

Send & Ripley History Society



MEMORIES OF THE
1ST RIPLEY CUBS

Page

4

'ENNY PULLEN',
THE SEND BUTCHER

Page

8

CHARTING THE
BEGINNINGS OF THE
SURREY POLICE FORCE

Page

12

LOELIA, DUCHESS OF
WESTMINSTER – LATER
LOELIA LINDSAY

Page

26

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CONTENTS | No. 276

Editorial <i>Cameron Brown</i>	2
Forty Years Ago <i>Cameron Brown</i>	3
Memories of the 1st Ripley Cubs <i>Tony Milton</i>	4
The Lockdown of 1208 <i>Cameron Brown</i>	7
Covid Christmas <i>Sheila A J Brown</i>	7
'Enny' Pullen, The Send Butcher <i>Alan Cooper</i>	8
Charting the Beginnings of the Surrey Police Force <i>Ditz Brown</i>	12
Polesden Lane – Homes for Heroes and Surrounding Industry of the Last 100 Years <i>Chris Lee</i>	18
Loelia, Duchess of Westminster – Later Loelia Lindsay <i>Clare McCann</i>	26
What Is It? <i>Alan Cooper</i>	32
Letters and Corrections <i>Cameron Brown</i>	32
Museum News <i>Clare McCann</i>	33
Museum, Forthcoming Events and Publications	35

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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

What can I say? Firstly I wish you all a happy and healthy 2021. As I write we and most of the country are once again under a fairly strict lockdown regime and the NHS is struggling with an ever-increasing number of admissions caused by the new, more aggressive strain of Covid 19. We are getting used to the new tier system and being in tier 4, the most serious level, find ourselves unable to travel and only able to see a limited number of people in public open spaces. Ditz and I will not be alone having had no-one visit us in the house (other than the men doing the central heating breakdown etc) for the past nine months. I am sure that very few of us imagined back in March that we would be unable to see friends and family at Christmas and New Year. We are all keeping our fingers crossed that local businesses will survive the severe economic downturn. On that note it has been good to see that the monthly Ripley Farmers' Market is going from strength to strength with record attendance levels.

It seems clear that we will not be resuming our meetings before the summer, at the earliest. We have, however been able to get an online programme in place for the next few months. Details are on p35 and you will get an

email reminder before each session. Please try also to join our zoom AGM on February 16th 2021 at 7.30 pm.

The village hall will soon be demolished and work on phase one of the new hall is due to commence in the spring, but as yet we have no idea when it will become available for hire. As soon as it looks as though we will be able to start real live talks again we will most likely have to find a temporary alternative venue. It will be nice to see everybody again.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th February 2021.

Authors of illustrated articles should submit high resolution (300 DPI or higher) jpgs to the editor by email to ensure best reproduction in the journal, but no more than 20MB in any one email

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40 YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN

This article, entitled *The Changing Face of Send* appeared in Newsletter 36 of January/February 1981.

THE RIO LEATHER WORKS

On Saturday, 29th November last, the large wooden warehouse owned by Mahoney Leathers Ltd., and known as the Rio Leather Works, next to Ben Turner & Son (Tractors) Ltd. in Polesden Lane, Send Marsh was burnt down. It is believed that somebody has been charged with arson in connection with the fire. The writer recalls buying pullets in this building during the early part of the 2nd World War, when it was run as an experimental poultry farm by the late Mr. Gordon Stewart of Send Manor. Others doubtless will be able to provide greater detail.

SEND SERVICE GARAGE

All who pass along Send Road will be aware of the transformation which took place to Send Service Garage during the last week in November, when the old wooden garage gave way to a new brick one with a huge canopy in front of it. As these works have greatly altered the appearance of the centre of the modern village of Send, we asked our member Mrs. Challen who, with her late husband, William, founded the business, if she would kindly commemorate the change by writing a brief history of the garage. Mrs. Challen's notes follow:

We acquired the site in the summer of 1929. It was then a garden with a chicken run, surrounded by a high bank and hedge. To start with we had three hand operated petrol pumps with three underground tanks of 500 gallons. Three separate petrol companies were represented, Shell, B.P., and National Benzole. A fourth pump was added just before the War for Dominion Petrol - this was the first electric pump in the Woking area.

During the War, the Shell pump was used solely by the Army, then stationed at Heath House, Send Road (previously owned by the late Mr. Shirer, and now demolished). A workshop was built at the rear of the garage where four lathes and other machinery were installed and war work was carried

out for Vickers, Saunders Roe, and Vokes. During the peak production period work was continuous on a 24 hour daily basis. It was shift work with local labour. We also did taxi work with four cars, mostly essential hospital and maternity work.

After the War, the hand pumps were all replaced by electric pumps. The lathes and war machinery were removed, and motor repairs carried out. Later the garage was approved by the Ministry of Transport for the testing of motor vehicles. When my husband died in 1974, I ran the business for a year, after which our son, Raymond, took it over. Now, 50 years after we started, there has been a complete redevelopment with an extended shop for accessories, spares, etc., with a larger workshop at the rear. We now have two Blender pumps, each delivering 2, 3, and 4-star Shell with a storage capacity of 12,000 gallons.

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MEMORIES OF THE 1ST RIPLEY CUBS

TONY MILTON

The front cover of Journal 274 (September 2020) showed the semaphore alphabet, which reminded me of my time with the 1st Ripley Cubs.

Our Skip, Mr George Robins, who managed the International Stores in the High Street, had entered us for the Guildford District Sports Day to be held at Stoke Park (I think in 1957), and once he had received the list of races, we needed to decide on who was doing what, and practice these out on The Green.



George Robins (in uniform) with regular helper John Spickett in March 1966

The list of events included the races you would expect in a sports day with a few that you probably wouldn't, such as 'the boat race': ten boys had to run backwards holding a long pole, with a coxswain steering them! It always ended up with everyone in a pile, and it did so on that day.

The 'message race' involved passing a complicated message between four or five boys about 50 yards apart. 'Send reinforcements, we're going to advance' would end up as 'Send three and fourpence we're going to a dance'.

The 'semaphore race' required a message to be sent by semaphore, received and understood, then sprinted back to the adjudicator. Skip decided that his son Terry and I could do the semaphore race, probably because my dad Arthur Milton had been a signman in the Royal Navy. For the next few weeks my evenings were spent learning the semaphore alphabet (once learnt, never forgotten) and sending messages with his flags (I wonder what happened to them?). He would then get Terry and me to practice this out on The Green. I sent the message, Terry read it, acknowledged it and his runner wrote it down and sprinted with it to the finishing line. Great fun, and of course we won – well, that race anyway.

Skip also entered us for the District Handicraft Competition; we were split into groups and had to make a number of different things. My group had to make a jigsaw. A photo or picture was pasted onto a sheet of plywood, the back was marked out and the jigsaw pieces cut out using a hand fretsaw. We must have done well; I think we came first or second and our prize was a large painting of three Cubs around a flagpole. I understand that the painting is still displayed in the old fire station (the current Cub/Scout headquarters).

I can remember us going to camp one summer. We went to Middleton on Sea, near Bognor, but not under canvas like the Scouts would have done. We all met outside the Scout Hut, I had all my belongings in my Dad's old Navy kit bag, complete with his name and service number, and we climbed in the back of a lorry.



1st Ripley Cubs with our prize from the Handicraft Competition circa 1957/8
 Back Row: Trevor Grossmith, Lesley Marsh, Peter Giles, unknown, David Barrett, Colin Ruffles, Stuart Shoesmith
 Middle Row: Bill Swaffield, Mick Biard, Tony Milton, Mike Kennard, Terry Robins, Michael Lawrence, Chris Robertson, Alistair Reynolds
 Front Row: Gordon Perrin, unknown, Michael Baker, Neil Morton, Brian Marsh

We stayed in a village hall and slept on the floor on a straw mattress (a canvas bag with not a lot of straw in it). We had to bring 'blanket pins' with us, to make a sleeping bag with. Skip slept in a storage area in the roof space of the hall which he had to get to with a ladder; he must have known that we would take the ladder away before he woke up! Our time, as far as I can remember, was spent having massive water pistol fights, but I'm sure it was a little more structured than that.

In 1957 there was a World Scout Jamboree held in Sutton Park, Warwickshire, and I presume that the event we went to, held on Ranmore Common, was linked to this. The green area through the middle of Ranmore was covered in tents, and Scouts from all over the world were camped there. I'd taken my autograph book which soon became full of the names and signatures of the Scouts I'd met. We also took part in this amazing 'wide game' where we were split into two very large groups and your group had to capture the enemy's flag. Everyone had three lives, which were three pieces of coloured wool tied around your arm. Most of my afternoon was spent trying to re-tie broken pieces of wool so I could carry on playing.

Skip had a 'shooting brake' car, like an estate car, I think it was the Morris Minor; he took some of us up to London in it, possibly the 'Sixers' (a Sixer was a leader of a group or 'patrol' of up to six Cubs. The Seconder was his deputy or second in command) but, unfortunately, I can't remember what for. I think it was an exhibition; obviously it had quite an effect on me.



**GUILDFORD DISTRICT
SCOUT COUNCIL**

**PROGRAMME OF
Cub Scout Sports**

Saturday, June 17th, 1967
at
Allen House Grounds, Guildford
By kind permission of
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OFFICIALS:
Judges: Messrs. R. B. HOULT, J. H. LEAR
and D. NEWLAND
Starter: Mr. L. F. POOLE
Stewards: Messrs. R. W. ENTICKNAP and G. TALBOT
Records: Mr. G. R. BARNES
Hon. Secretary: Assistant District Commissioner
A. E. JENKINS
Assistant Hon. Secretary: District Cubmaster
Miss D. SMITH
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Cubs should bring their Mugs

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PROGRAMME

2.45 Rally for Combined Grand Howl
 2.50 Sports Commence

LIST OF EVENTS

		No. in Team from each Pack
3 RD	1. FLAT RACE (under 9½) Heats ...	2
2 ND	2. FLAT RACE (over 9½) Heats ...	2
	3. BOAT RACE, Heats ...	6 and Cox
	4. BALL TEAM RACE, Heats ...	6
1 ST	5. LEAP-FROG RACE, Heats ...	6
1 ST	6. RELAY KNOT RACE ...	4
1 ST	7. EMBLEM RACE (under 9½) ...	4
	8. BOAT RACE, Semi-finals ...	-
1 ST	9. MEMORY RELAY RACE ...	4
	10. BALL TEAM RACE, Final ...	-
1 ST	11. LEAP-FROG RACE, Final ...	-
1 ST	12. COMPASS RACE ...	4
	13. BOAT RACE, Final ...	-
	14. SURPRISE RELAY RACE ...	4
	15. FLAT RACE (under 9½) Final ...	-
3 RD	16. FLAT RACE (over 9½) Final ...	-
	17. SACK RACE ...	2

6.00 Presentation of Awards, Championship Cup
and Totem pole

by
LORD BADEN-POWELL

PACKS TAKING PART IN EVENTS:

1. 1st Compton	12. 1st Normandy
2. 1st Cranleigh	13. 1st Ripley
3. New Guildford (Hunt)	14. Rydes Hall
4. New Guildford (Scott)	15. St. Nicolas
5. 1st Guildford	16. St. Saviour's
6. 2nd Guildford	17. St. Francis (Westborough)
7. 5th Guildford	18. 1st Stoughton (St. Andrew)
8. 9th Guildford	19. 1st Stoughton (St. Patrick)
10. 1st Horsley	20. 2nd Westborough
11. 1st Merrow	21. 1st Womersley

Programme for Guildford District Sports Day, 17th June 1967. Although around ten years later on, the events are identical

I can also remember two tasks that had to be completed for what I think was the housekeeping badge. The first was to lay and light a fire. The Brownies used to meet in a room above or behind the paper shop by The Green and about half an hour before their meeting started I had to lay and light a fire in the fireplace. I wonder how many of today's ten-year-olds would manage?

