

# Send & Ripley History Society



REMEMBERING  
STANLEY RUDKIN  
1912-2004

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OF SEND

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### Cover image:

Detail of delivery horse and  
cart in front of Lymposs  
& Smee Dairy Company's  
premises - see article *Send  
And The National Farm Survey*  
on page 23

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# EDITORIAL

## CAMERON BROWN

By the time you read this, the ‘green bridge’, over the A3 between Ockham Common and Wisley Common, should be open. There are hundreds of green bridges in Europe, but currently only ten in the UK, and this is our first ‘heathland green bridge’, specifically designed to help the wildlife – snakes, toads and badgers – of our rare ‘lowland heathland’, one of the country’s rarest habitat types. The 68-metre-long (223ft) Cockcrow Bridge, funded by National Highways at a cost over £3.7million, reconnects the commons which were divided when the A3 was rerouted in the 1970s. The bridge is 30m (98ft) wide and includes a path for pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists with the wildlife area of the crossing planted with heather, rather than the more usual hedgerows and trees.

It is interesting to see that at a time when borough councils are being merged into much larger – and arguably less local – bodies, Woking Borough Council has authorised the creation of Pyrford Parish Council from 1st April 2027, with elections to be held in May 2027. This is the culmination of an initiative of the Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum who first applied in May 2025. It seems that Woking accelerated the process and agreed the decision on 12th March 2026 as after 23rd March it would have become the responsibility of the new West Surrey Council. Locally this leaves only Wisley without a parish council.

Chris Finden-Browne’s latest video is based on an audio recording of Marjorie Sex, born in Send in 1903, reminiscing in 1973 to an audience of History Society members about her rural childhood. Chris has added photos, many of them from our own collection. It is a delight and can be seen on our youtube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUxtzFCn49I&t=14s>

Sadly we must report the recent deaths of founder member John Slatford and long-standing members Michael Morris and Eric Voller. I also wish to mention Peter Grove, who, having emigrated from Send to USA in the 1950s, got back in touch with us a couple of years ago offering us his delightful childhood memoir, which we published late last year as *Ghosts Along the Wey*, which Peter was fortunately able to see before he died in early May. He and his wife Nancy also made an extremely generous donation to the Society, for which we are very grateful.

### 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 June 2026.

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# REMEMBERING STANLEY RUDKIN 1912-2004

GRAHAM RUDKIN



The Rudkin plumbers' merchants in 1920

## DITZ BROWN WRITES:

I was delighted when Graham agreed to write another article for our Society – this time not about his own, but his father's work. At the same time, by pure coincidence, and to Graham's delight, Clare McCann found an advertisement of Graham's father's company at the back of an old map – see Journal 307, Museum News.

**M**y father, Stanley Osgood Rudkin, lived most of his long life in Potters Lane, Send. He was born in 1912 in Walton Road, Woking and was the son of a successful plumber, Walter Charles Rudkin, who owned a plumbers' merchants on the corner of Walton Road and what is now Monument Road.

In addition to the shop, Walter Rudkin also ran a successful plumbing and heating business. Amongst the varied work that they undertook, the company both supplied and fitted the plumbing system to the newly built Shah Jahan Mosque in Oriental Road, Woking. Built in 1889, this was the first purpose-built mosque to be constructed in

England. To this day, the name Rudkin remains imprinted on some of their manhole covers.

The family, that included three children – my father being the youngest – lived above the shop in Walton Road. From the age of eleven Stanley attended the newly-built Woking Grammar School. He left school aged sixteen and made the decision to follow in his father's footsteps and train as a plumber. However, on completion of his training he decided that, rather than join his father's company, he would become self-employed. This caused some disagreement in the family and, for a time, Dad then went to live with his older sister and brother-in-law in Briar Road, Send.

Stanley purchased a bicycle, a hand-cart and the necessary tools and, specialising in leadwork, set up his own plumbing business. In those days – and before he could purchase a small car – he was usually to be seen cycling to work, sometimes as far as Dorking.

In his twenties Dad decided that, in addition to his ‘day job’ as a plumber, and with very little money, he would build his own house. So it was that, in 1935, he purchased a plot of land in what was then known as Guildford Road and which is currently Potters Lane, Send, for the sum of £83.

For the next four years he worked tirelessly building the house, largely by himself, while he lived in a shed in what was to become his garden. He sourced the majority of the materials for the house second hand from a variety of unlikely places. These included wood flooring from horse boxes that were previously used at the Surrey County Show, bricks that came from a former prison and internal doors which originated from a variety of places. He completed the house in 1939 and recalled that the total cost of the build was about £300.

During the time that he was constructing the house, Dad became engaged to my mother, Cynthia May Rogers, who lived in Kingfield, Woking. Her parents owned a successful tile merchants’ company in London. Initially Cynthia’s parents didn’t really approve of this young upstart with very little money. However, in spite of their initial disapproval, my mother was to spend time helping Dad with the building of the house and they were married in 1941 when Stanley was aged 28 and Cynthia was 27.

After the outbreak of WWII, and in addition to his daytime work building up his plumbing business, Stanley also became a part time volunteer firefighter in the East End of London. On many evenings each week he, along with other local volunteers, was collected and driven to work in the London Blitz. He remembered that, on one occasion as they neared Burnt Common on their way home, Dad narrowly missed being struck by a type of flying bomb, commonly known as a doodlebug. Tragically, some of his friends in the crew didn’t survive this attack.

I was born in 1944, followed four years later by my sister Lucy, and my sister Julie in 1953. We all spent a very happy childhood living in Potters Lane.



The house that Stanley built largely by himself



Advertisement for S.O. RUDKIN & CO. LTD.

After the war, Stanley's life took another turn when he was introduced to the Hamburger brothers who owned the tannery building in Tannery Lane, Send. At that time, they were also looking to start a building company and to do this legally, they needed a working director to run the company who also held a building licence. My father had such a license and so it was that the company came to be registered in his name and from that time was known as S.O. Rudkin & Co. Ltd.

I recall Dad telling me that, during the years between 1948 and 1968, this became one of the most successful building companies in the area, employing a large number of local workmen.

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Apart from full-time office staff, they had a joinery shop, run by Harry Norman, a plumbers' workshop, run by Len Read, a paint shop run by a Mr Chapman and their own architect, a Mr Burbridge. They had a fleet of vehicles and, in order to maintain both the vehicles and the building equipment, they employed a full-time engineer, Ron Seger.

The company began by building the Sandfields Estate in Send. During the following years many of the houses and bungalows in the surrounding area that included Send Marsh, Clandon, East Horsley and Woking were also built by S.O. Rudkin and Co. Ltd. The company also undertook individually-built houses including a bungalow in East Horsley, commissioned by Mr Waghorn, who was then the woodwork teacher at St Bedes School in Send.

During the late 1950s the company, in addition to their building work, also carried out both small and large restoration jobs. This included work for Lady Lovelace at the Lovelace estate, Ockham Park, when the company was charged with restoring the main estate gates. They can still be seen on both the Ockham Road and on the Portsmouth Road, Ripley. The wrought iron gates were initially stripped down by Vickers Armstrong Aircraft at their factory at Weybridge, re-hung, painted and then decorated with gold-leaf.

Other restoration projects included work at Horsley Towers, East Horsley and, on one occasion, after it had caught fire, the Thatchers Hotel, East Horsley. They also carried out general restoration work at Ripley Court School and undertook much of the initial restoration work



Stanley Rudkin

for Mr Hughesdon and his then wife Florence Desmond at Dunsborough Park in Ripley.

After the death of one of the Hamburger brothers my father retired and the company ceased trading. However, as he was then only aged 53, Dad decided to go into the property and holiday-let business. He continued this until he was in his mid-eighties, when he finally retired.

He and my mother continued to spend the rest of their lives in the same small house in Potters Lane that he had completed all those years ago. My father always remained a very active man and, until shortly before his death, he was usually to be found wearing his favourite item of clothing, a green boiler suit, tending his beloved garden.

Stanley died aged 91 on 20th May 2004. After his death my mother Cynthia also continued to live there until she died on 28th October 2007 aged 92.

After their deaths and with much deliberation, we sadly decided that the little house was no longer suitable for restoration and in 2018 it was demolished. As a tribute to Stanley, five of the bricks were saved and cleaned and the builder incorporated them into one of the inner walls in the new house that was to replace it.

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Advertisement for S.O. RUDKIN & CO. LTD. c/o SRHS archives

Photographs © Graham Rudkin

# 40 YEARS AGO

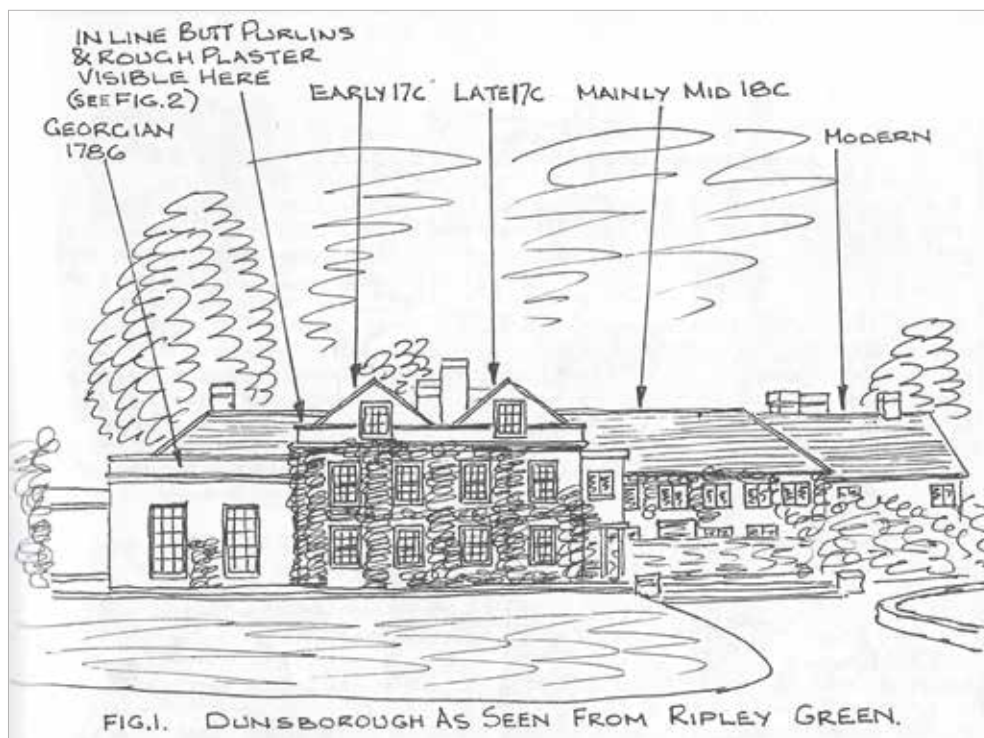
## CAMERON BROWN



This article, entitled Dunsborough House, Part 1: Construction, by Les Bowerman and John Slatford, appeared in Newsletter 69 of July 1986. It seems appropriate to reprint it now, as we recently had an exhibition in the museum about Florence Desmond at Dunsborough.

