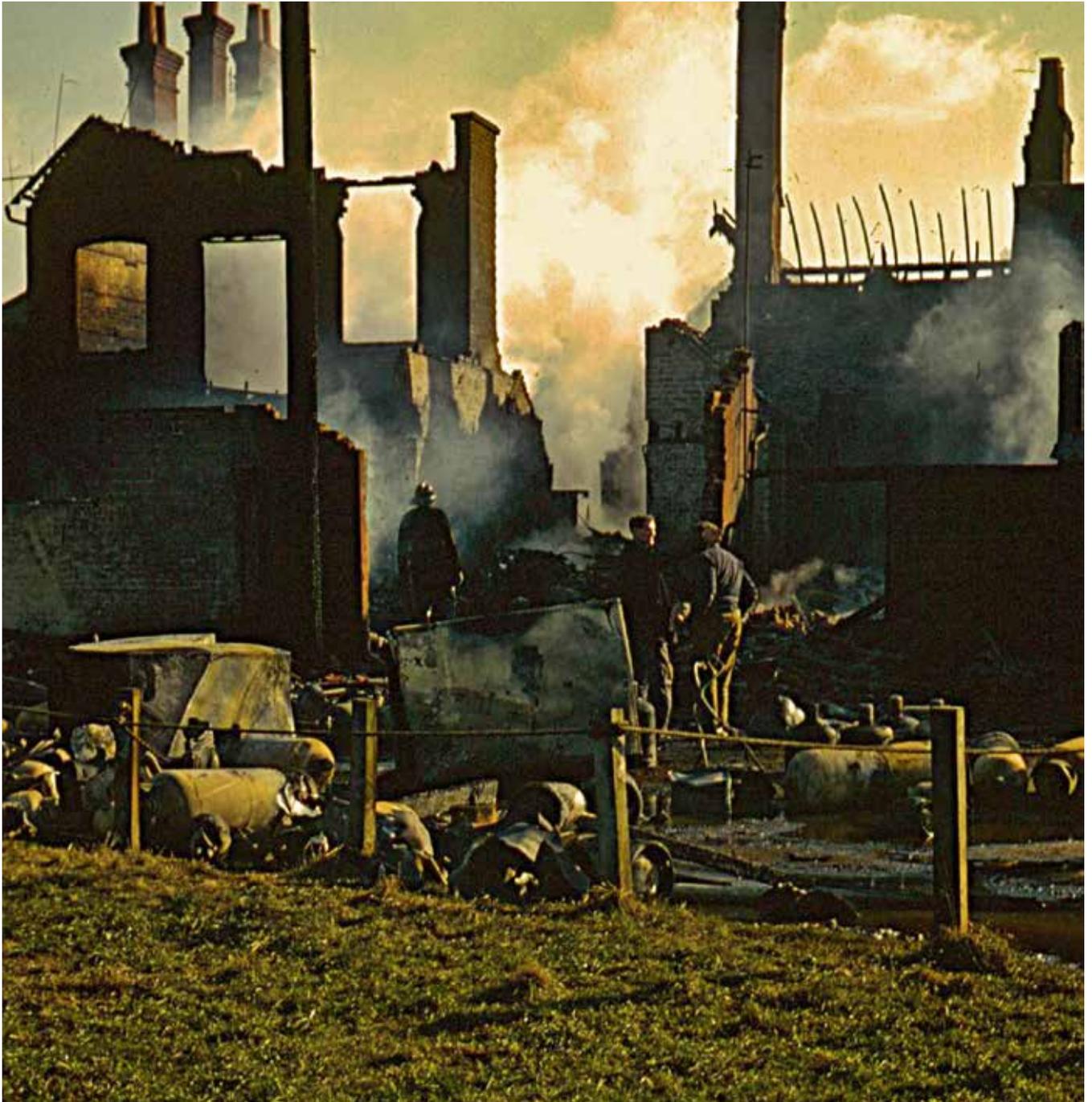


No. 304  
September 2025

# Send & Ripley History Society



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### Cover image:

The remains of Richard  
Green's hardware store  
viewed from The Green - see  
article *The Great Fire of Ripley*  
on page 10

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# EDITORIAL

## CAMERON BROWN

As the roadworks all around us grind on through another year, Tony Edwards of Ockham offered this thought after several weeks of on/off closures of Ockham Road North:

'The history books will record that a conspiracy of road diversions, repetitive utility repairs and a contrived expansion of junction 10 of the M25 resulted in the tiny hamlet of Ockham being isolated from the outside world for many years shortly after the great Covid epidemic. Some of the villagers were never seen again but ghost cars are sometimes heard in the dead of night searching for an alternative route to Waitrose or any signs of 'affordable housing' on former farmland.'

I sympathise. Even with the help of the satnav my journey home from Hersham one evening last week, normally 15 minutes, took an hour, due to multiple closures on and around the dreaded junction.

Once again we are looking for some help on the committee please. Jenny Jackson has been our secretary since the beginning of 2022 but has had to step down because of pressure of other voluntary work. We are very grateful for her support over almost four years and hope that she will be able to remain on the committee. The key attributes of a good secretary are being organised and being interested. The main jobs are attending four or five meetings a year, doing the minutes and helping organise the AGM. Please

contact Clare or me if you think you might be able to help.

By the time you read this our new website should be up and running. I think this is a very fitting achievement as we reach the close of our 50th anniversary year. We will expand and improve the content of the site over time but hope you will find it helpful and enjoyable. You can now perform an online search of the index of all 300+ Journals and instantly download any back copy you like and you will also be able to join and renew memberships online. Please take a look and give us your feedback. The address is unchanged: [www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk](http://www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk). Why not give it a go by buying one of our books from the SHOP area? Christmas presents the easy way...

Many thanks to Chris Brown, son of founder member Sheila Brown, who set up and has maintained our original site free of charge for many years.

I am sorry to have to report the death on 12th August of our member David Bentall.

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at [cmb@aappl.com](mailto:cmb@aappl.com) by 15th October 2025.

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# ANOTHER NORCON SHELTER

## JULIE PLYMOUTH AND CLARE McCANN

A few months ago Julie Plymouth made contact to offer us another Norcon bomb shelter. I had to explain that we could not accept her kind offer as one shelter (next to the museum) was all we could accommodate but I asked her to forward photographs.

These proved really interesting because the shelter is still in situ. It is also the right way up (ours, I'm fairly sure, was relocated upside down) and this allowed for a 'chimney' at the back to get air into the shelter, but it also has a brick entrance, which is covered with a stone or slate slab, and which would have afforded people some cover as they accessed the shelter.

Julie has added the following: 'We are in the West End of Aldershot and bought the house in March from a very nice old lady who had lived there her whole life, so nothing has been modernised since her father passed away in the late 1980s. (We have a lot of work to do.) I would guess she 's around 80, so wouldn't have any wartime memories of the shelter; they used it to store apples.'

Since we turned down Julie's offer of the shelter she has offered it to Aldershot Military Museum. Apparently they have a new manager about to start and want to wait and see what they say about it. Julie says: 'If you know anyone else who wants it they'd be second in line with a decent chance! I would love to see it re-homed. Sadly it can't stay here as it will block access to the garden which we plan to extend in the future.' So please get in touch if you would like it – though I imagine it will be a challenge to move it.

Incidentally, for those who don't know, Norcon was a local company who made large cement pipes for drains and who adapted sections of pipe during the war as small, improvised bomb shelters. Personally, I would rather have risked the Luftwaffe.



Julie Plymouth's Norcon shelter



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## 40 YEARS AGO

### CAMERON BROWN

As we carry Margaret Field's obituary on page 9 it seems appropriate to reprint this article from Newsletter 63 of August 1985. Entitled 'Miss Bush's Sweet Shop', it was written by John Slatford. Margaret's maiden name was Bush and this shop had been the family business. It is the building between the Ship and the One Stop shop.

Many members will know that Miss Bush's has recently been acquired by the former owners' daughter, Margaret and her husband, Graham Field. During the extensive refurbishing which they are still undertaking, they invited the Society to look over the house and establish something of its history.

Although the house has a typical mid 18th century brick frontage, it had previously been believed that this concealed an earlier timber-framed building. Its neighbour, the Ship, was shown to be just this following a survey carried out in 1983 (see Newsletter No 51). The front of Miss Bush's shop carries a dated brick marked 'JV 1763', half-hidden behind the upper sign. This certainly confirmed the date of the brickwork and it is known that a James Vincent owned the Ship, died in Ripley in 1767, and was buried in Pyrford.

It is also known that the sweet shop, as it now is, was once closely associated with the Ship. This was confirmed by the discovery of a fireplace in the passage of the latter that is now incorporated into the bar area. The large chimney to this fireplace is in fact situated entirely within the sweet shop.

