what has become known as The Great Storm of 1987 struck. Although other counties - Sussex, Kent and Hampshire for example - probably suffered more damage, Surrey awoke - if it got any sleep at all in its shaking beds - to scenes of utterly amazing devastation and havoc. The landscape was literally transformed overnight. Thousands of trees (later reported by the BBC as 15 million), particu-



Editor and Son on Ripley Green

larly mighty oaks, massive elms, enormous beeches and lofty cedars had been felled or had branches torn off as easily as if a giant hand had carelessly brushed the gardens and countryside. There is something awesome about an uprooted tree, to see so many down is sheer carnage. Record rains in early October had probably weakened the root systems and rendered many trees more vulnerable. That, miraculously, there was only one fatality reported in Surrey may be attributed to the fact that the storm struck at night and lasted only about three hours.

The duty officer at the Meteorological Office at Holborn, whom I consulted, classified the storm - the worst, it is thought, for some 300 years - as "an explosively deepening wave depression" and was not to be confused with a hurricane, which is "a revolving wind system of Caribbean origin". He said gusts of up to 90 knots (over 100 mph) had been recorded at Hurstmonceux. Many buildings and cars were damaged - I feel particular sympathy for Chris Lane whose Woking Tennis Centre was destroyed for the second time within a year - and the total insurance claims have been initially estimated at £600m.

With such wholesome destruction, the recitation of losses forms an almost litany: Kew Gardens lost an estimated 500 trees and shrubs, many of them rare and virtually irreplaceable; the devastation at the RHS Garden at Wisley was "almost indescribable" - the new garden area, Battlestone Hill, was totally destroyed and other parts looked like "a bomb blast"; Castle Cliff Gardens lost the Judas tree, planted in about 1900 by William Stevens, who owned the Wey Navigation,

and the last of the row of chestnuts after which Lewis Carroll's sisters' house was named; Winkworth Arborêtum, at Hascombe, was "stripped to the core"; about one third of the trees in the well-known avenue of limes on Ripley Green (see picture illustration on previous page) and Rustie's Woods, behind the Talbot, were decimated. Roads were blocked for days and, in some cases, even weeks after the event, and many areas were without power for similar periods. The clearing of all the fallen timber from roadsides, woodlands and gardens will take months, if not years. This report on the storm (containing quotations from the Surrey Advertiser for Friday, 23 October 1987) is maybe just a footnote in local history, but the event was a terrifying demonstration of nature's unleashed power.

Editor

CHERTSEY ABBEY

An Illustrated Talk by Paul Larkin

Notes by Iris Watts

Our Chairman, Ken Bourne, introduced Mr Larkin, the Curator of Chertsey Museum, as one of an increasing band of youthful museum curators. But his youth in no way detracted from his erudition. He started his talk by introducing us to Chertsey Museum and made it sound well worth a visit. The first slide was an aerial view of Chertsey taken during the great flood of 1947. I, who thought I knew Chertsey quite well, found this most illuminating, as it set the scene well for the ensuing talk, making it easy to identify the places mentioned.

Chertsey was originally an island before embankment of the river and drainage were undertaken. This made it an ideal location for the founding of an abbey. The river made communication and transportation reasonably easy. Fresh water was to hand for the very important functions, such as brewing, wine making, fishing, milling of grain, washing, and, not least, sewerage. It should also have made it easier to defend, but as we shall see, that did not prevent attacks.

There was originally a Saxon abbey in the area, but its exact location is not known. It was Benedictine and reputedly the earliest religious house in Southern England, and therefore of considerable historical importance. The only archaeological evidence found has been of the later 12th century abbey.

Chertsey Abbey, originally founded, it is believed, in 666, lasted until the Dissolution by Henry VIII in 1537. The first construction probably consisted of simple round wooden structures, not unlike the Iron Age village found near Heathrow, or possibly the later square huts built around an enclosure into which the animals were driven at night.

The abbey was, however, attacked and destroyed in about 871 by the Vikings, killing 50 monks, including the Abbot and his priest. This happened again in 1011. Mention was made in later Abbey registers, but no direct evidence was found of the Vikings' incursions until a few years ago when a workman in one of the many gravel pits nearby discovered a Viking sword, which he took to Chertsey Museum. It proved to be a most important and intriguing find. The townspeople of Chertsey raised enough money to pay a reward of its market value to the man who found it, and to finance the conservation work on the sword by the British Museum.