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

The name Dunsborough, or its many variations, is one of the oldest in the district and it is well documented,



John Slatford's 1986 drawing of Dunsborough

especially in the Send & Ripley manorial records.

The earliest known mention is in the Court Baron of 1535, which refers to 'a parcel of land called Little Dunsborrowe'. One hundred years later, the reference changes to 'a messuage or tenement with appurtenances called Dunsburie'. It seems, therefore, that building started here around 1630 according to the documentary evidence.

From study of the house itself, it is concluded that the earliest build is early 17th century.

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

Of the two central sections, that on the left is considered to be the earlier. Built as a timber-framed house, it has a quality roof of oak with in-line butt purlin construction. The right hand section has a roof of lesser quality with not-in-line butt purlins, but it is not possible to determine whether timber framing was used.

What is certain, however, is that the left hand wing was later brick-skinned and that the brick was taken higher than wall plate level, presumably for a parapet. The evidence of this can be seen on a part which is now an inside wall; of further interest here is the presence of some rough-cast plasterwork similar to that also discovered on the west gable of the Ship Inn (Newsletter No 65). The wall in question faces south-west and, therefore, the plaster would have been applied to give some weather protection.

The first floor rooms of this central section have pine panelling, which is probably contemporary with the Georgian extension. Behind this panelling, however, there are plastered walls with painted patterned decorations. In one bedroom, the present owners have replaced one section of panelling with glass to expose the painted decorative patternwork. It is understood that this style of painting can be reliably dated to the early 17th century.

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

The Georgian extension consists of two elegant rooms with high ceilings, large windows and pine panelling from floor to ceiling.

The roof structure is of softwood with rafters lap-jointed at the apex and no ridge board. In the brickwork at the rear is inscribed a date - 1786 - and the initials of the Onslow family, who had bought the property from Lord King in



One of the panelled rooms

the previous year.

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

Although most of the house is of late 18th century construction, the lefthand part of the central section is clearly early 17th century and a structure of some quality. Considerably extended and 'modernised' by the Onslows in the 1780s, it has of course continued to receive up-to-date treatment to the present day. We are greatly indebted to Mr and Mrs Charles Hughesdon for allowing us to study their most interesting house and for permission to publish this report.

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John Slatford's 1986 drawing of Dunsborough c/o SRHS archives

Recent photographs of Dunsborough © Savills

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# THE VICARAGES OF SEND

CLARE McCANN

The church of St Mary's, Send, dates back to around 1220 and it is thought there might have been a place of worship on the site before that. In the church the list of vicars goes back to 1289 and one assumes they probably lived close by. However, my researches largely involve the 19th century onwards, though looking at the photos from our member Henry Bickerton, the architecture of the old building suggests that it had been the vicarage for a long time.

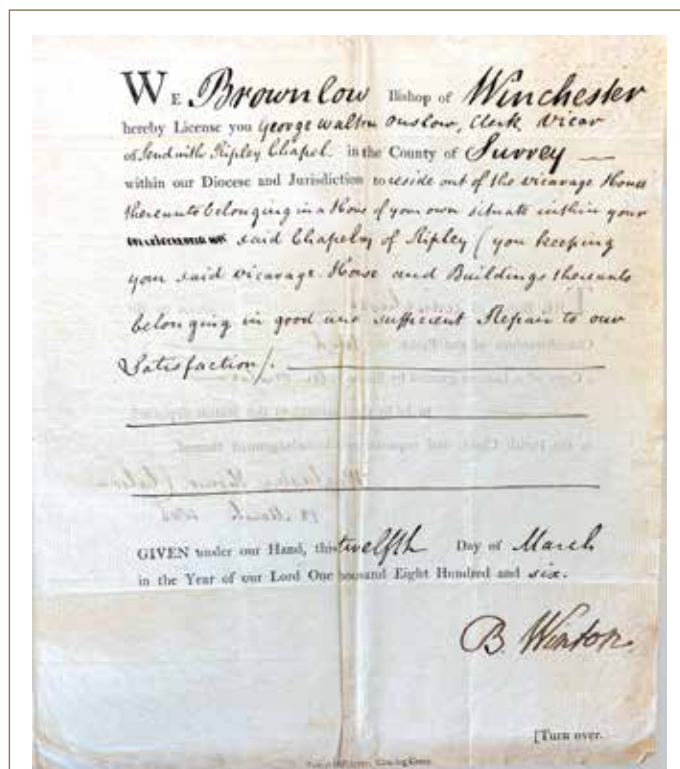
I first became aware of the various Send vicarages when researching the history of Send Grove but was prompted to look into it further when Tony Shutt retired and the decision was made to sell the vicarage in Vicarage Lane. The present incumbent, Louise Vincer, has her vicarage in a newly built house in Broadwood Rise off Send Hill.



Louise Vincer in front of the new vicarage

This makes four vicarages that I know about. I decided a little research might prove interesting and spent a morning at the Surrey History Centre which proved to be the beginning of a rather more complicated story.

The earliest papers I came across dated from 1571 and were part of the Loseley archive. Unfortunately I was unable to read the script but it involved the Reverend Evans being forced to resign at the direction of Lady Lincoln (I cannot find her connection to Send as yet). He was accused of simony – the act of selling religious offices or sacred things for money. There was a second document relating to the Reverend Evans, who seemingly held the living at Chiddingfold as well. Interesting though this was,



The license from the Bishop of Winchester

I had no way of knowing where he lived so I passed on to more readable documents.

By the early 19th century the Send vicar was living in the vicarage in Church Lane or at least that is where he was supposed to be. However, on the 12th March 1806 the Reverend George Walton Onslow got a license from the Bishop of Winchester to reside somewhere other than in the vicarage as he was happily ensconced in Dunsborough Park in Ripley, which he had inherited from his father. Remember, Send and Ripley was still one parish until 1878.

The next vicar, Henry Albury Bowles, is also shown as living in Ripley in the 1851 census and his curate, Henry Sellers, is living in Send vicarage, which is listed as being between Cricketshill Farm and Send Grove – which would put it somewhere close to the present day, Old Vicarage in Church Lane. This was a surprise to Henry Bickerton, the owner of Send Grove, who was convinced that Loelia, Duchess of Westminster had invented the name The Old Vicarage when she moved out of Send Grove and moved into the adjacent remodelled cottages.

“Loelia never wanted to leave Send Grove but sadly her divorce from The Duke of Westminster had been negotiated badly and she couldn’t afford it any longer so she decided in the 1950s to rebuild the left hand cottage (as you look from the lane) and modelled the extension on Send Grove, giving it a circular staircase and dining room with three bay windows. She always said it meant she could re-use and cut down the three expensive pairs of curtains she had made for the main house. It also meant that her bedroom above had the same floor plan as the main house. The house was named The Old Vicarage as she thought it was a little more fitting for a Duchess to live in an old vicarage rather than a gardener’s cottage. Don’t forget she was still entertaining people like the Queen Mother, so it needed an air of grandeur!”

On the 23rd July 1863 the then vicar, the Reverend Charles Richmond Tate and the diocese of Winchester applied to the governors of Queen Anne’s Bounty for £900 secured by the glebe tithes. Queen Anne’s Bounty was a scheme set up in 1704 to augment the livings of poor clergy. The 1863 loan was to fund the rebuilding of the parsonage.

The conveyance of 20th February 1865 suggests the new vicarage, in what is now Vicarage Lane, was ready. The old vicarage in Church Lane was signed over to Sir Thomas Trayton Fuller Elliott Drake of Send Grove in consideration of a repayment to Queen Anne’s Bounty of £220.

On his death in June 1870 the rent from the vicarage in Church Lane is listed separately to Send Grove itself.

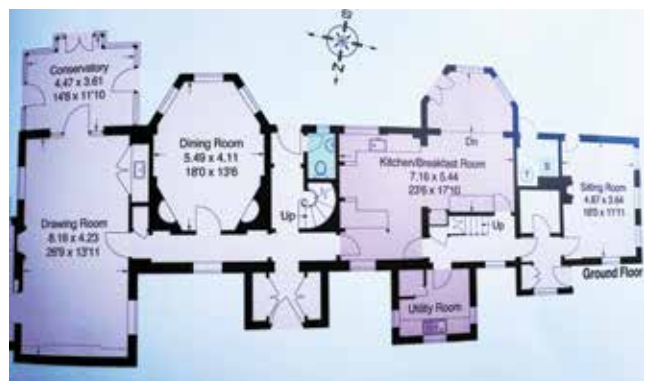
It is little wonder the Reverend Tate wanted a larger vicarage as by the 1871 census he is listed as having a family of 7 plus a governess, nurse, wet nurse, cook and housemaid amongst others, whereas the old vicarage was housing an agricultural labourer and family. From 1878 when Send became a separate parish, it would no longer have been acceptable to use the old vicarage for his curate while he lived in Ripley. He was expected to live in the parish.

I enquired of the Surrey History Centre as to when Vicarage Lane acquired that name – obviously not before 1865.

