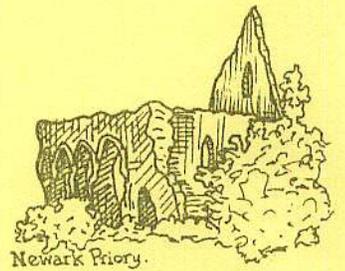


Send & Ripley
History Society

Established 1975 as Send History Society



Tenth Anniversary

1975 - 1985

Tenth Anniversary

SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL REFLECTIONS ON THE SOCIETY'S TENTH BIRTHDAY

As may be apparent from the number of this issue, the Society has now completed ten years of existence. "The Times" commemorated its 200th anniversary on 1 January by issuing free with each newspaper sold that day a facsimile of the first issue. In the belief that it may be of some academic interest to the newer members, provide a certain amount of nostalgic interest to founder members still with us, and form the basis for reviewing progress and direction, we follow the example set by the "Times" and enclose a facsimile of issue No 1.

The first thing to observe is that the Society has in fact developed very much as originally intended, the only fundamental change being the addition of Ripley to the Society's name in 1982. This facilitated the study of the ancient parish of Send & Ripley, regularised the Society's interest in Ripley, has led to the discovery of much interesting local history, and has brought new blood into the Society to give a fresh impetus.

Of the 29 people who attended the exploratory meeting at Heath Farm on 28 January 1975, 17 are still with us, plus a further two whose membership is in suspense while they sojourn abroad, three were visitors who never joined, four have moved away from the district, one has died, and only two have resigned, one of those being a visitor anyway. The initial membership of 50 has expanded steadily to 302 at the time of writing.

The "possibly bi-monthly Newsletter (edited initially by the Secretary)" has actually appeared every two months without fail, all except No 1 having been typed with helpful enthusiasm, and scarcely an error, by Chris Parker. The temporary Editor yet awaits a permanent replacement.

Of the proposed working groups, genealogy, documents and written history have become one under the leadership of John Slatford; photography, led by Ken Bourne, is now a permanent and invaluable feature; buildings, with the inestimable early guidance of Jim Oliver and latterly under Derek Bromley, has been the most consistently active group; no water ever flowed under the bridge of the Wey Navigation as a group and perhaps, in retrospect, was not a wide enough interest for study by a group; archaeology, which loomed large originally, has unfortunately disappeared, some of it, no doubt, in Halls' lorries to form the new by-pass to by-pass the by-pass at Guildford and the M25 at Wisley; schools, under Sheila Brown, have surfaced from time to time as a group when required; and natural history has itself had an almost preternatural history - it was so popular early on with Ted Bartlett as leader that many of its members decided that it could operate more happily as a separate society, it having moved somewhat away from the original concept of local studies. Thus in 1979 the Surrey Heath Natural History Society was formed with the good wishes of the majority of our members. Under the continued Secretaryship of Ron Croucher and the present Chairmanship of Tony Medlen, both of whom have remained members of our Society, it is a successful society in its own right. The Natural History Group within our Society has continued on and off, first under the guidance of Ken Dawson and later under Ken Bourne. At present it is dormant. Although it had not been envisaged originally, industrial history, with the benefit of Ted Goldup's experience and inspiration, has been much appreciated.

Of the original "possible projects", the recollections of residents were originally recorded individually, and we have had the fascinating reminiscences of such as Marjorie Sex, the late Joe Baigent, last herdsman of the Broadmead, Miss N Palmer, and, perhaps most memorable of all, the five-installment "Send Past and Present" by the late Jim French of "Goodgrove", who lived to see his articles published, but died shortly after, aged 89, in 1979. There is now a thriving Folk Memories Group, whose work, it is

anticipated, will be appreciated in issues to come. The other "possible projects" have all come to pass with the exception of (a) the histories of local clubs (although the Send Scouts through the years, since the original 1st Send was formed in 1909, were recorded in some detail), (b) the Boughton Hall moat, (c) the Send "Manor House". Surprisingly, the moat remains a total mystery and is in urgent need of a single-minded researcher to shed at least some light. The detailed origin of the "Manor House" is still not known (although many later details have been recorded) in spite of the Secretary buying it together with his family, thereby "putting his money where his mouth is", to use an inelegant but apt modern expression.

Notable completed projects which were not originally envisaged have included the restoration of the Royal Arms in Send Church and publication of three books, namely the Guide to Send Church, the Munby Diary, and the recent book of photographs.

The originally intended bi-monthly meetings have become monthly - indoors during the dark evenings and outdoors to places of local historic interest during the summer months. Some have been unforgettable - those that spring immediately to mind are the evening at St Bede's School on blacksmithing and farriery with Ron Sex, retired Send blacksmith and wrought iron specialist, and his brother-in-law and counterpart from Ripley, Jack Heath; Pat Thurbin, dressed in appropriate uniform, on the 18th century army camp on Send Heath, Ken Gravett on timber-framed buildings; Mervyn Blatch on Surrey Churches; Dr David Robinson and Shirley Corke at different times on the work of their respective record offices; Mark Sturley on Guildford's lost pubs; Professor Alan Crocker on the paper mills of the River Wey; and Ken Dawson, Ken Bourne and David Croucher with their natural history slides, turning everyday phenomena into a world of magic. On the outdoor side there were outstanding evenings at Worsfold Gates with the late Ewart Grove and Vince Locatelli, the deserted village and parish church at Albury Park, St Martha's and St Catherine's Chapels, Shere, Old Woking, Dedswell Manor, Esher, Leatherhead, Waverley Abbey and Ted Goldup's open evening with veteran agricultural machinery and barbecue.

