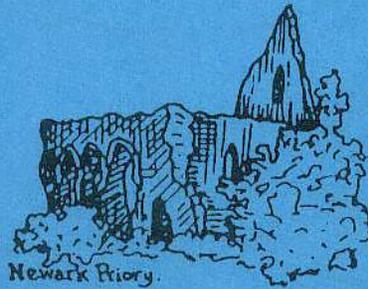
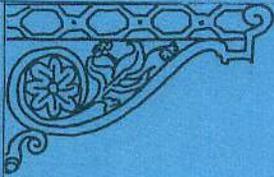
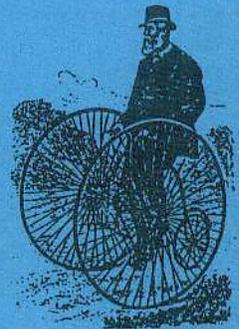
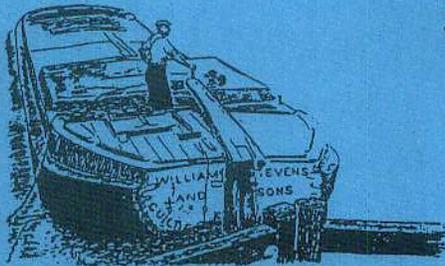


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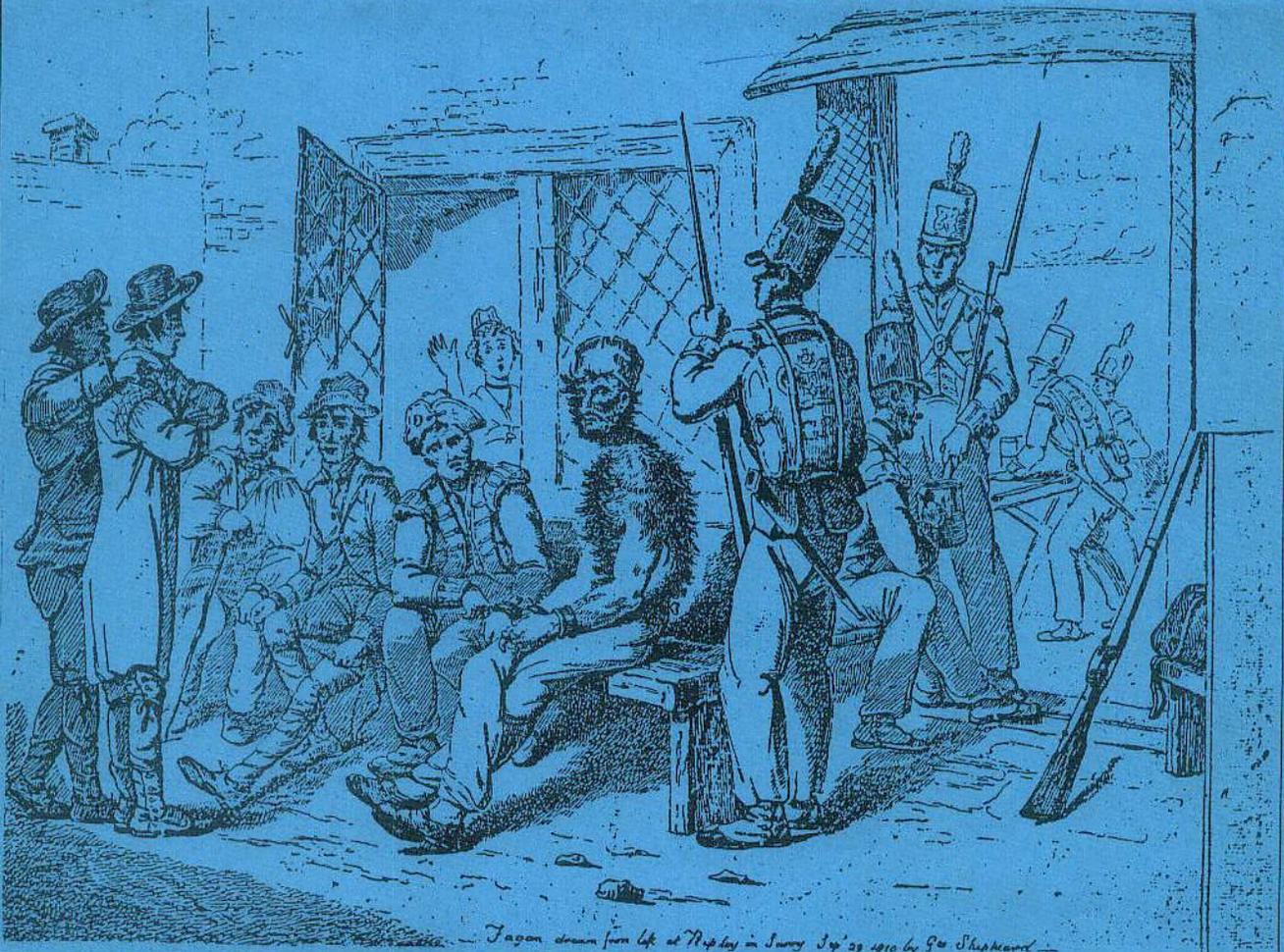