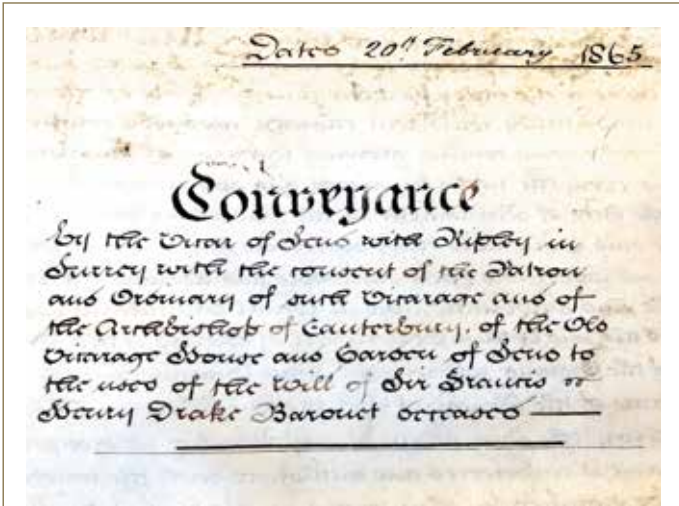
‘We hold several maps of Send pre-1865 but very few of them contain the names of the roads. Fortunately, John Rocque’s map of 1768 (SHC item ref: M/477/1) does

96	bucketts hill	Henry Cade	Head	Mar	66	Farmer of 96 acres - 1/2
		Luzak do	Wife	Mar	56	
		Luzak Brandon	Serv	U	15	General Serv of C
97	Send Vicarage	Henry Sellers	Head	Mar	34	Curate of Send & Ripley
		Mary Elizabeth do	Wife	Mar	40	
		Elizabeth Stechman	Visitor	U	34	Send Holder
		Mary - Hale	Serv	U	45	Book K
		Peerson Brandwell	Serv	U	18	Housemaid
98	Send Grove	George Richards	Head	Mar	72	Solicitor
					20	

The 1851 census showing the curate Henry Sellers, his wife and servants living at the vicarage



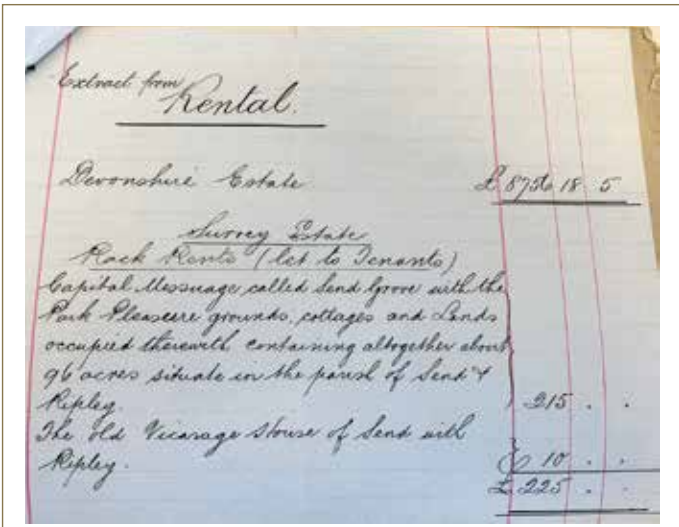
Pictures from Henry Bickerton showing the cottages (which are likely to have been the vicarage) before and after they were remodelled by the Duchess of Westminster, and the floor plan of the finished house



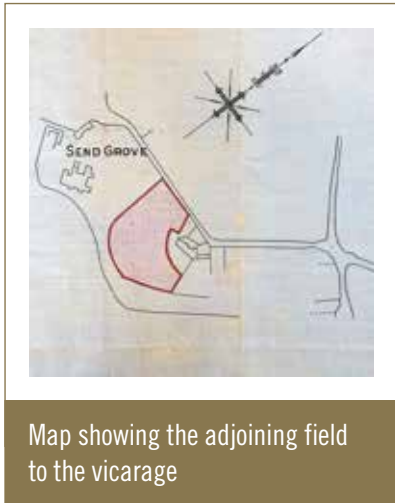
The conveyance of 20th February 1865



John Rocque's map of 1768



Extract from Rental



Map showing the adjoining field to the vicarage

documents of the 18th December 1873 and the 7th of December 1888 are not directly relevant to the vicarage but relate firstly to some land which was exchanged between William Hargreaves of Sendholme and the owner of Send Grove whilst the second was a

conveyance of the house to the Misses Onslow. However, both have maps which are useful in that they show the old and new vicarages.

record some road names, and labels the road in question as Ferry Green. I have attached a digital image of the relevant section of the map to this email.'



The Reverend C R Tate, vicar from 1852-1874

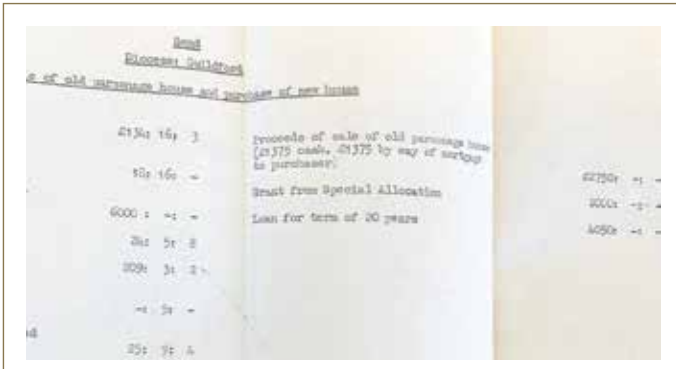
Unfortunately, I haven't been able to confirm this using any other sources, and I also haven't been able to find Ferry Green, Send, mentioned anywhere else. I was hoping the censuses would solve this question but generally they do not mention road names – can anyone help?

The History Centre

Although the Church Lane vicarage had been sold in 1865, it seems the vicar had kept an adjoining field as attested by Arthur Lancaster of Sendholme in a document of 26th of March 1924. On 23rd April 1926

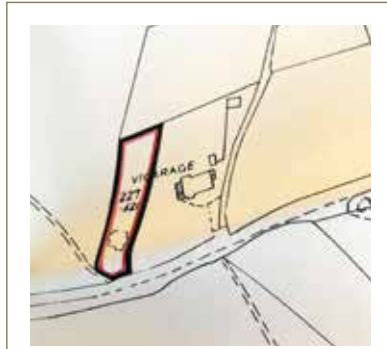


Cedar House, the former vicarage in Vicarage Lane



The listing of the sale of the old parsonage

the land was sold for £100 by the Reverend Edwin Maurice Girling with the approval of the ecclesiastical commissioners to Miss Onslow of Send Grove. I was somewhat amused by the fact that the witness was John Bromley, tutor of Send Vicarage – how many vicars today have tutors living in!



Map showing the land adjoining the then vicarage

The 18th of July 1930 saw a further request to the Governors of the Bounty of Queen Anne for money for 'making improvements and paying diocesan costs' - even allowing for inflation, £57 seems a ridiculously small amount. At about the same time the Ripley vicar borrowed £300.

The vicarage in Vicarage Lane referred to above was what we know today as Cedar House. All that was to change in the 1950s. On the 16th of July 1956 a conveyance was signed between Jean August Armand le Fevre of St Mary's, Vicarage Road (the vendor) and the Reverend Cyril Edward Sylvester, incumbent, the purchaser for land adjoining the then vicarage.

The cost was £6000 but I have yet to determine when the house was built – though it certainly looks post-war. Accompanying the conveyance is a fascinating list of incomings and outgoings which lists the sale of the old parsonage for £1375 plus £1375 by way of a mortgage. Given the scale of the building this amount seems derisory but, perhaps it was in a very bad state or this only represented part of the transaction.



St Mary's vicarage



The sign for the vicarage which is still in its old place

The Reverend Sylvester was followed by Edgar Garrett, John Wynburne, Timothy King and then Tony Shutt – all of whom lived at St Mary's as far as I know.

Rocque map and all other documents c/o Surrey History Centre

Photograph of the Reverend Tate c/o SRHS

All pictures of the old vicarage in Church Lane c/o Henry Bickerton

Photographs of St Mary's vicarages © ClareMcCann



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# A MODEST LOCAL HEROINE

ROSIE WOOD

Valerie Pettit OBE, late of West Clandon, if asked, called herself “a secretary”.

Oleg Gordievsky, KGB double agent and arguably the most important spy Britain has ever recruited, who played a crucial role in avoiding disaster during the Cold War, called her simply... “my angel”.

Valerie, a long time resident of Dedswell Drive in West Clandon, was born in 1929 in London and died in 2019. After graduating from Exeter University she joined the Foreign Office and travelled widely including time in Warsaw, Baghdad, Amman, Mexico and Prague.

When her father died, she moved to Dedswell Drive with her sister (they both remained single) to care for their mother. Valerie was a regular member of the congregation at St Peter and St Paul’s church in The Street. She enjoyed the theatre, seeing local friends and lived a quiet, pleasant Surrey life whilst pursuing her career. In her retirement, if questioned about her profession she would invariably answer vaguely that she “had been a secretary in the Foreign Office” – and move the conversation quickly and competently on. Very few locals knew of her amazing career and how much we all owe to her incredible capabilities, expertise and bravery.

Ben Macintyre, in his excellent book *The Spy and the Traitor – The Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War* describes Valerie as ‘...one of those brisk, practical, quintessentially English women who brooks no nonsense, least of all from men’. Macintyre relates how this immensely capable woman entered the life of Oleg Gordievsky just as he began to make a major contribution to peace in the world.

Their story began in 1978 and spanned some of the turbulent Cold War years between the West and the Soviet Union which many readers will recall. My early married years, with a husband who regularly travelled and worked in Russia and Eastern Europe, felt often quite close to the events and scares which filled the newspapers. A reminder of a few key moments is necessary to put Valerie’s valuable contribution to our national safety (indeed to the safety of the West) in perspective.

In 1946 Churchill declared that “...an iron curtain has

descended on Europe” and the fear of Communism spread. The Warsaw Pact was formed in 1955; a protest in Hungary against Communist rule was rapidly quashed in 1956; the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961 and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 were followed by the Vietnam War and the Cambodian ‘killing fields’ of 1975. Martial law was declared in Poland in 1980, crushing the Solidarity movement.

The Soviet Union was repressive; the KGB was in overall control of the population and everyone was under surveillance. Paranoia reigned within countries and between countries. Spies from both sides frequently ‘hid in plain sight’ in embassies and delegations. ‘Diplomats’, some real, some fake, were often expelled in tit for tat exchanges; in 1971 a massive 105 Soviets were sent back from London to the USSR.

For Russians such as Gordievsky who had begun to appreciate the freedoms and pleasures of living in the West (he had worked for the KGB in both Denmark and England), it was a dark day when the family was returned to the grim life of the Soviet Union. In 1961 he was in Berlin when the Wall was built and had witnessed brutality which horrified him; in 1968 this feeling was intensified with the crushing of the Prague Spring in Czechoslovakia. By 1972 he chose to work for MI6.