Particularly noteworthy half-day visits were made to Woking Palace, Newark Priory, Pyrford and Wisley Churches, the Guildhall and Abbots Hospital at Guildford, Send Court and Send Grove, Shipley Windmill, Cosford Water Mill, Thursley and Peper Harow. Of the all-day visits, some which remain most sharply in mind were the Weald & Downland Museum at Singleton; the trip to Sussex to visit Steyning, the churches of Sompting, Coombe and St Botolphs, and Lancing College; the iron-age fort at Ladle Hill and Titchfield Abbey, Hampshire; the two trips to the Meon Valley; Stane Street, Chichester and Winchester.

The visit to Leatherhead revived the idea of a parish museum and inquiries are presently being made.

Two of the most striking achievements not originally specifically contemplated are the 700-page translation of the Manorial Court Rolls from Latin to English, covering the period 1533 to 1733, paid for by the Society, but masterminded by John Slatford, and the extensive research on them and other documents by Bette Slatford, which has enabled her to trace the history of a large number of mainly Ripley houses.

A number of corrections and updatings fall to be made to issue No 1 if it is not to be misleading:

- (1) Ken Bourne has long since ceased to be Chairman of the St Bede's School Association, and Les Bowerman to be involved with the Scout group.
- (2) Mayford History Society is now Mayford & Woking District History Society.
- (3) "And So to Maynford" turned out to be based on fake writings.
- (4) We should have referred to the Send & Ripley Inclosure Act of 1803 and/or Inclosure Awards of 1814/15.
- (5) The censuses, which were in fact obtained, were for 1851 and 1861, and later 1871 and 1881. Perhaps we should take another look at the less detailed 1841.
- (6) The Society now has its own electric duplicator.
- (7) It turned out not to be King Athelstan who was mentioned in the first reference to Send in a Saxon land charter, but one Earl Aethelstan, and it was not he who sold 20 hides of land in Sendan to Archbishop Dunstan some time before 960-62, but one Earl Aelfeagh (vide Newsletters 1-4).
- (8) There would have been only one pound per village, although there were other pens which were similar structures, not used for impounding stray animals. The latest known use of Send Pound was in 1938 or 1939 when Harold Giles and Jimmy Jackman impounded a horse (vide Newsletter No 2).

So much for the history of the History Society - what of the future? The original recipe still seems to be producing a palatable commodity, but flexibility will be required to adapt to changing tastes and circumstances. The museum idea is a project to pursue with enthusiasm. There are further books gestating in the minds of a number of members and it is said that a History Society's reputation depends on its publications. The Society must take care to reflect the history and interests of both the villages in its title - Ripley having been making up lost time in recent years, further material would now be more than welcome from Send. Greater participation by a greater number of members would enable more to be done, but the continued interest and support (not to mention subscriptions) of those who cannot participate actively are also invaluable and appreciated.

THE LORDS AND THEIR STEWARDS OF THE MANOR OF PAPWORTH

In Newsletter 57 John Molyneux-Child wrote about the ancient manor of Dedswell, one of the three manors comprising the parish of Send, which previously included Ripley until separated ecclesiastically in 1878 and civilly in 1933.

Issue No 59, our last Newsletter, included a list of the Lords of the Manor of Papworth from 1331 to the present, together with their stewards, who conducted the affairs of the manorial court, known as the Court Baron, on behalf of the Squire.

In this article Major Molyneux-Child writes about the manor of Papworth, also known variously over the centuries as Papeworth, Papeworth Cross, Papeworth Court, Pap(p)erworth Court and latterly as Papercourt Manor. The author of both this article and that on Dedswell has carried out much painstaking

research into the history of these two sub-manors, the Lordships of which he acquired last year from the Earl of Onslow.

History of the Manor

The first recorded mention of the manor is in 1331 when William de Weston, Lord of West Clandon, also held the Lordship of Papworth.

This rural manor stretched from Woking Broadmead in the North to Newark Lane, Ripley, on the East, with properties in Send Barns Lane in the West, but with outlying manorial lands to the South of Burnt, or Burden, or Burton, Common. Land near Send Church, Send Heath and Send Marsh, formerly known as Kenningmershe, are all recorded in the Court Rolls. The mid 17th century manor house, parts of the East end of which could date from a century earlier, still stands at Papercourt Farm, and incidentally it is good to record that it is currently being restored, in contrast to the manor house at Dedswell, which is beginning to seriously deteriorate.

Lords of the Manor

The first four recorded Lords were all named William de Weston; the first was also Lord of West Clandon and a Member of Parliament or Knight of the Shire. The second William, also an MP, was High Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex, as was the third William de Weston. The fourth William de Weston was Escheator for Surrey and Sussex in 1448. His son, John de Weston, MP, was the last of his branch of the family, and his daughter had married Thomas Slyfelde of Slyfelde House, Great Bookham, who became the 6th Lord of the Manor.