Preliminary examination of the house failed to reveal any evidence of timber framing and it was therefore concluded that the front is part of an original brick house and that the 1763 date must be genuine. Contrary to the belief that a gap originally existed between the Ship and the sweet shop, it was immediately apparent that the latter was built onto the Ship and that the dividing wall is to a large extent the original timber framing of the present pub.

Closer study reveals a situation not uncommon with houses of this general period fronting onto a main street. Although this was, perhaps, not a house of particular note, the builder took the trouble to fit good quality windows and front door to present a smart appearance.

Inside the house the story is very different. The joists supporting the upper floor were, and still are, perfectly adequate for the job. However, they were to be concealed by the ground floor ceiling and never expected to be seen; the builder used cheap hardwood of every shape imaginable. Go into the shop now and one can see where the new owners have exposed all of these joists. They present an intriguing sight and one has to wonder how on earth the carpenter got them to lie flat in the first place!

The roof construction tells a similar story and reflects considerable skill by the carpenter in assembling so many odd pieces of timber in a coherent form. It is very much a transitional roof, combining softwood of uniform scantling in the principal rafters with rough-cut hardwood for the purlins and intermediate rafters.

There are two full bays with not-in-line butted side purlins. All of the intermediate rafters are morticed into the purlins and lapped and pegged at the apex. Adjacent to the Ship there is also a narrow bay enclosing the aforementioned large chimney. The roof of the rear Victorian extension is all softwood with a ridgeboard.

Alterations to the ground floor area of the shop have revealed inserted fireplaces across the righthand (West) end and in the rear corner of the lefthand (East) end. These have now been made features of the shop. Also discovered were the footings of an earlier wall running from front to back and adjacent to the chimney of the Ship.

Within the plan of the original house (27' long by 14' in depth), there is no evidence of a stairway (the present staircase, a relatively recent addition, is in part of the Victorian extension). There is, however, some exposed timber in part of the rear extension, which suggests that there was a lean-to extension with a catslide roof at the rear. It is fairly certain that access to the upper floor would have been here.

We are told that a cellar exists beneath the house, but at present the entrance to this is blocked. This would have been excavated when the house was built, as in Ryde House (see Newsletter No 54). The new owners hope eventually to open up the cellar.

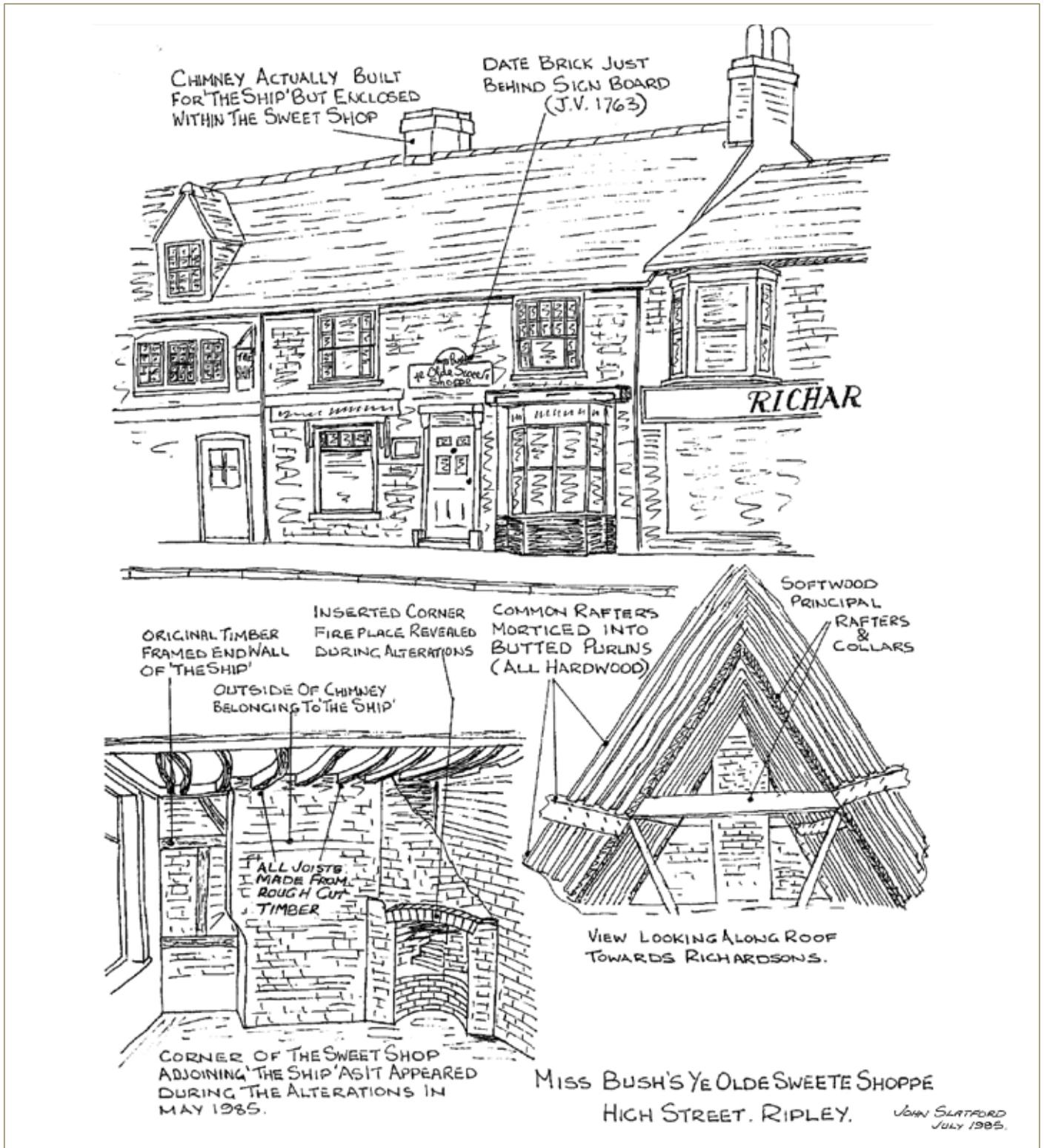
The upstairs front windows and the front door frame (if not the door itself) appear to be original. The former are

double sash without horns and with five glazing bars. A number of these bars are now missing, resulting in the necessity of fitting larger glass panels. Examination of the roof where it joins the Ship revealed some interesting features of the latter not hitherto visible. These will be reported on separately.

The conclusions about this house are that it was built in brick in 1763 as an infill between the Ship and the shop

next door. There may have been an earlier building here, but since the site is thought to have been part of the Frame Plot (see Newsletter No 51)<sup>[1]</sup>, it is also quite likely to have been an open space.

[1] Also Journals 76, 185 and 291



# PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN PHOTOS OF RIPLEY TEA SHOPS

ALAN COOPER

In Journals 186 and 187 Clare McCann wrote about the many teashops of Ripley. Well, nineteen years later, just like London buses, several interesting images, all but one previously unknown to me, came into my possession within a couple of weeks.



The Georgian Cottage Teahouse (1937-1939)

## THE GEORGIAN COTTAGE TEAHOUSE

From a well-known internet auction site, I purchased a postcard of the Georgian Cottage Teahouse. This appears to have been a very short-lived business, run by Margaret Anne Burnside. Margaret, a spinster, lived with her widowed mother in what is today the Georgian House, and ran the business from 1937 to 1939. In 1940 her mother Alexandrina died and Margaret continued to live in the Georgian Cottage until 1945, when she lived with her brother William for a short time in Cedar House. Georgian Cottage became Georgian House in 1947. Ivan Amis changed the name when he purchased the property that year.

It would appear that the tearooms closed soon after WWII started, as on 22nd January 1944 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times* reported Margaret being fined 20 shillings for displaying a light during blackout at her house on 19th December 1943. Her address was given simply as the Georgian Cottage, with no mention of the tearoom.



The Georgian House today

A point of interest: Margaret's brother William lived opposite at Cedar House and worked for the Admiralty as a research engineer. It appears highly probable that he was responsible for introducing Hugh Clausen and his wife May to his sister as prospective lodgers. Hugh was a lieutenant in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve during WWI and a veteran of the Battle of Jutland where he served aboard HMS Benbow. He was made an OBE in 1919 for his work on improvements in the gunnery fire control gear in ships. During his years lodging at the Georgian Cottage Teahouse, he too worked for the Admiralty in their research laboratories at Teddington as chief technical officer, and would undoubtedly have known William. <sup>[1]</sup> <sup>[2]</sup>



Ming Tearooms/The Old Forge Café

### THE OLD FORGE CAFÉ / MING TEA ROOMS

The photo at the top on the right, probably taken to highlight the buildup of snow, shows The Old Forge Café, which most residents of the village of a certain age will remember as being The Paper Shop. Indeed, the building today is named The Paper Shop.