As a senior KGB officer, he was able to give MI6 (and via them the CIA) regular, valuable intelligence about



Valerie Pettit



Valerie as a child

Soviet plans, thinking and perceptions. This was of vital importance in avoiding dangers up to and including nuclear confrontation. Clearly, we had to protect this hugely important double agent. If at any time he was in grave danger in the USSR, an escape plan had to be ready for immediate rescue to bring him to the UK.

Enter the invaluable Valerie Pettit, an MI6 'secretary' of superior intelligence, dedication, agility of mind, grit ....and charm.

Their joint story began in 1975 when Valerie was asked to devise an escape plan for Gordievsky which could be kept constantly in 'ready to go' condition until the moment of need. The plan, 'Operation Pimlico', had to be robust, detailed and able to survive what might be a very long wait. MI6 had chosen the right woman. With meticulous care Valerie created the plan. She also gave Gordievsky a brilliant present so that he could refresh every detail just before an attempted escape; it was an edition of Shakespeare's sonnets. Tucked inside the back cover was a cellophane sheet on which was written the necessary information (some encoded in case the KGB got there first) to be revealed by soaking the sheet in water (and subsequently swallowed if necessary).

Valerie and Gordievsky did not actually meet until 1978 but from then on they met regularly in a 'safe house' in London to review and rehearse the plan. These wholly serious meetings were made pleasanter by refreshments of smoked salmon sandwiches and tea or maybe beer, always beautifully prepared and presented by Valerie. Practical parts of the plan were rehearsed elsewhere; for instance, stowing Gordievsky into the boot of a car was practised, at Valerie's insistence, in woods near Guildford. This necessitated squeezing Oleg under a thermal blanket, listening to the sounds of the engine and music coming from the car's system (in those days a cassette deck) and being jolted around as well as hearing Russian voices.

The next ten years were busy ones for MI6, the CIA and the KGB. Prime Minister and 'Iron Lady' Margaret Thatcher had good reason to be grateful on the nation's behalf for Oleg Gordievsky. By the early 1980s nuclear war between the Soviets and the West seemed a real possibility as relations deteriorated. Then came a hazardous moment; a Korean airliner, which had inadvertently entered Soviet air space, was shot down by a Soviet aircraft. The already volatile situation became even worse. The Soviets believed the West was doing more than sabre rattling, that it was planning a pre-emptive strike and they went into dangerous overdrive in their own preparations. Just in time Gordievsky was able to defuse the situation by making



Oleg Gordievsky in KGB uniform

clear both to MI6 and the CIA the dangerously high state of anxiety in Moscow. Gradually fences were mended, or at least patched up sufficiently to avoid deadly conflict.

In 1985 Gordievsky was betrayed by a disgruntled KGB mole inside the CIA – Aldrich Ames. Ames, a somewhat incompetent and heavy drinking double agent, was apparently motivated by money rather than ideology; when cornered, he sold the names of agents to the KGB, resulting in the deaths of many and betraying Gordievsky.

Gordievsky was recalled immediately to Moscow with the strong likelihood that he would be tortured and then executed. The long planned and practised escape procedure was ready and waiting; Operation Pimlico was launched.

To describe Operation Pimlico as complex is a gross understatement. It involved a complicated sequence of relay signals between Gordievsky and undercover MI6 operatives to take place in a specific street in Moscow (involving a bread shop, a plastic Safeway bag, a Harrods bag... and a Mars bar), smuggling Gordievsky into a diplomatic car (ostensibly on its way to Finland to obtain emergency treatment for a senior diplomat's wife) and evading Soviet Intelligence with its numerous KGB officers following their car throughout a journey on Russian roads from Moscow to the Finnish border. Once across and into Finland the escape group would still face a long drive north



The arrest of double-agent Aldrich Ames

to the Arctic Circle, until they were able to cross into the relative safety of Norway and a return to the UK.

In Moscow Gordievsky was interrogated by the KGB and between lengthy sessions (during some of which he was drugged) he was closely watched. After several, surely frantic days both for him as well as Valerie and the MI6 team, he finally managed to signal with the Safeway bag, and Operation Pimlico began.

Valerie and two MI6 officers drove to the pre-agreed layby just across the Finnish border, hidden from the road, as two further MI6 cars travelled north from Moscow towards the same border. In one car, Viscount Roy Ascot (MI6 station chief in Moscow) and his wife Caroline, along with their baby daughter Florence; in the second, their friends Arthur (Roy Ascot's deputy) and his wife, Rachel Gee. The story (acted out in their apartments beforehand for the benefit of the listening KGB) was to go to Helsinki 'to get urgent medical

treatment' for Rachel's 'sore back' and then to shop and enjoy the city together for the weekend. They were all fully up to speed with Operation Pimlico and Valerie had described Gordievsky to the Ascots in glowing terms as an undoubted hero. Much fake moaning from Rachel was required en route; diplomatic cars were as routinely bugged, as were their offices and living quarters.

As Gordievsky struggled to leave Moscow without detection and made his way by train, bus and on foot to the designated layby on the Vyborg highway a few miles south of the Finnish border, a little convoy was forming further south. The two MI6 cars had been joined by and sandwiched between two KGB cars and two Soviet police cars. Roy and Arthur created some confusion by speeding up and then slowing down and, in the nick of time, managed to whisk into the designated layby without being seen. A dishevelled and scruffy Gordievsky appeared from the bushes and was amazed to see a reception for which he had not been prepared for by Valerie: four people laying out a picnic rug – and a baby.

Briskly the adults got Gordievsky into the boot and covered him. Seconds later they were back on the road. The little convoy regrouped; checkpoints loomed.



- 1 Gordievsky evades KGB hunters and escapes Moscow by train. Meanwhile, an MI6 team leaves in two cars for the Finnish border.
- 2 Travelling by train, bus and on foot, Gordievsky makes the 700-mile journey to the rendezvous point at Vyborg, 15 miles from the border.
- 3 MI6 agents evade their KGB tails to pick Gordievsky up at a layby, hiding him in the boot while they stage a picnic.
- 4 Using diplomatic immunity and putting border guard dogs off with a dirty nappy of one of the MI6 team's baby daughters, Gordievsky is smuggled over the border.
- 5 One half of the MI6 team travels to Helsinki to keep up their ruse and confuse any KGB agents following them.
- 6 The MI6 team with Gordievsky travels north to cross into Norway, where he can be flown to Oslo and on to safety in London.

Map of the escape route



Oleg (left) and Valerie (second from right) on their way through Finland during the daring escape

At the Soviet-Finnish border, guards searched the cars whilst lengthy checks were made and Gordievsky sweltered. Sniffer dogs approached the car in which he was sweating profusely under the aluminium blanket. The danger of detection was seriously close; Valerie, with all her meticulous planning, could not have foreseen what happened next.



Oleg Gordievsky being decorated by the late Queen

Caroline calmly spread the baby mat on the boot of the car and began to change Florence's nappy, dropping the smelly one on the ground – the dogs, and their handlers, left them to it.

As the two cars finally crossed the border a fresh cassette was put on the car's music system. It was 'Finlandia', at maximum volume. The crescendo of classical music reached Gordievsky – a welcome message.

Shortly after the border, the cars pulled into a woodland area where Valerie and her MI6 colleagues were waiting and Gordievsky was released from his tomb. He staggered into the daylight.

Oleg Gordievsky saw Valerie. He clasped both of her hands and kissed them.

Valerie drove them all through Finland to the Norwegian border as Gordievsky recounted his tale.

Once safely in the UK, Oleg Gordievsky was extensively debriefed. He then toured widely overseas with MI6 colleagues to extend knowledge of the true nature of the KGB, wrote books and gave lectures. The Queen made him a Companion of the Order of Saint Michael and St George in 2007.

Oleg Gordievsky lived the rest of his life in Surrey, missing his wife and children who remained in Russia but enjoying being able to see his angel, living not far away in West Clandon.

Friends and neighbours in West Clandon who knew Valerie recall her with affection although it appears none knew of her amazing contribution to our history until they read her obituary.

Peter Grover, a near neighbour of Valerie's in Dedswell Drive remembers her well but "...had no inkling of her involvement in the Gordievsky case. Clearly she put herself in great danger in being so closely involved in his escape from Russia...In fact, it is difficult to imagine that such a quiet and self-effacing person as Valerie, a leading member of the prayer group in Clandon, could be involved in such a brave, gripping and successful operation (to get Gordievsky out of Russia). She was a lovely person and clearly showed she had 'true grit' in what must have been the most exciting and nerve-racking exercise".

Hilary MacKinnon recalls visiting Valerie for tea at her home; on some occasions Oleg Gordievsky was also there. She remembers him as quiet, always polite and courteous and speaking excellent English with a Russian accent. They



Oleg Gordievsky and Valerie Pettit

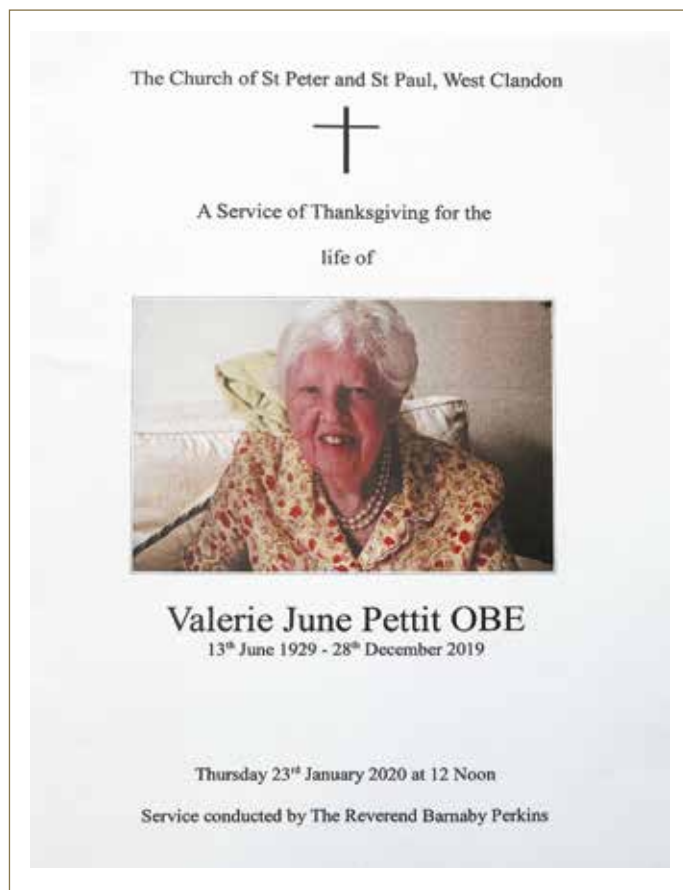
for coffee in her home. As Morwen's health deteriorated, Helen recalls how very kind her sister always was, looking after her and supporting her.