Six Lords and two Ladies of the Manor were from this branch of the Slyfelde family, until Edmund Slyfelde conveyed the Lordship in 1612 to Henry Weston, the senior, of Ockham, a distant relative of the 14th century Lords of Papworth.

Only four years later his son and namesake inherited Papworth to be followed by Edward, a clergyman with a living in Kent in 1638. The 17th Lord of the Manor, Henry Weston, was Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex in 1661, to be followed by his widow, Catherine.

In about 1683 John Weston, Receiver General, Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex and an MP, became Squire until 1711 when he sold Papworth and his manor of Ockham to Sir Peter King, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. Sir Peter, the 20th Lord, was elevated to the Peerage as Baron King of Ockham. In 1724-5 he was created a Baron and was sworn Lord Chancellor of England. Dying in 1734, he was succeeded by his four sons in turn, until Thomas, 5th Lord King, died in 1779, when his son, Peter, the 6th Lord King, became the 25th Lord of the Manor.

He only held the Lordship for four years when in 1783 he exchanged the manor of Papworth for Lord Onslow's manor of Wisley. Baron Onslow and Cranley became the 26th Lord of the Manor and in 1801 he was created the 1st Earl of Onslow.

For the last two centuries, the Lordship of Papworth has been in the same ownership as the neighbouring manor of Dedswell.

Stewards

John Champion was Steward at Papworth in 1612 and 1616, but, as the Court Rolls are incomplete, probably held this office for a longer period. Along with Sir Richard Weston, Lord of Dedswell, George Duncumb, MP, Steward at Dedswell, and others, he was a Commissioner for the first attempt at constructing the Wey Navigation. George Duncumb is recorded as holding the office in 1639, one of many gentlemen to hold the Stewardship of both Dedswell and Papworth. In 1648 Henry Baldwyn, Mayor of Guildford in both 1644 and 1650, is the Steward. The manorial records show that in 1661, 1667 and 1682 Richard Heath, who is described under the chapter on Dedswell Stewards, is the Lord's Steward at Papworth.

In 1686, St. John Broderick was Steward and is believed to be the Sir St. John Broderick who was an Alderman of Kingston in Surrey.

By 1699 Nathaniel Sturt, who lived at Dunsborough House, Ripley, had taken over the office and he held court in 1711 and 1728. His daughter, Frances, married John Chatfield, who was to become the next Steward. It is interesting to note that Nathaniel Sturt's wife, Anne, was the eldest daughter of George Duncumb. Hence the Duncumbs, Sturts and Chatfields were all inter-related. Nathaniel Sturt, who died in 1730, was followed by his son-in-law, who in 1723 had been a lawyer's apprentice for eight years and ten months, which seems a long time in modern terms. Henry Parsley of Ripley, gentleman, and of Cliffords Inn, was his master.

John Martyr, Mayor of Guildford in both 1792 and 1801, was Steward in 1780, to be followed by John Chandler in 1783 and Joseph Pickthorne between 1790 and 1798.

Due to incomplete manorial records, there is a gap in the succession of Stewards. Frederick Ferdinand Smallpeice acted in 1873 and 1878, and in 1884 Humphry Percy Smallpeice is shown as Deputy Steward. Smallpeice & Merriman, Solicitors to the Earls of Onslow, acted as Stewards until the 1970s.

John Molyneux-Child

"RIPLEY AND SEND - THEN AND NOW" - a footnote

There is no knowing where a piece of research will lead and what will turn up on the way; that is part of its charm. Perhaps I can illustrate this point by reference to a modest inquiry I undertook to obtain information on the three pictures of military convoys in Ripley High Street shown in "Then and Now" (pages 20 and 21).

The original photographs had been taken during the First World War by Mr Frank Pinnock, who had worked at Greens' ironmonger's shop and had been a keen amateur photographer. Geoff, his Son, was unable to provide any further information, so I decided to take enlarged photocopies to the Imperial War Museum in Lambeth Road, luckily just a short bus journey from my office, during one lunchtime. Having paused briefly to wonder at the enormous pair of 16" naval guns which dominate the forecourt of the museum, my request for assistance brought me to the large library of the Department of Photographs. I was then treated to a fascinating hour of inspired deduction by the highly expert staff. It is difficult to say whether the three photographs had any direct connection with one another, but the general impression is that they had been taken in the earlier part of the war, perhaps 1915 or even 1914, when military activity would have excited much interest, as evident in the photographs, from the onlookers; as the war progressed, such scenes up and

down the country became commonplace and hardly attracted a second glance. The picture of what I took to be cavalry pulling gun-carriages was reinterpreted as probably the transport section of an infantry division pulling a limber and waggons. ("Look at the ears, those quadrupeds are mules - and no self respecting cavalry unit would have been seen dead with mules.") Unfortunately, cap badges and buttons were too indistinct to identify the regiment.

At this point my military sleuth had to answer a nearby telephone and evidently the call was from the United States. When he replaced the telephone receiver, I asked him if the White House or the Pentagon had been seeking his advice. No, just an inquiry from West Point Military Academy.

