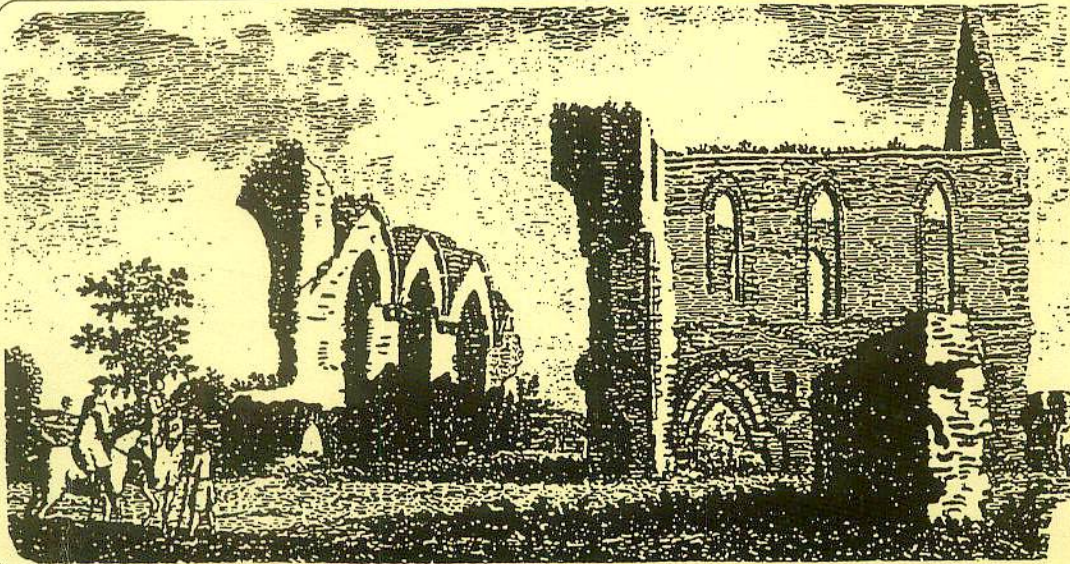


Send & Ripley History Society

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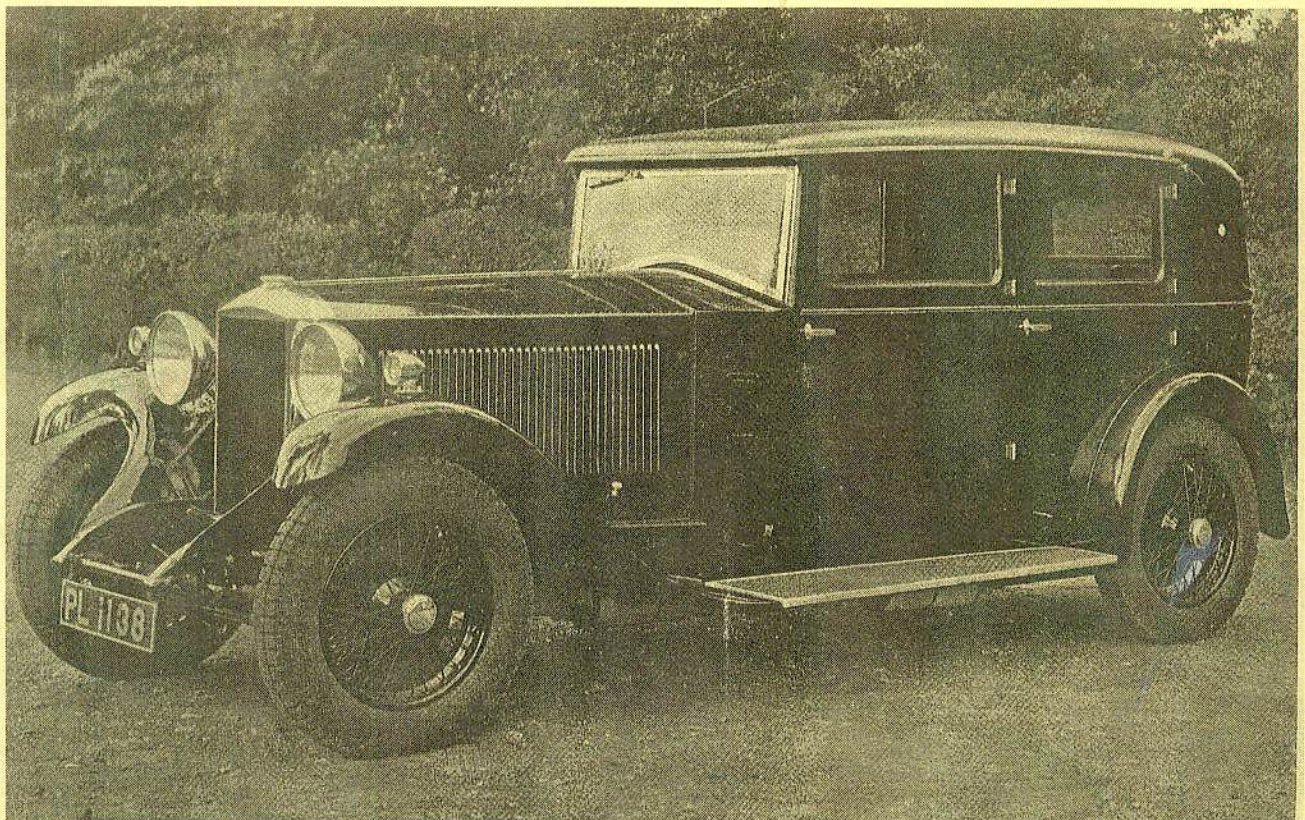
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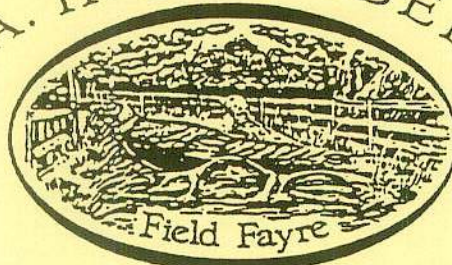
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May/June 1997