I also had to use the phone box. On a pre-agreed evening I set off with my four one penny pieces to the phone box on the A3 near Georgelands, had the customary search for any unclaimed money in the return cup and then rang Skip's number. He wouldn't pick up on the first attempt, so I had to press button B and get my money back and on the second attempt I had to press button A and speak to him.

Looking back on it, being in the 1st Ripley Cubs was a fantastic experience, thanks in no small part to the hard work and dedication of both George and Elsie. Elsie Wood was our Akela, and she and her husband Henry, a carpenter, lived near me on Georgelands, so I knew them quite well. Fond memories and grateful thanks to them both.

Alan Cooper adds:

Many thanks to Tony Milton, Brian Marsh, Mick Biard and Stuart Shoesmith for identifying the vast majority of the winning team. A couple of names remain in dispute and have been 'democratically' included – so if anyone reading this can help please get in touch. Any other Ripley or Send Cubs or Scouts from whatever time period reading this – we would love to hear your memories and experiences and see any photos you may have. And ladies – any Brownies or Guides out there – we would like to hear from you as well.



Elsie Wood (top) with cubs Stephen Hill (centre) and Duncan Fry (bottom) (Photo taken in March 1966)

1957 photo c/o Tony Milton collection

1966 and 67 photos c/o Vernon Wood collection

THE LOCKDOWN OF 1208

CAMERON BROWN

The Friends of St Nicolas' and Wisley churches' December 2020 Newsletter reminded us that this year's ongoing closure of the two churches has been only the second of its kind in over 800 years. The first took place in 1208 under the authority of Pope Innocent III after King John had refused to accept the appointment in 1207 of Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury.



A statue of Langton at Canterbury Cathedral

The king immediately decreed that anyone who recognised Cardinal Langton as Archbishop was to be declared a public enemy. However, Innocent was one of the most powerful of the medieval popes and claimed

supremacy over all of Europe's kings, therefore for him this was an extremely serious act of disobedience, so serious that in the following year he issued an 'Interdict', effectively closing all places of worship in England.

Langton had already fled to Burgundy to escape the king and did not return until 1213 when he immediately became involved with the struggle of the barons against King John, which resulted in the Magna Carta of 1215. With one or two further periods of exile as allegiances shifted, Langton remained in his position as Archbishop of Canterbury until his death in 1228, by which time Henry III was on the throne.

The Interdict – or lockdown – was lifted in 1213, after more than five years. By coincidence it had been imposed on 23rd March, the same date as our initial lockdown in 2020.

COVID CHRISTMAS

SHEILA A J BROWN

[Editor's note: Long-standing member Sheila Brown sent this seasonal greeting to her son Chris who looks after the Society's website]

This Christmas we'll just see you, son
But not join in the family fun
It's best we oldies stay away
And see you all another day.

But we've decked our home with boughs of holly,
For 'tis the season to be jolly
And our garden lights should please the eye,
Of neighbours and of passers-by.

We'll cook ourselves a festive lunch
With tasty crudities to crunch
And raspberry jelly for our tea
With a slice of cake that's sugar-free

And we'll raise a glass of wine to cheer
Wishing that you ALL were here.

'ENNY' PULLEN, THE SEND BUTCHER

ALAN COOPER

This article was originally written by Jane Bartlett following an interview with Jean Anderson (née Pullen) in 1996 and appeared in J129 July/August 1996¹

When first published, the two black and white photos used were not to the high standard we expect today. We have therefore replaced them with the original colour photos. The article has been further enhanced with new photos and artefacts discovered following the death of Ted Pullen (reported in J271 March 2020). These photographs were taken at some point during the 1970s.

97 SEND ROAD (THE BUTCHER'S SHOP)

JANE BARTLETT

The two outhouses at 97 Send Road were once a laundry, then a butcher's shop. Mrs Jean Anderson kindly showed them to me and told me their history. Over a hundred years ago Jean's grandmother, Mrs. Pullen, ran a laundry from these buildings. The brick-built one at the rear was the washhouse and the clapboard shed near Send Road was the drying room. The drying room was crisscrossed with wires for the linen, and there was a circular stove with slots to hold the flat irons. Jean does not remember her grandmother, who died in 1899, but understands that she employed three women and did laundry for Lady Lovelace, as well as other large households.

The laundry room continued to be used for the family's wash day. In fact, a copper and the small iron fireplace are still there. Jean's father, Henry Robert Pullen, at one time let the front shed (ex-drying room) to an old man, Stevie Sutton, as he had nowhere to live. Jean remembers him with his long white beard and his tricycle. The only rent he paid was an apple and a 2d bar of chocolate for the two youngest children of the six. The children were frightened of him because of his temper. He went back to his native Sussex just before the war.

It was about the same time, in 1938, that Henry Pullen (known as 'Enny') set up on his own as a butcher, converting the laundry into a shop. He had worked as a butcher at Old Woking, first for Tanner, then with Smallridge. The whole brick-built outhouse is only about 6' x 8', but he put in a marble slab as a counter. The



Taken from the rear of the property looking out onto Send Road. The brick building was the washhouse and the clapboard shed the drying room (from the original article)

carcasses hung from a wire at one end and he squeezed in a piece of wood between the copper and the door as his desk. There was an ice-box in the lean-to built at the garden end, and a second ice-box was bought from the American forces when they left the area. Ice cream was delivered there twice a week.

Meat, which was bought from Guildford, was delivered on trades bikes with a basket on the front, to Westfield, Sutton Green and Old Woking. Henry Pullen washed out the shop on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and scrubbed all the baskets on a table outside in the yard. It was out in the yard that he washed himself in cold water every day, winter and summer.

There was, of course, no electricity, and he sometimes got a little help with the hand-worked sausage machine by telling young visitors that "if you turn the handle, it will play a tune."



The interior of the washhouse, featuring the copper and fireplace (from the original article)



Taken from the rear of the property showing the insulated cold store in the 1970s



The two doorways taken from the front of the property (Send Road) in the 1970s, the far door being the entrance to the butcher's

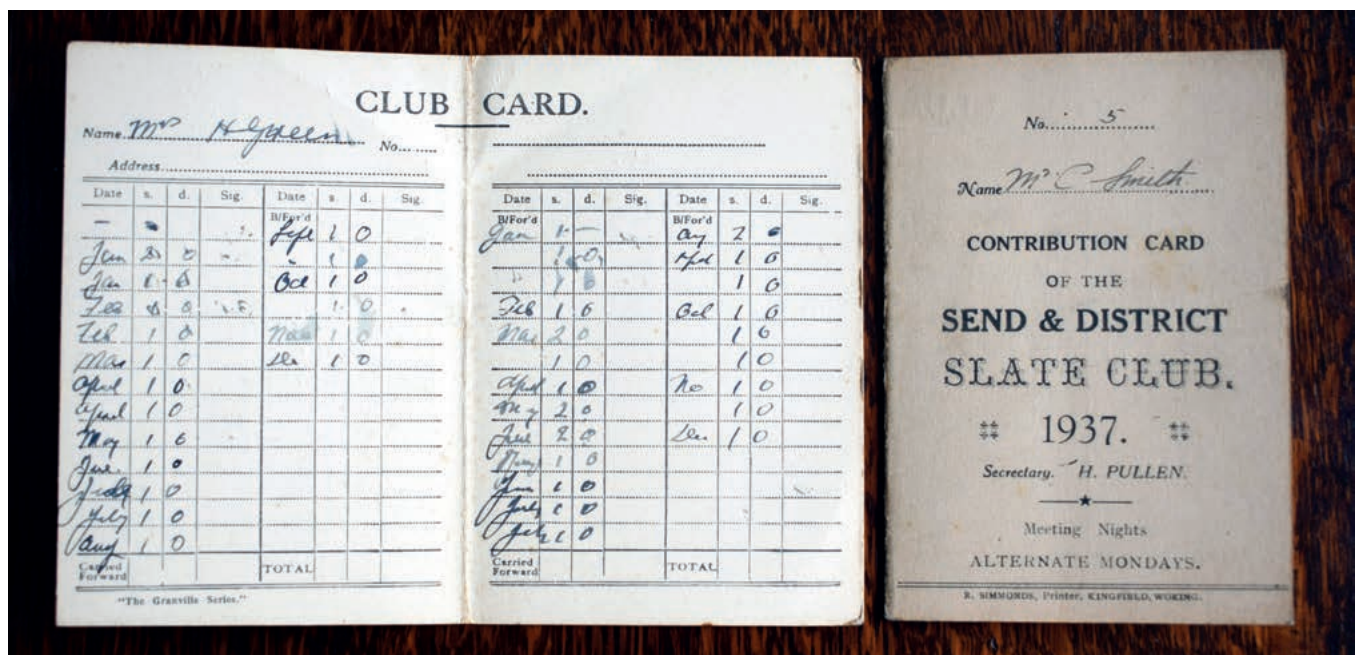


Henry Pullen photographed during his service in WWI

Mr Pullen died in November 1945, but they were told not to close the shop, as it was a vital food distribution centre. They were found a Polish assistant, but as he could not speak any English, it was not very successful. George Smith, a friend of Henry Pullen, was allowed to leave the Army to run the shop.

Jean's mother finally closed the shop in 1950. For a period, Jean turned the drying room into the family's sitting room. It was roomy, had a fireplace and a window, which looked out onto the road. Both the buildings are now no longer used and are [at the time of writing, 1966] about to be demolished. We are grateful to Jean to have their history and a photograph of them.

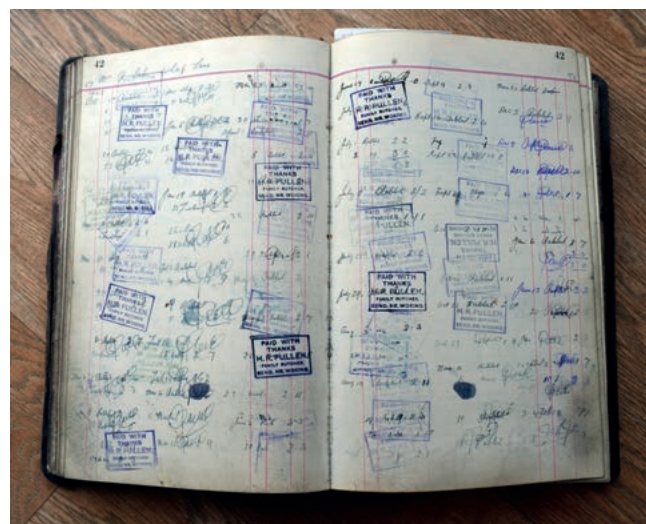
Postscript: Jean died in 2002



Contribution Card for the Send & District Slate Club 1937. Note: Henry Pullen was the Secretary (sic)



The ledger, as found in a shed, having been untouched for almost 80 years. Although looking a little worse for wear, the inside is in perfect condition



Sample pages from the ledger showing use of the handstamp

Slate clubs were a popular way of saving money for Christmas. The Send and District Slate Club, of which Henry was the Secretary, being one of many to operate in the vicinity. Contributions were taken on Monday nights every other week, probably in the Lancaster Hall.