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Newsletter No. 83

Nov/Dec 1988



Fagon drawn from life at Ripley in Surrey Sep' 29 1810 by Geo Shepherd

A. H. CONISBEE



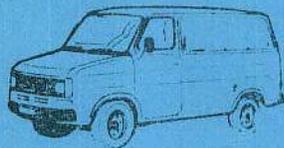
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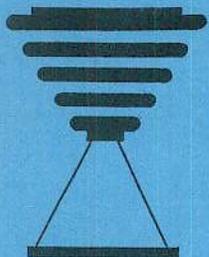
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Cover Illustration: FAGAN DRAWN FROM LIFE

at Ripley in Surrey Sep' 29 1810 by Geo Shephard.

This extraordinary Character was taken in a wood in July 1810 by a party of Military whose vigilance he had eluded for a length of time: he had been about fourteen years concealed, & has attained every appearance & the manners of a Wild Man He refuses almost every kind of cloathing & prefers animal food in a raw state: as there is every reason to suppose him a Deserter he has been sent to the Army Depot in the Isle of Wight. & was on the march thither when this drawing was taken

With acknowledgements to Local Studies Room, Guildford Public Library

RIPLEY PARISH LENDING QUILT

by Mary Alexander, Museum Assistant, Guildford Museum

Ripley parish church possesses a patchwork bedspread which was made in 1875 to be lent to people who were ill. It is of a well-known 19th century type called Bible, Scripture or Hospital quilts, as they were made up of embroidered or printed religious texts sewn onto a background cloth, designed to give spiritual as well as physical comfort to the sick person. They were often made for hospitals, but in this case the bedspread was lent out, presumably to poor parishioners. It is more decorative than many of the others seem to have been, as it has a design of squares and rectangles of multi-coloured cotton fabrics with the embroidered texts set at regular intervals. Most of the patches are of typical Victorian dress fabrics. The texts are embroidered in black, red, maroon and green wool on coarse cream cotton in cross stitch. Patches and texts are in concentric squares or frames around a large central text, which would probably have been placed so that the occupant of the bed could read it. The texts and patches are carefully arranged in patterns with colours in twos, fours or eights on opposite sides or corners of each square frame of patches. The texts vary in length and in size of fabric, but again they are carefully arranged so that those in each frame are of the same size.

They seem to be designed as individual texts rather than following on one from another. They do not relate particularly to illness: most are supplications - "Hear my prayer O Lord", "Be merciful unto me O Lord", "Teach me to hate sin", etc, or exhortations - "Repent ye and believe the Gospel", "Cleave to that which is good", etc, with a few praising God - "Blessed art thou O Lord", "God is Love", "For thou Lord art my hope". Further research might show that they were from a particular collection of Biblical or other religious texts that would be recognisable to Victorian churchgoers. The four outer corner texts give the provenance: "Lending quilt in illness/ Parish of Ripley, Surrey/ May this prove a comfort/ Easter Day. March 28. 1875".

The bedspread is c 81 x 78 inches, big enough for a double bed. It has a narrow border of paisley-patterned fabric and is backed with a cotton twill sheet. The edges are bound with tape. It is all sewn by hand, as is usual for patchwork. The patches are all the same depth, but vary in width, which suggests that they were not tacked onto papers before being sewn together, as is usual today, to make the patches of a uniform size. Although there is variation in size, each circuit is squared off at the corners, so that they fit together. Some of the patches have been made up from two small pieces of fabric, a typical thrifty feature of patchwork. (Although it is called a quilt, it does not have an interlining, nor are the two layers sewn together as in quilting, but the word "quilt" is often used for any sort of bedspread.)

A piece of patchwork like this could have been made as a group effort with various people embroidering the texts, making the patches and sewing them together, or it could have been made by one person - certainly it gives the impression that one person was in charge of the design.

It was displayed in Ripley church during a flower festival in the summer, so readers may have seen it there. It is not often that a piece of needlework has so much information about its provenance actually worked into it, so the bedspread is unusual in that respect, but it is also a very interesting piece of evidence for local history.

Through changes of personnel at the Vicarage in recent years, the bedspread was almost lost, but it was returned to the Vicar recently, who took it to Guildford Museum for advice. It is hoped that the parish records soon to be deposited at Guildford Muniment Room will give more information about who made the bedspread and

To help create a realistic atmosphere in the hall, several of our members were dressed as Augustinian canons in black habit; so realistic were they, in fact, that Les Bowerman and John Slatford were mistaken for the real thing and, I understand, Terry Hewitt was propositioned!!