The sword, dating from the tenth century, had the name of the maker worked into the blade: "+MF B E R I T+". This craftsman, already known to archaeologists, was the inventor of a very early form of carbon steel of very high quality. His work was highly prized by Viking warriors because the blades did not easily break or buckle, as did many iron swords of that era when used in battle. Parts of

the handle still showed traces of decoration - copper and silver hammered into the steel of the lower guard. The actual handle itself appears to have been made of oak.*

The Abbey was rebuilt in stone in 1110 and the town grew up round it. The T-shaped plan of Chertsey is typical of an abbey town. The precinct walls spread out to the South because the site is bounded on the North by the River Thames. The parish church, not to be confused with the abbey church, was built in about 1300 at the gateway to the Abbey, where the two roads converged, to meet the needs of the townspeople and passing travellers.

The Abbey church was 275 feet in length and lined with Purbeck marble. It must have been a quite magnificent structure. The Abbey buildings covered about four acres and were laid out in a mirror image of what was normal, ie with the cloisters on the North instead of the usual South side of the nave. This was probably because the water was to the North and it would have saved the trouble of channelling under the building to bring the water to where it would be needed for cooking, washing, drainage, etc. However it meant that with the cloisters on the "wrong" side, the Benedictine monks working in the carrells (the small enclosures in the cloisters) would not have had the advantage of the sun and longer hours of daylight available on the Southern side.

Some of the remains of this later Abbey can still be seen in Chertsey, namely the fish ponds, the dried-up moat, which runs along what would have been the Abbey forefield, the orchard, now a public park, and various bits of the precinct wall.

The Benedictines were originally a rather austere order, but gradually assumed a more relaxed relationship with the townspeople, that is until a great fire started in the town and destroyed a large part of the Abbey. In 1235 the Abbot decreed that a high wall be built, cutting off contact with the town. Fourteenth century documents, kept in the Exchequer Office in London, show the Abbey to have been very wealthy. The Domesday Survey showed that the Abbey owned 50,000 acres of land, not all of which was local, some being as far afield as South Wales. Also among the documents kept at the Exchequer is one of only two representations of the Abbey known to exist. Possibly not very accurate, it shows the Thames at the top, the vast Burway barn built to house the enormous quantity of tithes paid into the Abbey, two watermills which served the Abbey and the town, Chertsey Bridge, and a mysterious waterway called "the Redwind", which may have been the Bourne, or possibly the Town Bourne, a waterway which seems to have disappeared about 300 years ago. The only other representation is of the church, which is on the great seal of the Abbey. There also seems to be some doubt as to the accuracy of this picture. It is known that the church had a bell tower, because records from later times state that it collapsed in 1430. A map of 1806 shows seven fish ponds and the remnants of an irrigation system criss-crossing the site, presumably over what had been the vegetable plots.

The fish ponds had been excavated in 1307 by the Abbot, John de Rutherwick in what had been the "Golden Age" of the Abbey. He had planted oaks and built cottages, bridges, windmills, chancels and churches. He also annexed large areas of land. The end came in 1537 when Henry VIII sent his commissioner, Leonat Rice, to Chertsey. After interviewing the monks, Rice sent his report to Henry saying "They are the foulest set of monks in all England." Henry appeared to relent, because he allowed the monks to move to Bisham and found another abbey there with the express purpose of praying for the soul of the King. But it was just a ploy to get them out of Chertsey without too much fuss, because six months later he sent orders to have the Bisham abbey dissolved also.

* Paul Larkin also referred to recent important finds in the Chertsey area: a Celtic Shield, similar in type to the famous Battersea Shield, now in the British Museum, and a Bronze Age iron axe, complete with its wooden haft.