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Send & Ripley History Society

Established 1975 as Send History Society

Registered Charity No 296324

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Newsletter No 134

May/June 1997

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Cover Illustration: An Invicta 4.5 litre standard saloon car c1930 fitted with 100 bhp, 29.1 hp six cylinder OHV engine of 4467 cc and twin SU carburettors. This car was made at the Fairmile works at Cobham, Surrey - see the article by D J Walker on page 4.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

This Newsletter, thanks to its contributors, contains a number of articles which show a fascinating glimpse of the past and the not so distant past of various activities in the Send and Ripley area. It is fortunate that the article from Denis Walker also refers to the manufacture of cars locally, which coincides with the current exhibition on transport being held at the museum.

Within the pages of this Newsletter is a reminder that there is a wonderful opportunity for someone to take on the role of Treasurer, as Marilyn Scrace will not be able to continue after September. There is also a vacancy for an artefacts person, whose role will be to supervise the inventory of the artefacts which are both within the museum and in storage. For further details of both vacancies, please contact our Chairman, Les Bowerman, as soon as possible.

MR DONALDSON'S BURIED TREASURE

By David Porter

Mr Donaldson and his wife lived at "Sandmore" during the 1950s. Both were teachers at the old Send Primary School at the time. Mr Donaldson taught Class I Juniors - the top class in the school, throughout my period of education there (1955-61), and was the only male teacher at the school. From 1954 to 1958, his wife was in the next classroom to him, in charge of Class III Juniors.

From September 1960, I began my last year at the school and became one of Mr Donaldson's pupils, which, in total, numbered over 40 ! - a large class. However, Mr Donaldson could easily capture our imagination with his many tales of prehistoric animals and pirates - two of his favourite subjects.

One spring day in 1961, with only weeks left before we embarked upon our final departure from the "old Primary", Mr Donaldson appeared with a large glass jar - possibly a sweet jar? (Mr Webb had plenty of them at Mays Stores at this time!).

The pirate stories included "messages in bottles" and "buried treasure", and Mr Donaldson clearly intended to put this into practice.

The jar was filled to capacity with carefully rolled up photographs and artefacts, all of which were to be buried in the school grounds. He wrote a message to say that if his treasure was found prior to a certain date (unknown), would that person please replace it? The lid of the jar was screwed on very tightly and heavily sealed with Selotape. To avoid future damage to the glass jar, it was placed inside another container prior to burial. In what shape or form the latter came I do not know, or exactly where Mr Donaldson buried his treasure - if he buried it at all! Nothing has been found, to my knowledge, during the landscaping in recent years, in which a former pupil was engaged in the early stages, and was well informed as to what to look for!

With hindsight, Mr and Mrs Donaldson left the school soon after the treasure was buried and, with the new infants' school in Send Barns Lane recently opened (1960), must have realised the end was in sight for the old Primary. I firmly believe the jar was buried and has yet to be found - food for thought.

MR MALING GRANT

By Ken French

Mr Grant, who lived at Sendhurst Grange, owned land at Burnt Common which was at the same time owned by Robert Boughton, as this formed part of the 28 acre holding leased by my grandfather in 1884 from Boughton Smith.

On this land, Maling Grant built a two storey corrugated iron and timber building, to be used by Send people for leisure and social purposes. It is listed in Kelly's Directory from 1911 to 1920 as Burnt Common Institute for Games and Reading. He also started a Sickness Club, to which members contributed at the rate of 2s (10p) a month, with a share out at the end of the year with the interest earned added. The accumulated funds were also used to finance a weekly sickness payment, for a limited period to a claimant members. This operated from the Institute until its closure, then was carried on by Mr Durrs with a committee formed from Burnt Common residents, most of whom were working with Mr Sinclair at Tithe Barns Farm. This club existed until after the Second World War.

Mr Grant also provided a cricket ground in Vicarage Lane and a corrugated iron-clad timber-framed building for use as a pavilion. This was later moved and re-erected as a gardener's bungalow on the ground fronting the A3 at "Old Timbers". A member of the Pullen family was the last to occupy this building before Mr Dennis had a brick building built.

Send people were thankful to their benefactor, but Mr Lancaster had a more grand affair built on ground he owned in Send Road, which was called Send Institute Rifle Range and Drill Hall. It was complete with caretaker's residence and equipment for a gymnasium, such as a vaulting horse, parallel bars and a billiard table. He also let the cricket pitch at Sendholme for use by the Send cricketers.