Jane Bartlett, Ken Bourne, Beryl Comme, Ros Hewitt, Patricia & Tony Medlen and, last but not least, Audrey Sykes should be mentioned for their respective parts in making this a memorable day. Bette Slatford deserves to be singled out for special mention for her inspiration in organising a most successful event.

Editor

ODE TO THE JOLLY OLD MONKS OF THE WEY!

On the 12th November
May we long remember
In our Exhibition plan
Four males of our Clan
Were given a task
(Without having to ask)
To be jolly old monks of the Wey.

John did his best
But made his protest
"I'm not very keen
On me being seen"
But he wielded his quill
With flare and with skill
He played his part with such zeal
One lady thought he was real
As a jolly old monk of the Wey.

We pushed Les in the street
With leaflets to greet passersby
But heads turned away
They said "Thanks, not today!"
We all wondered why
Perhaps they were shy
But one man made it clear
He said "Good morning, Monsignor!"
Said Les, "This I dislike
I'd prefer my old bike
This ain't my profession
I don't do confession
I think I'll refrain
And not be mistaken again
as a jolly old monk of the Wey."

But Tony did lag
"I'm not dressing in drag!"
"Oh come on, don't be coy!"
We all know you're a boy
Although wearing a skirt
They're not going to flirt!
Put up your hood!"
"I'm not in the mood!"
Brother Anthony looked handsome
And we thought very winsome
Young maidens' hearts fluttered
The older ones muttered
"Oh don't wear a frown,
Just walk up and down
As a jolly old monk of the Wey."

Terry had a good try
But became rather shy
He went out and cavorted
And later reported
"I had quizzical glances
And saw peculiar stances
A car had a near miss
Seeing me like this
I said 'Go away, I'm no nancy'
When a weirdo said 'Fancy!'
I've been honked at thrice
And it's not very nice
I get no sense of bliss,
Being dressed up like this
As a jolly old monk of the Wey."

Though all were proficient
They think once is sufficient
With no thought to offend
Our thanks we extend
To John, Les, Tony and Terry
For being the merry
Four Jolly Good Sports of the Day!

ANON

(Apologies to poets everywhere and to Dr MacKay in particular, to whose mid 19th century whimsical ballad "The Monks of the Wey" (published in "The Oak Hamlet" by Henry St John Hick Bashall in 1900 - the Story of Ockham) the above poem owes some distant and vague genealogy - Editor)

THE TICKNERS OF SEND AND HORSELL (1570-1765)

Part Three - The Move to Horsell

by Vincent Tickner

It would appear that following his father's death in 1646, John Tickner moved to Horsell with his family, some time between 1646 and 1651, but still retained lands and property in Send. His inheritance from his father may have enabled him to purchase land in Horsell. He soon established himself in Horsell, being recorded as Churchwarden of Horsell in 1651 and 1662. He had another daughter, Sarah, baptised in Horsell on October 27 1653. He was recorded in the 1664 Hearth Tax Returns as having a property with three hearths in Horsell. He died, however, in 1665, and was buried in Horsell on June 17 1665. He made a Will on June 6 1665 just before his death, that was proved in July 1665, and lodged with the Archdeaconry Court of Surrey. In the Will he was termed a "Yeoman". John's wife, Elizabeth, and five daughters - Susan, Anne, Jane, Alice and Sarah - were mentioned in the Will, but his son, John, and the disposal of his lands were not mentioned. Alice and Sarah were bequeathed money when they became 21 years of age, indicating that they were both younger than that in 1665. The Manorial Court Rolls for Send and Ripley for 1665 or 1666 have the following entry:

"Death of John Tickner"

"They present that John Ticknor, who held freely for himself and his heirs a messuage and a garden and a house with appurtenances, rent 4d p.a. and other services, a close of land called Punters, rent 4d p.a. and other services. And a close of land formerly Smyths, rent 1d p.a. and services, has died since the last court. And that John Ticknor, aged 17 years or thereabouts is his son and next heir, whom the Bailiff is ordered to distrain for relief, fealty being pardoned until, etc. And the Bailiff is ordered to take possession of 3 separate heriots upon the death of John Ticknor the father, due for the separate tenures above-stated and to yield them to the lord, etc."

Thus it would appear that John Tickner, who died in Horsell in 1665, had only one son, John, recorded as being about 17 years old in 1665, suggesting that the latter was born around 1648. As the Will of John Tickner who died in 1646 mentions "five children" of his son, John, this grandson, John, may have already been born in 1646. John and his wife, Elizabeth, were probably living at Deep Pool Farm near the Chobham boundary in 1664, as in 1666/7, after his death, a half-yearly rent at Deep Pool was to have been paid by Elizabeth Tickner, according to local records, but her name was crossed out in the documents. In 1643, under the "Rentals renewed" in the Pyrford Manorial records, a Henry Mylost had a "pasture land named 'Deep Pools'". The link between Send, Pyrford and Horsell, may have been facilitated by the Freeland family, as John Freeland had been a Yeoman of Pyrford, and apparently more wealthy than John Tickner, who died in 1646. No further information on John Tickner's widow, Elizabeth, or his daughters appears in the Horsell records after 1672. Elizabeth may have moved back to Send, and may have been the Elizabeth Tickner who married Robert Tudor of Ash in Send on June 8 1674.