The motor cycle/side car combinations, I was told, were part of a motor machine gun unit, at first thought to be Canadian. The bikes were then, however, positively identified as Scotts - notably from their transverse petrol tanks, as corroborated from an old photograph - which were used by the British Army. Apparently there were few motor machine gun units operational in the early stages of the war. A volume of photographs was pulled from a shelf showing an unidentified British motor machine gun unit in France in the spring of 1915. Could this have been the same unit? No details were given in the captions, except one photograph, showing a young pipe-smoking officer and carrying underneath the sombre words "Second Lieutenant Barclay killed at Hooze in August 1915". It was suggested that he might be traced and his unit and regiment identified through the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) at Maidenhead. If successful, this information could then be followed up through the Public Records Office at Kew and perhaps establish whether in fact the unit had passed along the Portsmouth Road through Ripley in 1914/15. If that turned out to be the case, there would be at least strong circumstantial evidence indicating that the units might be one and the same.

Although I now have more than sufficient information to write an accompanying text for the pictures, I nevertheless contacted the CWGC, intrigued to know how far this line of inquiry would stretch. I received a reply informing me that they could find only one casualty named Barclay, who was a Lieutenant in the Machine Gun Corps: Lieutenant E C Barclay, Machine Gun Corps (Motors), attached to No 3 battery, Battery Machine Gun Corps Service, Royal Field Artillery (late 12th Battalion Cheshire Regiment), who died 25 September 1915, aged 20.

I did not, however, pursue the inquiry any further, which left me with a curious sense of frustration; I realised the pursuit had become an end in itself. I still wonder whether I had identified correctly the motor machine gun unit.

Bob Gale

LETTERS TO THE SOCIETY

The following letter was written by Mr Fred Dixon, formerly Headmaster of Ripley School, to Mavis Lake. It is of sufficient general interest to be worth reproducing here for the benefit of the Society.

"I am writing to say how much I have enjoyed the company of "Then and Now." It is a remarkable publication and all who had any part in its production are to be congratulated. It is a wonderful piece of teamwork. The excellent photography caused me to 'summon up remembrance of things past.' The photograph at the top of page 79 shows just half of the Dixon family, standing in front of the shop. From left to right they are; my father, my sister

Helen, my young brother Sydney who died in 1974, and I must also mention our retriever Bob. The assistant standing in the doorway is Mr. Warren. It was taken circa 1908-1910. I could go on for ever! Regarding the cover, Joe Baigent won the Military Medal for service in action at Passchendael in July 1917. I went to school with Walter Giles. The school buildings are in the background."

The following letter is from Mr Basil Howard and was addressed to Bob Gale.

"I have now received my copy of 'Ripley and Send, Then and Now'. Let me say at the outset that I regard this as a superb achievement, reflecting great credit upon all who researched, prepared, and published it, and collected the excellent photographs for it. As one who resided in Ripley from 1920 until 1939, it brought back much nostalgia as I browsed through it, and many names came back to me of those I had known during those years in Ripley. Many of them appear in the pages.

"I vividly remember Ockham Park, and the Countess of Lovelace, and her white cockatoo named 'William of Ockham' who used to perch on her shoulder at meal-times, to be given titbits, while her other green cockatoo used to amuse everyone by climbing up the curtain with beak and claws, then across the pelmet and down the opposite curtain before letting out a loud screech for applause. They were allowed to fly free, and 'William of Ockham's' favourite perch was on top of the church tower. The Countess of Lovelace was the most charming person imaginable. Incidentally, she had trained as an architect and had designed the cottages in Ockham in which those who worked for her resided. Among these was Cross, her chauffeur, who used to drive her big Talbot limousine car, which was supplied to her, and serviced by my father's garage in Ripley. Cross's son became a builder and his advertisement appears on page 10 of the book.

"I remember Mr. Horniman who resided at Yew Tree House, and the Misses Pirie who lived opposite. Further along beyond Yew Tree House I remember Miss Camereux who lived at Elm Tree House, and ran a school of dancing there. Later her niece Mrs. Eatough and her husband lived there.

"I think that it was next to the site of the 'Gables' that Allenby's chemists shop was situated. They used to take in students from the R.H.S. Gardens Wisley and it was said that when they were full up, Harry the dispenser had to sleep under the shop counter.

"How well I remember Frank Pinnock, and also Charlie Nokes, and that terrible fire at his hardware shop in 1969 when all traffic was diverted, including me on the way home to Godalming from B.A.C. Weybridge. Charlie was a keen radio experimenter and lost all his equipment in that fire. I had known him for many years and he regarded me as a proper haram-sceram when I was young!

"W. B. Green's shop, Collins the bakers, and the International Stores were all in their heyday when I was young. There was Heath the blacksmith at the old forge which has now been rebuilt as a craft shop. Heath was closely associated with Sex of Send and they worked in collaboration with each other.

"The Clock House was there in my day and also Conisbee the butcher and next door to him was old Mr. Lacy who combined antiques with hair dressing, and many a time a wretched customer, half shaved and smothered with lather, was left high and dry while Lacy attended to someone inquiring for an antique table or chair.

"There was a cycle shop there too which was destroyed by fire the morning after we moved into the Cedar House (now the Tudor House) on the 1st January 1920. We moved in on New Year's Eve." (See Newsletter 52/2 - Ed.)

"Mrs. Wigman had a small greengrocery shop next door to Lacy and Conisbee, and Mr. Colbourne and his sister kept the post office, now Hamilton Antiques. He was a local historian as well. The garage opposite the Cedar House was owned by my father and was known as Howard, Davidson & Noel, and we were main agents for Jowett cars. It was previously the Surrey Trading Company owned by Lucas's stores.