Henry would undoubtedly have hoped and expected members to spend their savings in his shop.

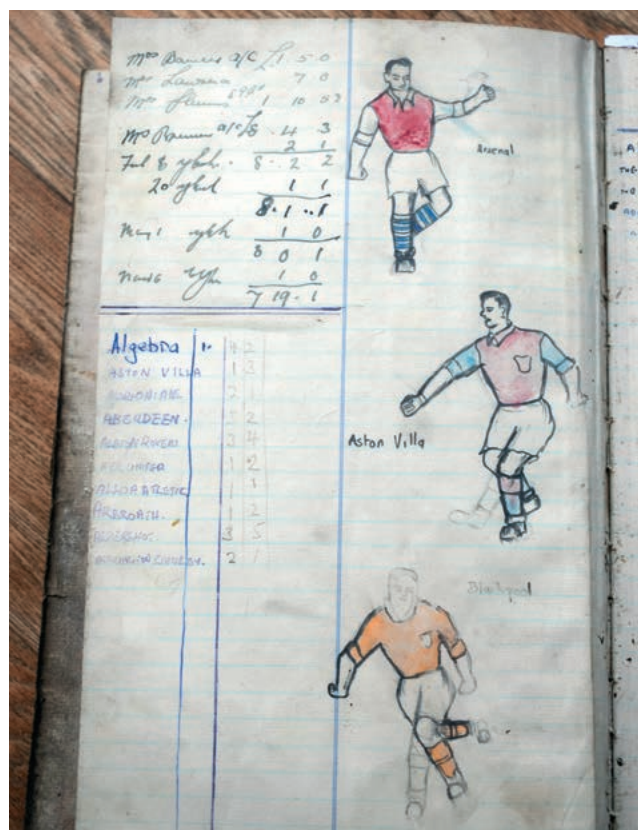
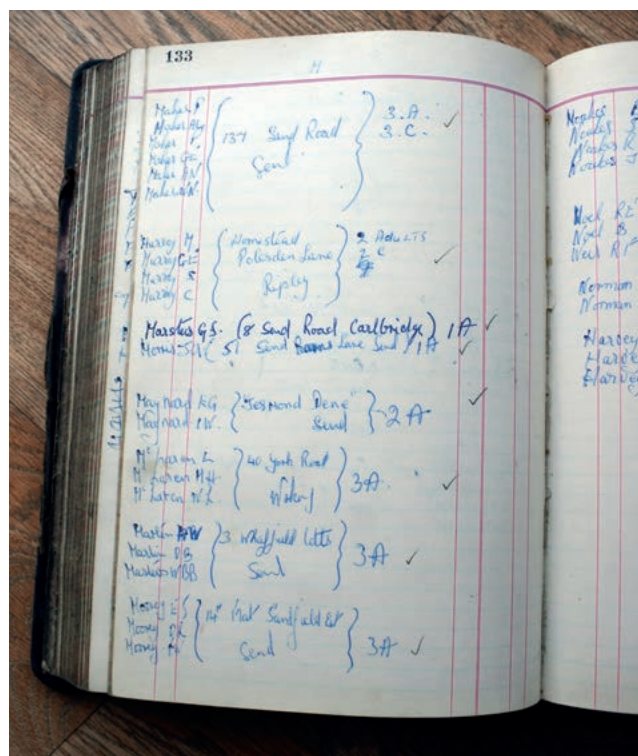
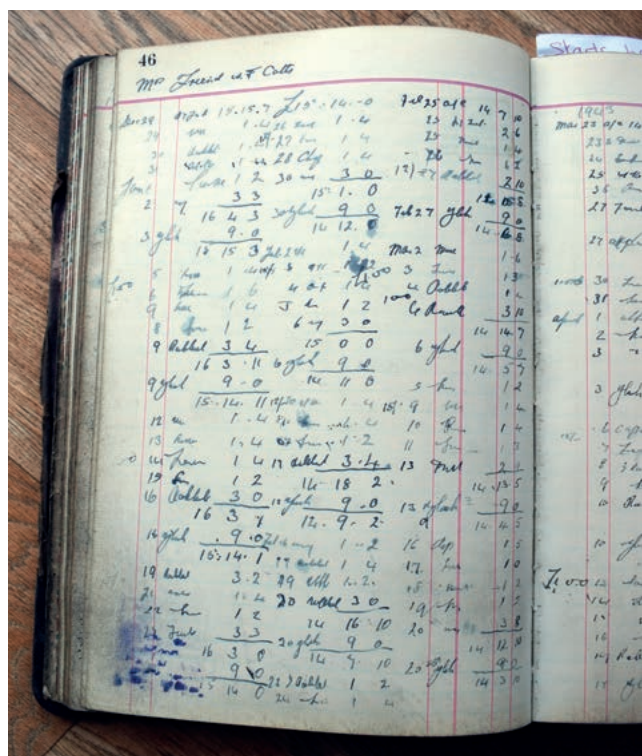
He also kept meticulous records of his business activities in a huge leather-bound ledger and this is of tremendous local interest as it provides us not only with the names and addresses of customers, but an insight into what foodstuffs were popular – and indeed available in wartime.

We can also see from a page of doodling who the favourite football teams of the day were.

Every payment made by a customer was acknowledged with handwritten initials and printed with a rubber hand stamp.

Food hygiene standards, although in their infancy compared to today's rigorous procedures were implemented and enforced by the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. A certificate from the Local Authority being required, in this case from Guildford Rural District Council, to manufacture sausages.

We are indebted to Catherine Anderson who, following the death of Ted Pullen, discovered photographs and



¹ Available to view at: <https://sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk>
under the journals pull down tab

CHARTING THE BEGINNINGS OF THE SURREY POLICE FORCE THROUGH EXTRACTS FROM *A HUNDRED YEARS OF THE SURREY CONSTABULARY 1851-1951*

PART ONE

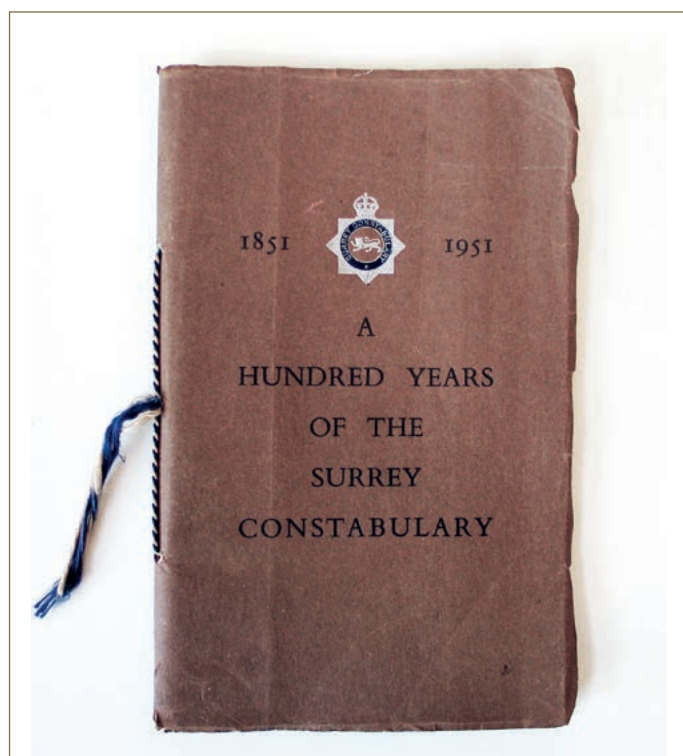
DITZ BROWN

In my previous article *An Edwardian Surrey Policeman's Paraphernalia and Memorabilia* in J272 I mentioned a commemorative booklet about Surrey constabulary's early years. It follows the development of an initially modest organisation with limited functions and few resources into a complex organisation which was equipped and trained to deal with increasingly complicated problems in the police field. It was researched and edited by Superintendent AJ Durrant and Chief Constable Simpson's assistant Mr HN Back and published in 1951.

Home Secretary J Chuter Ede (who, incidentally, was the longest-serving Home Secretary of the 20th century, serving under Prime Minister Clement Attlee 1945–51) writes in his foreword that 'the basic problem of the police is, and will always remain one of human relations – that of keeping The King's peace with the willing co-

operation of the law-abiding community whose servants they are.' He was confident that 'the next hundred years will show a record of progress in no way inferior to that of the past'. Chief Constable J Simpson adds in his introduction that the booklet offers the reader 'merely a rough sketch' of the Force's 'trials and achievements', some crimes and 'happenings of public interest' as well as incidents recorded with 'touches of humour, wit and pathos' to illustrate the lives of Surrey policemen.

I transcribed the entries chronologically and concentrated on those which were either milestones in the Force's development or concerned our part of Surrey, starting even earlier than the booklet's title suggests and finishing with Chief Constable Captain Hasting's retirement, by which time the organisation was 'running smoothly'. Wherever I quote directly from this booklet I use inverted commas.



Cover of the commemorative booklet



James Chuter Ede. Image courtesy of Bourne Hall Museum

'In June 1753 we have a record of the Mayor of Guildford – unfortunately his name is not known – assisted by several police officers, raiding a gaming house in the town. The gamblers and others who were present ran away without their hats and wigs, leaving behind a considerable sum of money, which the Mayor secured. He broke the gaming table to pieces. What game was being played we do not know, nor unfortunately the officers who assisted him on this raid. Apparently nobody was brought before the court.'

'We have another picture of the time and surroundings in 1769. At this time there is little doubt that Surrey, like other rural counties, was infested by gangs of thieves, mainly cattle and sheep thieves. They did not usually reside in the towns but lived on the commons, from whence they would venture out, steal the animals and go back. Their camps on the commons were strongholds, and the parish constables of the day had to be very daring to venture into them. As a matter of fact they very seldom did - but occasionally the townspeople, if they had been disturbed, would take matters into their own hands and raid and secure the malefactors.

Such a raid took place in 1769. In August of that year a formidable gang had assembled in Knaphill Wood. It consisted of gypsies, highwaymen and smugglers. The inhabitants of Guildford and Knaphill set out to capture them. Several of the thieves ran before the inhabitants reached the spot, but after a sharp set-to fourteen were captured.'

'On 1st February 1808, the Stoke Protection Society was established in Guildford which offered rewards as follows:

£10 against murder, burglary, robbery and arson – £5 against stealing, shoplifting and receiving stolen goods – £1 1s for hearing of smaller crimes. Nothing further of the work of this Society is known.'

'Sheep stealing was very rife in the Shere district during the years 1830-40. The parish constables were not able to cope with it. Horses and sheep disappeared in the southern part of the County as if by magic, and most of the horse thieves got to London without being challenged.