John Tickner, who inherited his father's lands and property in Horsell and Send in 1665, obtained more land in 1669, when, according to the Lovelace Papers, William Dawborne and Anne, his wife, surrendered property to the use of "Jn. Tickner of Horsell, yeoman". In 1671 the Send and Ripley Manorial Court Rolls record:

"To this court came Thomas Eeles and Anne, his wife, who held by Copy in the right of the same Anne and her heirs, a messuage or tenement called Cockes at Pokelane end, a croft of land containing by estimation an acre at Hook and a

croft of land and a parcel of land called a Purrock lying at Horsley Lane, for rent 10s p.a., suit of court and other services. And in full court (the same Anne having been first examined alone and in secret by the Deputy Steward, as is the custom) surrendered the said lands and premises to the benefit and use of John Ticknor of Horsell in the county of Surrey, husbandman, and his heirs for ever. Whereupon at this same court comes the said John Ticknor and seeks admission according to the surrender. To whom the premises have been granted by the lord to have and to hold by Copy for himself and his heirs, for the aforesaid rent and services. And so he is admitted as tenant, has seisin per virgam and his admission fine is fixed at 70s to be paid on 25th day of June next following. And the said John Ticknor has done fealty."

On May 19 1678, John Tickner of Horsell married Elizabeth Hone of Bisley by licence in Bisley. John and Elizabeth subsequently had four daughters, and a son, John. John was born on March 5 1681. At different times John Tickner was churchwarden and constable in Horsell. There is also a note in local records that he was a freeholder in Horsell from 1696 to 1703. He made a Will on May 30 1710, and died and was buried in Horsell on June 27 1710, being cited in the parish register as "John Tickner ye elder". His Will was proved on October 19 1710. In it he left lands in Horsell, Woking and Sand to his son, John. His widow, Elizabeth, died and was buried in Horsell on April 17 1718.

In the Send and Ripley Court Rolls for 1711, the following entry was made:

"At this court the Homage present that John Tickner, who held for himself and his heirs by Copy 2 crofts of arable land lying in a place called Hook near Grove Heath in Send, containing by estimation 3 acres more or less, now in the tenure of Richard Wetherby, abutting upon Hook green, and a coppice called Loveland Coppice and other lands of the said John Tickner on the east, west north and south sides has died since the last court thereof seised, whence happens as heriot a cow, seised to the use of the lord. And that John Tickner is his son and the next heir of the said John, deceased, and of full age. And now, by this same court came the said John Tickner the son and humbly seeks admission to the premises; to whom the lord has granted the same, to have himself and his heirs, to hold by Copy for rent 16d p.a., heriot when it happens, suit of court and other services. The same John gives to the lord as fine £2 and so is admitted as tenant, has seisin per virgam and has done fealty to the lord, etc."

and also

"Item the Homage present that the said John Tickner deceased likewise held by Copy for himself and his heirs a messuage called Cocks at Pokelane end, a croft of land containing by estimation an acre at Hooke and another croft of land and another parcel of land called a Purrock lying at Horsley lane now in the occupation of William Ayres, has died since the last court thereof seised, whence as heriot a cow, seised to the use of the lord. And that the said John Tickner, son of the deceased, is his next heir. And now at this same court the said John Tickner humbly seeks admission to the premises; to whom the lord has granted the same, to have for himself and his heirs, to hold by Copy for rent 10s p.a., heriot when it happens, suit of court and other services. The same John gives as fine £4. And so he is admitted as tenant, has seisin per virgam and has done fealty etc."

These records indicate more precisely the copyhold properties in Send that the successive John Tickners held and how they had turned to renting them out to other people, as their main activities and interests were concentrated in Horsell and Woking.

(to be continued)

BADGERS AND OTHER FAUNA IN SURREY

An Illustrated Talk by Ron Croucher

Notes by Bob Gale



Ron Croucher of the West Surrey Natural History Society gave a fascinating talk on old "brock", based mainly on his own experience, spread over many years, of badger watching in Surrey. Ron, who is a gifted and dedicated photographer, illustrated his talk with many remarkable shots of badgers - not by any means an easy subject to capture around its sett.

Badgers live in setts usually found in sandy or chalk banks, among tree roots. A sett may have a considerable number of escape holes - perhaps a hundred - but only 8/10 are used at one time. The holes are usually 12-18 inches in diameter, and often D-shaped. When checking "active" holes for watching, it should be borne in mind that the presence of lots of fur or feathers is more indicative of a fox hole.