It is said that Mr Grant was so upset by this that he planted the Lombardy poplar trees along the boundary of his land at Send Barns Farm to block the view of Sendholme.

The Burnt Common Institute building and land were sold to a Mr Storey, who converted the building into a tearoom with living quarters. A Dutch Barn was erected alongside, where Storey's son, who was disabled, would repair and service cars from his wheelchair. A very skilled engineer with a fully equipped workshop, he even replaced engines.

About 1937, a Mr Olive bought the adjoining land next to Storey's garage and built garage workshops, with petrol sales and a restaurant. This later became Connaught Engineering. To try and save his tearoom and petrol sales, Storey erected high wattle fencing along his boundary to try to block the view of his neighbour and rival from passing motorists. This was defeated by Mr Olive painting signs on the roof of his new garage.



Mr. W. M. Grant.

T H WALKER, BEM

The following notes are taken from a letter dated 25 February 1997, written to our Chairman, Les Bowerman, and refers in part to an article by Mr Basil Howard (Newsletter No 61, March/April 1985), in which Mr Howard refers to Mr T H Walker as one of the three of the original work force at Invicta Motor Works who were still alive at that time. Both are now unfortunately deceased.

"Dear Mr Bowerman,

"Through the good offices of Peter Croucher I have been given a sight of part of your Newsletter dated March/April 1985 in which there is reproduced a letter from Mr Basil Howard. In the course of this letter he relates his experiences with the Invicta and Railton Car Company of Cobham. He goes on to request any information relating to Mr T H Walker of 15 Send Barns Lane.

"Somewhat belatedly and probably too late for your correspondent I can report that Mr T H Walker was my father who died of cancer in 1973 aged 68. My mother survived him 12 years. I can offer some biographical details of my family history which might be of interest to someone.

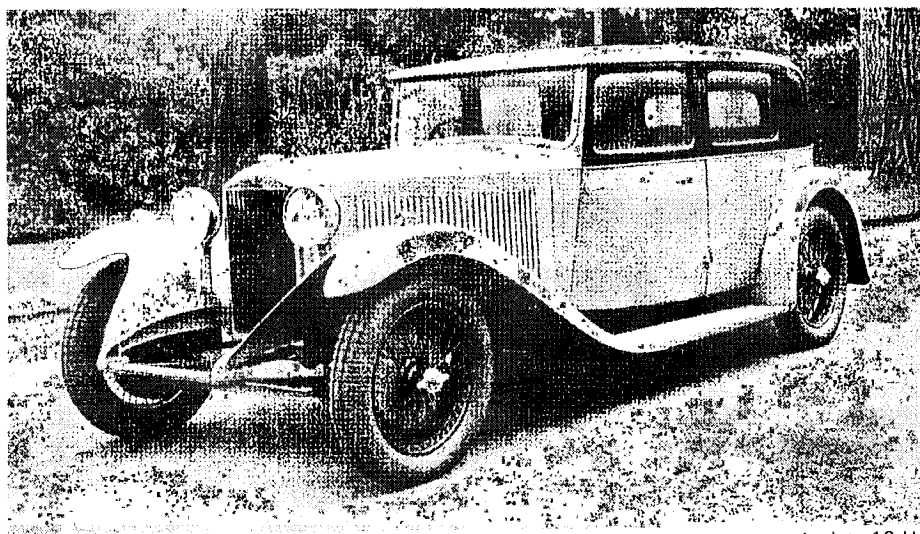
"My grandfather was Mr Fred Walker who also lived and worked in Send as a builder. He built many of the houses in Send and Send Marsh. Fred was married to Kate Charman (my grandmother) and she was one of a large family of ten children. Her mother (my great-grandmother) was also a Send Marsh resident and she lived in one of the little old cottages which face onto Send Marsh Green approximately at right-angles to the Manor House.

"I can remember my great-grandmother very well and I used to visit her in her cottage during the '30s when I was a small boy. She lived to the age of 98 and died around 1950.

"My grandfather, when he eventually gave up building work, moved into the pub trade and he was for many years the licensee of The Magnet pub in Addlestone. This was around 1930 to 1950.

"My father, Thomas Henry Walker, was born in 1904 and he attended the old Church School in Send together with his three sisters. He was lucky to be awarded a scholarship to attend the Guildford Technical College subsequently.