One of the gang's meeting places was at the old 'White Horse' Inn at Shere, and in those days it was no

uncommon sight to find the floor of the common room of the inn crammed with poached game whilst the gang enjoyed themselves. They appeared to be immune from punishment, but then two of the gang took to house-breaking and broke into a large house at Wonersh. A constable from Godalming, believed to be Biddlecombe [who later rose to Head Constable of Godalming 1841-50 and Superintendent 1851-58] traced the men concerned to a little wayside inn in Sussex. He enlisted the help of some harvesters and waited for the men.

When they came up he accused them of an imaginary crime and apparently in a joking manner got them to allow him to handcuff them, saying that he had just been appointed to the job and would like to try them out on somebody. When he had them safely cuffed he told them that he wanted them for breaking into Squire Sparkes' place, arrested them and got them into Guildford, where they were tried and convicted.'

The first General Order – and I would call this the beginning of red tape – was issued on 30th January 1851 and dealt with applications for leave, the second stated that all reports were to be in writing, others to whom communications had to be sent, how they had to be addressed, etc.

'Superintendents were asked to send in names of men deserving of promotion. This order later brought a sharp, and to us perhaps an amusing, letter from the Chief Constable to the Superintendent at Farnham:-

*SUPERINTENDENT NEWLAND,
FARNHAM*

Sir,

In your letter of the 9th instant, you recommend P.C. George House No.30 for promotion, notwithstanding the fact of his having recently been the worst for drink whilst on duty.

Three days afterwards he was reported by Sergeant Gray for being drunk and unfit for duty.

Such is the man whom you consider, and recommend as deserving promotion.

All I can say is that your ideas and mine are very different on such matters, and I am sorry to have to tell you that I look upon such a commendation as not only utterly worthless, but as a discredit to yourself, and you must not be surprised if, in the future, no attention is paid to any which you may make.

HC HASTINGS

'An examination of the defaulters' book [the register of disciplinary offences by police officers and punishments awarded] shows some interesting cases:

On 17th March John Lawrence was severely reprimanded for signing a report without reading it' and then once more 'on 1st April for being in plain clothes whilst on duty.

On 1st October Richard Longridge allowed a prisoner to go into a public house and partake of ale whilst he was outside'.

On 6th November 'Henry Cook was dismissed for being drunk and enlisting'.

April 16th: the first clothing order was issued. 'The sizes of hats were to be forwarded to Headquarters and men could exchange hats.'

29th April: horses were first mentioned 'when there was a complaint that some of the horses had been overdriven, and when they were hot that no cloth had been placed over them'. It was 'very apparent that the Chief Constable took a great interest in the horses'.

May 9th brought the first of very infrequently held Superintendents' conferences, 'nothing like the modern idea of holding them every six weeks as, no doubt, there was less to do and probably less to talk about'.

General Order No.41, issued on 26th May, 'pointed out the necessity of men wearing their uniforms and of not going out in plain clothes'.

'Some samples of the type of crime and the sentences given [mind-boggling!] are as follows:

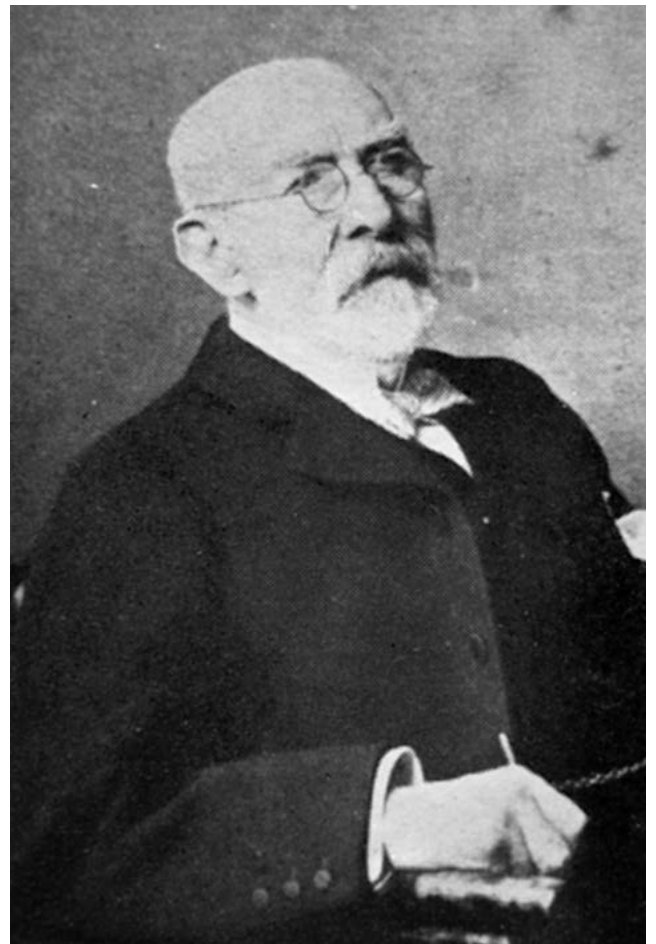
5th February, for stealing one ewe sheep a man was sentenced to ten years' of transportation.

18th May, a boy aged thirteen years was whipped for stealing a faggot and in the same court a boy aged fifteen years was committed and sentenced to two months' hard labour for stealing a quantity of wool.

17th May, George Pink, aged eleven years, stole a piece of "oaken wood" valued 2d. He was sentenced to seven days' hard labour and ordered to be privately whipped.

28th August, for trespassing in search of game, on ground in the occupation of Her Majesty the Queen, three men were charged, committed for trial and sentenced to six months' hard labour.

10th December, a certain Harry Percival, aged twenty-eight years, a labourer, stole one handkerchief and 8 ¾d. He received a sentence of transportation for ten years.'



Captain HC Hastings 1851-1899

1852

26th January: the first murder charge was recorded. At the Kingston Lent Assizes John and Jane Keene were charged of drowning Jane's love child in a well at Albury. Jane was acquitted, but John was sentenced to death and executed in the Horsemongers Lane Gaol on 13th April. In comparison, on 17th March 'a Mary Ann Temple, aged thirty-six, charged with murdering her newly-born child, was sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.'

1st March: 'an order was issued regarding the attendance of men at Divine Service which was looked upon as a very important part of a man's duty. This practice however was not altogether to the advantage of the Chief himself as 'he was becoming rather upset through the fact that when a constable was ordered to be moved or was punished, he almost invariably got the curate of the parish to write to the Chief Constable to try to get the move or punishment cancelled'.

'General Order No.88, dated 9th December, is interesting. It states:- "The Chief Constable has

observed with much dissatisfaction the evident inclination on the part of some Superintendents and Inspectors to deprive Constables, under one specious plea or another, of cases which have rightly belonged to them.... and desires Superintendents and Inspectors to bear in mind that it is their duty to bring forward and encourage as much as possible all young constables instead of damping their zeal, and hindering their advancement by keeping them in the background.” The reply that many Superintendents and Inspectors gave no doubt was that very few of the men were capable of handling a case and somebody had to get it together.’

1853

Superintendents and other persons recruited came and went in quick succession, in fact ‘of the first seventy men appointed twenty-nine were dismissed before they had served a year’.

‘Punishments were heavy, the dismissals from 1st May to 31st December were twenty-three, including eight for drunkenness and two for desertion, the later being punished by imprisonment. The Chief Constable issued an Order that no man should be allowed to resign to escape dismissal.’

However, ‘there was no dearth to recruits into the Force even though the pay was not great and conditions were hard. Men worked seven days a week but twelve days a year leave was given and that had to be taken in the summer, no leave being granted during the winter months.

No instructions were given to the men, and it was not until 1853 that an *Instruction Book* was provided. Constables received 17s a week.’ [There is a discrepancy here as later on in the booklet an entry states that the Instruction Book came out in 1862 which further research seems to confirm]

‘General Order No.94, dated 8th March sets out the clothes as one great coat, one coatee, one pair of dress trousers, one pair of undress trousers, one cap and one hat’.

1854

‘By General Order No.111, dated 1st July, it appears that the Superintendent of the Farnham Division used the official cart to go to Ascot Races and was fined £1 for having communicated to the Magistrate (whose servant he had carried in the cart) that the Superintendent was going to be punished by the Chief Constable.’

1856

22nd March saw the issue of General Order No.127 and training was started in the Force. Constables were afforded the opportunity of being instructed in their drill as ‘the Chief Constable is aware that many were extremely deficient’ and he therefore considered it desirable that men ‘were sent to Headquarters in rotation for the purpose of being drilled and otherwise instructed in their duties.’



Inside the commemorative booklet: PC Carpenter in his 1957 uniform, and J Chuter Ede's foreword

1861

‘On 16th October the very first Deputy Chief Constable of the County was appointed. He was Superintendent William Parr. Sadly he did not hold his appointment very long for he died whilst still serving, on 23rd July, 1869.’ We are reminded how certain virulent diseases, which, thankfully, are now under control, were devastating at the time when General Order No.207 states on 16th October of that year: ‘The Chief Constable has the melancholy duty to perform of announcing to the officers and men of the Surrey Constabulary the death of Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable, James William Parr, who was attacked with malignant scarlet fever (caught, it is believed, in the discharge of his duty) on Friday last, the 17th instant, and to which he fell victim on the following Sunday, 19th instant, about 2.30 in the afternoon. The virulent character of the disease and its rapid termination, coupled with the unusual hot weather and the Chief Constable’s absence at the time, alone prevented an opportunity being offered to the whole of the Force of following the remains of the Deputy Chief Constable to the grave, in just tribute and regard, otherwise being paid to the name of the diseased officer.’



Chertsey Division (circa 1880)

1862

This year saw the publication of *The Instruction Book* [although earlier in the booklet its date was - most likely erroneously - given as 1853] which contained the conditions of service laid down by the Home Office. 'The book contains interesting advice on how to obtain promotion. "Every constable may hope to rise by activity, intelligence and good conduct to a superior rank... no matter how exemplary his conduct, he should devote every hour which he can spare from his duty to reading, writing and to general improvement of his mind... he must also be able to write neatly and correctly from dictation, and understand the first four rules of arithmetic..."'

By this time there was a library at Headquarters which held 620 books. Certain titles must have amused the writer of the commemorative booklet as he singled out the following when he wrote: 'Among the volumes were *Insurrection in China*, *History of the Sandwich Islands*, *History of Russia*, *Life of Mary Ann Schimmelpennich* [sic], *Lives of Good Servants*, *To China and Back*, *Infidelity – Its Cause and Cure*, *Proverbial Philosophy* and *Things Worth Knowing*'.

1865

General Order No.189, dated 25th May is the first one to mention Sergeants. Men who were promoted were 'on probation for two months'.

1866

'The 13th September 1866 seems to have been a red-letter day, because a General Order dated that day allowed one day (a Sunday) off in every six weeks; there had been no rest days before this.'

1892

A Constable 'who had been under the influence of drink for some days previously'... committed suicide' and 'was found drowned'... which led to the Chief Constable putting out 'an order which showed his objection to strong drink'.

1893

'The Guildford or Headquarters Division had a population of 35,018 and thirty-nine constables (including eleven stationed at Headquarters with apparently no civilian clerks)...

1894

'During the whole of his service Captain Hastings was trying to improve the accommodation for the police'. He reported that, 'on a visit to the police station at Chertsey he found a man in the stable trying to write a report of a robbery on a corn bin'. He 'asked for an extra room to be provided, as on pay-days the men had to stand out in the rain.'