Badgers, who do not hibernate, are best watched at blue-bell time when the young cubs are most active. In fact, badgers can mate at any time of the year, but usually produce cubs in February. Ron gave a graphic description of badgers emerging from their setts sniffing the air to ensure all was safe. Ron advised the aspiring badger watcher to look out for a footprint with a wide palm and five claw marks. Tufts of banded hair are another clue to the presence of brock. He also recommended books by Monika Edwards, entitled "Badger Valley", and "Valley Farm", as good accounts of the badger, his habitat and life cycle.

Badgers have powerful jaws with a locked hinge-pin - an obvious advantage against brock's original predators, wolves and bears. Frequently misdrawn, they have, in fact, small ears, totally unlike those of foxes, and they can block their inner ear and nostrils - again an obvious advantage for a digging animal.

The badger is under pressure from the Ministry of Agriculture because of their policy of extermination by gassing, since it is believed, apparently erroneously in 90% of cases examined, that badgers carry bovine TB. Brock is also under pressure from developers, who are eliminating his habitat. Ron noted that an area the size of Dorking is lost in Surrey in this way every year. Badgers are very fastidious animals and constantly clean out their setts, and bring in fresh bedding, dragging pine needles, straw, grass, etc, under their chin. They mark their territory, and one another, using a scent gland under the tail, though it is suspected, but not proven, that they also have a scent gland in their foot pads. Badgers live on worms by choice, but also eat insects such as garden chafer larvae. As they are pushed out of their habitats, they often cause damage in gardens as they forage for food. Ron mentioned a number of well-known badger setts in the Surrey area, such as The Chantries sett in Guildford, where recently an attempt, luckily unsuccessful, was made to kill the badgers by putting down poison. Many badgers have been killed on the A3 as they cross to their traditional feeding grounds from the sett on Battlestone Hill in Wisley Gardens.

The Badger Group of the West Surrey Natural History Society was formed in 1984 and has many setts under surveillance in the area.

In addition to the remarkable shots of badgers, Ron also showed some delightful pictures he had taken of little owls, nesting bluetits, swallows and the greater spotted woodpecker.

The Society is indebted to Ron for his extremely well illustrated and charming presentation on life in the wilds of Surrey.

WALTON-ON-THAMES

An Illustrated Talk by Mr Michael Blackburn

Notes by Iris Watts

Poor Walton-on-Thames, devastated in the name of progress! Laid waste on the altars of the twin gods "shopping centre and motor car"! Neither of these, as one might suppose, is a modern phenomenon. The tiny village of Walton-on-Thames had grown up beside the Thames, fed by busy river trade. There were wharfs all along the river bank and it has been said that the Romans crossed the river by ford at what is now the renowned and ill-starred Walton Bridge; known as Cowey Sale, presumably because of the trade which had been carried on there for centuries. The old Manor House, one of the few remaining ancient buildings in the village, was close to the river. It had been sadly neglected for many years, used during the 19th century as a slum tenement building, but has fortunately been rescued and restored to its former glory. It can be seen from the garden of the public house of the same name in Manor Road. Not so fortunate was Mount Felix, a house built in ornate Italianate style. The clock tower dominated the river approach to Walton for about 200 years. It was used during World War 1 as a military hospital for Australian and New Zealand soldiers, as was the Oatlands Park Hotel, which was built by Henry VIII for Anne of Cleves. Mount Felix was gutted by fire in the 1960s, although the stable block survived and has been sympathetically restored by the present owners.

The Walton connection with our Antipodean cousins is commemorated by several place names in the village, notably New Zealand Avenue, which was built in the 1930s as part of the development of Ashley Park, and was named in honour of the soldiers from New Zealand who had fought and died in the Great War.

Ashley Park House had been the only truly great house in Walton with its gates in the centre of the village, a long drive up to the house and a large wall facing the shops which had grown up along the High Street. The parkland surrounding the house had been sold off piecemeal for several generations, and in the early 1900s the gates to the house were moved back several hundred yards, and the land fronting the shops was soon sold off to developers who soon demolished the gates and built a row of shops in their place. Not long afterwards the great house was demolished, a fate meted out to a great many of our stately homes in the 1920s. Ashley Park House went, and an estate of expensive villas grew up in its place. Ashley Park Avenue follows the line of the original drive and several of the modern villas have some quite interesting historical features in their back gardens.

Walton is a very large parish, about six miles long and three to four miles wide in places. It included what is now St George's Hill, Weybridge, where there are the remains of an Iron Age fort, which has never been properly excavated because developers got there first, earlier this century, and it is now part of the garden of a large house. There is a right of way up to it, but it has become so overgrown that it is almost impossible to find. Another claim to fame of St George's Hill, in ironic contrast to its present reputation for exclusive affluence, is the establishment there, during Cromwell's "Commonwealth", of a commune known as "diggers" or "levellers" - England's first brush with Communism! - one might say. Their stay didn't last long, just a few months, the soil not being very fertile or conducive to growing profitable crops.