Pam French remembers Valerie as kind, approachable and always smartly turned out. Pam organised a trip to West Horsley Place in Valerie's latter years. By then Valerie had become quite immobile but she was determined to go and really enjoyed the outing, asking lots of questions and wanting to know as much as possible about

this important historical house. Tessa Crago was also on the visit and remembers offering to push Valerie's wheelchair. Her offer was declined as Valerie said her 'nephews' would undertake the task. Later there was some local speculation: were these two young gentlemen really nephews? Neither Valerie nor her sister, Morwen, had ever married and she had no other siblings; were they perhaps protection officers? According to Barnaby Perkins they were, in fact, young cousins to whom Valerie was both kind and generous.

Barnaby, Rector of St Peter and St Paul's church in West Clandon, remembers Valerie well. She was a devout Christian, much involved in the life of the church. When her Parkinson's disease became more advanced and she became unable to attend regular services, Barnaby took communion to her home. He relished these visits, enjoying cups of lapsang souchong tea over wide-ranging discussions including international politics, in which she retained a keen interest. Valerie had an exceptionally sharp mind and came from a family of high achievers; her father and sister were both eminent lawyers.

A year or so before her death, Barnaby noticed that Valerie had become rather 'nervy'; in retrospect he realised that this was the time of the notorious 'Salisbury poisonings'. The failed assassination attempt on another former Russian spy and double agent, Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia, had inevitably raised much interest in Russian activities and, of course, in Gordievsky. At the time Valerie was one of only a few people who knew of



Cover of the Order of Service of Thanksgiving

sometimes listened to music, a violinist and some 'rather strange piano playing'!

Helen Shanks was another visitor in Dedswell Drive and often invited Valerie and her sister, Morwen, back

the whereabouts of his safe house. She must have been fearful both for herself and for him.

Preparing for Valerie's Service of Thanksgiving in January 2020 was an interesting process. Helen, as Licensed Lay Minister, recalls lengthy and detailed preparations. Barnaby was interviewed by MI6 and only during this interview did he realise just how senior and significant Valerie had been.

His sermon had to be vetted by MI6 (a copy is on file at MI6 headquarters) and burly, armed officers attended the service. So, too, did two former heads and the serving head of MI6 along with many former colleagues and friends.

One former Chief of British Secret Intelligence Services, Sir John Scarlett KCMG OBE spoke of his memories of Valerie; her nephews spoke of her family, recited a poem, 'Journeys' and read from St John's Gospel. Oleg Gordievsky gave a short talk; he would not allow anyone to have a copy. Filming was forbidden.

The final hymn was an apt and memorable choice: 'I vow to thee my country'.

#### NOTE:

Valerie Pettitt died in 2019, Gordievsky in 2025 and Aldrich Ames in 2026

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Local Friends: Tessa Crago, Pam French, Peter Grover, Hilary MacKinnon, Rector Barnaby Perkins, Helen Shanks

*The Spy and the Traitor* by Ben Macintyre (published by Viking in 2018 and in 2019 by Penguin Books). This superbly researched book (in which Valerie is called Veronica Price) is an excellent and gripping read

*The Times*: Obituary Valerie Pettit 2019; obituary Oleg Gordievsky 2025

*Oleg Gordievsky: the loneliest and bravest man I ever met* by Ben Macintyre, Saturday 22nd March 2025

*The Week*: Obituary Aldrich Ames 2026

All photographs of Valerie were taken from The Order of Service of Thanksgiving, the remainder are public domain

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# A LITTLE BIT OF NONSENSE

CLARE McCANN

I have recently come across two little bits of nonsense which might amuse our readers. The first is a poem of 1840 by Dr Charles Mackay, based on the ever-popular myth of a secret tunnel from Newark Priory. It was found amongst the many papers donated to us by founder-member John Slatford.

## THE MONKS OF THE WEY

A True and Impartial Relation of the Wonderful Tunnel of Newark Abbey and of the Untimely End of Several Ghostly Brethren:

The Monks of the Way seldom sang any psalms,  
And little they thought of religious qualms;  
Pranking, rollicking, frolicsome, gay  
Jolly old boys were the Monks of the Wey.

To the sweet Nuns of Ockham devoted their cares,  
They had but short time for their beads and their prayers,  
For the loss of the maidens they sighed night and day,  
And neglected devotion, these Monks of the Wey.

And happy i'faith might these Monks have been,  
If the river had not rolled between  
Their Abbey dark and the Convent grey  
That stood on the opposite side of the Wey.

For daily they sighed and nightly they pined,  
Little to Anchorite rules inclined,  
So smitten with beauty's charms were they  
These rollicking, frolicsome Monks of the Wey.

But the scandal was great in the country near,  
They dare not row across for fear;  
They could not swim, so fat were they,  
These oily, amorous, Monks of the Wey.

Loudly they groaned for their fate so hard,  
From the smiles of these beautiful maids debarred;  
Till a brother hit on a plan to stay  
The love of these heartbroken Monks of the Wey.

"Nothing," quoth he, "should true love sunder,  
Sure we cannot go over, but let us go under;  
Boats and bridges shall yield today,  
We'll dig a tunnel right under the Wey".

To it they went with right good will,  
With spade and shovel, pike and bill,  
And from evening's close till dawn of day  
They worked like miners all under the Wey.

And every night as this work begun,  
Each sang of the charms of his favourite Nun;  
"How surprised they will be and how happy", said they,  
"When we pop in upon them from under the Wey!"

And for months they kept grubbing and making no sound,  
Like dark moles working under the ground,  
And no one suspected such going astray,  
So sly were these amorous Monks of the Wey.

At last this fine work was brought near to a close,  
And early one morn from their pallets they rose,  
And met in the tunnel with lights to survey  
If they'd scooped a free passage right under the Wey.

But alas! For their fate as they smirked and they smiled,  
To think how completely the world was beguiled;  
The river broke in and it grieves me to say,  
It drowned all the frolicsome Monks of the Wey.

Oh, Churchman, beware of the lures of the flesh,  
The net of the devil hath many a mesh;  
And remember whenever you're tempted to stray  
The fate that befell the poor Monks of the Wey!

---

To give this tale some context, the following quote is from Malden's A History of Surrey.

This was published in 1900, sixty years after the above poem, but appears to be referring to it:

'A sewer to drain the Abbey buildings has been discovered at Newark and has given rise to the usual legend about a subterranean passage, only distinguished from the ordinary by being rather more scurrilous and silly!'

---

I spotted the second piece of nonsense at last year's Christmas Fair. This was the legend of Arthur's Stump as told by Chris Heath and Scott Hutchinson, promoting their special local gin.

"Love and good luck" was the toast Arthur later proposed beneath its branches and many believe the tree brings good fortune, love and long, happy marriages. Locals even say a twig from Arthur's Stump brings luck on your travels.

‘At the south-east corner of The Green stands a majestic old oak known as Arthur’s Stump - a full-grown tree with roots deep in local folklore.

The tree stands next to Ripley Cricket Club (est 1747). Cricket pioneer Edward ‘Lumpy’ Stevens is rumoured to have taken inspiration for the third stump from a fallen branch here. It is also said that Samuel Pepys once rested beneath the tree and that William of Ockham chose it as a favourite thinking spot.’

The legend in the Dark Ages was of young Arthur, son of a farmer, who caught a giant stealing chickens from the village. Chasing him across the fields with an axe, Arthur struck the giant's leg, cutting off its foot. Where the foot fell, an oak tree grew - the very tree we see today.

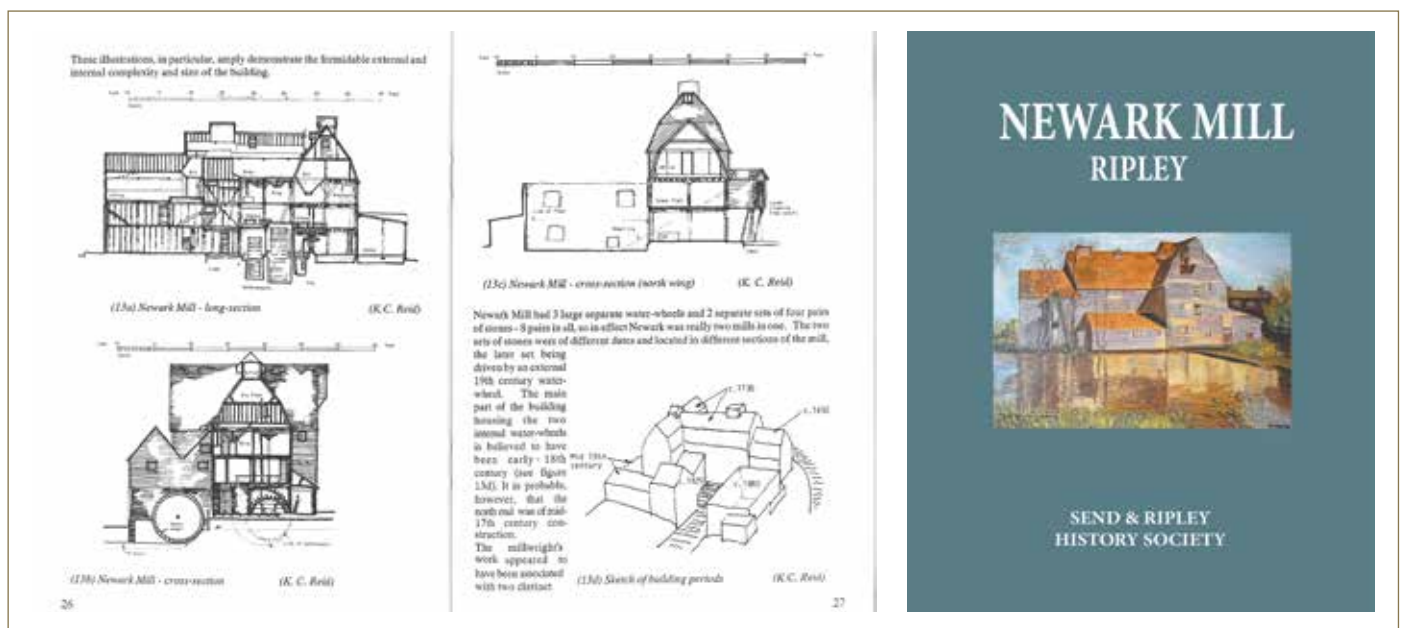
If you believe all this then I fear you will believe anything, but Chris and Scott did sell out of their Arthur's Stump gin at the Christmas Fair!