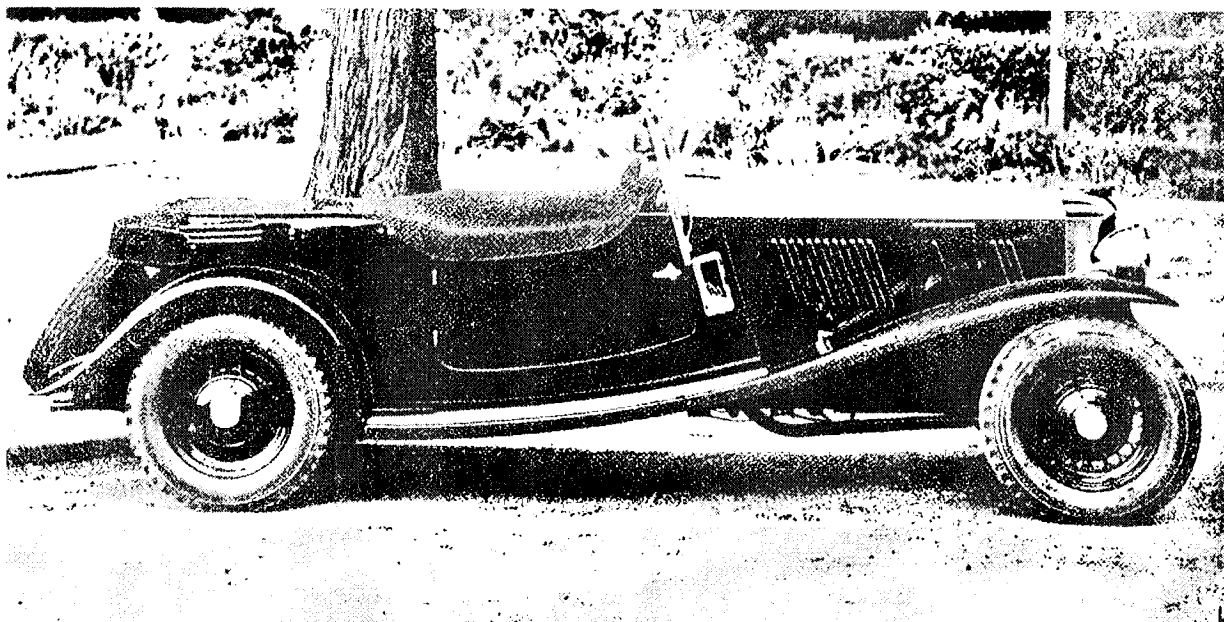
"In 1920 he was apprenticed to the Conway West Motor Engineers in Old Woking. The premises were at the end of the Broadmeads Road adjacent to the modern roundabout. The apprenticeship was for a period of four years. I still have his indenture document. I think he probably joined the Invicta racing car company in Cobham at the Fairmile Estate in 1925. The founder of the company was Sir Noel Macklin. My father was the Chief Test Engineer and he appears to have spent a great deal of his time hurtling around the Brooklands race track.



Invicta 12 HP

"It is clear that your correspondent Basil Howard must have worked closely with him and they appear to have been contemporaries. I cannot recall my father ever mentioning Mr Howard's name.

"The lifetime of the Invicta Company was short and it quickly became reborn as the Railton Car Company still under Sir Noel Macklin. The cars which they built were superb examples of hand craftsmanship and were very expensive. They were manufactured throughout the 1930's and some of them are treasured collectors' items today. I recently attended an annual rally at Brooklands which was devoted to these cars.



Railton Open Sports

"I am sure that my father would have personally driven every one of these vehicles. I can remember him bringing one home to Send one day. The car was to be delivered to the Police Force and I can remember it had a large massive silver bell under the bonnet together with an equally impressive sound! Production continued till the outbreak of the war in 1939.

"My father was married to my mother in 1928 and I was born in 1932. During this period we all lived at the Silvermere Lodge which is a small dwelling just off the A3 directly opposite the Belvedere Tower on the Pain's Hill Estate. It still exists today.

"At the time of our occupation there was no water supply and my father had to draw water from a well about half a mile away. There was also no electricity supply and so my father fixed up his own generator system powered by a motor bike engine which he installed in a tree. We moved to 15 Send Barns Lane in 1934 and this is my earliest recollection where a man was installing a gas meter as we arrived.

"My father did take me to the Railton works on several occasions during the '30s. I do remember accompanying him to the works on one cold Sunday morning in response to an urgent request to attend upon Sir Noel Petter's (of Staines) driven electric generator set which refused to start. I can remember how my father fixed it by heating the inlet manifold to red heat with a blow lamp!

"Sir Noel Macklin had a daughter (Miss Mere Macklin) who was a national skating star. On one occasion she was appearing at Wembley and so a party was arranged to support her from the factory. I can remember being taken there in a makeshift bus contrived from a van fitted with benches in the back. I was only four or five at the time and so it must have been circa 1936. I think I fell asleep during the ice hockey match which followed the figure skating.

"I attended the Church School at Send from 1936 to 1939. Mr Penn was a master there and he had previously taught my father. The activities of the Railton Car Company were suspended in 1939 and the company was re-formed as the Fairmile Marine Company and secured a contract from the Admiralty for the installation of American made Packard engines in anti-submarine craft.

"These small mahogany vessels were built in great numbers in all available harbours during the war. They were designated as MLs, MGBs or MTBs according to the armaments they carried. They formed an important counter to the Nazi U-Boat menace which threatened the nation's food supplies.

"My father was given the responsibility for all boatyards in Devon and Cornwall and thus it was that our family moved to Looe in Cornwall for the duration of the war. Our bungalow in Send was let to Mr Gaye who was the new Headmaster of the recently completed St Bede's School in Send.

"We settled in Looe where my father operated from a small office. He was provided with a little Fiat 500 cc car which allowed him to visit the boatyards for which he was responsible. There were about six of them which included Looe, Brixham, Fowey, Falmouth and Appledore in North Devon. My father especially liked Appledore as he lodged there with a dairy farmer and literally lived off the fat of the land in wartime.