1895

'During the latter part of Captain Hastings' Chief Constablenesship, bicycles were brought in, and on 23rd October he reported that twenty-nine bicycles were in use in the county.'

1896

In December 'the Chief Constable mentions for the first time the danger on the roads of light locomotives and motor-cars, and stated that he thought an "Index" Number should be attached to the cars.'

1898

'The usual method of communicating information was by post, but the Chief Constable's sense of economy was so great that he often avoided the postal charges by sending letters by way of road. Sometimes a constable had to walk twelve miles to deliver a letter, and the Chief Constable himself at times complained to the Superintendent [he seems to be arguing against himself there] that a man had to walk so far. Telegrams appear to have been used but very little.'

26th July saw 'an agreement for telephones at Police Stations at Camberley, Farnham, Guildford, Godalming, Woking, Egham and Reigate' being 'made with the National Telephone Company'.

1899

'On 1st January, 1899, Captain Hastings put in his resignation to take effect as from 31st August 1899'. In his last General Order he said: "The time has arrived when it becomes my painful duty to say 'Farewell' to the Force which it has been my privilege and honour to command for so many years, nearly fort-nine"... "I can truly say that these years have been the happiest years of my life".

'There is very little doubt that Captain Hastings was a very good Chief Constable'. He 'was an autocrat, like all Chief Constables of his day. He fought against the evil of drink. He wanted his men fearlessly to do their duty'.

'There were very few precedents from which to seek guidance to organise, equip and regulate the Police Force of the county. That the work was well done is now of course a matter of history'.

PART TWO TO FOLLOW



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POLESDEN LANE – HOMES FOR HEROES AND SURROUNDING INDUSTRY OF THE LAST 100 YEARS

CHRIS LEE



Papercourt Lake and surrounding area in the 1980s

HOMES FOR HEROES

I have lived in Polesden Lane for 27 years and in that time have seen the houses as well as the surrounding area change. As it is the centenary of the building of a particular group of houses I thought I would write a history of Polesden Lane and the surrounding land over the last 100 years.

Prior to 1920, the area only had a few farms – Homewood Farm, Papercourt Farm and Prews Farm, the Seven Stars pub and a few cottages; all very agricultural.

The houses running alongside Papercourt Lake (and four houses in Papercourt Lane) were built as ‘Homes



Map of Homewood and Papercourt Farm



Lloyd George in Wolverhampton in 1918

for Heroes'. These smallholdings comprised one of three developments in Surrey to offer working land to those returning from World War One, many of them with disabilities.

In 1919 the government had passed the Land Settlement Facilities Act requiring local district councils to build houses for the poor and those returning from the war, as the housing stock throughout the country was largely out of date and unsuitable. District councils took this act seriously following then Prime Minister David Lloyd George's speech to the nation calling for "Homes fit for heroes".

On 24th November 1918, he gave a speech in Wolverhampton:

"What is our task? To make Britain a fit country for heroes to live in. I am not using the word 'heroes' in any spirit of boastfulness, but in the spirit of humble recognition of fact. I cannot think what these men have gone through. I have been there at the door of the furnace and witnessed it, but that is not being in it, and I saw them march into the furnace. There are millions of men who will come back. Let us make this a land fit for such men to live in. There is no time to lose. I want us to take advantage of this new spirit. Don't let us waste this victory merely in ringing joybells."

Both Woking and Guildford drew up plans and throughout the 1920s thousands of houses were built across the two boroughs and throughout Surrey, some of which can still be seen in Newark Lane, Old Woking and other local areas.

There was also a need to find employment for all those returning soldiers and one option was to provide smallholdings for people to work on and earn a living. Three sites were identified by Surrey County Council, the first of which to be built on was land either side of Polesden Lane. Two fields owned by Homewood Farm amounting to 26 acres were leased to SCC for £62 per

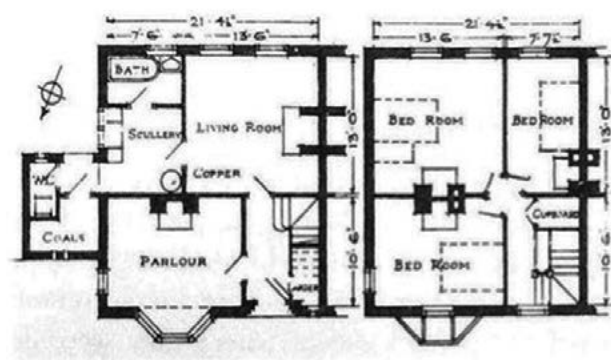
annum and plans drawn up to build 20 homes, each with roughly an acre of land.

Much debate had already taken place over the style and cost of all these new houses and various designs were used, although all of a very similar style and size.

Tenders were submitted to SCC and the well known and reputable local company of WG Tarrant won the contract to build the houses at a cost of £18,665 or £933 per house, which was somewhat higher than the average house price at this time.



Map of twenty Holmwood Farm smallholding plots



Typical design of the Tarrant builds with three bedrooms upstairs and a small bathroom downstairs

The houses were built in 1920 and quickly rented out, mostly to ex-servicemen, but not all with agricultural experience. The land was open and sandy and it quickly became apparent that no one could make a living on just one acre. By 1924 most of the original tenants had moved out and others arrived, the majority of whom had other jobs and used the smallholding as an extra income stream or rented land elsewhere to increase their yields.

SCC quickly realised their mistake and built two other smallholding developments in Banstead and Carshalton. These were much bigger areas and each house had three to seven acres to work. However, the cost of the Polesden Lane builds was deemed too high and much lower quality houses were built, resulting in damp, cold and leaking homes, which had to be completely reclad within 18 months, with the consequence that these houses ended up costing more than those in Polesden Lane. They still suffered from many structural problems and only two houses in the Banstead build are still with us today, the others eventually demolished as sub-standard.



Banstead houses with sub-standard wooden elevation

For those of us presently living in Polesden Lane, we must thank WG Tarrant for their workmanship and SCC for spending the money!

Pigs and vegetables were the main but not sole farming activity (Homewood Farm being a pig farm at the time). As it became apparent by the end of the 1920s and into the 1930s that many of the plots were not being used, one or two tenants looked to take over other plots to enlarge their own.

One of these families was the Jarmans who lived at Wayside. Charles and Florence moved there in 1929 and their only son David was born in 1932. He married Sylvia and they moved to Wayside when Charles died, to



Top: Charles Jarman feeding his pigs

Bottom: David and Paul Jarman outside Wayside

look after Florence, raising their own children, Carol and Paul. Between 1929 and 1983 the family slowly increased their plot to over 13 acres as others gave up their land, including Mr and Mrs Cutts who lived at Rosemead and had acquired various extra plots by the time they retired in the 1970s.

David and Sylvia's daughter Carol married Simon Hill in 1979. Simon lived at the smallholding at 23 Papercourt Lane with his parents. His grandparents had moved there in 1930, eventually passing on the property in 1963 to Simon's parents, who finally moved out in 1978.

Various tenants built greenhouses including the Hills and Jarmans, who ended up with four large ones, the last remains of which have only just been taken down.

The Jarmans, as well as growing vegetables and flowers, bred pigs and poultry. Charles Jarman even had a boar who he rented out to other farms. The family were known for being growers of cornflowers, packing and sending them to Covent Garden Market. As more land became available they grew a wider variety of vegetables and flowers and used the greenhouses for tomatoes, geraniums and bedding plants which they sold in their farm shop and their horsebox, which they converted into a mobile shop which was sent to the Portsmouth Road, then to Send Marsh to increase their sales.



Sylvia Jarman selling produce in Send Marsh

A number of the smallholdings sold their goods from home and Lakeview, on the corner of Polesden and Newark Lane, was for a time known as The Market Garden House.

Jon Stranger who lives in Lucknow Towers has produced a list of residents from 1920 to 1950. Some of the detail is sketchy, but shows that some houses had a surprising number of residents at any one time for three-bedroom houses with one toilet and a bathroom downstairs. Richard and Harriet Surey moved into Lucknow in 1921 and stayed until 1958. During that time they seem to have raised multiple children and had various other family members with them, as well as an array of non-family residents. Up to seven people lived there during the war and eventually their daughter Dorrie married Albert Hockley and they stayed until the 1960s after Richard and Harriet had both died.

Peter James, who lives in 37 and 39 Papercourt Lane (now one house) reports that Mr and Mrs Marsh lived in number 37 but that their next door neighbours in number 39 had a large family and at one point 15 were in residence.

By the 1960s many of the properties were used as council houses and were slowly falling into disrepair. This was not helped by a doodlebug dropping near the pipe factory in Papercourt Lane during the Second World War, bringing ceilings down and blowing doors in. These were repaired but the ceilings still bowed alarmingly.

By the 1980s the houses were generally in a sorry state and in line with the Conservative government's plans to sell off council housing stock, they were slowly sold as tenants left. Today there is still one house owned by

Surrey County Council but all the others are in private hands and have been enlarged and changed, while still retaining similarities to WG Tarrant's original designs.

South View Cottage was used as a home for foster children, some rather unruly, resulting in much damage to original fireplaces etc. Many gardens were used as rubbish dumps and even today I can dig up a shoe or glass bottle. John Sharp and Elaine Betts bought Southview from SCC in 1986. It had been empty for a couple of months and on the day of completion, SCC failed to sign the documents so they were left waiting 24 hours. However, the house was in such bad repair that a hefty shove against the back door gave them entry and they managed to bed down for the night. During their first winter they survived with electric fires for heating and one standpipe for water. A couple of months after moving in they had a visit from the police as the previous tenants 'were known to the police' and they were following up an investigation.

In 2004 David Jarman passed away and his wife Sylvia left Wayside, bringing an end to the smallholdings. SCC put their house and the 14 acres the Jarmans had acquired over the years up for sale and various residents decided to band together to buy the land with a resident in one of the smallholding houses in Papercourt Lane buying Wayside. The bid was successful and many of the residents secured plots, some of them getting the land that their houses originally had in 1920. The Hills acquired a number of acres, so that the long history of the Jarman family having land in Polesden Lane continues.

FREDERICK WILLIAM CAIRNS

This is the story of William Cairns, who lived in Polesden Lane from 1920 to 1932, although I cannot ascertain which house he lived in.

Frederick was born Thomas Seymour Worley in 1887 in London. He became a newspaper seller in Knightsbridge, married Eileen Hurley in 1903 and had three daughters in quick succession. But there were marital problems and he abandoned his wife and children and moved in with Martha Cairns and her two daughters, who had been abandoned by her husband Frederick. Thomas Worley took the name of the deserted husband Frederick William Cairns and they lived together as husband and wife. Frederick enlisted in the Sportsmen Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers in Marylebone in October 1914 under his assumed name, with Martha and her daughters being named as his wife and children. In his attestation forms he states that he is a cook. He served as a cook in England and France with the second division, being transferred between



Frederick William Cairns

various non-combatant units until being finally transferred to the Labour Corps, all the time as a private with the second division. He was discharged in February 1919 with a small pension for deafness that was attributed to his army service. There is no explanation as to why his deafness was attributable to his army service as a cook.