One of the other large estates in the parish was Apps Court, located on the way towards Molesey. It is now the site of vast reservoirs built by the Metropolitan Water Board to provide clean drinking water for the population of London. The name is preserved, however, on a road sign and yet another estate of small houses has been built there.

Walton Parish Church seems to have escaped the ravages of progress. Restored and enlarged in Tudor times to cope with extra large congregations generated by King Henry's Court spending a lot of time at Oatlands, it was ignored by the Victorian modernisers.

There are several interesting features. Most noteworthy as far as the Society is concerned is the tombstone of "Lumpy Stevens" who, when not playing cricket, was gardener at Mount Felix in the employ of the Earl of Tankerville. There is also the large black marble tombstone of William Lilly, put in by Elias Ashmole, whose name appears as large as the person he is commemorating. The Shannon Memorial is also worthy of note. The Earl of Shannon was commemorated by his daughter, the Countess of Middlesex, with the most enormous sculpture, executed by Louis Francois Roubillac. It took her some years to obtain permission from the church to have it installed. The Countess inherited Ashley Park from her father, but she died childless and in turn left it to two maiden aunts, which probably helped towards its sad demise.

Most of the remaining old buildings were destroyed in the 1960s to build the shopping centre and new through road. What few remain are now threatened by yet another shopping centre, but if you are quick it is still possible to see one or two Dutch style houses in Church Street and Ingoldsby House in the High Street.

Walton Bridge has had a chequered career. The first bridge was built in 1750 by Samuel Dicker, who lived at Mount Felix. It did not last very long, collapsing in 1759, but long enough to be painted by Canaletto - the picture can be seen in the National Gallery. The second bridge was built in 1786 and was also painted by a famous artist - this time J M Turner, whose painting is in the Tate Gallery. The third bridge, an iron construction, was built in 1864 and lasted much longer. It was damaged by bombs during the 1939-45 war and became unsafe. It was augmented in the 1950s by a "temporary" Bailey type bridge. This is soon to be replaced by - one dreads to imagine what! For many years tolls were collected for crossing the bridge and the old toll house still remains.

Mr. Blackburn, who was warmly thanked for his interesting talk, is President of Weybridge & Walton-on-Thames History Society.

ENGLISH COSTUME OF THE LATE 1800S

By Janet Duncan

"Fashion", declared Oscar Wilde in 1885, "is a form of ugliness so absolutely unbearable that we have to alter it every six months."

The most conspicuous feature of Victorian clothing was undoubtedly the bustle, which, before its collapse in 1889, reached the great length of "jutting out back like a shelf where a good-sized tea tray might be carried." This particular apparatus was totally unsuitable for working women, however - whether in their own home or in his Lordship's Manor. And as the bustle went out, the sheath-like skirt came in, reported in one magazine of 1880 as follows: "Women go about hobbled after the fashion adopted by our forefathers to prevent the straying of horses and asses." Farm folk were less up to date than those of London, but the spread of the railway by this time brought town and country much closer together. Also, by the late

or low bun. The ears were not covered, and by 1880, fringes had become fashionable. Of course there was all the usual paraphernalia of the times: muffs, boas, parasols, fans, etc, and by 1888, the first woman's wrist watch had appeared. Women at this time had also boldly taken up the heretofore male activities, such as bicycling and tennis, and had the necessary clothing (never trousers, of course). This alarming feminine development provoked the comment in 1880 that "at no time in history have the human nerves suffered as they do now from the wild speed at which life travels and the pressure of occupations and amusements." And "... are not women running the risk of losing their distinctive charm?"

To sum up the fashion of 100 years ago, skirts were long and often quite straight for the fashion conscious, but full with petticoats for the working wife. Blouses for "best" were frilly with long sleeves, and many women's costumes included a shawl. Men's clothing ranged from the farmhand's smock frock that covered up his patched corduroy trousers to the morning coat of the professional man and the foppish, tight suits of the mashers. And everybody, both men and women, wore a hat.

Editorial Note: Mrs Janet Duncan, former Remembrancer of the Manors of Dedswell and Papworth, researched the appropriate West Surrey dress for the centennial re-enactment of the Courts Baron of these Lordships, held at Croxteth Hall earlier this year.

DOCUMENTARY GROUP MEETING ON 1 NOVEMBER

Notes by Les Bowerman

Twenty members attended this meeting in the annexe at Ripley Village Hall to hear Shirley Corke, Archivist at the Guildford Muniment Room, speak about local documents. A batch of property deeds relating to Send had been deposited from a firm of London solicitors who had, apparently, been intending to turn them into lampshades. Send and Ripley are unusually fortunate in having such a long run of Manorial Court records which the Society has had translated from the Latin (1533-1733). Send is also lucky to have an almost complete birth, marriages and deaths register covering the Cromwellian Commonwealth (1649-60) period (see notes by Audrey Sykes which follow). In order to enable members to understand some of the title deeds which are deposited, Shirley endeavoured to initiate the audience into the intricacies of pre-1925 land law, including such esoteric legal devices as enfeoffments, uses, lease and release and John Doe and Richard Roe.