## NEW BOOK CAMERON BROWN

We have reprinted our booklet *Newark Mill*. First published in 1991, 25 years after its destruction by a mysterious fire, this is a detailed account of this Surrey landmark. The author was Bob Gale, one of the founder members of this Society, and we have left the book unchanged – other than its cover. In his original preface Bob wrote: ‘The intention has been to produce

a short and popular account of Newark Mill with some general background information regarding the history and development of milling.’ He achieves this goal in 40 copiously-illustrated pages – well worth the £5.00.

Available from the museum or from the SHOP area of our website.



# DOWN MEMORY LANE— A GRAND DAY OUT

AUDREY SMITHERS



A photo, albeit from the 1930s, but featuring our driver, Dick Lilywhite in his white attire. Looking over his right shoulder, wearing the large dark-coloured hat is Grannie, Edith Smithers, and to her right in the pale hat is Mum, Florence Smithers



Top: Ripley Motor Works Ltd garage in Ripley, home to Bland's Coaches<sup>[1]</sup>. Bottom: The same view today

As I looked out of the window on a dull January day the clouds broke and a ray of sunshine came through. Oh, to feel some warmth. I'd never moan about a heatwave again.

My mind went back to the mid-1950s when a day at the seaside, with Mum, Dad and brother Peter, was the outing of the year and looked forward to immensely for weeks beforehand. It didn't matter whether we went from Send to Littlehampton, Brighton or Worthing, we simply didn't care – it was a visit to the seaside.

A coach from Bland's, who operated from the Ripley Motor Works garage in Ripley, would collect us from the top of Tannery Lane and was driven by Dick Lilywhite,



Me with brother Peter

resplendent in his immaculate white coat, peaked cap and driving gauntlets. We clambered aboard, eagerly clutching our sandwiches and cake and with a flask of tea at the ready.

Peggy Hack had once again done a splendid job in organizing our trip and we were nearly ready to go. Friends, neighbours and not an empty seat to be seen. There was Mr & Mrs Surey with their son David, Mr & Mrs Tidy with their son Ron and Mr & Mrs Mant. Mrs Mant was Peggy's sister and all were as excited as we were. However, if the weather was fine, we couldn't possibly leave without 'a tanner on the wheel' being put into operation. All the seats bore a number and these were carefully chalked around the circumference of one of the coaches' wheels. [2]

Crunch! First gear was selected and off we went. Sixpenny pieces were then collected in a hat and when we stopped for a comfort break, whoever seat number aligned with a pre-determined spot on the body of the coach won all the sixpences. I always took my purse along but, sadly, I was never lucky.

The journey was uneventful, until we approached the notorious Bury Hill. On the climb up, the coach got slower... change gear, and slower... change gear again, and slower still. We rocked back and forth in our seats, seemingly urging the labouring coach up that never ending incline until, finally, it reached the top whereupon deafening cries of "I can see the sea" rang out loud and clear.

Then, the coach slowly – would it ever grind to a halt – stopped. Off we got and headed straight for the sea. Once



Mum and Dad (Florence and Tom Smithers)

we were on the beach, Dad would collect a couple of deck chairs while Peter and I raced to the water's edge, the soft sand running between our toes, for a quick paddle and thankful that no knitted swimwear had emerged from the beach bag!



This photo, from the 1950s features a coach trip organized by Ripley British Legion. Of the five men in front of the coach facing the camera, centre is Rob Puttock flanked by Bill and Dave Stocker. It shows the type of coach used by Bland's for our trips

Sadly, in those days we had no Tupperware containers or a cool box, so the order of the day was warm sandwiches and a stale cake washed down with a cup of well-stewed tea. Not ideal, but we never complained – we were at the seaside.

---

After eating, Mum and Dad would doze in the sunshine for a while and then, off we would go to the amusement arcade, not forgetting to stop for a delicious ice cream on the way. Of course - we were at the seaside and no visit would be complete without the obligatory stick of rock and, like rock it was, being far too hard to bite into. We would have to wait until the following day when it could be attacked with Mum's rolling pin! We looked longingly at the candy floss but never indulged. Wasps like candy floss and we didn't want to get stung and spoil our day at the seaside.

On entering the arcade, I became immersed in the noise and the buzz and excitement of it all. Pinball machines rattled and clunked, played by old and young alike as each frantically endeavored to beat the high score.

---

Seemingly from out of nowhere, the bellowed strains of 'The Laughing Policeman' rang out, drowning conversation briefly. Which way should I go? To the left, or maybe to the right, but quick, Dad's on the slot machine eagerly watching as two lemons and a raspberry drop on the line. "Bad luck Dad". He tried again and this time the elusive lemon finally appeared on the third reel. Oh dear, just missed the jackpot!

So, with no trophies to take home, just a slimmer purse, we made our way to a tea shop for cream cakes. Then, with our bellies full, we begrudgingly went back to the coach. Some of the men produced bottles of beer and, before too long, the singing started. 'One Man Went to Mow' followed 'Ten Green Bottles' and then one I didn't understand. Never mind, I'll ask Dad later.

"Dad"

"Yes"

"What was that 'Clover' song all about?" A pause followed

a quick clearing of the throat.

"You mean Dover".

Dad was not a man to be quizzed so I didn't ask again. I remember Mum just smiled but looked a little flushed. Maybe she'd caught the sun!

And then, all too soon, we were home. We were tired out, still had sand between our toes and went straight to bed. But it didn't matter - we'd had a grand day out at the seaside.

---

<sup>[1]</sup> The coaches were kept behind the garage and, to create an entrance, an adjoining cottage was purchased and duly demolished. Today, the garage has been replaced by Duncan House

<sup>[2]</sup> A tanner on the wheel was weather dependent – if it rained, the chalk marks washed off!

Bland's Garage photo c/o SRHS archives

Duncan House photo c/o Alan Cooper collection

Ripley British Legion coach photo c/o Lona Puttock collection

All other photos c/o Audrey Smithers collection

Audrey suggested to us that 'Down Memory Lane' should become a regular feature and your editorial team thought that was an excellent idea. So contributions please – your recollections of something which might interest our present and future readers. Please send us short stories and photographs so that we can enjoy going 'Down Memory Lane' with you.

Write to us at [cmb@aappl.com](mailto:cmb@aappl.com) and include scans of your photographs (or lend us the originals for a short time so that we can copy them – we promise to treat them with care!)



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# SEND AND THE NATIONAL FARM SURVEY

CLARE McCANN

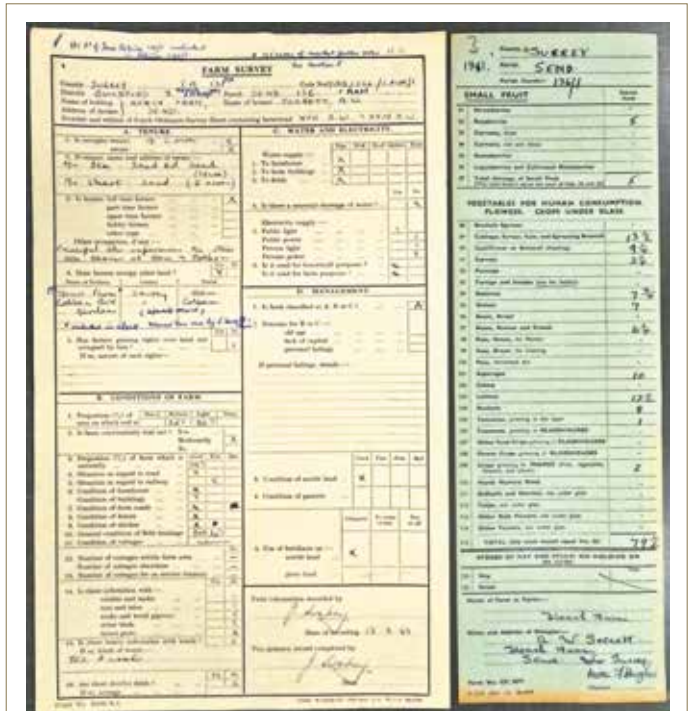
When the Second World War began in September 1939, Britain was faced with an urgent need to increase food production, as imports of food and fertilisers were drastically cut. As the area of land under cultivation had to be increased significantly and quickly, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries set up War Agricultural Executive Committees in each county ('County War Ags') to carry out a farm survey between 1940 and 1941. They then used the information collected to bring uncultivated land under the plough and to improve poor farms.

Once the short-term objective of increasing food production had been met, the government decided to carry out a more general National Farm Survey between 1941 and 1943, with a longer-term purpose of providing data that would form the basis of post-war planning. Such a survey was seen at the time as a 'Second Domesday Book', a 'permanent and comprehensive record of the conditions on the farms of England and Wales'.

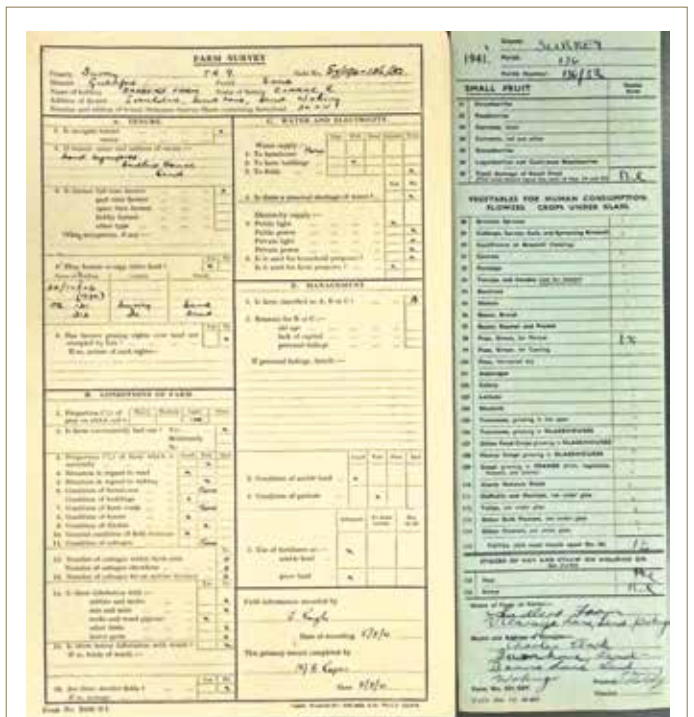
Chris Finden-Browne and I (with our better halves) visited the National Archives at Kew and requested the maps as well as the accompanying survey forms for Send. Chris had a particular mission in mind as he is making another of his excellent films and I thought the information might add to our local knowledge as it has thrown up a few really interesting items.