"At the end of the war Sir Noel Macklin was in failing health and the Railton Car Company never resumed operations, although a few cars which had been laid up were completed. The 'gongs' were also distributed at this time and I have in my possession a congratulatory letter from Sir Noel Macklin to my father and another from the Admiralty advising him that he is to be awarded the BEM in the Honours List dated 24th June 1946. There is also a congratulatory letter from His Majesty King George VI.

"For the first time my father found himself without a job and so it was back to the motor trade. He secured employment in a garage on the Portsmouth Road. This was Connaught Motors or Continental Cars. The owner of this garage also owned another garage at Shere and when this came on the market my father bought it and started in business on his own. He kept the Shere garage until about 1964. He continued to work part time at a small engineering company in Weybridge until he retired.

"The Send & Ripley History Society extract which I refer to earlier also contains an article by another contributor which mentions a number of people that I also knew. I remember Tom Faithful, the Broomfield family, the Sex family and of course Miss May and her sweet shop. I also remember Ewart Grove the lock keeper who went to school with my father. I spent most of my pocket money in his boats on the River Wey. Not only did Tom Faithful look after the roads but so did my great-uncle Prin Charman. He always managed to find a few marbles for me when I met him.

"Denis J Walker

"PS. My father was also game for a laugh. He told me how he used to post live frogs into the little brick postbox which stands on Send Marsh Green and then lie in wait behind a nearby hedge to observe the antics of the posty when he came to collect the mail."

MISS C R AYRE - AN APPRECIATION

By David Porter

It is with sadness that I report the death of Miss Constance Rosena Ayre early in March 1997. For many years during the 1950s and '60s, Miss Ayre was the Deputy Headmistress of St Bede's School in Send.

During this period, Miss Ayre lodged in a house in Send Road very near to the Drill Hall (now Lancaster Hall) and cycled to and from school each day.

She was a class teacher and her subject was mathematics. Her classroom was room 7, which overlooked the playing field at the rear of the school, and was the room in which Class 4A was based (classes were moved to different rooms depending on the subject taught).

I was upgraded in my first year at the school from Class 1B to 1A, remaining in the upper grade until I left in 1965. Therefore in my fourth year, I found myself in room 7 as a 4A pupil under Miss Ayre. I bid Miss Ayre a final farewell on 8 April 1965 when I left as a schoolboy. No less than 27 years later, I became deeply involved in planning a school reunion, whereupon I traced Miss Ayre to Hemel Hempstead. A Sunday evening telephone call from me certainly came as a surprise after such a long time. Her former classroom schoolboy now a middle-aged adult!

The reunion on 27 September 1992 was a total success and a second was held the following year in December 1993, when no less than 150 former pupils and staff attended. Miss Ayre attended on both occasions.

The first reunion saw an unexpected cash surplus and we decided to purchase a silver cup for St Bede's, have it suitably engraved and ask Miss Ayre to present it to the school on our behalf, to which she agreed.

Further arrangements took place with the current Headmistress, Mrs Jameson, and her staff, whereupon a date was agreed for the presentation. This took place during November 1992, with Miss Ayre addressing the new generation of St Bede's schoolchildren in the school hall at morning assembly. Miss Ayre was accompanied by my wife, Mr Roland Doe and myself on this occasion, all of us ex-pupils of the school.

Miss Ayre loved singing and, in spite of her age, still sang in a choir. She was a teacher and a friend, well remembered by many former pupils of St Bede's School.

I conclude by thanking Mrs Jameson and all her staff for all their hospitality and co-operation.

OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF BOUGHTON HALL IN THE 20TH CENTURY

By Ken French

After the death of Martha Paulton in 1908, the house was unoccupied until 1913, with various members of the French family acting as good neighbours or unpaid caretakers. There followed a series of brief tenancies: a Mrs Pearson in 1913, Mr Douglas in 1914, followed by Mrs Ferger. For a period until 1918, it became a hospital for German Prisoners of War. After the end of the war, the house was once more empty until August 1923, when it was bought as part of the marriage settlement by Henry Gerard Walter Sandeman and his wife, the Honourable Phyllis Elinor Sandeman, with 30 acres of ground.

There were many alterations to the grounds. A new kitchen garden area was formed on the Western, or Mays Corner, side, enclosed on three sides by holly hedging and hidden from the house by conifers. Paths were laid across it and a brick-lined well dug for watering purposes.

As the land purchased only contained part of the original drive to Burnt Common, the footpath was diverted to its present position, on the West of the site, with its entrance opposite Goodgrove in Send Marsh Road. A wrought-iron kissing gate was installed at the Southern boundary against what is now Boughton Hall Avenue.

A new ornamental lily pond was constructed, with a wooden bridge over to an island planted with flowering trees. A grass tennis court was made between the kitchen garden and the outbuilding complex. Gardeners' accommodation was formed in these outbuildings. The harness

room was made into the kitchen, and a sitting room and two bedrooms formed from the South-facing stables. The coach-house was used as garages. Mr Weller was employed as Resident Head Gardener (two of the Weller children who were born here still live in Send).



Boughton Hall

Peacocks strolled the grounds and I remember seeing them alighting on the cars parked outside the house. When they were first purchased, their calls terrified not only the local children, but the young Sandemans as well.