Shirley appealed for volunteers to help in the work of cataloguing the vast amount of material still requiring attention in Guildford Muniment Room. Anyone interested should contact her direct - they will receive the necessary training.

THE PARISH OF SEND DURING THE COMMONWEALTH - 1649-60

By Audrey Sykes

"On the 19th day of November 1653, John Stempson of Send approved and sworn Register of the said parishe, before whose names are hereunto subscribed, Justices of the Peace within the said countie, amongst others assigned accordinge to the late Acte of the Parliament, in that case made and prised."

Arthur Onslow

Lio. Rawlins (He was a JP, of Woking 1650-59)

Wm Holt, vicar.

So reads the first page in the parish register of Send, starting 1653, and below is the first entry for a birth (note birth, not baptism), viz:

"Roberte the sonne of Mathew Peters, birth day the 23rd of Nov. 1653."

It was after the trial and execution of Charles I that Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans were in power, this era in our history to become known as "the Commonwealth", and it was he who decreed via the Marriage Act of 1653 that "a Book of good Vellum or Parchment" was to be provided by the parish, replacing the old registers "in which a true account was to be kept of births deaths and marriages". The keeper of the book was to be the "Register, a good and honest man chosen by the parishioners for this task". The position was to be held for three years, and a charge was made of 4d for a birth or death, and 12d for a marriage. To be married, a couple had to give 21 days' notice of their intention (the banns) to the Register, with names and places of abode. These were then announced by the said Register at the close of three consecutive Sunday morning services, or failing that, in the market place on three markey days. That done, the couple were given a certificate, which they then took to a JP, before whom they could be married.

The form of the marriage, it was hardly a service, was simple in the extreme ... the couple holding hands and saying "I (name) do here in the presence of God, the searcher of all hearts, take thee (name) for my wedded wife/husband, and do also in the presence of God and before these witnesses promise to be unto thee a loving and faithful wife/husband." The Act also stated that "dumb persons may dispense with pronouncing the words, and with joyning hands in case of persons that have not any hands"!

In those days it was legal for a male to marry at the age of 16, and for a female at 14.

The Act was in force from September 29 1653 to June 26 1657, and during that time, many ministers continued to keep their own records. It is also almost certain that there was an earlier register book than that of 1653, but that has been lost. Baptisms ceased almost entirely during the Commonwealth, but after the Restoration, wholesale adult baptisms were made, in an effort to convert a largely unbaptised nation, and Mr James Tichborne must have been greeted with relief when he entered upon the vicaridge of Send in the Countie of Surrey, May 6 1666.

"GEORGIAN SURREY" - THE SURREY LOCAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

Notes by Les Bowerman

The Symposium, held this year on Saturday, 5 November, at the University, was exceptionally well-attended, albeit that there were only 11 from our Society. The morning lecture by Dr Peter Brandon on "An Outline of Georgian Surrey" was particularly stimulating. The Georgian Period (1714-1830) was a time of elegance and beauty, leisured ease, charm and civilised grandeur, that is if you were wealthy and living in "polite Surrey", which spread Westward from London over the better soils and along the turnpikes. At 16 miles from London, Cobham was the extent of a day trip. Send and Ripley were not, therefore, Georgianised, except insofar as Ripley, after 1749, was on the turnpike. This accounts for the upgrading of facades such as those of the Talbot, the former George Inn (now Cedar House and Tudor House) and the Georgian House. "Impolite Surrey" consisted of William Cobbett's unproductive "blasted" heathland, which perhaps began with Ockham and Wisley Commons and extended intermittently over Send Heath, the commons at Westfield, Prey Heath, Kemishford, Whitmore and out to Bagshot. The Southern part of Surrey, where it merged with the Sussex Weald, was also "impolite", due to the dense woodland and transport difficulties.

In the afternoon Martin Higgins was interesting on our local National Trust properties, Clandon and Hatchlands, and our old Friend, Mervyn Blatch, was, as ever, informative and amusing when speaking of churches.

"Surrey History" - The new "Surrey History", vol 5, No 5, is now available, price £2. It includes an article by our member, Lyn Mileham, on transporting Hackbridge transformers over West Surrey roads in the 1930s.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The AGM

Notice is hereby given that the 14th Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place on Wednesday, 22 February, at 8 pm, in Ripley Village Hall. Items for inclusion on the agenda should be in writing and in my hands no later than Tuesday, 10 January.

The meeting will be followed by talks with some illustrations by members on matters of local historic interest.