Most of the farms covered are the ones we expected to see as, for example, on the form for Secretts' market garden, which tells us that they also had land in Cobham and Ham. On the reverse of the survey sheets are comments by the assessor – for Secretts' he comments: 'An intensive market garden with two glasshouses. 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> acres of frames and 125 acres down to intensive market garden crops.' Sometimes the comments are rather blunt – for example of a property on Send Hill he comments: 'Poor market garden crops'.

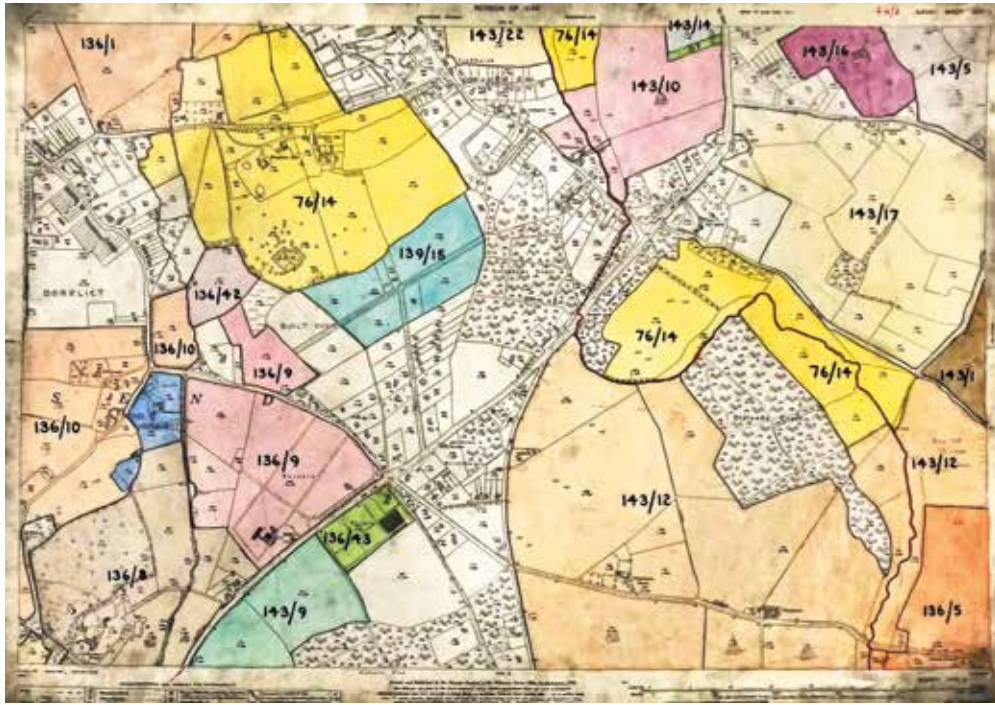
There were one or two items that were surprising or which I was not aware of. For example, Sendhurst Grange in Woodhill is listed as a farm and not just a private house. The assessor comments on the form as a failing: 'lack of knowledge and interest on the part of the bailiff'. However, as they only seem to have been growing a small amount of soft fruit it was hardly material. It



Farm survey for Secretts' market garden



Farm survey for Sadlers Farm



Farm Survey map from the National Archives showing the Send area (136). To aid orientation: 136-1 is Secretts' Farm and 136-10 is Send Barns Farm

farmed by C Clarke who lived in Send Barns Lane but the owner was listed as Lord Lymposh. Such an unusual name caught my eye but an internet search failed to come up with much. When the internet fails, the obvious sources are Janet Tice, curator of our photos collection and David Rose from the Guildford Dragon; needless to say both came up trumps in different ways.

Janet was able to check the 1939 Register with the following results:

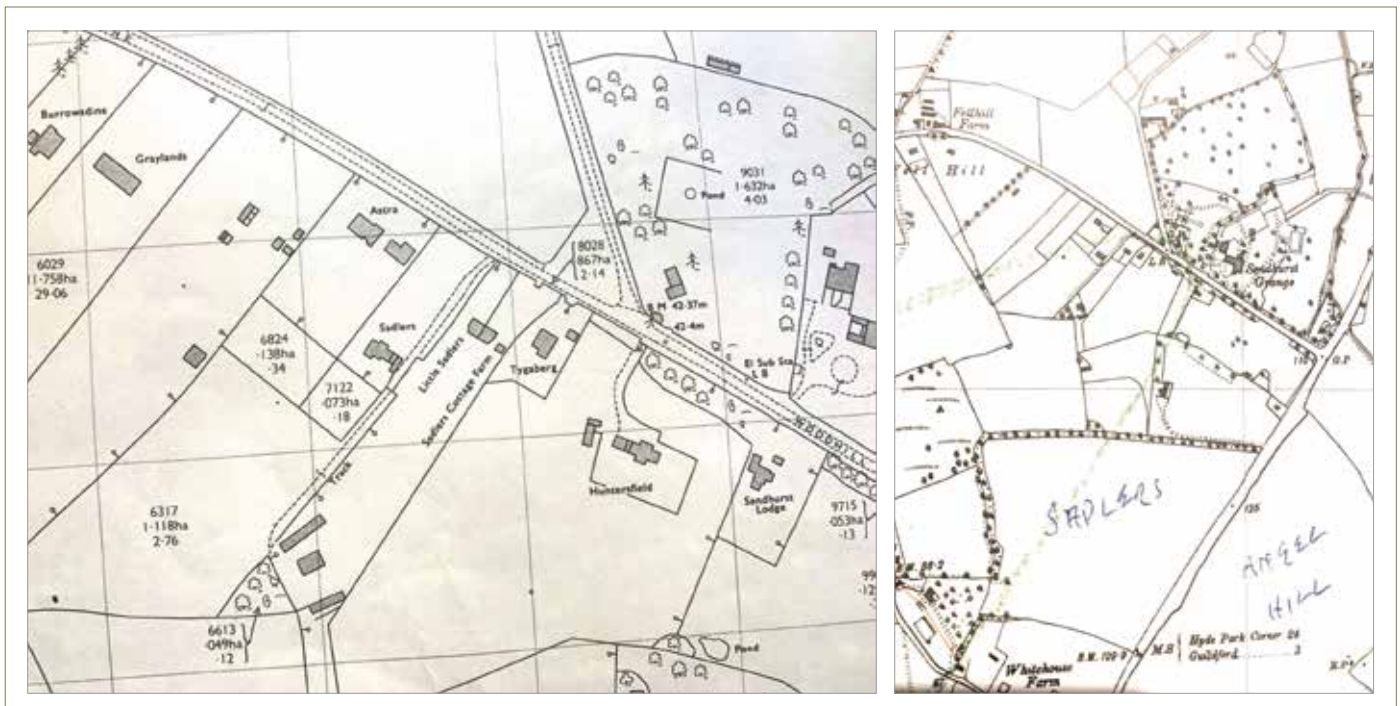
Lionel Algernon Lymposh born 16th March 1890, butcher (shopkeeper) lived at Sadlers Farm, Vicarage

seems that it was subsequently let to Mrs Oliver of Send Court Farm but was unsuitable for ploughing. Send Barns gets better marks as they are 'rapidly pulling the farm round. It was a C farm and is now a B farm.'

Lane. Wife Irenie, born 6th July 1893, unpaid domestic duties, with two children. Lionel grew up at No. 5 Waterden Crescent, Guildford. In 1911 he was 20 but no occupation was given.

One curious listing was Sadlers Farm in Vicarage Lane – now just a private house called Sadlers. It was being

Lionel married Irenie Williams at St Martin in the Fields in 1923 and he gave an address at a hotel in London. She



Detail from OS map 1934 and one annotated with field names

lived at Send Hill House. In the 1923 electoral roll they are living at Hill Lands Cottage, Send.

He died on 1st February 1940 and left £3771, which was a substantial sum but he doesn't seem to have been made a lord! This raises several questions which readers may be able to help with – namely: where were Send Hill House and Hill Lands Cottage? Also, he died in 1940 and the survey was carried out between 1941 and 1943. We must assume the assessor got the title wrong or that someone in the Lymposs family still owned the land. Janet wondered if the family had not yet got probate which might explain why Mr Clarke was named as the farmer. I am still trying to explore when it ceased to be a farm and became just a private house.

The name Lymposs is very unusual and it seems highly likely that he was related to the family that owned the Lymposs & Smee dairy company, which is where David's local knowledge comes in. It seems that Richard Lymposs became a dairyman in Guildford as long ago as 1820. He kept 20 cows in a yard off what is now the upper High Street and grazed them in fields near Foxenden Quarry (off York Road) as well as what is now the Clandon Road area of the town, off Epsom Road.

At some point the dairy was transferred to premises in Sydenham Road, not far from the High Street. The Lymposs family merged with Smee's dairy, based in Friary Street, Guildford, in 1920. Other Lymposs & Smee Guildford depots were at Commercial Road, Guildford and at Barrack Road in Stoughton. The business was later absorbed into Home Counties Dairies, the milk delivery arm of Cow & Gate. Maybe our Lionel Lymposs was a member of this family.

Another interesting item thrown up by the farm survey was a poultry farm in Tuckey Grove – not to be confused with Gordon Stewart's poultry enterprise. Beck-Partington is/are listed as the farmer/farmers and there is a comment that he or they lacked farming knowledge but was/were accredited under the Ministry of Agriculture's scheme. On a second return the property is listed as 73/4 acres and the name may have been Gartington.

I asked our member Fred Hookins, long-time resident of Tuckey Grove and he said he remembers the poultry farm but it is not marked on the maps we have. Can anyone shed more light on this enterprise and when it ceased trading?

This article only covers Send farms but all the relevant maps and forms also exist for Ripley. If anybody feels sufficiently enthused to go to the National Archives it might yield more curiosities!