"The Cedar House as it was then known formerly belonged to a Mr. Eldridge and further back belonged to a Dr. Sutcliff, brother to Halliwell Sutcliff the author, and much further back as documented, it was the George Inn (vide N.L. 51). The adjoining half, now known as the Cedar House was Grimditch & Webb the butchers and Mr. Perry was the resident manager. My parents purchased the Cedar House as it was then known at the end of 1919 and started a teahouse business there which thrived until their retirement in the late 1930's. During this period my father who also ran his garage opposite purchased the adjoining butcher's shop, now the Cedar House, and converted it for use as an addition to the teahouse and eventually transferred the business and sold the goodwill to Mysie Taplin. The former teahouse half was let as a private dwelling house to Mr. and Mrs. Burnside. Mr. Burnside, who worked for the Admiralty Research Establishment at Teddington, was the brother of Miss Burnside who ran the Georgian Teahouse further along on the right towards Guildford.

"The vicarage in my day was occupied by the then incumbent the Reverend Mr. Headeach, and subsequently by the Reverend Morgan Evan Thomas who was formerly Captain M. E. Thomas M.C., a veteran of the first world war who had taken holy orders after the war - a man for whom I had great respect.

"The unforgettable Mr. Alf Dibble, the grand old landlord of the Anchor Inn, used to stand in the doorway of the inn which he completely filled and was said to act as a perfect draught excluder! He was a great character. The Anchor was a Mecca for cycling clubs and at one time a favourite haunt of Lord Northcliff.

"Pinnock's Cafe now Clifford James's was formerly Warners the butcher in the early days of our time in Ripley. A lovely old half-timbered barn, St. George's Barn, which once belonged to the George Inn was situated further along towards Guildford end on the right.

"On the opposite side of the road stood the village school where some new houses now stand. The Headmaster at the time was Mr. Blackland.

"Dr. Pearce, who lived nearly opposite the village school, was the village doctor and Nurse Paul a delightful Irish nurse was much loved by the village. She lived next door to Nokes's hardware shop.

"The late Hurst Park Automobiles was formerly Bland's Garage and between there and the Talbot was March Brown's antique shop. Tommy Geale who lived next to the Methodist Chapel, Sid Barrett who lived in Rose Lane, and I were all keen motor cyclists who regularly foregathered for rides at weekends.

"In the early days the village fire brigade was the object of hilarious amusement to all and sundry with its old hand-pushed fire pump, captained by Mr. Allwork the builder and manned by Mr. Giles and other stalwarts.

Later Captain Preston who lived at the top of Rose Lane acquired a former Royal Flying Corps Crossley tender, which was converted to a makeshift fire engine for them. This was driven by young Todgood, who later became high in the ranks of the British Aircraft Corporation and was subsequently decorated by the Queen.

"The thatched cottage at the top of Rose Lane, the home of the Preston brothers Eric and Kenneth was previously the home of Mortimer Singer of sewing machine fame. Ripley Court School, a good preparatory school, belonged to Mrs. Pearce (no relation of the doctor's). Captain Pearce her son was very active for the Conservatives. My mother always referred to him as the 'square man in the round cape', because of the cape which he always wore.

"Dunsborough House, formerly the home of Squire Cleverly, was once considered by J. B. Priestley before it became the home of Florence Desmond, and among my mother's letters was one from Sir James Barrie who wrote that he remembered playing cricket on Ripley Green.

"Mr. Curtis of the A.A. on page 63 of the book was always in and out of my father's garage. His usual expression on all occasions was 'Stand on me old man'. There was another A.A. patrol man called Stone who later became a police officer.

"C. H. Sex & Sons of Send are a notable memory to be proud of. C. H. Sex senior was formerly chief smith for G. F. Watts of Compton and a specialist in ornamental ironwork. His brother Gus looked after the shoeing side of the business at Send while C. H. himself and his two sons, Arthur and Ron (see page 78 of the book) turned out ornamental ironwork that is never likely to be bettered anywhere. They became world famous and in 1914 made the Chancel Screen for the Church at Montreux. Ron once showed me the published account of this. They subsequently received orders for decorative iron gates etc. from many parts of the world. Ron especially was a real artist in ironwork and the delicacy of his wrought iron flowers, leaves, and tracery had a lifelike appearance, and his welding was superb. He was the finest welder I have ever known. Once when the back axle of my Amilcar sports car had broken off the end of the propeller shaft, Ron welded it back on so successfully that it lasted for the remaining years I had the car. During the war Ron was much in demand, welding broken bits of cars and lorries to keep them on the road when spare parts were unattainable. Some examples of Ron's work were the wrought iron wall lighting fittings in the oak room upstairs in the Tudor House.

"I have derived tremendous pleasure from 'Ripley and Send Then and Now', which has brought back so many memories as can be seen from the above."

INSIDE SOME LOCAL CHURCH TOWERS

A Talk to the Society by Mr Frank Lewin On 20 November 1984

Frank Lewin, architect and musician amongst other accomplishments, has a great love of church towers. He is an expert bell ringer and his love of bells has led him to appreciate some of the ancient towers that house the bells. Mr Lewin has made accurate drawings of many of the church towers in our area and we were privileged to see some of these drawings.