In past Send & Ripley History Society journals, Basil Howard recalled The Old Forge Café being run by a Mr and Mrs Steer. <sup>[3]</sup> However, the 1939 register records another business, named the Ming Tea Rooms, with the proprietor being Mrs Alice M Lloyd. (Her husband Henry E Lloyd worked elsewhere as a groom). The Ming Tea Rooms are recorded as being at this address from 1939 to at least 1945. It is assumed that Ming Tea



The Paper Shop closed to become Ellwood Gallery. This in turn closed and the building remained unoccupied for a number of years. It has recently reopened as Jan Erika Art Gallery and Studio



The fondly-remembered Paper Shop circa 1967



The Enchanted Tea Garden

Rooms pre-dates The old Forge Café. Can any of our members confirm this??

#### THE ENCHANTED TEA GARDEN / RIPLEY ROADHOUSE SPORTS HALL

The postcard of the Enchanted Tea Garden appeared in Journal 187<sup>[3]</sup> but I felt it was worth reproducing here.

This next card, although very similar to the Enchanted Tea Garden, even down to its composition with horses, has one subtle difference: the Enchanted Tea Garden sign has been changed to Ripley Roadhouse Sports Hall, promoting primarily badminton and table tennis, but

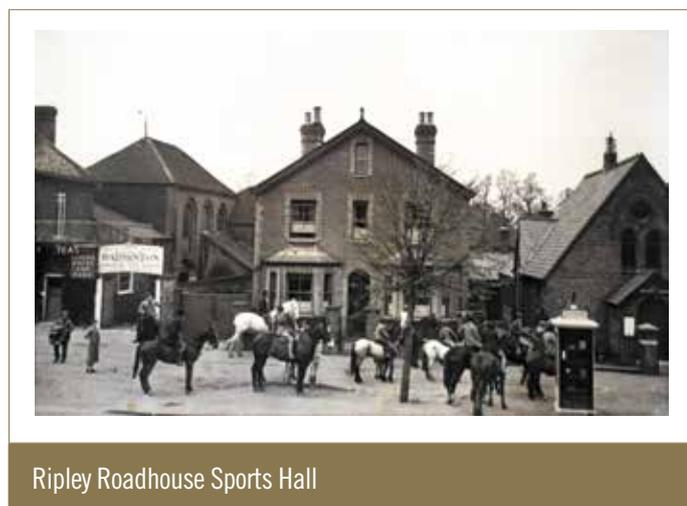
also luncheons, teas and suppers. This postcard has not been posted, making dating it a little tricky. Do any of our members recall this as a sports venue?

<sup>[1]</sup> *Fold-3, Forces War Records*, online military records databases

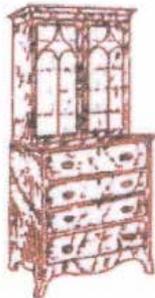
<sup>[2]</sup> *Send & Ripley History Society Journal* J60/9 January - February 1985

<sup>[3]</sup> *Send & Ripley History Society Journal* J187/4 March - April 2006

All Photos c/o Alan Cooper collection



Ripley Roadhouse Sports Hall



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## OBITUARY – MARGARET FIELD, 1943-2025

Margaret was born in Winchester on 3rd September 1943 to Kathleen Winifred Bush. She spent her early years there, and was christened in Winchester Cathedral. When Margaret was two, her mother, known fondly as Bubbles, returned with her to Guildford to live with her parents. The family moved to Ripley in 1950 and her mother and grandparents bought the village sweet shop. It was called ‘Ye Olde Sweete Shoppe’, but the locals knew it as ‘Miss Bush’s’.

Margaret attended local village schools until the age of 11, when she passed her exams to attend Hinchley Wood High School for Girls. There she developed skills in bookkeeping and shorthand, which she later honed at Pitman College. These led her to a career at Lloyds Bank, where she worked for over 20 years. It was at the bank that she met Anthony, the father of their daughter Elizabeth, who was born in October 1966. Just three months later Margaret returned to her role at the bank. In 1969, she purchased her first home in the village, at Perseverance Cottages. Though her property needed significant work, it remained affordable and became a place full of fond memories.

In 1976, Margaret met Graham and they lived together at Perseverance Cottages. Their son, Christian, was born in November 1978 and Graham’s son, Nigel, from a previous marriage, soon joined the household. Sadly, Margaret’s mother passed away in 1977, and the sweet shop was sold to Valerie Harding Tapp, who continued to run it for many years. Later, the family moved to Ashley, in Wentworth Close, where they lived for the next ten years. Eventually Margaret and Graham repurchased the sweet shop, once again becoming deeply involved in its daily running and in the life of the village. Even after they sold the shop a second time, this time to a bridal business, it remained affectionately known in the community as ‘Miss Bush’s’. Margaret continued to live in Ripley throughout her life, moving to Farm View and later returning to Wentworth Close, this time to the new cul-de-sac.

She and Graham were devoted members of the Ripley Cricket Club, with Margaret famously preparing teas for many years. Clare McCann recalls that ‘she and I also made 22 cricket outfits for the period cricket match in 2011 - great fun but hard work!’ Margaret also followed in her mother’s footsteps by supporting Ripley Bonfire Night, working behind the scenes at the Bonfire Social, helping choose the



Queen, collecting donations with Graham on the night and counting the money raised. Remarkably, even in her final year, Margaret was still involved in the counting.

Together, Margaret and Graham played a key role in founding the Ripley Bowls Club. Their tireless fundraising helped establish it as a welcoming place for the community to enjoy the game and each other’s company. Margaret was also a dedicated member of the congregation at St Mary Magdalen Church, where both Elizabeth and Christian were christened. A member since childhood, she found great comfort in the church community, especially in later years, attending as often as she could. She was also a long-standing member of the Send & Ripley History Society and for some time events organizer when she brought all her organizational skills to the job. These had been honed, not only by her time at the bank but also later working at Ripley School, as bursar, and at Ash Grange School. At one point she was clerk to the parish council in Ripley, and even in her later years was secretary to the Ripley Business Group.

Margaret will be remembered for her lifelong dedication to Ripley, her warmth and her quiet but steadfast service to the village she so dearly loved. Her presence is deeply missed, but her legacy will live on in the many ways she helped shape village life.

# THE GREAT FIRE OF RIPLEY, IN COLOUR

ALAN COOPER



Richard Green's hardware store before the fire



Today, nothing remains of Richard Green's store and the adjacent cottages, which were replaced by these houses

Newcomers to the village might be surprised to learn that on 10th February 1969, a catastrophic fire destroyed Richard Green's hardware store, where a row of residential properties now stands. For the very first time 35mm colour slides, taken by the late John Hutson, and recently discovered by his son Steven, highlight the devastation caused by this tragic event.

The fire began while a tanker was pumping paraffin into storage tanks located inside the store on the first floor above the shop, and soon large-scale evacuation procedures were set in motion because of the fear that underground petrol tanks would explode. These were located beneath the forecourt and under the garden of the next-door-but-one cottage, belonging to Mr and Mrs Charles Shoesmith, who were away on holiday

in Majorca. A scene of chaos rapidly unfolded as fire engines arrived from both directions. The first two came from Guildford and the third from Esher, quickly followed by a further five, including those sent from Woking and Camberley. In addition, three ambulances stood by in case of casualties. A hose-laying machine was also used.

The fire was discovered by George Lovett, the driver of the paraffin tanker. Soon after he commenced pumping the liquid into the first floor storage tanks, he



A Dennis F24 water tender fire engine complete with Dennis rear-mounted pump. Costing a little over £4000 when new, 20 of these machines were purchased by the Surrey Fire Brigade and utilised the Dennis Rapier chassis with a Rolls Royce petrol engine. When fully equipped and operational, this was capable of speeds in excess of 70 mph<sup>[4]</sup>



Villagers gather on The Green to view the sorry-looking remains. The back wall of the shop was blown out in the initial explosion



Another fire engine arrives



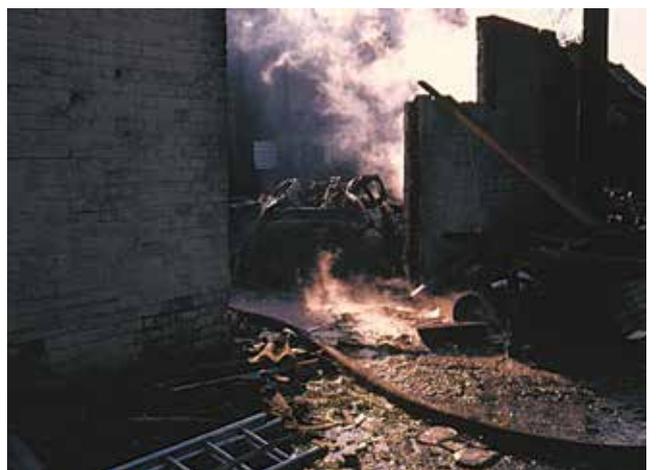
Galvanized storage tanks lie amongst the many gas cylinders



So much for health and safety



A galvanized storage tank distorted almost beyond recognition by the intense heat



Barely recognisable, the remains of a car – make impossible to determine



Apparently considered safe, inquisitive locals gather to survey the remains

heard a rushing noise and saw paraffin gushing from the ceiling. George ran to his lorry to switch off the pumps, and when he returned to the store, found it ablaze. Realising that the staff were still inside, he ran round to the front and raised the alarm. "The place was a mass of flames. Everyone got out and when I got back to my lorry, I saw that the hose, which was still connected to the storage tanks inlet, was on fire, so I grabbed a knife and hacked through it before driving my lorry to safety," he said. Then the explosions began, the store being full of Calor gas cylinders. "I heard a bang and then saw the back wall of the store fly out. Debris was flying in all directions and some of it must have gone about 100 yards."