Frederick, Martha and children lived in Mitcham but his occupation was not then known. In February 1920 he was one of the first tenants to move into the new smallholding community in Ripley. Frederick, having no known farming or agricultural background, seemed to make a success of the smallholding and became a fruiterer. He and Martha adopted a son in 1923. Frederick remained the tenant until 1932 when Martha's illness prevented him from carrying on the business. His tenancy from 1920 to 1932 was one of the longest of those earliest tenants in Ripley. It initially came as a surprise to find one of the tenants of the smallholdings having no farming, gardening or agricultural background, but his army experience and partial disability pension would have made him an ideal candidate, on paper, in the spirit of the 1919 Act.

SAND AND GRAVEL PITS

In 1931 the field to the north of the present sailing club was bought from Homeward Farm by Hall & Co for gravel and sand extraction. It was initially dug by digger but eventually the excavation reached the water table and was flooded which necessitated a dredger, then a pump.

A large building was erected at the bottom corner next to the junction of Polesden and Tannery Lane. Conveyor belts were used to transport the gravel to be sorted and loaded into lorries. Fred Hookins, who has lived in the area most of his life, worked at the pits from 1950 as his father was working there already. At that time about ten people were working the pits. This field was finished in the mid 50s and the land that is now Papercourt Lake was also being dug, initially at the Send Marsh end and then the Newark Lane end with the result that the market gardens on that side of Polesden Lane had the main part of their land taken away.

The large amount of gravel being extracted from the Papercourt Lake site had to be transported over Polesden Lane to the processing factory. A large tunnel was built by Fred Hookins and his workmates under Polesden Lane, sufficient to hold a conveyor belt.

Eventually the area to the south west of the original field was also excavated, starting in the 1960s, then those nearer Send in the 70s. These fields were originally owned by Prews and Papercourt Farms. Derek Hack, who has lived in Tannery Lane most of his life, remembers the gravel heaps opposite being taller than the houses. He and his friends used to play there during the weekends, while fishermen used the large water areas. We all complain about the level of traffic today, but back in the 60s up to 50 lorries a day travelled up and down Tannery Lane.

The fields nearer Send were not as plentiful as the original two fields but they were very high quality gravel. They weren't as deep and could be back-filled, but there was still a mass of sitting water that needed to be removed by a pipe which was laid from near what is now known as the 'Crack Factory', through the fields, under Tannery Lane into the original field and then under Polesden Lane, where it ran out into Papercourt Lake. The pipe can still be seen protruding from the bank into Papercourt Lake by the fishermen's car park.



Fred Hookins (current SRHS member) next to the dredger



Gravel pit running alongside Tannery Lane

As the gravel extraction came to an end in the 60s the land was flattened and then used as landfill. This carried on into the 1990s with the original field, being by far the deepest, to be finished last. The landfills were then returned to open fields, as they remain today. A nature reserve looked after by Surrey Wildlife takes up land abutting Tannery Lane and the original gravel pit is now used as an alpaca farm.

PIPE FACTORY

When the gravel pits were first started a field abutting Papercourt Lane and the smallholdings was bought by Norcon, a manufacturer of concrete pipes. At this time these were in popular demand for land and road drainage. The factory manufactured them in many different sizes, some being up to 6 ft in diameter.

Some 25 people worked there and the lorries needed to deliver and collect only added to the volume of industrial traffic using the small lanes.

A railway track was built around the site to carry the heavy pipes. The train used is still in existence and on show at Amberley open air museum.

Once the Second World War started, Anderson shelters were needed across the UK and the largest pipes were used as a substitute. One of these can be seen next to the museum at Ripley village hall. Another is in the garden of a house in Newark Lane.

The factory continued to operate after the war and into the 1950s. In 1950 aerial photos were taken of the factory, the landfill site and houses in Polesden and Papercourt Lanes which can be viewed at <https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EAW029234>. There were eight photos taken and the quality of photography is excellent – you can zoom into each photo to see amazing detail.



Top: Two gas-powered cranes used for lifting large piping onto lorries at the Norcon factory

Bottom: A Norcon lorry

The photo below shows a major enterprise with two large buildings and stock over the whole site. You can also see some of the smallholdings on Polesden and Papercourt Lanes with their strips of land with pig pens and what look like recently cut hay fields. To the left is the first gravel pit covered with water, and the dredger. Today, it would be difficult to associate the land with what we see in this photo.



An aerial view of the Norcon factory

Redland PLC based in Reigate bought the factory in 1955 but by then the demand for these pipes was dwindling and the factory closed in the mid 60s, when it was levelled and some landfill put on the field, finishing in the early 70s after which the field was returned to agriculture, then sold in 2013 to an investment company who in turn sold it on to land-bankers. Just like with the smallholdings, various residents clubbed together and bought just over half the field to protect it from development.

PAPERCOURT SAILING CLUB

In the late 1950s the Wey Cruising Club used Bolder Mere Lake (next to the A3 to the north of Ripley) and various members started competing by sail. Due to the shallow waters, surrounding trees and occasional swimmers it wasn't very suitable for sailing, so through the help of John Street of Hall & Co a move to the north gravel pit in Polesden Lane (next to Newark Lane) was made. In 1961 the Papercourt Sailing Club was formed.

As with Bolder Mere Lake this area was also shallow and with steep banks difficult to access, therefore a move to the south pit was made which was deeper and larger, although, as it was still in use, the boats had to manoeuvre around the dredger and other equipment still working the site.

Inaugurated in 1961 the Papercourt Sailing Club became independent of the Wey Cruising Club and a rental of £75 per annum was paid to Hall & Co. By 1986 this had increased to £6,000 per annum.

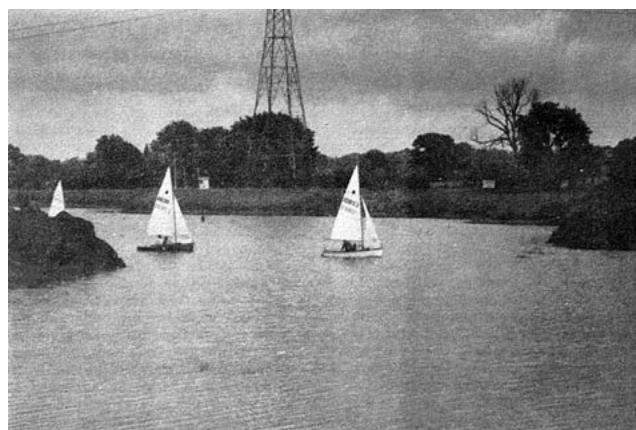
Over the next year a hut was donated, the cliffs were graded down, a car park developed and the sand heaps taken away.



Yachts sailing past the first clubhouse

The land on which the clubhouse was built was originally an island reached by wooden planks installed as a walkway. Later a proper causeway was built. The old clubhouse was removed and a more permanent building erected in 1965, which still forms part of the present clubhouse, now three times the original size. It was opened by the then MP Sir George Sinclair and further updating has occurred in 1980, 1984 and 2011, resulting in a large bar/seating area with floor to ceiling windows giving a panoramic view of the lake.

In 1976 Hall & Co finished dredging the north lake and the work to level off any 'hills' and landscaping was carried out to help the area return to a more natural environment. This meant that for a short period both lakes were being used. However, in 1977 dredging in the south lake finally stopped and while maintenance work was carried out all sailing was moved to the north lake. A new clubhouse was needed and an old builders' hut was used. This is the 'girl guides' hut next to the fishermen's car park.



Top: The Commodore, HAW Pettinger, leads the return to the south lake after the two lakes were connected

Bottom: The north Lake temporary clubhouse in 1976

In 1978 the two lakes were joined but a return to the original clubhouse was not possible until 1980.

Since then the amenities have been measurably improved including in 2003/4 a major programme of dredging over the whole lake to improve depth. The club achieved RYA Champion Club Status in 2000.

Brian Willis, a well-known sailor involved in the Olympics and the Americas Cup has been holding two-week courses for children during the Easter break since 1990, when Princess Anne bought her two children Peter and Zara to take part. She returned in 2005 for an official visit.

The total area of the lake and land (56 acres) has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which also includes a number of meadows and fields adjoining the River Wey.

In 2012 the sailing club bought the land from Hall & Co taking on the responsibility of running the fishing club and maintaining the surrounding land as well as securing the future of the sailing club. In 2013 they won the Royal Yacht Association Sailing Club of the year – a fantastic achievement for a small inland club.

Fishermen have used the lake for as long as the sailing club. Initially subscriptions were organised by Hall & Co, then the sailing club took over. Pike and carp are mainly fished as well as bream, tench, eels, perch and roach. The largest fish caught so far was a carp weighing 46lb 13oz although a pike known as Jaws is rumoured to be even bigger.



The largest fish caught so far – a carp weighing 46lb 13oz

SUMMARY

Polesden Lane has seen enormous changes over the last 100 years. From a narrow lane surrounded by agricultural fields, to the building of 16 houses with smallholdings, the first gravel pit in the 1930s to the whole area becoming surrounded by pits. This was followed by the development of the pipe factory, the beginnings of the Papercourt Sailing Club, the pits then used for landfill and the slow change back to fields. The three narrow lanes of Papercourt, Polesden and Tannery were never built for large lorries to traverse all day long, but that was the reality.

Today, it's a little different. We are surrounded by fields, Papercourt Lake and the nature reserve. Most of the houses have been extended and as mentioned above, some have been able to buy land to return the properties to one acre plots. It's all a bit more middle class than it was. The Jarman family still have land here that they use for their land management company, nearly 100 years after they first arrived. The traffic is still terrible but the first gravel pit is an Alpaca farm and there will soon be a gin distillery in the lane, so it's not all bad. I think us Polesden Laners are lucky to live where we do – but as the above shows, change is inevitable. We can only hope that change will be for the better.



A view of the smallholdings today

LOELIA, DUCHESS OF WESTMINSTER — LATER LOELIA LINDSAY

CLARE McCANN

When I began this research I knew very little about Loelia, Duchess of Westminster, other than she had lived in Send after the war, nor was I aware of the many celebrities that beat a path to her door. She had lived in Send for much longer than I realised.

Loelia, born in 1902, was the only daughter of the courtier Sir Frederick Ponsonby, later 1st Baron Sysonby, and Victoria Lily Kennard. The Ponsonbys had many illustrious forebears including Lady Caroline Lamb who married Lord Melbourne but famously had an affair with Byron.

Loelia spent her early years at St James's Palace, Park House at Sandringham and Birkhall. The reason for this being that her father served three monarchs, Victoria, Edward and George V in a number of key household roles. She also spent some time at Great Tanglely Manor at Wonersh, a house part-owned by her parents.

According to her fascinating memoir, *Grace and Favour* (1961), she had quite an unhappy childhood as her father was constantly on call in his court role and her mother was a rather distant and absent parent. Eventually she got out of the clutches of her unsympathetic and even cruel nannies/governesses and was sent to school at least for a few years, though she says it left her extremely shy and lacking in self-confidence.



Great Tanglely Manor



Loelia aged 15 (from *Cocktails & Laughter*)

Her parents, given the circles in which they moved, were not particularly wealthy but that did not stop her ‘coming out’ and being presented at court. She was, of course, already very familiar with members of the royal family and, as a child, had even asked Edward VII, while sitting on his knee and pulling his beard, why he had no crown on his head.