Delivery horse and cart in front of Lymposs & Smee Dairy Company's premises

A. TENURE		C. WATER AND ELECTRICITY	
1. Is occupier tenant owner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Water supply --	
2. If tenant, name and address of owner		1. To farmhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is farmer full time farmer part time farmer open time farmer holiday farmer other type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	2. To farm buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Does farmer occupy other land? Name of holding County Parish	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. To fields	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Has farmer grazing rights over land not occupied by him? If so, nature of such rights	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Is there a seasonal shortage of water?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
B. CONDITIONS OF FARM		D. MANAGEMENT	
1. Proportion (%) of area on which and by	Heavy Medium Light Other	1. Is farm classified as A, B or C?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Is farm conventionally laid out? Yes Moderately No	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Reasons for B or C -- old age lack of capital personal failure	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Proportion (%) of farm which is naturally -- good fair bad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	If personal failure, details --	<i>lack of farming knowledge</i>
4. Situation in regard to road	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Condition of arable land	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Situation in regard to railway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Condition of pasture	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Condition of fences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Use of fertilisers on -- arable land green land	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Condition of buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Field information recorded by	
8. Condition of farm roads	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Date of recording	<i>January 1942</i>
9. Condition of drains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	This primary record completed by	<i>A. Huddart</i>
10. General condition of field drainage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Date	<i>2.2.42</i>
11. Condition of cottages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
12. Number of cottages within farm area	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
13. Number of cottages let on service tenancy	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
14. Is there infestation with -- rabbits and mice rats and wood pigeons other birds moor game	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
15. Is there heavy infestation with sheep? If so, kinds of weeds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
16. Are there livestock fields? If so, average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Farm Survey for Tuckey Grove

All documents are from the National Archives  
Photograph c/o David Rose collection

# WHERE IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

MORE BUILDING WORK GOING ON. WHERE WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN AND WHAT DID THE BUILDING BECOME WHEN FINISHED?



WE ASKED IN JOURNAL 307 WHERE THIS TREE LINED STREET WAS AND WHO OPERATES FROM THE GARAGE BUILDING NOW.

This was Ripley High Street and Thomas Ford and Sons – Bespoke Kitchens are there now.

Correctly identified by:  
Audrey Smithers, Peter Smithers, Jackie Strange and Vernon Wood



## WHAT IS IT? ALAN COOPER

ANOTHER OFFERING FROM OUR MEMBER PETER SMITHERS – A SMALL QUIRKY LITTLE THING. WHAT WAS ITS PURPOSE?



IN JOURNAL 307 WE ASKED WHAT THIS UNUSUAL TOOL WITH A 22CM LONG BLADE WAS AND ITS SPECIFIC PURPOSE. IT HAD COME TO US FROM OUR MEMBER VERNON WOOD.

This was a gooseberry hook. Correctly identified by: Ian Mason and Peter Smithers who both suggested that it was for raspberries – so close enough!



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# SPIKE LIVES

CAMERON BROWN

The Guildford Union Workhouse was established in 1838 following the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 and served as a last resort for the destitute of 21 local parishes. While the main workhouse was largely demolished in the 1960s, its casual ward, built in 1906 and colloquially known as ‘The Spike’, survives today as a rare and well-preserved example of Edwardian social history.

The nickname is believed to refer to the sharp tools used by inmates to ‘pick oakum’ — unravel old tarred rope for re-use — though some suggest it refers to the iron spikes on the perimeter walls. The ward was designed specifically for ‘casuals’ — itinerant vagrants and tramps — to separate them from the regular workhouse inmates.

The workhouse infirmary eventually became Warren Road Hospital, later renamed St Luke’s Hospital in 1945, before being incorporated into the NHS in 1948. The Spike itself was saved from redevelopment by the Charlotteville Jubilee Trust and the building was granted Grade II listed status in 1999. It reopened in 2008 as the Spike Heritage Centre, where visitors can experience the sights, sounds, and even smells of the 1906 ward. Les Bowerman wrote up a Society outing to The Spike in J207 of August 2009.

Spike Lives is a research project and online archive initiated by the Charlotteville Jubilee Trust, which aims to document the lives of people who passed through the Guildford Workhouse, based on the 1881 census. While initially focusing on the inmates (the ‘forgotten classes’ of Victorian/Edwardian England), the project has expanded to include research on the staff and Board of Guardians.

Of particular interest to us is, that seven of the 150 or so lives featuring so far have a close connection with Send or Ripley. Carol Thompson, Coordinator of the Spike Lives Heritage Project, let us know about this and sent a link to what she says is “by far the most interesting” and concerns the murder of Harriet Tickner by her husband Henry in Send in 1895. She added that they were able to glean useful information from the article in J203 of November 2008 by John Slatford ‘Murder in Send, 1895’. John summarised the story:

‘We have learned from Mrs Ann Knight who lives in West Sussex, of a murder she has uncovered in her family history. One of her family names is Tickner, very well

known in this area. Her great-grandmother, Ann Tickner, was one of sixteen children born to James and Martha Tickner, mostly in the Godalming, Cranleigh and Alfold area. One of the youngest was Henry Tickner, born in Alfold in 1850. Little is known of his early years except that he lived with his widowed mother in or near Dunsfold at least until 1871.

He worked as a labourer in Woking for about five years in the 1870s, then served in the Army in the Egyptian wars, possibly in the mid-1880s and later he turned up in Aldershot where, in 1890 as a bachelor (ie previously unmarried), he was married to Harriet Clarke.

She was the widow of an Aldershot soldier, John Clarke. They had a son, Evelyn John Victor Clarke, baptised in Send on 28th August 1887, who, at the time of the 1891 census, was living in Send with his grandmother and step-grandfather Charlotte and James Bartlett.

It must have been a turbulent marriage because by 1893, when they were living in Sutton, they were separated. By 1895 Harriet was living with her by then widowed mother Charlotte Bartlett somewhere on Send Heath.

Henry was also living in Send and working for the Wey Navigation Company – his boss was Walter Grove. He was said to have called regularly at his mother-in-law's house to bring money (four shillings per week) for his wife.

**On 11th February 1895 he turned up at his mother-in-law’s house armed with a billhook that he had borrowed from his workplace. There he attacked his wife about her head with the weapon.**

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She was taken to the Royal Surrey County Hospital where she died fifteen days later as a result of her skull being fractured.

Henry was charged with her murder and his trial took place in Guildford in June the same year. The trial was reported at great length (as Victorian journalists always seemed to do) in the *Surrey Advertiser and County Times* on

Saturday, 15th June. It makes fairly gruesome reading and a transcript is reproduced here in full [see J203].

His defence attempted to prove that there was some history of insanity in his family, which might have explained his alleged history of violence towards his wife. This was to no avail and he was found guilty and sentenced to death. He was hanged at Wandsworth prison on 2nd July 1895.’

John Slatford’s article is essentially the newspaper report, which is very detailed and takes up four full pages in the Journal. Most of the detailed information is about Henry Tickner. The Spike piece is structured very differently and concentrates on Harriet’s deprived and difficult life from her birth in 1847 to her murder in 1895.

Interestingly, Alan Cooper wrote another ‘Harriett Tickner Attempted Murder’ story in J295 of March 2024. This is about Annie Tickner’s attempt in 1906 to murder her elder sister Harriett who was having an affair with Annie’s husband, John Charman.

Considering the circumstances this story has a relatively happy ending. (Don’t forget, all the Journals are available for free download from our website).

The Spike Lives research on Harriet is available at: <https://spikelives.co.uk/harriet-rogers/>.

Other Send & Ripley characters researched so far for Spike Lives are listed below and can all be accessed on the Spike Lives website:

Ellen Brown, born at the Jovial Sailor and taken to Canada by her brother after 33 years in the workhouse

Mary Ann, Hannah and Edward Carver, Ripley and Godalming. A life enveloped in mystery for a Ripley orphan, but success for two of her children after being workhouse scholars

William Hamilton, Send thatcher whose wife died in a fire at their home

Peter and Sarah Percy, Walsham Lock

Jane Sarah Potterton, Send and Ripley, whose husband committed suicide

William Tickner, who from the age of 11, spent his whole life in the workhouse

Carol Thompson would like to hear from any members who may have any additional information. She can be contacted at: [carolathfc@aol.com](mailto:carolathfc@aol.com)

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# MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN

**T**hank you to everyone who came to the 'Dessie and Dunsborough' exhibition and special thanks to Audrey Smithers for the initial idea. For those of you who might be interested, we have Dessie's and Charles's autobiographies in the lending library.

## SHOPS PAST AND PRESENT

The new exhibition is a total change and is a first for us – a trail round Ripley village. There are ten QR codes round the village in shop windows and with a smartphone you can see what the shops looked like back in the day. Maps will be available at the museum.



Our photo is what you see when you use the QR code at what is now One Shop but was once the International Stores

The related exhibition looks at the history of shopping as well as lots about the individual local shops. Please come along any Saturday morning from 10-12 or give me a ring if Saturdays don't work for you.

## THE FUTURE OF YOUR MUSEUM

Some of you will know that the redevelopment of the village hall held up agreeing the lease for the museum but it has now, finally, been signed. This will give us the opportunity to seek funding to refurbish the interior. We need a small committee of enthusiastic locals (not necessarily History Society members) to come up with ideas of what we want from our museum, help us write funding applications or possibly project manage any building works. A few younger people would be good, particularly with IT knowledge; and any fundraisers out there would be most welcome. Please let me know if you are interested.

Clare, Museum Curator 01483 728546  
[info@sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk](mailto:info@sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk)

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# 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.

2026 DATES	EVENTS
Wednesday 24th June	June Outing (2pm) Wey & Arun Canal Boat trip: £25 per person
Wednesday 1st July	4-6pm guided tour of Send Grove. Limited places
Sunday 9th August	Summer BBQ. Members only. 12.30
Wednesday 9th September	Stephen Groom talk: <i>Horsley Station's Story</i>
Wednesday 14th October	Julian Pooley talk: <i>Photography in Surrey Hospitals</i>
Wednesday 11th November	TBA
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas Party. Members only.

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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## HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Ghosts Along The Wey, a Rural Childhood in Send		£10.00
Bygone Days, Send and Ripley Remembered		£10.00
A Walk About Ripley Village	New, extended edition 2025	£5.00
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	£5.00
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£2.50
Ripley and Send – Looking Back	Reprinted 2007	£5.00
Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2026	£5.00
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		£1.00
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£4.00
Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£4.50

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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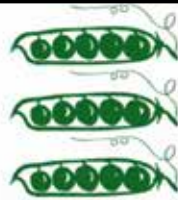
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