Mr Leonard Lund, who lived at the Green Lantern Cafe opposite, said "I thought the heat was going to burst the windows". The police asked him and the owner, Mrs Murray, who was sick in bed at the time, to move to safety and join others in a field behind.

A plate glass window of WB Green's furniture store opposite was cracked by the heat of the blaze and the adjacent cottage, Cranford, had a hole blown through a window. Hurst Park Automobiles removed all the vehicles from its showrooms to safety and when the evacuation order came, Mr Bill Myers of the White Hart public house stayed on duty, but saw his wife and family safely into the field at the back of the premises. Mr Myers said that he had experienced the blitz of London during the last war but had never seen a place go up so quickly.

During the height of the fire the heat was so intense that he was unable to hold his hand against the window of his house 30 yards away, and the whole place shook with the explosions.

Another person to have a narrow escape was Kitty Phillips of No. 2, Greenside Cottages. Seeing smoke belching from the burning buildings no more than 150 yards away, she decided to collect her washing from

the clothesline in her back garden. After carrying her washing to safety, she went out to watch the blaze from a distance and was in time to see one of the explosions which rocked the village. As she watched, a piece of metal, believed to be part of a gas bottle, whizzed towards her home, crashing into one of the house's chimney pots, damaging a television aerial and chipping holes into the roof. The shattered pot with pieces of tile showered down onto the spot where she had been standing only minutes before. "It was just luck that I moved when I did" she said.

Mrs Phillips added that as the piece of metal sailed through the air it made "a rushing noise like the doodlebugs did in the last war just before they exploded. In fact, the whole thing put me in mind of the war."

Mr Dennis Allen, manager of the store declined to comment except to say that he saw smoke and got out quickly. <sup>[1]</sup>

Upon seeing the hardware store ablaze, Mrs Rita Avery, sister of Mr Shoemith, rushed to his home intent on saving furniture but was restrained by firemen and police. Rita was not alone in this respect.

Janet Hughes (née Best) followed her father, but was stopped by the local police. Her grandmother, Alice, lived in one of the houses attached to the shop, had severe arthritis and moved very slowly as a result. Had she been able to escape the flames? Janet's father pushed on, but he too was restrained by both firemen and the police.

The two houses attached to the store were completely destroyed. By some kind of miracle, the occupants, Mr and Mrs Charles Nokes on one side and Mrs Alice Parrott on the other, had been evacuated by the police while they could still gain access. However, Janet and her father were initially unaware of this, and a distressing period ensued. <sup>[2]</sup>

Lesley Powell recalled her initial concern when husband Ivor, the village window cleaner, failed to return home for his lunch. After taking a few steps from their home, she quickly realized that the police had completely secured the High Street, denying access to both vehicles and pedestrians. <sup>[3]</sup>



As night descends and road traffic resumes, the skeletal remains adopt a hauntingly eerie appearance

"It was just like the blitz all over again" was a sentiment echoed by many that day.

Photo of Richard Green's hardware store before the fire  
© Send Ripley History Society

All colour slides © Steven Hutson

<sup>[1]</sup> *Surrey Advertiser* Friday 14 February 1969

<sup>[2]</sup> Thanks to Janet Hughes for sharing her memories

<sup>[3]</sup> Thanks to Lesley Powell for sharing her memories

<sup>[4]</sup> Technical fire engine description c/o Alan Greenwood

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# THE RIPLEY ANTIQUES TRADE

CAMERON BROWN, ALAN COOPER, WITH JOHN HARTLEY, CHRISSIE SAGE, JACKIE VAN HEESEWIJK AND DALE JOHNSON-WEBB

Back at the end of 1969, when life for a newly-graduated young person was doubtless easier than it is today, I had a brief go at antique dealing with a friend who lived in Sheffield and was, what John Hartley (of Ripley's Hartley Antiques), would call a dabbler. I was not at all successful but retained a strong interest in antiques. As relatively newly-weds living in Wimbledon, my wife Ditz and I soon discovered the 17th century oak dealers in Dorking and Ripley, and many pieces came to live close to where we had found them, when we moved here almost twenty years ago.

This year I have spent a few hours reminiscing with John Hartley about the shops I knew and the many I did not, but which he did remember. He kindly introduced me to his sister, Chrissie Sage and she, and SRHS committee member Alan Cooper, have both added memories of their own, as have Society members Jackie van Heesewijk and Dale Johnson-Webb. This article is an attempt to record as much as we can about the trade which formed such an important part of Ripley's economy in the post war decades, but which has now all but ceased.

There are many gaps to fill and I should be grateful to hear from any members who can add to our narrative.

J HARTLEY ANTIQUES  
186, HIGH STREET

John Hartley owns the last remaining antiques business in Ripley, and much of what follows are his reminiscences.

'Dad bought his first house in Walnut Tree Close in Guildford in the 1940s and my sister was born there. He grew up in southern Poland and came firstly to Scotland, where he met his wife to be, then to England at the beginning of WWII, bringing with him expertise in the analysis and interpretation of high-speed German language morse code communications. When he came out of the army he moved to Surrey, probably because this was where his wife came from. Dad got a job with Gillingham's in Guildford, originally near the top of North Street. Mr Gillingham had woodworking workshops there and his furniture business in his big house near Stoke Park. He only sold antiques from



'Some of the antiques' invoices from our years living in Wimbledon © Cameron Brown

the house, but he did also have a business making repro pieces. Interestingly, Gillingham's also used their woodworking expertise and big workshops to make parts for Mosquito aeroplanes!

My dad was at first a gofer for Mr Gillingham but he also trained there as a craftsman – a polisher, rather than a cabinet-maker. If Mr Gillingham went on a buying trip or to an auction, Dad would follow behind in the van and bring everything back. After a while, if Mr Gillingham was away, Dad would be allowed to do the selling to any American shippers who turned up. They soon fell out though, when Mr Gillingham gave a pay rise to all the employees in the workshop but didn't give one to Dad. It was only a matter of a few shillings, but Dad was so furious that he went off and started up himself.

Chrissie Sage (née Hartley) remembers some of that early period: ‘When I was around three years old, my parents bought part of an Elizabethan farmhouse in Burpham. In the driveway there was a big old two storey barn, which became a storeroom for Dad’s stock, and further down the drive he built a garage/workshop. But he couldn’t bring customers to the barn, so he took on premises in the new parade of shops in Burpham, at 202 London Road, which became the shop.

Even at such a young age Dad would take me on buying trips and I remember dealers in Brighton giving me gifts of little items of china. We’d go on as far as Devon or Cornwall, disguised as holidays.’

John Hartley: ‘We had one half of the Burpham house, the doctor had the other half and we were there from around 1960 to 1967, when Dad had problems with the council for using the garage as a workshop. He had already bought our current premises in Ripley in 1963 and moved his business to the Ripley shop the following year, whilst living and retaining the workshop in Burpham. The shop had planning permission for a house alongside, which was completed in 1967, when he left Burpham and moved to Ripley.

This was also the year when my parents divorced and, from then until 1977, when I came to work for my dad, I was at school in Guildford and living with my mum. Before Dad would let me do anything with customers I had to spend three months in the workshops, learning polishing, followed by a short time with the cabinet-makers. After three or four weeks Dad had looked at my cabinet-making progress and decided not to let me damage any more of the goods! But the point was, I had to learn that if you are going to be in charge of people you have to understand what it is that you are asking them to do.

I had a dealer from America who would always want to know the history of anything he was interested in. “Where did you buy this desk?” he asked once. I remember saying I thought it was from Portsmouth, and the next thing I know is he was selling it as ‘once owned by Nelson’.

Antiques was not just an export trade. Back in the 1970s and early 80s, when stripped pine was popular, UK dealers used to go to East Germany and Sweden, where there was an attitude that pine was ‘for the peasants’ and good stuff had to be mahogany or walnut.