The inside of a bell tower is largely ignored by most people and even the Victorians seem to have left them alone. Bell towers are usually dark,

dirty, draughty and decaying, and may not have been touched for 200 years or so. Because of this they are places of mystery and reverence, and Mr Lewin was able to transmit this air of mystery and sense of history that he so plainly feels. Although he has been trapped inside one tower, risked injury from heavy clappers, and waded ankle deep through pigeon dung, he has not yet met a bat in a belfry.

The bells that most interest him are pre-Reformation, approximately 1550, and we are lucky to have some of these bells within the county. Most bells are marked or inscribed in some way and so can often be dated and the bell-founder identified. We were given a detailed account of most of the important English bell-founders from 1300 to 1500.

The East End of London, near Whitechapel, has been the centre of bell-founding in England for over 600 years and many of our old church bells were made there. Today bells are still made in Whitechapel. The church of St Botolphs Without in Aldgate is the bell-founders' church and the present building is the third church on the site. Bells had much more importance in times when information travelled slowly. They were often used for political as well as ecclesiastical purposes - they announced a birth or a death, even the sex and age of the person concerned.

The ringing of bells in a tower exerts great stresses upon the church tower, so the bells were usually housed in a wooden framework made of oak. Over the centuries these frames are repaired again and again by the carpenter and the blacksmith, and Mr Lewin amusingly described the sometimes rustic repairs that he has come across. One bell frame he described as virtually held together with binder twine.

We were shown slides of many local church towers, including Ockham, Merrow, West Horsley and East Clandon, to name but a few. At Send there were originally five bells cast by Richard Phelps in 1711. One was inscribed "Richard Phelps cast these five bells for Send". Richard Phelps was founding from approximately 1710 to 1750 and there is one of his bells in St Botolphs Without. One of the most energetic bell-founders was a woman named Joanna Hill. She married Richard Hill, but after he died in about 1440 she remarried a John Sturley, another founder. She also survived him and appears to have carried on on her own. East Horsley church has one bell made by Richard Hill, so that bell has been ringing for more than 500 years. It probably rang on the death of Henry VIII or when Drake defeated the Spanish Armada. The remainder of the bells at East Horsley are all around 1600 and the much patched-up frame means that one has to be extremely careful where one walks. Mr Lewin feels that it would be insensitive to modernise some of these old frames and acknowledges the fact that conservation is a tricky problem - how can one disturb something that has been in constant use for 500 years?

After the talk we were able to examine in detail the very fine drawings of the towers and various plaster casts of initials and inscriptions that Mr Lewin has made from bells. One message often found on bells particularly appealed to me - "I to the church the living call and to the grave do summon all."

Tony Medlen

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 1984

More than eighty members and friends gathered in Ripley Village Hall for this popular event. In addition to the usual high standard of refreshments, including Alan Tinkler's punch, a varied evening's entertainment was enjoyed. Jill Bronley played the piano as Gloria Henson and Bernard Watts led a sing-song of favourite tunes present and past. Frank and Jenhy Lewin, with their group of young hand-bell ringers, further enlivened the evening with an immaculate rendering of popular melodies. An invitation to the audience to "have a go" produced, in an impressively short time, a credible performance from the participants. Bill Titcombe had the difficult task of judging the winner from the group who appeared in period dress. All looked marvellous, especially the joint winners, Wallie and Maisie Stimson, from the Ripley Section of the Southern Veteran-Cycle Club.

Bob Gale's quiz was again popular; the prizes for the highest score for identifying local people and places were won by Doris Pullen and Marjorie Sex. John Slatford organised the raffle, distributing numerous prizes contributed by members. Last but not least, thanks are due to everyone responsible for the catering and table decorations, including Phyllis Bourne, Iris Watts, Mavis Lake, Ted and Rita Goldup, Gloria Henson, Barbara Tinkler, all of whom contributed towards a pleasant social occasion.

Ken Bourne

Editorial Note. Further thanks are due to Ken himself, who master-minded the organisation of the whole evening.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mr T Coleman, 72 Send Barns Lane, Send.
Colonel R O Mells, Kirkstone, The Green, Horton, Bedfordshire.
Rev & Mrs W E B Jones, The Vicarage, High Street, Ripley.

Membership stands at 103 double and 101 single subscriptions.

Kathleen Emma Mundy

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Kathleen Emma Mundy at the age of 79. Although she had been in the Society for only a few years and never played an active part, we were pleased to count her as a member, not least because of the universal respect in which she was held by all who knew her. Mrs Mundy and her family moved to Send from Kingfield Green at about the end of the Second World War. Her husband, Bill, died about five years ago. A highly competent teacher of mathematics, Mrs Mundy taught for many years at the Woking County Grammar School for Girls, until it closed in 1977, and thereafter at Greenfield Private School. She continued to give private tuition. She was for a number of years around 1970 superintendent of the Send Parish Church Sunday Schools, and was still at the time of her death a Pastoral Assistant.