The round of balls and dances made her gradually to overcome her shyness and she became one of the so-called ‘bright young things’ who numbered Evelyn Waugh, the Mitfords, Cecil Beaton and John Betjeman among their number. Their pranks included treasure-hunts and impersonating reporters to obtain interviews from famous people. The older generation were duly shocked, although in her own old age Loelia Lindsay

insisted that it was ‘just light-hearted fun’. She took part in elaborate fancy dress events when even the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York dressed up. She claims to have invented the ‘bottle party’ when she and her brother Gaspard threw a party at their house in St James’s while her parents were away shooting.

Loelia met and fell in love with the twice-divorced Hugh Grosvenor, 2nd Duke of Westminster who was well known for his lavish lifestyle and his extraordinary wealth. He was known as ‘Bendor’, a joke relating back to a failed 14th century lawsuit relating to the family’s coat of arms. He had multiple homes and two yachts and one of them even features in Noel Coward’s play *Private Lives*. The diarist ‘Chips’ Channon summed him up as ‘a mixture of Henry VIII and Lorenzo Il Magnifico’. The family estate was Eaton in Cheshire and one Surrey-related aside is that the statue of Hugh Lupus, supposedly the founder of the Grosvenor family, which stands outside the house, was sculpted by GF Watts.



The family estate of the Westminsters in Eaton, Cheshire



Hugh Lupus, supposedly the founder of the Grosvenor family, by GF Watts

The duke courted Loelia in style, showering her with diamonds. A typical incident occurred one night in her sleeper en route for Venice when she woke with an uncomfortable lump digging into her: it was an emerald and diamond brooch.

He and Loelia married in 1930 when she was 28 and he was 51 and already twice-married. Winston Churchill was best man, and although the wedding was held in a registry office it attracted a lot of media attention. The marriage seems to have been in difficulties from the outset. In her memoir she speculates that he had been spoilt and indulged as a child and then devastated by the loss of his only son. He led a semi-nomadic lifestyle with constant travel, much of it by boat, which did not suit Loelia, who suffered from seasickness. The duke did not like her ‘set’, the royal family or even her parents but preferred ‘real people’, most of whom Loelia felt were hangers on who benefited from his extreme generosity. He was prone to fits of extreme rage and jealousy and after about five years they separated and finally divorced in 1947. The marriage was later described by James Lees-Milne as ‘a definition of unadulterated hell’. However, Loelia is quite measured in her later memoir and pays tribute to many of the duke’s good qualities. She says they met occasionally and ‘in the most friendly fashion. During the war, when Benny was convalescing from a serious illness, I used to save up my petrol ration to go to see him’. It seems to have at least ended on a better note.



The duke and duchess at the races



In *Grace and Favour* the duchess writes: 'At the beginning of the war I moved to a charming Georgian house in Surrey called Send Grove. It suited me perfectly and I felt that the house and I were made for each other' (photo SRHS)

She admits that re-establishing herself was not easy and says 'I had to conquer that Goliath, loneliness, which is the dread of all ageing women'. However, in 1940 she moved into Send Grove and there established herself as a skilful hostess as well as occupying her time with needlework and gardening, passions she had inherited from her mother.

Loelia was an expert needlewoman, with a knack of incorporating beads into flowers and leaves. The actor Ernest Thesiger gave her his collection of beautiful multi-coloured beads and she once threaded 20 shades of mauve into a dusky rose. According to the renowned biographer, Hugo Vickers, in his obituary of her, she had infinite patience and imagination, and made needlework designs of great finery, even picking out the clouds in a sky with strands of her own hair. Her house at Send was full of painstaking work including a wonderful hand-woven carpet and a mirror adorned with shells hand-picked by her in Australia. Her beautiful collection has been bequeathed to the National Trust.



Altar front in Send Church (photo courtesy member Norman Lavender)

Dr Susan Kay-Williams from the Royal School of Needlework told me there were quite a few entries in their work books relating to the Duchess – commissions for repairing canvasses or stretching finished work. She thinks it possible Loelia might have been part of the large exhibition that was held in 1951 but due to lockdown she does not have access to the catalogue. Apparently Queen Mary was an exhibitor and the future Queen Mother appeared in the television coverage. Long-time Send resident Jean Turner says she recalls the Duchess exhibiting in London so this may be the same occasion. Dr Kay-Williams thinks Loelia's embroidery was the subject of an article, probably in *House and Garden* in the 1950s but as yet I have been unable to track this down.

Loelia was also a talented horticulturist, transforming a muddy rubbish dump at Send into a magnificent garden. She would bind roses high up a tree-trunk and then allow them to tumble over, giving the impression of a floral waterfall. Jean Turner knew of the gardener, Dave Pool who worked for her – apparently she had him grow containers full of white hyacinths, which sounds lovely.

Royal biographer Hugo Vickers, slightly less flatteringly, also commented that 'she lived in a world in which feuds consumed considerable energy, 'cutting dead' was part of the vocabulary and the morning telephone buzzed with enjoyable gossip in her rich, melodic voice'. We do not have many stories of how this impacted on her life in Send but SRHS member Pat Clack has been trawling through the Sanger diaries for me (see journals 248-250). These were written during and just after the war and clearly Loelia was 'noticed' by the locals, whether it was her presence in church in a brown Persian lamb coat and Russian cap or by her no longer coming to church. In one anecdote Gerald Sanger relates a lunch he had with Ian Fleming. 'Over lunch it transpired that he (Fleming) and Ann were off that afternoon to Send. "Tell me what the village says about Loelia," he entreated. "The village is shocked because she has given up coming to church," I said. "That's good!" he said. "I can make a good story out of that. Does she take any part in village life?" "She presents prizes at sports," I agreed. "But she doesn't belong to the Women's Institute." "The Women's Institute – I must make a note of that," remarked the Duchess' friend. "And what does the village say about all the comings and goings at her house?" "There are rumours," I said, grimly. But he does not elaborate and was probably mischief-making.

One other entry in the diaries confirms the story of presenting prizes. 18th May 1946 'Hope (Sanger) had planned a Village Children's Party for VE Day Plus One.



1956 Send May Fete. The duchess (right) with Mrs Sylvester, wife of Rev Cyril Sylvester and Gerald Sanger of *Movietone News*



Cecil Beaton at the Old Vicarage
(from *Cocktails & Laughter*)

She wrote and asked the Duchess of Westminster to present prizes to the children and the duchess consented. Long overdue contact had been made'...on arrival at the sports field 'Hope said "Go and rescue the Duchess from Mrs May (of Ashburton House)". I found the two ladies sitting on the grass in a corner of the enclosure, with Mrs May gabbling uneasily about the prospects of Conservatism and the corruption of the younger generation. Every now and then a quartet of diffident children would present themselves as winners of races that were taking place further up the field. They were

rewarded with florins or shillings depending whether they had finished first or second. Mrs May said she wished the schools taught small girls to curtsy nowadays. There succeeded a discussion on manners.' But he does not relate Loelia's views.

Jean Turner told me that as a child she won a fancy dress competition at the Lancaster Hall and Loelia presented the prizes but I forgot to ask whether she curtsied to her!

Included in her photobook *Cocktails and Laughter*, is a drawing from *Carol Day*, a cartoon strip that was published in the *Daily Mail*. It featured the everyday adventures of a young blonde model, Carol Day. Send Grove featured as a house in the cartoon strip.

However, it was not just cartoon characters visiting the house. Many real celebrities visited including Cyril Connolly, Henry Weymouth (later Lord Bath), Paul Getty and Cecil Beaton to mention just a few. Perhaps some of these visitors caused local tongues to wag – who knows.

The Queen Mother and Lady Onslow also visited, which supports a story that Bill Milton (who worked at Clandon Park) told former member, the late Jane Bartlett and which is recorded in her collection of local memories: "One day Lord Onslow said some VIP was coming so he (Bill) and his wife cleaned all day. Next morning at 9.30 Lord Onslow phoned to say they were on their way with thirty people, including the Queen Mother. When they had the formal opening following renovations, the Queen



Send Grove featured in a cartoon in the *Daily Mail*



The Queen Mother at Send Grove (from *Cocktails & Laughter*)

Mother had disappeared – police and escorts were all hunting, but she had gone off with Lady Pamela Onslow to see Loelia, Duchess of Westminster at Send Grove.”

Noel Coward was also a long-time friend. Later he agreed to write the foreword to her 1961 memoir, something he said he was generally reluctant to do.

In this case he did so, he said, ‘cowed by the steely inflexibility of her tone and a look in her eye that I suspect caused the late Duke of Westminster some uneasy moments’.

Another friend, Ian Fleming, always referred to her as ‘Lil’ as Loelia was apparently meant to be the Russian for Lily (her mother’s second name). She featured as Loelia Ponsonby (her maiden name), nicknamed ‘Lil’, as the fictional Principal Secretary of the 00 Section, an ultra-covert black ops unit within the British Secret Service. She acted as James Bond’s shared personal secretary in several of Ian Fleming’s novels before being upstaged by Miss Money Penny.

Unfortunately her hopes of staying at Send Grove were not to be. In *Cocktails and Laughter* she wrote ‘I thought the house small enough to manage, but in time it proved beyond my means and I moved into a smaller house, the nearby cottage called the Old Vicarage, where I still live today’.

According to information we have received recently, a Major HP Holt bought Send Grove from the Duchess of Westminster in about 1961/62. The Duchess retained



The Old Vicarage as it is today (photo Clare McCann)



Lady Diana Cooper in the garden at the Old Vicarage (from *Cocktails and Laughter*)

what was the head gardener’s cottage (now called the Old Vicarage) in Church Lane, and refurbished that with the funds from the sale of Send Grove.

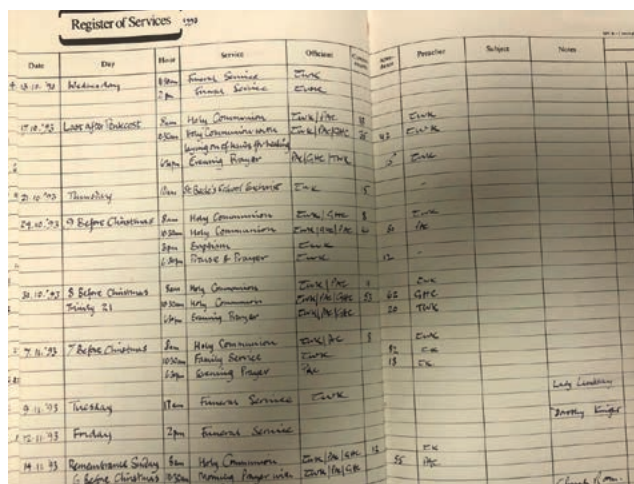
As well as hosting guests at Send Grove Loelia travelled and worked. During the 1950s she was a feature editor for *House & Garden* magazine, and covered the wedding of Prince Rainier III of Monaco and Grace Kelly. However, she relates that she was not invited to the reception but gatecrashed it with help of her good friend Lady Diana Cooper, who had been invited.

Later she was on the board of the Yvonne Arnaud theatre and chairman of the appeal executive.

In 1969 Loelia surprised her friends by remarrying. She found much happiness in her second marriage to Sir Martin Lindsay of Dowhill, 1st Baronet, Arctic explorer, Gordon Highlander, Conservative MP and historian of the Baronetage. Sir Martin, a devoted husband, died in 1981.