My dad didn’t buy anything at auction for decades, because he didn’t like the ‘ring’. He had the choice of joining them or being cut out, so he decided to avoid auctions altogether. When business slowed years later,



An extension being added to Hartley’s early 18th century building around 1967 © John Hartley

the rings gradually faded away and that’s when he started looking at the auctions himself. To protect the ring’s power they had, from time to time, to pay over the odds for a piece, to stop an outsider getting it. This was OK when trade was good, as they could take the hit of these losses between them. When trade was bad, pockets were not as deep and the system could no longer work.

I’ve got a small kneehole desk at the top of the stairs with £600 on it. Back in the fifties, it would have sold for the equivalent of £4,000. There were far more of these being exported to America than were ever made in Britain! Some dealers in those days, with an eye for an opportunity, would take a period chest of drawers and convert it into a kneehole desk. You find those pieces now, seventy years on from when they were ‘converted’ and you would really struggle to spot that they had been changed. A lot of these apparently came from Brighton. When I was starting out I’d hear tales of what ‘the



Hartley Galleries in the very early days © Chrissie Sage

Brighton boys' got up to. Unfortunately a piece might be right but on the other hand it might not be.

Nowadays it's not worth it to fake things, as the craftsmen would be too expensive and just finding the bits to use would be far too difficult. Over the past few decades, as manufacturing has moved to cheaper countries, real prices for furniture have fallen. These days people expect it all to be cheap, which has hit our trade badly.

There would be fashions in what the overseas buyers wanted. One American was after bureau bookcases and I can remember being ready for his visit with eight of them. He'd said "I need as many bureau bookcases as you can get" and took the lot. But I think he'd overestimated his market because he never came back for another eight.

We had a big stock market crash in the late 1980s and things came back somewhat by the end of the 1990s – yet it wasn't the same. It was a combination of changing tastes and younger people buying less – disasters are very rarely the result of just one thing. There was also a change in attitudes. Cool Britannia saw Blair come in and lots of the old style of furnishing in government buildings was swept out to make way for modern offices with modern furniture. The same thing happened with the banks and other city offices – Canary wharf and everything ultra modern. The various financial disasters of the late 20th century and then 2008 seem to me to have been the final nails in the coffin for this trade. Only very stubborn people like me have stuck it out.

The way it used to work was you'd start in this business with cheap stock and gradually work your way up the scale, carrying ever more expensive items. It no longer works like that for most of us, as expensive pieces so rarely sell these days.

In terms of the mark-ups we looked for, every item was different. We probably aimed at a margin of around 30%, but that was very much the average and we were not very scientific about it. On some pieces you made nothing, on others 100%.

The public probably don't realise how long we have to sit on some of this stock. We talk about these items as 'old friends', as they might be with us year in and year out. But much of the time we used to get a pretty quick turnover. Dad would come back from one of his trips to Brighton and find three dealers waiting for him in the shop and he'd sell on half of what he'd brought back within five or ten minutes. Much of the rest would go for 'shipping' (overseas buyers), so that generally 90% would be shifted within three months.'



Sage occupied both the former Green Cottage and the White Hart when this photo was taken in 1989

## ELLARDS, SAGE ANTIQUES & DESIGN

### GREEN COTTAGE, HIGH STREET

John Hartley: 'Bill Ellard was a very tall bloke with a boxer dog and was a great friend of my father. The antiques trade had various levels, from the guys who would just go round knocking on doors, through to Mallett in Pall Mall, dealing with royalty. Then you've got those in between. Bill Ellard was a step up from us; he was higher than Anthony Welling in the rankings. I remember that, in the early 1970s, he had a zebra wood bureau bookcase that was maybe £10,000 - that's £100,000 at today's prices.

Bill Ellard lived in and had his business at Green Cottage, next to Little Barn, until 1973, when he retired. My sister, Chrissie, was seven years older than me and when my parents divorced I had gone to live with my mum but Chrissie stayed with my dad. She was a talented painter, went to the Inchbald School of Design and, while still in her teens, started an art gallery here (at J Hartley) with my father. She married in 1973, bought Green Cottage from the Ellards and opened Sage Antiques (she was now Mrs Sage).

Their business was different as they started up as a combination of art gallery/antiques shop and later moved into interior design. When the White Hart pub next door came up for sale in the mid-1980s they bought it and it provided large additional premises for Sage, with the interior design side of the business becoming increasingly important.'

Chrissie Sage: 'The idea was for me to learn about business but also to earn money to help see me through college in a couple of years' time. When I started studying

at Inchbald College and living in Chelsea we also took a space at the Antiquarius indoor antiques market near the Chelsea Old Town Hall. In 1973 I married Howard Sage and we bought Green Cottage from Bill Ellard and started Sage Antiques. My time at Inchbald School of Design led logically to our expanding Sage Antiques to become Sage Antiques and Design.

Bill Ellard and his sister were very old school, lovely people and both very cultured. They were the first BADA members (British Antique Dealers' Association, the leading trade association for the fine art, design and antiques community) in Ripley. Their parents had moved here in about 1940 from London, where his father was a dealer. The Ellards sold very grand pieces, like a bookcase that had genuinely belonged to Napoleon! After the war they felt no need to return to London. Customers were happy to come to Ripley, which, along with Dorking and Petworth, was becoming a Surrey destination for collectors. The Ellards got the very high society buyers, arriving in chauffeur-driven limousines.

When we started we were newly-married and certainly didn't have the money to acquire the sorts of pieces the Ellards sold, so Sage was a different type of business. The Ellards' shop carried an aura about it which could scare people off, so I started to put small pieces of china in the window to make people realise there were things here which they could afford. We made buying trips around Sussex and the west country, to country house sales and some of the leading salerooms. I remember leaving a bid on a silver mug at the famous sale at Mentmore House. The estimate was £30 and I felt it was worth up to £120; it went for £10,000! Luckily we no longer had the problem with rings at the auctions, which my father had experienced.

One of the items we bought at a country house sale was a magnificent four-poster bed from Avebury Manor, before it was acquired by the National Trust but was subsequently bought back from us by the National Trust! We also managed to get a travelling trunk with the coat of arms of William & Mary, which was subsequently bought from us by the National Collections, for display at Hampton Court and St James's Palace.

Until we bought the White Hart, we were focussed on antiques and it was a time when the export trade was really strong. We'd see two or three American buyers every week. My dad had concentrated on 18th century mahogany and walnut, but I was never a mahogany sort of person. I did like early walnut and oak and all sorts of decorative items and paintings – so our stock was more varied than at the more specialised shops.

I had studied interior design, and once we had the space at the White Hart (it had 29 rooms – in a horrific state!), we employed several interior designers. We also had a garden designer, Steven Woodhams, who was quite famous at the time - he won gold medals at Chelsea. All of the upstairs area was dedicated to the design business.

We closed the business and sold the old White Hart in 2016, the year Dad died.'

**ANTHONY WELLING**  
**BROADWAY BARN, HIGH STREET**

John Hartley knew Anthony Welling very well: 'He came from the Marlow/Henley area and had a small antiques business at Longleat, before he came to Ripley. The reason I know that is that one of my father's best customers was an antiques dealer from Hamburg, called Kai Wege and he met Tony Welling at the little antiques centre there.

Tony was a fairly senior lay preacher in the Church of England, somewhere near Marlow. When he died, one or two of us thought we ought to represent the Ripley trade and went over to Marlow for his funeral. Because he was clergy they did the full works – the service took about an hour and a half.

Tony's shop was in what is now the Nest and the recently-closed Broadway Barn b&b and offered 17th and 18th century country furniture. He always liked to feel that he was better than the rest of us, and he wouldn't join in with anything that the other dealers in the village might try to arrange – a joint advert or anything like that. Until, that is, the last few years – after 9/11 – when the trade turned down. Then a lot of dealers who'd been quite snobbish or arrogant had it knocked out of them, and if I had to put my head around Tony's door for some reason, I got a much more friendly reception and we'd joke about who had gone the longest without selling anything.



Anthony Welling, 1991

I recall seeing him only a week before he died; he had a heart attack while driving his old Volvo through Walton.'

Alan Cooper adds: 'Tony spoke around six different languages fluently which must have been a huge bonus when dealing with overseas customers.'

ANTHONY COOPER / RIPLEY  
ANTIQUES  
67 HIGH STREET, THE GREEN

John Hartley remembers: 'Anthony's business thrived in the 1960s and 70s in the building now occupied by Surrey Dive Centre. In those days it included the now separate cottage behind, overlooking The Green. According to the sign over his door, the business had a head office in London W8. The stories about Antony Cooper all came to me from my dad and relate to a time when I was still at school. I remember that all the dealers drove Peugeot or Volvo estates, but Tony Cooper had a Porsche 911. Dad said that Cooper died of a heart attack.'

Alan Cooper recalls: 'I remember he had a Rolls Royce with the registration AC1; how jealous was I!'

*Every* other dealer had an estate car. In Anthony Cooper's case his sales manager (David Leach) had a Volvo 240 estate. You could get a double wardrobe in the back of one of those!'