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT "THE ANCHOR"

101 Years Ago - from "Bicycling News", 7 Jan 1888

Contributed by Les Bowerman

"On arrival at the Anchor shortly after 9 p.m., we found several well-known cyclists there, among whom was the genial 'Bill' Monday, of the Ripley Road Club. A substantial supper having been disposed of, amusement was sought after. This is not a difficult commodity to find at the Anchor, and for some time music, both vocal and instrumental, was rendered by the fair ladies and healthy-looking cyclists gathered there. As the witching hour of night approached, an unsettled appearance became apparent, for was not everybody anxious to witness the first arrival on wheels? As the last stroke of twelve sounded from the village church a 'wheely' noise was heard a short distance off, and immediately there appeared to view twenty cyclists of all descriptions, each vying with the other to reach the celebrated hostelry first in order to record his name in the premier position of the visitors' book for the year. This is, I believe, an honour much coveted - at least, it seemed to be to the participators in the race. At length the cyclists dismounted, and crowded into the passage, where Harriet was jealously guarding the new book, and one by one, in order of arrival, recorded his name therein. This finished, congratulations were exchanged, and then appeared the punch-bowl. Oh! what delicious rum punch it was, and how popular it quickly became! As bowl after bowl was disposed of, the company became more loquacious, and toasts galore were proposed and responded to. The health of the Misses Dibble was proposed individually and collectively several times, and each time drunk with great enthusiasm. Alfred Dibble also came in for his share of the honours, and in replying for the family, paid many tributes to the kindness of his sisters, truisms which were undeniable. Thus it went on till the early hours of the morning, the amusement being occasionally more enlivened by the arrival of some 'Scorchers' from distant parts, until a sense of duty and drowsiness compelled one by one to drop out of the company, when the few remaining ones joined hands and welcomed the New Year with 'Auld Lang Syne'."

The visitors' book for 1888 is believed to be missing, but others for the early 1880s and early 1890s are still kept at the Anchor.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 17 December ... Annual Christmas Social at Ripley Village Hall. The Ashtead Singers, a group from within the Ashtead Choral Society, have been engaged to provide the live entertainment. Tickets at £3.50 each, obtainable from Committee members. Offers of raffle prizes would be welcome.

Thursday, 5 January ... Meeting of Local Memories Group to be held at Little Ripley House, High Street, Ripley, at 8 pm.

Tuesday, 24 January ... Open meeting at 8 pm at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, when Ian Wakeford, Secretary of Mayford & Woking District History Society, will speak on 150 years of the railway at Woking.

Wednesday, 22 February ... AGM at 8 pm at Ripley Village Hall, followed by short talks on topics of local historic interest by members.

Tuesday, 21 March ... Open meeting at 8 pm at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, when a talk will be given by Mr Ray Davies, M.Pharm, FPS, on Dr Richard Stoughton of Send, an 18th century Doctor of Physick, and his "Cordial Elixir". Ray Davies is a Member of the Society of Apothecaries of London, and Senior Assistant Editor (Science) of the Pharmaceutical Journal.

Wednesday, 19 April ... Open meeting at 8 pm at Ripley Village Hall. We have booked the new "Circle 8" film "Tales of Old Surrey".

Closing Date The closing date for submission of material for the next edition of Newsletter is Friday, 6 January 1989.

The Newsletter Editor would like to take the opportunity to wish all Members a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

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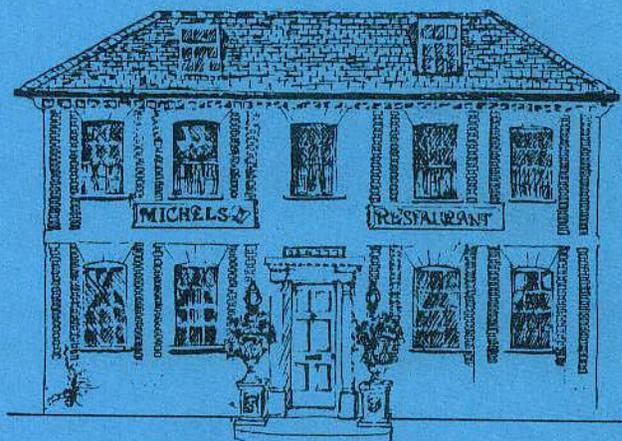
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Other times by appointment



NOTICES

Open Meeting Ian Wakeford, Secretary of Mayford & Woking District History Society, will give an illustrated talk at 8 pm on Tuesday, 24 January, in the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, on the history of the railway at Woking.

Christmas Social Tickets for this year's Christmas Social, to be held on Saturday, 17 December, at Ripley Village Hall, starting at 8 pm, will cost £3.50 and are obtainable from Committee members. There will be a buffet and hot punch, and entertainment will include the Ashted Singers and a quiz by the Newsletter Editor.

AGM The Society's AGM will be held at 8 pm in Ripley Village Hall on Wednesday, 22 February. The meeting will be followed by short talks by members on various topics connected with local history and the Society.