Loelia in her library at Send Grove – note the beautiful embroidered cushion (from *Cocktails and Laughter*)



Extract from the register of services at St Mary's



Sir Martin Lindsay and Paul Getty (from *Cocktails and Laughter*)



Loelia's modest gravestone in Send churchyard (photo courtesy member Norman Lavender)

Hugo Vickers says by her own choice Loelia spent her last years in nursing homes, first in Surrey and latterly in Pimlico, 'where the matron gave an annual Christmas party at which delicious champagne flowed and the atmosphere was about as far from a geriatric establishment as you could hope to find'. Though Loelia always claimed rather to dislike Margaret Argyll, another resident, they were thrown together in their last days. Matron told me she had taken them out to tea: "The Duchess of Argyll wanted to go to the Ritz and Lady Lindsay to Claridge's, but I took them both to the Carlton Towers and they had a wonderful time".'

In her rooms Loelia recreated the atmosphere of Send in miniature, with her favourite furniture, pictures and needlework. 'To think,' she would say, 'that at one time I used to own half of London, with 50 valets, and now I am reduced to one room.' Seemingly she retained a youthful enjoyment of life, regularly visited by old friends 'that I've known since I came out of the egg'.

She died in London in 1993 but her funeral was held in Send and her ashes interred in the graveyard.

Looking back on her life on her 90th birthday, Loelia reflected on the contrasts of her life: 'Rich as Croesus, then not a penny... That was all very exciting, I must say. It ended badly, but things like that do end badly. I never could have done any better. I was out of my depth the whole time. It had moments, there's no question about it. I can see how lucky I've been compared to other people.' Hugo Vickers wrote, 'Loelia's life was almost a classic 20th century Cinderella story'.

Sources:

Grace and Favour by Loelia Duchess of Westminster, published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson 1961

Cocktails and Laughter – the albums of Loelia Lindsay, published by Hamish Hamilton 1983

Wikipedia

[http://theesotericcuriosa.blogspot.com/2014/04/lauding-lady-leave-it-to-loelias.html?](http://theesotericcuriosa.blogspot.com/2014/04/lauding-lady-leave-it-to-loelias.html)

WHAT IS IT?

ALAN COOPER



This tool had a very specific purpose - but what?

ANSWERS TO THE CHRISTMAS QUIZ IN J275 (PAGE 33)

1. 1966
2. Stratford Farm - Hyde Farm – Corsair Farm
3. The Hautboy, Ockham
4. Augustinian
5. The Adventures of Robin Hood – Richard Greene
6. Catweasel
7. The Pond, Ripley
8. Smallpox Isolation Hospital
9. Florence Desmond – Dunsborough House
10. Paddy Feeney

Two members, Julie Simmons and Angela Smith each scored 14 points out of a maximum 15, and will both get a prize. Runners-up were Pat Clack and Janet & Trevor Tice (13 points) followed by Audrey Smithers (11 points). Interestingly, Audrey was the only person to give the correct answer to question No.10.

LETTERS AND CORRECTIONS

CAMERON BROWN

The editor has to confess that we got a few things wrong in the article about National Schools, J275 p16. I received mails from Sheila Brown, John Slatford and Pat Clack, all pointing out that on page 16 the caption for the Ripley painting says it is of Send School. It should have been captioned 'Watercolour painting of Ripley church and school by Charles E Shaw, 1896'. Sheila Brown added: 'on p16 it says that Joseph Lancaster and Andrew Bell were eminent local men. This is incorrect as they were definitely not local to Send or Ripley.' I don't know how that one slipped in as footnotes 1 and 2 make it clear that they were not local. Both Sheila and Pat Clack commented 'page 18 paragraph two should read Mr and Mrs Lance Rawes, not Rose'.

Pat Clack added: 'Oddly enough, although we had two of the evacuees, I never remember the school being called anything other than Thornton Heath school. The headmaster was Mr Gay, and his teacher who accompanied him to Send was Miss Barber, a stern-looking, bespectacled lady on a par with Miss Perrin, and they did not get on at all. The old Red Cross hut and the church room were used as extra classrooms and Miss Perrin would march her brood in one direction while miss Barber took hers in the other direction, on opposite sides of the road, and never acknowledging each other. Parts of the Thornton Heath school, the ones for seniors, were lodged in Kingfield. The little girls who stayed with us were Christine and Doreen Scholes and their older brother Geoffrey was in Kingfield; he used to cycle over to us to visit his sisters. They were very timid little girls, having been bombed out twice before being evacuated. Their mother was in the NAAFI and their father in the RAF. Until a couple of years ago I was in touch with Doreen, who lived in Yeovil, where her husband was stationed in the Fleet Air Arm, but I haven't heard from her recently.'

[Editor's note: None of these mistakes come from our Society publication *Two Surrey Village Schools*, co-authored by Sheila Brown. The eminent publisher Sir William Collins used to say: "Any book without a mistake in it has had too much money spent on it" – but I promise to try harder in future.]

MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN

In a previous journal we listed items that seem to be missing from the library. I am pleased to say some have been found but in most instances we will mark them as lost and do not propose to replace them. In addition as part of the library audit we are hoping to dispose of books that are perhaps either out of date or not about our area. Please feel free to object to any disposals if you feel we should keep something. All items will either be offered to other institutions or to members. Also, as soon as this process is complete we plan to add the library catalogue to the website and would then encourage members to suggest books which we might add to the library. The object is to end up with a lending library for members, that is relevant and accessible to anyone interested in the area.

Any comments or suggestions to Desmond McCann at cricketshill@btinternet.com

Morris, Jeremy – The non-conformist experience in Croydon 1992

NCT – Tots about town: baby and toddler guide to Guildford 2002

Schueller, Robert – A history of Chobham 1989

Wedgwood, Alexandra (editor) – A history of the church and parish of St Martin's, Dorking 1990

A history of the Church of St James, Shere – 5th edition

Guildford Borough Council – A short guide to Guildford Museum 1960

A study of the Church of St John Baptist, Puttenham 1969

Hudson, John – A Surrey Christmas (we have another copy)

Corke, Shirley – Abinger Hammer: a short history and guide 1993

Taylor, David – An estate for all seasons 2006

Crew, GCE – Bagshot Park 1974

Hampshire County Council – Basing House: the story of Basing House and a guide to its ruins – undated

Mason, J – Cebba's Ham: the story of Chobham 1990

Stratton, HJM – Chertsey and Addlestone in the past 1980

Church of St Nicholas, Compton, Surrey – undated

Bond, LR – Compton Parish Church: St Nicholas, Compton, Surrey – undated

Horsley Countryside Preservation Society – East Horsley: the Lovelace village 2006

May, John Allan – Eating out in Surrey 1976

Furniss, John – Epsom revived: a lighthearted look at Epsom 1985

Crouch, KR and Shanks, SA – Excavations at Staines 1975–6: the Friend's Burial Ground site – undated

Festival of Britain: South Bank Exhibition guide 1951 (we have other copies)

Harding, JM – Four centuries of Charlwood houses, medieval to 1840 published 1976

Edwards, Ralph and Ward-Jackson, Peter – Ham House: a guide 1959

Chettle, John – Hampton Court Palace 1971

Vardey, Edwina (editor) – History of Leatherhead: a town at the crossroads 1988

Rowe, Jill – In and around Hascombe: a childhood memory 1992

Hibbert, Christopher – King Mob 1958

Walker, Hazel and Clifford, Angela (editors) – Langley Vale: memories of a Surrey village 2001

Willsher, Janet – Let's go with the children (Surrey) 2002

Loseley Park: official guide – undated

Walmsley, Charles – Notes on the old parish church Albury, Surrey – undated

Shere Gomshall and Peaslake Local History Society – Old houses in the parish of Shere, Gomshall & Peaslake 1981

Bennett, Valerie – On your bike in Surrey – 2002 – x2

National Trust – Polesden Lacey published 1986 – x3

Cornforth, John – Pyne's royal residences

- Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew
- Pike, E Royston – Royal Elmbridge
- Brightling, George B – Some particulars relating to the history and antiquities of Carshalton
- Harlech, Lord – Southern England Ancient Monument regional guide No.2
- Blackman, Michael E - St George's Hill, Weybridge
- St Mary's Stoke D'Abernon: a short guide
- Tupper, M F – Stephen Langton or, the days of King John (3 editions)
- Pilkington, Len – Surrey airfields in the second world war – x2 – NB: no references to Wisley
- Shepherd, Chris – Surrey at work in old photographs – x2
- Surrey County Council – Surrey cycle guide No 2: Addlestone, Camberley, Byfleet, Woking
- Golding, Roy – Surrey pub guide (out of date)
- Keeble, Richard – Surrey pubs (none local)
- Pitt, D and Shaw, Michael – Surrey villages
- Watkin, Bruce – Surrey: a Shell guide
- Loobey, Patrick – SW London: photographic memories of Britain
- Farnham Chamber of Commerce – The book of Farnham in Surrey
- Hougham, ER – The book of reckonings and other memoranda 1500 – 1612
- Baring-Gould, S – The Broom-squire
- Booth, John – The drinking man's guide to Surrey pubs
- Bingham, Caroline – The history of Royal Holloway College 1886 – 1986
- Manning, SA – The naturalist in S E England: Kent, Surrey and Sussex
- Guildford Borough Council – The official guide and handbook for residents and visitors – x2
- Wellard, Gordon – The story of Camberley 1798 – 1987: the Victorian village that became a modern town
- Sampson, June – The story of Kingston
- McCloy, Andrew – The Thames Path national trail
- Bowley, Pam – Views of old West Horsley
- Harris, R – Weald and Downland Open Air Museum: guide (out of date)
- Smith, Jean – Weybridge: a photographic history of your town

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MUSEUM, FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

At the time of writing the museum is closed. For up to date information see our website or contact Clare McCann on 01483 728546.

Until further notice meetings will be on Zoom with a 7.30 start. Outings will be planned once we can anticipate being able to go out together.

DATES	EVENTS
Tuesday 16th February	AGM. Members only, plus a presentation about the Plagues and Pandemics exhibition at our museum
Tuesday 16th March	Ken Bare talk: <i>60 Years of the Surrey Hills</i>
Tuesday 20th April	Cherrill Sands talk: <i>The creation and restoration of Painshill gardens</i>
Tuesday 21st September	James Dickinson talk: <i>Margaret Beaufort 'My Lady the King's Mother'</i>

Further details can be obtained from Helena Finden-Browne. helena_findenbrowne@compuserve.com

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS		
Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life	Reprinted 1998/2006	£10.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.25
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£4.00
The Straight Furrow, by Fred Dixon		£1.50
Ripley and Send – Looking Back	Reprinted 2007	£9.00
A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£2.00
Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2012	£4.00
The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£4.00
Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures	New Edition 2017	£8.00
Two Surrey Village Schools – The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools		£10.00
The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey		£5.00
Memories of War		£8.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£10.00
Send and Ripley Walks (revised edition)		£7.50
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£8.00
Special Offer: Purchase Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£10.00
Heroes All		£20.00

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



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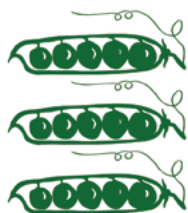
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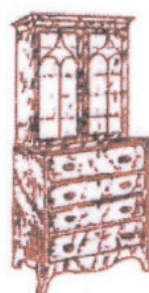
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