Chrissie Sage remembers him stocking huge decorative items such as Italian gilt mirrors – 'very flamboyant; quite Brighton!'

Coopers then became Ripley Antiques, owned by Heather Denham.

Chrissie Sage: 'Heather came to Ripley in about 1969 and started her business where Ferma is now (128 High Street). She had wonderful decorative pieces but also a jewellery cabinet where Dad would buy me odd bits for my birthday. Heather hadn't been there very long when the owners decided they wanted the premises back and she made an unsuccessful bid to buy the late Anthony Cooper's premises over the road but was outbid by a lady who started a riding shop there.'



Ripley Antiques 1991 or 92

At this point Heather moved into rented space in Elm Tree House, over the road from Hartley's, which had been John Hill Antiques and became Parkers after Heather Denham moved out. The riding shop cannot have lasted long as Heather was soon able to buy the late Antony Cooper's premises next door.

John Hartley: 'Heather had been an air hostess and did surprisingly well, staying in business all through the 1980s, selling a mixed stock, but with plenty of decorative continental furniture, chandeliers, mirrors, always a few clocks and the sideline in jewellery.'

I remember the clocks because there was a robbery there, which rocked the village. Heather had been showing some customers around the shop and they were on the point of leaving, when some other people came in and went upstairs. Heather followed the newcomers, leaving



Anthony Cooper Antiques, circa 1970

the others to make their own way out. When they all came back downstairs a very expensive clock, which had been by the door, had vanished. It turned out that the people who had taken the clock then went straight to Manor House Antiques and stole something there too.'

Chrissie remains in touch with Heather who, now in her early nineties, is still in business in Petworth, at Heather Denham Antiques, North Street, Petworth GU28 0DD.

#### JOHN HILL ANTIQUES / HEATHER DENHAM ANTIQUES / PARKER ANTIQUES, ELM TREE HOUSE, HIGH STREET

At least two other antique dealers were at Elm Tree House as well as Ripley Antiques. The Society has a 1964 photo of John Hill Antiques, but no further information. John Hartley recalls: 'All I remember about John Hill was his being in a Mars Bar TV advert circa 1968-71 which showed his shop in the background.'

Chrissie, however, did know the Hills as she played with their daughter when the Hartleys first moved to Ripley in the 1960s, and she remembers the Parkers too. 'Mrs Parker moved to Ripley after Heather moved out but her father had been a dealer in London – in the Fulham Road I think, with good Georgian furniture. They had been in the trade for a few generations. I think the Ripley shop closed in the early 1990s.'

#### MANOR HOUSE ANTIQUES HIGH STREET

John Hartley: 'My own first connection with the Ripley trade was Manor House Antiques. In that terrible winter of 1962-3, when I was not yet three years old, my father was beginning to look around for premises. He knew all the dealers, including Sylvia Brothers who owned the Manor House. At the time it was still all one property (today Manor House Cottage on the west side is under separate ownership). She wanted to take her sick husband to Spain for the winter and didn't want to leave the place empty. Sylvia did a deal with my father, whereby we would live there and Dad would sell his own stock as well as hers. I remember that the snow was so bad and the traffic so light that I was allowed to run across the road all on my own, to play with my friend at the Anchor. It was after that winter that my parents found our future premises, which were at the time a baker's, suffering from the competition from the new supermarkets.

After Sylvia Brothers' time, the Manor House was taken over by two Irishmen, Miles and Hughie, but they only



John Hill Antiques in 1963/64



Manor House Antiques, 1991/2

used the main section of the building. They had the business for a long time, during which the property was split into two separate ownerships. Funnily enough, they had started off working as restorers for my dad from a little workshop, in an alley near Gillingham's first place in Guildford.

When they retired, the business was taken over by a civil servant who had come into some money. He had always wanted to own an antique shop, though he knew nothing about the trade. It was quite sad, because he gradually lost all his money as he really didn't know what he was doing – and then he went blind.'

THE CEDAR HOUSE GALLERY  
HIGH STREET, RIPLEY  
0483 211221



After Rossetti • Pastel Portrait  
in ornate hand made frame 46" x 36"

Proprietors John & Jennie Speed live on premises  
and are open Thurs, Fri, Sat 10.00-6.00  
or by appointment  
19th Century oil & watercolour paintings • prints  
Valuations for insurance

Advertisement for Cedar House Gallery, 1991 © Chrissie Sage

### THE CEDAR HOUSE GALLERY HIGH STREET

There was an antiques business in here in the 1960s but nobody remembers much about it and John Hartley was not sure that it survived very long but I think he may have been wrong. Chrissie Sage gave us an advertisement from *Surrey Occasions*, 1991, giving the proprietors' names as John and Jennie Speed, who had bought the property the previous year and our Newsletter 135 of July 1997 mentions that the Speeds had recently bought an 1896 watercolour of Ripley by Charles E Shaw from John Nicholson's salerooms in Fernhurst. The Society's records show that there was still a business with this name at least until the Speeds sold the property in 2002.

### ONCE UPON A TIME DUNSBOROUGH PARK, THE GREEN

John Hartley: 'There was an antique beds shop trading as Once Upon a Time, on The Green in one of the cottages at Dunsborough, along the milk road. It was



Once Upon A Time, The Green, Ripley.

One of the advertisements for Once Upon a Time © Alan Cooper

completely off the beaten track; you had to know it was there. They sold antique metal beds. The place looked like a barn, and they had a little metal sign they put outside during the day, to show where they were. Without it you'd never have known about them. They were there for about a decade.' Alan Cooper remembers that the proprietor was called Michael Cripps and he used to advertise in *Period Homes and Gardens* magazine.

### SWEERTS DE LANDAS DUNSBOROUGH PARK, THE GREEN

At 'the big house' itself – Dunsborough – Arthur Andre Adolphe Baron Sweerts De Landas Wyborgh dealt in high quality garden statuary, displayed in the extensive gardens surrounding the house. The Baron and his wife bought Dunsborough from Charles Hughesden in 1994 and immediately moved a large collection of statuary there to start the eponymous business. The company ceased trading in 2013, selling their remaining stock of over 500 pieces at auction.

### TALBOT WALK THE TALBOT INN, HIGH STREET

In 1999 the antiques centre started up in part of the old stables



A pair of early 19th century gritstone finials from the Dunsborough auction catalogue: estimate £4000 - £6000



Talbot Walk at the former stables at the Talbot, 2003 © John Hartley

of the Talbot. A handful of dealers had small areas within the buildings, and John commented that it was certainly worth an occasional visit ‘as you never knew what you would find there. I remember Dad picking up the occasional piece there and I’d be sent round to fetch it.’

#### HAMILTON ANTIQUES / ANTIQUE TEAPOT HIGH STREET

A 1984 photo in the SRHS collection shows Hamilton Antiques occupying premises on the ground floor of the dentist’s, between the Methodist church and the old newsagents by The Green. This business was taken over in the early 1990s at the latest, by two ladies, and the name was changed to The Antique Teapot. One of the ladies was called Nikki Hamilton, so perhaps this was just a change of name?

John Hartley remembers: ‘They dealt in knick-knacks – bits of china, tea sets, milk jugs and so on. That was very

popular then. There were people at that time who dabbled in the antiques trade; thought it would be an enjoyable way of life, and The Antique Teapot was definitely a dabbler’s business.’ Alan Cooper adds: ‘Tony Welling was very critical when this business started up, saying it “lowered the tone of the village by not selling proper antiques”.’

Our photos show that they also sold pine furniture. In 2000 they closed, and the dental practice expanded into the shop.



Hamilton Antiques, 1984



The Antique Teapot owners Nikki Hamilton and Irene (?) as featured in *Period Living* 1992 © Chrissie Sage



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The Antique Teapot in 1991

CHRISTO'S / PJ HANCOCK / WILLIAMS & WRIGHT  
THE OLD SADDLERS, HIGH ST (NOW VOO VETS)

Chrissie Sage recalls a business called Christo's in these tiny premises, run by a mother and son specialising in 18th and 19th century porcelain. They were followed by PJ Hancock, who dealt in antique jewellery, primarily with the trade, as well as retail customers.

Jackie van Heesewijk and Peter Wright subsequently started their jewellery and silver business here under

Combined caption: Hancock's advertisement and premises around 1991 © Jackie van Heesewijk



Jackie and Peter Wright in the early days © Jackie van Heesewijk

not too expensive. For three years (2000-2003) we moved to much larger premises in what is now the guitars shop on the site of the old forge – owned at the time by the ladies who had the Antique Teapot. There was no running water or loo and we were broken into five times whilst there. We moved back to the smaller shop but after the financial crisis in 2008 business just disappeared. We ceased trading in 2010 and sold the premises to the vets in 2011.