Harold Giles

Harold Giles, who died aged 75 on 17 December, never became a member of the Society, but he was so much part of the fabric of the village of Send that his death marks the end of an era. Born here of one of the longest

established families in the area, with possible ancestral connections with the Giles's who are recorded in the 16th century Manorial Rolls, he took a close interest in village history and had the natural historian's facility for the orderly recall of facts; he was thus an authority on the details of village life for the past sixty years. He was, for instance, particularly helpful to this writer in recording the history of local mineral extraction in the 1920s and 1930s. Harold was a rocklike permanent feature of the village, which will never be the same without him. He had been a member of the Send Angling Society for 64 years and its secretary for the past 46 years; and from the time of their marriage 47 years ago, he and his wife, Nora, who pre-deceased him by four years, had shared the duties as resident caretakers of what has latterly been called the Lancaster Hall and formerly the Institute or Drill Hall. A joiner by trade, he worked with the building firm of his brother, Reg, for about twenty years until his retirement some seven years ago, and a vast number of local houses have his workmanship in them. He had been a Parish Councillor for 27 years and was a Special Constable during the Second World War. As recorded in his obituary in the Woking News and Mail, he was a member of the Send, Ripley, and Westfield Social Clubs, a supporter of Send Cricket Club for 45 years, and was associated with the Wey Valley Fisheries and Woking & District Angling Association. But it will be as a good friend of all the local organisations who used the hall that he will be most remembered.

This Society was not officially represented at the funeral, but about ten members were present.

"Ripley and Send Then and Now"

Sackcloth and ashes for the Editor. Due to overzealous editing of Bob Gale's report of the book launch on November 3 last, the main point of the occasion was omitted. This was, of course, the words spoken by Kenneth Gravett, Chairman of the Surrey Local History Council, in declaring the book duly published. As an acute observer of the smallest details in studying buildings, Ken made the point in his speech that one of the best things about photographs is that they are not selective in what they record. The result is that details which the human eye would reject as uninteresting eighty years ago, because they were then everyday, are there for all time in black and white to be appreciated later by those to whom they are anything but ordinary. Apologies to both Ken and Bob.

William of Ockham - 700th Anniversary Celebrations

The 700th anniversary of this influential international theologian, who took his name from our neighbouring parish and may have studied at Newark Priory, is to be celebrated in Ockham this year in a number of ways with visitors from various parts of the globe. Our member, Ann Watson, who is involved with the organisation, wonders if any of our members would be interested. Various functions will accordingly appear in Forthcoming Events.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Tuesday, 29 January ... Open meeting at 8 pm in the Red Cross Hall, Sandy Lane, Send, when Chris Howkins, who writes the "Scene in Surrey" articles in the Surrey Advertiser, will relate some "Royal Tales of Surrey".
- Thursday, 7 February ... Folk Memories Group meeting at 8 pm at the Manor House, Send Marsh.
- Monday, 18 February ... Main Committee meeting at 8 pm for 8.15 at Tudor House, High Street, Ripley.

- wednesday, 20 February ... Buildings-Group meeting at 8 pm at 11B Kevan Drive, Send.
- Thursday, 28 February ... Annual General Meeting of the Society at 8 pm in Ripley Village Hall, followed by progress reports from the working groups on their studies of local history in Send and Ripley.
- Thursday, 21 March ... Buildings Group meeting at 8 pm at the Manor House, Send Marsh.
- Tuesday, 26 March ... Open meeting at the Red Cross Hall, Sandy Lane, Send, when the film "Tales of Old Guildford" will be shown.
- Saturday, 30 March ... Surrey Archaeological Society Excavations Committee Annual Symposium and Exhibition at Dorking Halls. Details from the Secretary.
- Saturday, 20 April ... Service of thanks for William of Ockham in All Saints Church at 11 am, including dedication of a new stained glass window and reception of the Works of William of Ockham, presented by the Franciscan Society in the USA. It is anticipated that the church may be full for this occasion.
- Thursday, 25 April ... Open meeting at Ripley Village Hall when Mr Jack Chinn will give an illustrated talk on the history of Brocklands.
- Sunday, 9 June ... All day outing to Hampshire to visit the Jane Austen Museum at Chawton and the ancient town of New Alresford, concluding with a ride on the "Water Cress Line", the Mid Hampshire steam railway.

Closing Date: Material for the next issue of the Newsletter should be in the hands of the Editor by Monday, 4 March.