After the Dissolution, the Abbey buildings were pillaged and the stones used to build other houses and palaces in the neighbourhood. Henry used some for various buildings, including a palace he was having built at Oatlands. Lots of local buildings boast of containing stones from Chertsey Abbey. Local people came with their carts to carry away the "loot", but not before most of the choice pieces had been carefully removed by Henry's workmen. Interestingly, building accounts show how a team of workmen moved in to dismantle the church. They went up onto the roof with large baskets of straw, in which they systematically placed the carefully dismantled pinnacles, so that they could be used elsewhere. Some of the buildings were left intact because they were still being used. Cranmer was said to be working there on his Book of Common Prayer. A large manor house was built on the site of the Abbey, and in the 17th century was in the possession of the Carew family, Sir Nicholas Carew, being Master of Buckhounds for the King. Even earlier, Sir Thomas Weldon, Chief Clerk of the King's Household, had built stabling for his horses. These stables were used by the King when he was staying at his new palace at Oatlands.

During excavations carried out on the site in comparatively recent times, the remains of a tile kiln were found. This kiln produced some very fine "encaustic" glazed tiles, some of the best produced in England. These can be seen in the side chapel of St Peter's Church in Chertsey, and some are on display in Chertsey Museum. The designs are said to be closely similar to the type found at Newark Priory.

(It has been suggested that the Society should arrange a visit to Chertsey Museum next summer as one of its evening excursions - Ed.)

BUILDINGS GROUP VISIT TO GOODGROVE, SEND MARSH ROAD

Notes by Tony Medlen

Members may recall that during the early days of the Society, this property had been occupied by Mr George French, one of the Society's most knowledgeable and respected senior members, and it had been his lifelong home. Sadly, after Mr French died in 1979, the house was left empty for some time and consequently fell into a state of disrepair. It was at this time that the Society organised a visit to the house, and so afforded the writer his first acquaintance with a timber-framed building.

The structure had previously been surveyed by our then President, Jim Oliver, and a full report was presented in Newsletter No 6 (1976). Thus the 1987 visit was extremely interesting for all those members who had previously seen the house.

The house and garden have been carefully and sympathetically renovated by its present owners, Mr and Mrs Baker, and a considerable effect has been achieved. The interior of the house has been opened up and bears little resemblance to the rather sad, neglected house that it was in 1979. The article in N/L 6 states: "Extensive encasing by wallpaper, plaster and board of timber members inside the house, which are diagnostic of date, make it difficult to give a precise date to this part of the house, but knowledge of other similar houses in West Surrey suggests a date of about 1550 or a little later." Most of the encasing has now been stripped away wherever possible and the timbers have been cleaned to reveal the full splendour of the structure. Wherever possible the original woodwork has been retained, but here and there certain timbers have had to be replaced. This has been done with great care and attention to detail.

The exterior of the house remains as it was in the 1800's and again I quote from N/L No 6: "Shortly after 1800 the whole outside of the house visible from the

road was brought up to date, by covering it with rough-cast plaster and by inserting larger windows with Gothic heads. This kind of face-lift was given to another old house in Send and several examples of houses of this complete style still remain in Guildford."

The garden has been reorganised so as to create an interesting and delightful area surrounding the house. New paths have been constructed and many trees planted.

The members of the Buildings Group were gratified to see the improvements accomplished and thank Mr and Mrs Baker for allowing them access.

LOOKING BACK - SURREY VILLAGE LIFE AND ITS PEOPLE 1890's-1940's

Editorial Note on the Book Launch

The Society's latest publication was memorably launched on Saturday, 31 October 1987, at the Manor House, Send Marsh Green. The function was well attended by many members who came to collect their copies and toast the success of the book with a glass of Champagne. The Chairman, Ken Bourne, reminded those present that it was only three short years ago that the Society held a similar event to launch "Then and Now - the Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life". The new publication was a companion volume which extended the theme of the earlier one, using a lot of additional material from the Society's archives.



Ken congratulated the team of Jane and John Bartlett and Mavis Lake for their patient and sustained hard work in compiling the book. In spite of some difficulties in the final stages, their determination and dedication had ensured that the book had achieved the highest professional standards. The Secretary, Les Bowerman, in turn thanked Ken, on behalf of the Society, for his expert work in getting the best out of the photographs which were reproduced in the new book.

The following extracts from a letter received from Peggy Aldridge represent, we hope, the sentiments of the membership in general:

"I write hoping you will print a few words of thanks to Jane Bartlett, and her colleagues, for the latest book 'Looking Back' published by the Society.