DEIRDRE GEER  
AT HARTLEY ANTIQUES, HIGH STREET

John Hartley adds: ‘We should also mention Deirdre Geer, who had her business in the end part of Hartley Antiques (at the time of writing it’s a hairdresser’s). She was a wonder, with a very good eye for decorative furnishings: mirrors, small furniture, bookcases, picture frames, linen and so on. Deirdre became a sort of honorary aunt to me. She had a knack with people. There’d be time-wasters coming into the shop who I would gently try to usher out, but Deirdre would sit and talk to them. She brought a lot of her stock from France, but for some reason prices started to rocket. She came back from a trip around ten years or so ago and told me that she’d seen a nice, free-standing butcher’s block – perfect for a ‘country kitchen’. It was in a little flea market in the middle of France and she was

horrified to find they were asking €800 for it. Her trips became less frequent after that.

Deirdre was actually a skilled restorer, who could, with a bit of plasticine and some plaster of Paris, make a mould and fix up the damaged part of a mirror frame very nicely.

When Deirdre died a few years ago, we had a tricky six months or so. I kept an eye on things while her family decided what to do with the business, but it was not straightforward. After a while her son, who had just retired from his car dealing business, decided to give our trade a go and he quite enjoyed it for a year or two, having an eye for sporting items like fishing rods, cricket bats and so on.’

Chrissie Sage remembers meeting Deirdre in the 1970s, after she had just moved from Barnes to Wisley and was working as a driver cum courier for visiting American



Williams & Wright © Jackie van Heesewijk

the name Williams (Jackie’s maiden name) & Wright. Jackie had studied jewellery-making in Sheffield and then worked ‘on the bench’ in a design workshop in Soho. After that she moved into retail, where she met Peter Wright. They decided to set up a small shop and knew Peter Hancock from the London jewellery trade, so opened their business in Ripley in 1993.

Jackie explained: ‘Peter Hancock’s shop had been closed for six months but was still fitted out as a jeweller’s and we rented it from him. We traded mainly in antique and second-hand jewelry with a small line in modern items and antique silverware but also offered a repair, restoration and valuations service, as I still do today from my home in Send Marsh.

Most of the turnover was in silverware and late Victorian or Edwardian and 1930s items. A nice mix of styles and

dealers, calling regularly on Sage Antiques, when visiting the Surrey trade. ‘She learned a lot from her clients and began dealing herself from her home in Wisley, specialising in decorative items, often bought on her many trips to France.’

**LACEY ANTIQUES**  
HIGH STREET, AT THE CORNER OF NEWARK LANE

This is the oldest antiques businesses we have been able to track down in Ripley, and is shown here in a photo from our collection from the 1920s. The building is now the barbers’ shop on the High Street at the top of Newark Lane. In our recent publication *Bygone Days* we have the 1983 recollections of member Basil Howard: ‘Next door to the cycle shop was old Mr Lacey who combined antiques with hairdressing, and many a time some wretched customer, half shaved, and smothered in lather, was left high and dry while Lacey attended to someone who was enquiring for an antique table or chair. Originally Lacey had rented the left hand side of the Manor House for a sweet shop and the right for a



Lacey Antiques with furniture on the pavement right up to the edge of the main road

shaving shop before he moved near the cycle shop.’ Alan Cooper confirms that Hector Lacey was a multi-tasker, adding “ Examination of census returns shows him being, amongst other things, a hairdresser - presumably at the back of the shop?”

**KENSINGTON GALLERIES / 21ST CENTURY ANTIQUES**  
HIGH STREET, THE GREEN

We have a 1982 photo of a shop on The Green opposite Ripley House, called Kensington Galleries. By no later than 1991 it was 21st Century Antiques, selling good quality repro furniture, mainly desks.

**REGENCY GALLERIES / STRAITS OF MALACCA**  
LONDON HOUSE, HIGH STREET

Chrissie Sage remembers Regency Galleries selling marble fire surrounds and bathrooms, but is not sure whether any of it was antique. She believed that they also offered a picture restoration service. Jackie



Lacey's in the 1920s



Kensington Galleries, 1982



21st Century Antiques, 1991



Straits of Malacca, 1990

van Heesewijk was able to give me the names of the proprietors, David and Dale Johnson-Webb, who are both members of the Society.

They were the first to have an antiques business in London House (and later the shop next door). Dale recalls: ‘I met David when I went into his shop in the early 1970s looking for a marble fireplace. Around 1969, after his marriage had broken up he had decided on a complete change of life and moved from Weybridge to open an antiques business in Ripley. It was not something he had any experience in but he was a resourceful and practical man. London House belonged to a professor who seemed to own a few properties in Ripley, including the launderette next door. He was impressed by something David was doing and asked him to take over running the launderette. David did this successfully for a couple of years in addition to building up the antiques side but then closed the launderette down, sold off the washing machines and dryers to a North Sea oil rigs company and expanded the antiques business into the neighbouring premises.

David’s speciality was marble fireplaces but he was also good at general repairs, rewiring lights and so on. We married and ran the business together until 1990 when we handed it on to some people from Singapore trading as Straits of Malacca, who sold ceramics and carved wooden pieces’.

**LOLAPALOOZA**  
**THE OLD PHARMACY, HIGH STREET**

This business was founded in 2008, as a travelling pop up shop, featuring an eclectic mix of vintage fashion and homewares. It opened in Ripley around 2020.



Lolapalooza © Cameron Brown

We should be interested in any information members can add on any of the businesses covered above, and also on Charles Batchelor at Pinnocks, selling groceries, sweets and so on but later adding ‘knick-knacks’ and small antique items; similarly Alan Dowell in Rose Lane – though this time Alan Cooper has a photo. We should also like to find out if there was an antiques shop in the building between the Anchor and St Mary’s (formerly Ripley Transformers).

## HENRY LEE, RYDE HOUSE

John Hartley thought that there had been a shop at Ryde House owned by a Mr Lee but Alan Cooper believes that two Henry Lees (father and son), who were antique dealers, lived there but had their business elsewhere, probably in London. From the 1939 Register (the pre-war temporary replacement for the census) we see Henry M Lee b.1872 and Henry M Lee jnr b.1904 – both ‘Dealer in Antique Works of Art’. The elder Mr Lee’s death in 1955 was reported in the *Evening News* and he was described as an antique dealer living at Ryde House.

Unless otherwise credited, photographs from the SRHS collection



Alan Dowell's in Rose Lane, shortly before its closure around 1990 © Alan Cooper

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# NEW BOOK – GHOSTS ALONG THE WEY, A RURAL CHILDHOOD IN SEND BY PETER GROVE

CAMERON BROWN

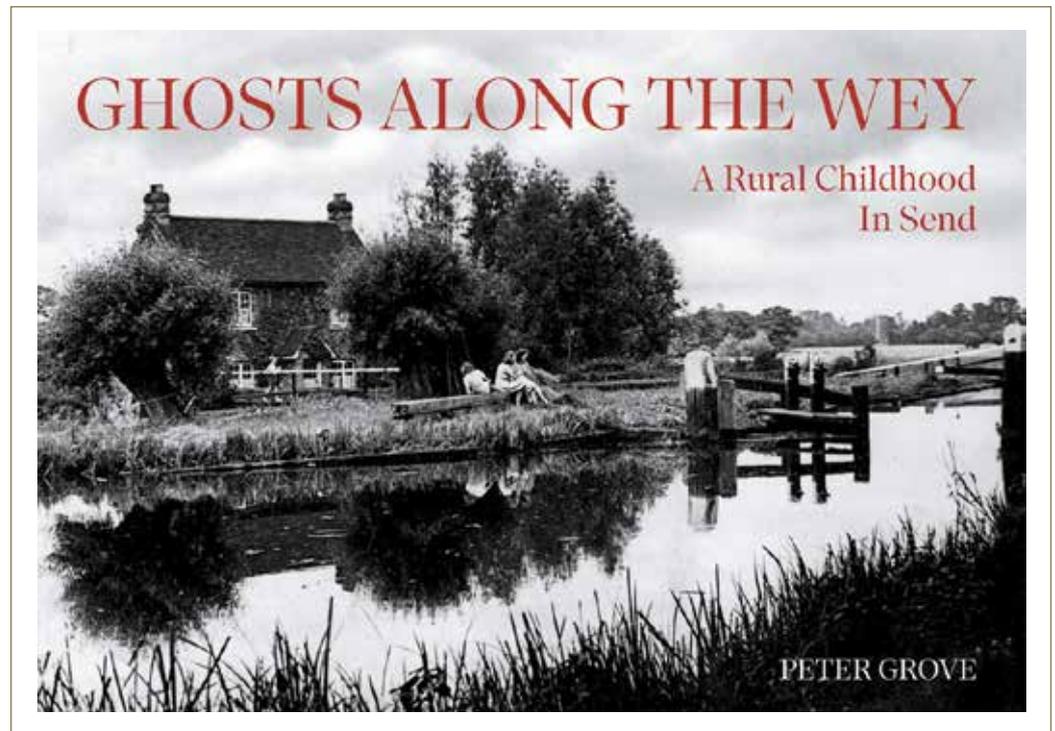
We have just published a new book, *Ghosts Along the Wey*, by our member Peter Grove. Extracts were featured in Journals 294, 296, 298 and 302.