In 1930, Vincent Albert Grantham bought both the Hall and Boughton Hall Farm from the Sandemans and continued to rent the pasture land between Goodgrove and Send Manor Estate from Mr S Boorman of Heath Farm. He later purchased this land when Boorman left Heath Farm.

Vincent's father, Colonel Grantham, had served with the Army in India, where I believe Vincent was born and brought up. In the late 1930s, Colonel Grantham was Chairman of the British Legion, reading the Annual Verse broadcast from the Albert Hall. Vincent, when at Boughton Hall, was with the Standard Bank, later to become Chairman of the combined Standard and Chartered Bank until he retired.

He only stayed in the Hall itself from 1930 to 1933. One of the reasons, I think, was the increasing family to educate, plus the upkeep and cost of heating. Central heating had been installed with a gravity feed solid fuel fired boiler, which was not very effective in a large rambling house.

Boughton Hall Farmhouse was empty, as Raymond Greenham, the tenant farmer, only stayed a short time after Farmer Gathercole had left, so Grantham and family moved in, putting the Hall up for rent.

V A Grantham altered the boundary between the farmhouse and the Hall, taking away the old kitchen garden from the Hall and moving its entrance and part of the crescent driveway towards Mays Corner, making the front garden to the farmhouse larger and allowing a drive-in using what was once the gateway to the Hall. It was during this reconstruction and rerouting of the drainage that a skeleton of a man was found, believed to be that of a German Prisoner of War, buried when the Hall was a hospital during the 1914-18 War.

Grantham was now able to move the farm drive to lead to the dairy, where people could buy their milk and cream without coming up to the house. The duck pond near the road was filled in and some large elm trees felled which had been part of the continuing line of trees from Boughton Hall to Corner Cottage. Norman Grove, from the Wey Boathouse, Potters Lane, Send, was in charge of the felling of the trees, and I remember seeing him use the cable and winch.

The working farm was rented out to Keene Brothers of Papercourt Farm.



Aldertons

It was in this 1937-38 period that the farmhouse, now named Aldertons after Richard Alderton, a previous owner in the 1500s, was enlarged by the builders, F Tice & Sons. Additions were made to the North-West side to provide a large lounge, playroom, bedroom and bathroom, to make a more comfortable home for the family, now grown to five sons and one daughter. The garden was laid out to include flower borders, two fish ponds and a hard tennis court. The Granthams had retained the children's nanny and also employed two live-in Austrian maids, plus outside help, which included one gardener-cum-chauffeur plus one other gardener.

Vincent A Grantham, always interested in medicine, took a gamble in the 1939-45 period by taking a controlling share in the London Clinic, expressing his hope that his sons might one day become surgeons, but this was not to be. Tragically, he lost his only daughter, Elizabeth, from a rare disorder without any warning.

Grantham moved circa 1945 to St Osyth's, Essex, where his yacht was moored, selling Aldertons, house and farm, to Mr A Shilton. He had been, during his stay in Send, Chairman

of the Parish Council, Chairman of the local Conservative Association and Chairman of the Send Football Club.

After Vincent Grantham moved into Aldertons in 1933, he let Boughton Hall to Mrs Shaw, a widowed member of the Shaw Savil Shipping Company. She, with her son and two daughters, came from Harrogate, bringing her staff with her: her old nanny, a cook, housekeeper, butler and maid. She stayed about two years, so that her daughters, then in their early 20s, could do the London Scene. When she left, with the intention of sub-letting, she asked her London agents to give the keys to my family to show round possible sub-tenants, and to air the house, a case of history repeating itself. My sister and I had the job of closing the windows when we came back from school. We had fun riding in the dumb waiter, but aged eight, were very frightened when caught in a terrific thunderstorm when all the doors and windows were banging.

Mrs Shaw had asked my father to find a local man to mow the lawns, leaving her large mower in the garage, but it kept stopping and three different men said "To hell with that!" Mr Grantham, telling my father that the tenancy agreement was to keep both house and gardens in good order, arranged for Luff's Nursery to sort out the garden and Messrs Tice & Sons, the local builders, to decorate the exterior of the house. Mrs Shaw's gardener had asked me, at her request, to feed the pigeons once a day with the food left in the granary, and he showed me the correct amount. When this was used up, the pigeons just flew away to find new homes.

Mr Grantham was luckier with his next tenant, M J Fotheringham, son of a large estate owner near Forfar, bordering the Glamis Estate. His stay at the Hall was a wedding present from his parents. Part of his time was spent improving his knowledge of insurance business with a London firm. His hobby was racing cars at Brooklands with the Mays of Ashburton House, Cartbridge.

He had two billiard tables delivered to the saloon and asked my father to organise the decorating there by removing the paint from the pine panelling. The Ripley painter my father employed had been forbidden to use a blow-lamp, but it was taking so long to do that he asked me to act as watchdog. My father never knew. Mr Fotheringham's father sent some of the staff with them, including a young gardener and his young bride. He was 20 and she was 19 years old. Charles ("Chic") Edwards and Mary arrived a few days before their boss and I was sent to show them their gardener's cottage. When they saw the "cottage", they both broke down and cried. The thought of a bucket toilet out by the stables was the last straw. They said that everyone in Scotland had an inside water closet. However, as their furniture had not arrived and as they had no money to go home, they borrowed the key to the Hall and decided to sleep on the floor there while he (Chic) licked the cottage into something habitable. Next day Chic went to Woolworths in Woking and bought some packets of powder colour, at sixpence a packet, and a brush. These, mixed with water and applied to the walls, made a lot of difference.