"Jane's enthusiasm for the subject was an achievement which many of us, I feel, would like to emulate. She trod paths which many fear to venture, especially as a fairly recent newcomer to this area.

"I hope the traumas suffered by all over the last few weeks will soon be forgotten, and they will 'look back' with pleasure at their work.

"Meanwhile, congratulations to all concerned and I am proud to have possession of yet another book on local history to place on my bookshelves."

ARCHAEOLOGY

Pauline Marshall, Peter Rixon and Richard Wilcox have indicated an interest following the appeal in Newsletter 76. Nothing dramatic is expected, but they will be able to act as focal points on matters of archaeological interest which may arise in the locality involving the Society.

As local representatives on the joint Surrey Archaeological Society/Local History Society Liaison Committee, both Les Bowerman (Send) and Ann Watson (Ockham and Ripley) will continue to be available for consultation and assistance. Coincidentally it is reported that some minor external drainage excavation has recently been undertaken at Send Church. We would hope to be notified of any findings of archaeological interest.

Editor

HISTORY SOCIETY KNITWEAR

Nowadays many societies, clubs, etc, have their titles and logos embroidered or screen printed on pullovers and sweatshirts. It has been suggested that our Society should look at the possibility of doing this with our name and logo of Newark Priory.

A company named Symbol Sweaters, in Scotland, offers a comprehensive facility for producing any design on a variety of pullovers and sweatshirts. The garments, which are produced in lambswool, botany wool, acrylic and polyester/cotton, are of a high quality and come in a good range of colours. The firm would incorporate our design on any of their standard styles and sizes. All we have to do is place a minimum order for 24 garments. Prices range from around £8 (screen printing) for a polyester/cotton sweatshirt, to about £19 for a lambswool V-neck pullover (embroidered).

I have the firm's brochure and material samples and would be pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in placing an order. Call me on Guildford 222107.

John Slatford

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mr & Mrs G Field, York Cottage, High Street, Ripley.
Mr & Mrs N Jubert, Heath Farm, Tannery Lane, Send.
Mr R W Mandeville, 72 Cedar Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0JL.

Total membership stands at 297, made up of 109 double subscriptions and 79 single.

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, on Tuesday, 23 February 1988, commencing at 8 pm. Items for inclusion on the agenda should be in my hands by Monday, 25 January.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday, 12 December ... Annual Christmas Social at 8 pm at the Lancaster Hall, Send Road, Send. Tickets, price £3.50, available from the Hon Secretary and members of the Committee, in advance.
- Tuesday, 19 January ... Open meeting at Ripley Village Hall, commencing at 8 pm, when Dr David Bird, the County Archaeological Officer, will give an illustrated talk on recent excavations at the Roman site at Wanborough.
- Tuesday, 23 February ... AGM at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, commencing at 8 pm, followed by an illustrated talk by our member, John Molyneux-Child, on the History of the Local Manors of Dedswell and Papworth (Papercourt).
- Tuesday, 22 March ... Open meeting at the Ripley Village Hall, commencing at 8 pm, when Mr Michael Blackman, President of the Weybridge & Walton-on-Thames History Society, will give a talk on the history of the latter town.
- Tuesday, 19 April ... Open meeting at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, commencing at 8 pm, when (subject to confirmation) Mr Stephen Tudsbery-Turner will speak about Lord Howard of Effingham and the 400th anniversary of the Spanish Armada.

Next Newsletter Contributions for the next edition of the Newsletter should be submitted by 8 January 1988.

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Other times by appointment



NOTICES

Christmas Social Some tickets for this event, to be held on 12 December, at the Lancaster Hall, are still available from the Secretary or Committee members. Come and enjoy a relaxing and entertaining evening with your friends in the Society. Full details in Forthcoming Events.

Next Open Meeting On Tuesday, 19 January, at Ripley Village Hall, Dr David Bird, the County Archaeological Officer, will give an illustrated talk on recent excavations at the Roman site at Wanborough.

The Society's AGM will be held at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, at 8 pm on 23 February 1988. It will be followed by an illustrated talk by John Molyneux-Child on the history of the local manors of Dedswell and Papworth.

"The Evolution of the English Manorial System"

John Molyneux-Child's new book has just been published and is available from the Book Guild Ltd (Temple House, 14 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2LU) and bookshops, price £15.