The Grove family is synonymous with the Wey Navigation and in particular Triggs Lock, Worsfold Gates and the adjacent boathouse where, from 1856 to 1966, four generations of the extended family dedicated more than 300 man-years to serving both the river and its immediate community in the guise of engineers, foremen, carpenters, general maintenance and construction workers, lock-keepers and boathouse proprietors.

William Grove was born in Old Woking in 1825. He moved to Send in 1856, becoming the Triggs lock-keeper as well as a blacksmith, and would continue in those roles for the next 59 years, until his death in 1915.

His son Walter, a master carpenter, worked at nearby Worsfold Gates for 45 years, from 1885 until his death in 1930. Walter's son, Norman, was also a master carpenter at Worsfold Gates from 1930 until 1966. His brother, Ewart, ran the boathouse next door, whilst brother Alec was also a carpenter.

I think some of you know that Peter is, at the time of writing, very unwell and he was thrilled to receive the freshly-printed books we rushed to him in Philadelphia. Royal Mail excelled themselves and got them there in four working days. He and his wife Nancy phoned me to say that Peter is now concentrating on getting his next few volumes of memories, no longer set in Send, plus some 150 short stories he has written over the years



‘tidied up’ for publication for his family and friends.

The Groves have also been extremely generous in donating a total of £6,500 to our Society, obviously way more than the cost of producing this book and probably the largest donation we have ever received. They have also offered a substantial donation to Send parish council, to be used at their discretion. Peter and Nancy deserve sincere thanks from all of us.

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The book is A5 landscape format, paperback, with 180 pages and priced at £10. Copies can be bought from the museum, at the Farmers’ Markets, our new website or from [srhistorysociety@gmail.com](mailto:srhistorysociety@gmail.com). Alternatively contact any committee member. Free delivery in Send, Ripley and Wisley, otherwise p&p (UK) £3.75

# WHERE IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

A VIEW FROM AN EARLY POSTCARD, BUT WHERE WAS IT TAKEN AND WHAT IS THE BUILDING CALLED?



WE ASKED IN JOURNAL 303 WHERE THIS VIEW, TAKEN JUST BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR ONE, WAS TAKEN FROM.

This photograph was taken on Ripley Green. The cameraman would have been standing on the boundary of the cricket pitch, looking in the direction of Newark Lane to the right of the image and Richard Green's hardware store to the left, beyond the telephone poles.

This was correctly identified by: Steven Hutson, June & Andy Moth, John Purser, Peter Shoemsmith, Audrey Smithers, Peter Smithers, Maureen & Barry Taylor and Vernon Wood



# WHAT IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

OUR MEMBER PETER SMITHERS AGAIN PROVIDES US WITH AN UNUSUAL ITEM – WHAT IS IT?



WE ASKED IN JOURNAL 303 WHAT THIS OFFERING FROM OUR MEMBER PETER SMITHERS WAS AND WHICH COUNTRY IT ORIGINATES FROM.

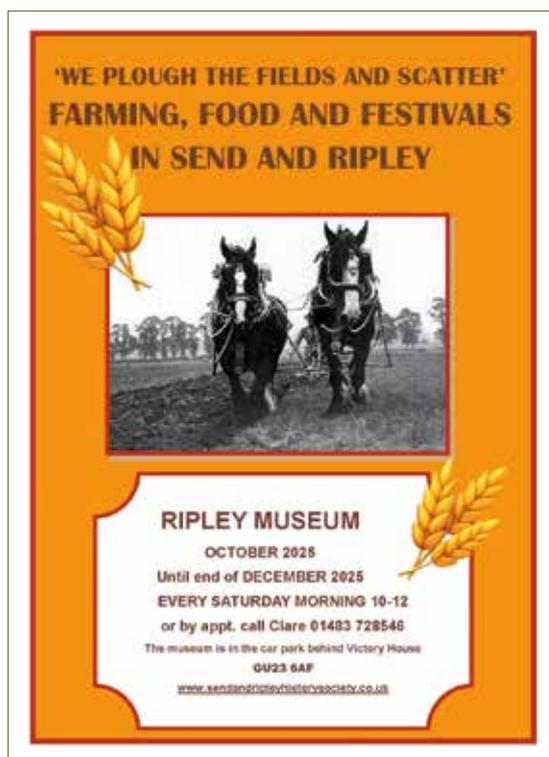
This item dates to the 19th century and is a *moustache curling tong heater*. It originates from France. Ian Mason 99% identified it - as a portable spirit burner for heating a lady's curling irons. (Close enough I say – Peter?)

John Purser spotted the word *Depose* and correctly identified its country of origin. I believe *depose* roughly translates as patent applied for.<sup>[1]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> Editor's note: DEPOSE derives from the French word *déposé*. Used without the acute accents on an item like this it indicates a legal monopoly on the appearance of an object – or a patent on the design.

# MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN



Thank you to all who attended the Victorian exhibition – time seems to have flown by and October promises a new offering.

'WE PLOUGH THE FIELDS AND SCATTER'  
FARMING, FOOD AND FESTIVALS IN SEND AND RIPLEY

Autumn is the season of the harvest and so we are returning to agriculture and market gardening. We hope to have a few special events during its run – these we will send out to members by email.

### DON'T BE SHY

- without more help with exhibitions I think that next year each exhibition will run for four months rather than the usual three as



I am struggling to find the time to put on four quality exhibitions a year, so don't be afraid to volunteer. Even if you just have an idea for an exhibition, please let me know.

Clare 01483 728546  
cricketshill@hotmail.com

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Ripley Village Hall. Doors open for all evening talks at 7.30pm for an 8.00 start. Tea/coffee and wine available. NB – payment by cash only.

2025 DATES	EVENTS
Wednesday 8th October	Diana Laffin talk: <i>Guildford High Street in the 1900s</i>
Wednesday 12th November	Chris Ranstead talk: <i>Bomb Disposal in WWII</i>
Wednesday 10th December	Christmas Party (members only)
2026 DATES	EVENTS
Wednesday 14th January	Moira McQuade talk: Henry Peake – <i>Guildford's First Borough Surveyor</i>
Wednesday 11th February	Anna Cusack talk: <i>The Festive Year in Early Modern England</i>
Wednesday 12th March	AGM: Cameron Brown talk: <i>St Mary's and the Ripley Almshouses</i>
Wednesday 8th April	Andy Jones talk: <i>History of Metal Detecting</i> plus New Video by Chris Finden-Browne
May (TBC)	May Outing (TBC) Walking tour of Gomshall

Further details can be obtained from Helena Finden-Browne [helena\\_findenbrowne@compuserve.com](mailto:helena_findenbrowne@compuserve.com)

# SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS



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you wish to help in the museum

## HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Ghosts Along The Wey, a Rural Childhood in Send		£10.00
Bygone Days, Send and Ripley Remembered		£10.00
Frank Brown, Ripley to Rothesay – Journeyman Painter		£4.00
History Colouring Book (price includes felt tips and a carrier bag)		£5.00
Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life	Reprinted 1998/2006	£10.00
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£2.50
Ripley and Send – Looking Back	Reprinted 2007	£9.00
A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey (new edition coming soon)	Reprinted 2005	£2.50
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	£5.00
Two Surrey Village Schools – The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools		£5.00
Memories of War		£5.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£6.50
Heroes All		£20.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.00
The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey		£2.00
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£4.00
<b>Special Offer:</b> Purchase Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£5.00

All the publications are available from the Society's website [www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk](http://www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk), the museum on Saturday mornings or email [srhistorysociety@gmail.com](mailto:srhistorysociety@gmail.com). A selection is available from Pinnock's Coffee House, Ripley



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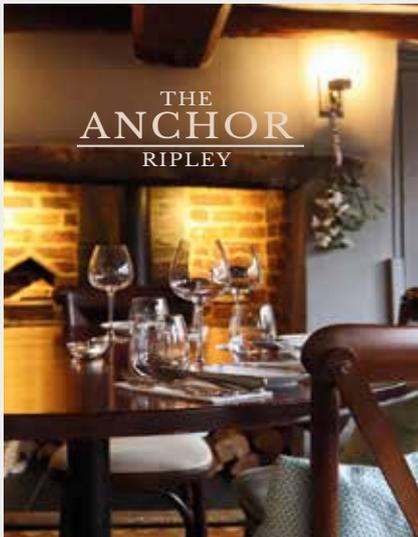
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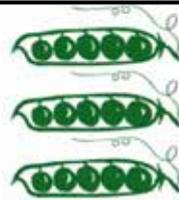
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