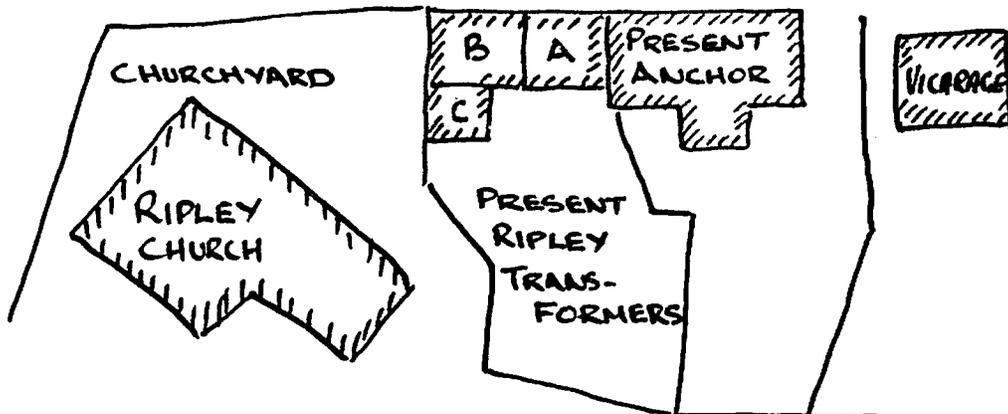
THE ALMSHOUSE AND "THE ANCHOR", RIPLEY

In Newsletter No 59 we concluded that the Almshouse must have been where the "Anchor" now is. Burley Fenn, in his will dated 1709, had bequeathed money for an addition to the Almshouse and the accounts for the Overseers of the Poor mention brickwork to the Almshouse in 1732. The oldest part of the present Anchor, the low section parallel with the road, dates from 1500 to 1550, as will be described later in a Buildings Group report, so we suggest that the present Anchor, excluding the 19th century additions, was the Almshouse until as late as 1732 and used as such by the Overseers, probably until the Poor house was built in Newark Lane in 1738, power having been given to them in a statute in 1722 to purchase a poor- or work-house.

However, in the Manorial Court Roll of 1677 there is a reference to "a messuage and a garden with appurtenances called by the name or bearing the sign of an Anchor, situated in Ripley". That is the earliest known reference to premises of this name in Ripley, and if our deduction in the paragraph above is correct, it must have been somewhere other than its present site. We can deduce where that was because the entry continues by mentioning another "messuage with appurtenances" adjacent to both the Anchor and the "churcyard of the Chapel of Ripley"; in other words the original Anchor was either the whole or part of the present Ripley Transformers, depending on whether or not there was a further property behind the Transformers, and adjacent to the churcyard, as is possible from the documents (see illustration).

As shown in "The English Almshouse" by Walter H Godfrey, mediaeval almshouses were often part of the same building as the church, or perhaps one should say that a chapel was usually attached to an almshouse. The monastic infirmary, Christchurch, Canterbury, and St Mary's Hospital, Chichester, are examples of this. This, on a much smaller scale, may have been the case originally at Ripley where we have the reference quoted in the last issue, "builded long tyme paste for an hospitall and sythen that tyme altered".

← TO GUILDFORD. RIPLEY HIGH STREET. → TO LONDON,



- A+B = CONJECTURAL AREA OF ANCHOR UP TO 1814
 - A = CONJECTURAL PART OF ANCHOR AFTER 1834
 - B = CORNER HOUSE AFTER 1834
 - C = CONJECTURAL 'MESSAGE' ADJACENT TO ANCHOR & CHURCHYARD
- NB. A, B & C WERE SUBSTANTIALLY REBUILT IN THE LATE 18C.

KNOWN COPYHOLDERS:

- A+B+C {
- 1669 Alice Smart
 - 1676 Ann Smyth (nee Smart)
 - 1679 James Champion
 - 1736 James & John Hole (nephews of James Champion)
 - 1785 Judith Hole (widow of John Hole)
 - 1799 Anne Turner (nee Whitburn, niece of John Hole)
 - 1800 William Turner (husband of Anne Turner)

- C {
- 1559 Mary Kelsey
 - 1559 Joan Cox
 - 1580 James Atlee

Wm Turner became bankrupt

A+B 1814 Francis Whitburn (bought at auction for £320)

C 1814 George Harden (bought at auction for £190)

1821 Robert Whitburn

1821 John Hyde (bought for £300)

Rbt Whitburn became bankrupt

A 1834 James Cheeseman

B 1834 John Hyde

1838 John Hyde (son of John Hyde)

1838 Sarah Hyde (widow of John Hyde)

A HISTORY OF THE COPYHOLD OWNERSHIP OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS RIPLEY TRANSFORMERS, HIGH ST, RIPLEY, SURREY.

J.S.

That may well relate to a time when the original body of the church ceased to be used for the poor and infirm, and would fit nicely with the building of the almshouse in the early part of the 16th century, before the dissolution of Newark Priory in 1539. If our theory was correct, it explains why the central part of the present Anchor is an unusual low single-storey structure unlike nearby buildings of about the same date (eg Clifford Dams, formerly Pinnocks Cafe, which may be a little later, and Little Barn, which is probably somewhat earlier), and why it was at the same time of reasonably good quality, which is surprising for what would otherwise appear to be a poor building. To visualise it in anything like its original form, it should be imagined without its two crossings or the dormers. It was possibly longer originally. If we are correct, Ripley has a very rare building - an early 16th century timber-framed almshouse.

It can be speculated that the Overseers, having spent a good deal of money in 1738 on the new brick-built poor house, would be anxious to recoup some of it by selling the old almshouse, and who would be better placed to take advantage than the owner of the little message next door bearing "the sign of the Anchor"? The picture by J Hassell in 1820, shown on page 59 of "Then and Now", is the earliest proof we have of the present Anchor bearing a sign, so the move would have been between 1738 and 1820, probably earlier rather than later. A new larger Anchor may have contributed to the failure of the "George" (Cedar House/Tudor House - page 53 of the book) round about 1800 (documents held by Ripley Meux relating to the Anchor date from 1799), or at least have been well placed to absorb any residual trade left when the George closed.

Although the position is not entirely free from doubt, the illustrated page demonstrates the descent of the copyhold part of the property, ie the present Ripley Transformers. The old almshouse building, now the present Anchor, having been purchased from the Overseers, would be freehold and transactions relating to that would therefore not be included in the Court Rolls.

Bette Slafford and Lee Fowerman