I would like to praise this man as a worker. The gardens of Boughton Hall were immaculate and he did the work that previously three men had done.

When Fotheringham returned to Scotland to his father's estate, Chic found that he was ostracised when he rejoined the garden staff in Scotland because of being favoured by being chosen to go to England. After his war period in the Air Force, he went into business himself, taking over greenhouses and cold frames in an estate in Pitlochry, and growing for neighbouring hotels.

He retired aged 70 when the grounds were taken back for the house, but soon became bored with retirement and became part-time gardener to Eradour, the smallest distillery in Scotland. Along with other visitors, I was impressed by the garden flower show there in 1990 and by the gardener extraordinary, then aged 80.

LITTLE OWL PLAY GROUP - SEND

One morning in October 1996, the Little Owl Play Group in Send celebrated its 30th birthday. Past and present pupils, staff and parents, were invited to share the occasion and many did so: and there were cards and messages of congratulation from those unable to attend. There was a real party in progress and whilst the children enjoyed a Bouncy Castle and the adults were treated to coffee and cakes, a large celebration cake was cut by Mrs Gladys Pritchard, the Play Group Supervisor, and Mrs Joy Carter, one of the founders of the Play Group.

When the Play Group first opened in 1966, the two mothers who started it were well qualified to have the care of young children. Mrs Joy Carter was a Primary School teacher and Mrs Jean Miller was a Health Visitor. Both had small children of their own and they put all their professional expertise and energies into running the Play Group.

They were affiliated to the newly formed Pre-School Play Groups Association, whose Headquarters were in London, and the PPA acted as an advisory body to the new Play Groups that were opening all over the country. Play Groups were the brainchild of a young London mother, Belle Tutaev, who, deploring the lack of State provision for the pre-school child, set up a group in her own home in 1961 and wrote a letter to The Times, inviting others to follow suit. She stated that she saw Play Groups as a stopgap until the State provided nursery education, but she could not have visualised the extent to which her idea would spread so quickly throughout the country.

The Little Owl Play Group started in the Red Cross Hut in Sandy Lane, Send, with 20 children at each morning session. The fees were modest, making it available to all. Children were encouraged to stay without their mothers and soon became independent and involved with the wealth of activities on offer. They forgot their shyness when playing together with sand and water and dressing up. They learned the give and take of shared play and to respect each other. They developed the social skills that can only be learned in a larger group outside the family.

Activities were structured to bring about learning through play and the children gained practical skills with pencil and paper and paint, along with the sensible use of scissors and glue, under the very watchful eyes of the staff. There was a climbing frame and other big toys for energetic children, and quiet corners, with construction toys and jigsaws, for more restful moments, and, of course, the PASTRY TABLE! Most children remember the pastry table where they could knead and roll out the dough, make shapes and play with endless abandon! It was a great stress reliever, and many an angry little person has thumped out their aggression on a piece of dough! There was always a time for Music & Movement sessions and the morning ended with a quiet Story Time.

There was soon a waiting list for places at the Play Group, for there were two new estates being built in Send, bringing in families with young children, and still no State provision for the under fives. However, within a year or so of the Play Group opening, the old Red Cross Hut was replaced by the present Red Cross Centre, and the new larger premises made it possible to take 40 children a day. Children started at age three, with one session, moving up to more sessions as places became available when the older children went to the Primary School at age five. Even so, there were often over 100 children on the attendance register and still a waiting list! There was a high staff ratio of one adult to every eight children, as required by law, and the two leaders inspired their staff with enthusiasm and involvement. When a branch of the PPA started in Woking, they all attended the meetings together and benefited from meeting other Play Group leaders in the Woking area and exchanging ideas and experiences.

The Little Owl Play Group went from strength to strength, now going on outings and inviting people into the sessions: sometimes bringing in baby farm animals, mothers with special skills, and entertainers. In the summer breaks, musical sessions were held for older children and

the Play Group reached out into the village community with invitations to the elderly to join in carols at Christmas time. Parents' Evenings were held and both parents could see what their small children did at the Play Group.

Mrs Miller used her skills as a Health Visitor to advise young mothers with family problems and concerns about their child's behaviour and minor health problems. She was sadly missed when she left the Play Group in 1972, following the death of her three-year-old son, Lance, from leukaemia.

Mrs Carter continued with the Play Group, always leading the staff with her enthusiasm and her wealth of ideas on art and craft, and especially music. In the late '70s she sought a career change and handed over the running of the Play Group to a Village Committee, with Mrs Gladys Pritchard as the Supervisor. Mrs Pritchard had already been with the Play Group for eight years and was a trained Nursery Nurse (NNEB), and it is largely due to her loyalty and enthusiasm during the past 28 years that the playgroup has continued to make good progress, offering quality play provision for the pre-school child.

The Play Group suffered a financial setback a year or so ago when the Primary School decided to take all the four-year-olds into school. Now in 1997, Send First School is proposing to open a nursery as part of the government Nursery Voucher Scheme. This is the first time that the government has offered any funding to the under fives, and so the State has finally begun to make provision for the pre-school child.

But the country as a whole owes a great debt of gratitude to the Play Groups Movement for so ably and professionally "filling the gap" and for being so much more.

Play Groups are the success story of this last part of the 20th century, giving stimulating environment for the younger child, giving support to young mothers, who are often far away from their own families, and giving part-time employment to many women.

The Little Owl Play Group, from its earliest days, contributed too, and were part of that success.

Long may they continue!

Sheila Brown

Editor's Comment: Sheila Brown was also a member of the staff of the Play Group for seven years before she went into teaching, and her son was one of the first pupils there. Sheila feels that the days of Play Groups are numbered, and that our local Play Group, having been "in at the beginning", is part of the history of Send and Ripley and is recorded here for posterity.

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to welcome Douglas and Sue French of Heath Farm, Tannery Lane, Send. The current membership of the Society is 90 doubles and 71 singles.

TREASURER - VACANCY

At the AGM Marilyn Scrace advised the meeting that, due to her new appointment and increased work load, she did not anticipate being able to continue as Treasurer, particularly as her work may take her well away from this area from time to time in the near future. In the meantime, she has kindly offered to remain and assist anyone who wishes to take on this very interesting and important role. If there is anyone amongst our members who wishes to be active in the Society in this way, now is a very good time to come forward and receive the benefit of expert assistance whilst Marilyn is still able to provide this. Please contact our Chairman, Les Bowerman, or our Secretary, Audrey Sykes.

TRANSPORT UNBECOMING

The following photograph shows a 1937 Dennis Lancet Series 2 of the former Aldershot & District Traction Company, which was Woking based when new. Its registration number was BOT 303 and it was powered by an 04 Dennis diesel engine and the only survivor known to us.

It was sold to a showman in 1952 and it travelled the fairgrounds until 1964. It was



photographed by myself circa 1989, in a very poor state, on commonland near Chichester. I am glad to say it now resides in Aldershot, awaiting restoration.

David Porter

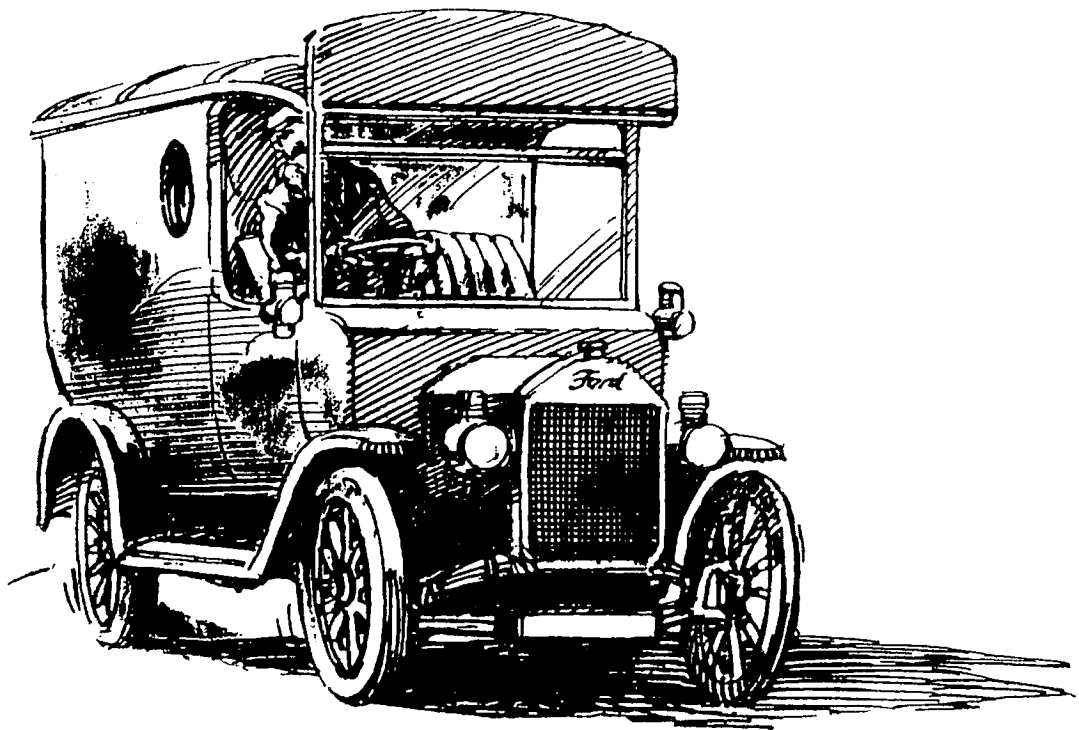
MAY DAY FETE, SEND

Once again, the History Society had a stall erected on the Send Recreation Ground and the event was blessed with fine sunny weather, although rain was threatened in the early part of the day and later on. The event itself was a great success. Our thanks are due once again to Tony and Patricia Medlen, who did a brisk trade with many items contributed by members, including books, bric-a-brac and a selection of the Society's publications. Thanks are due also to George Bleach, Ken Bourne and David Porter, who helped with the erection and dismantling of the Society's stall. Thanks also to Audrey Sykes and all those who patronised our stall at this event.

Send & Ripley History Society

NEW EXHIBITION

TRANSPORT



FROM HORSE-DRAWN TO HORSEPOWER

MUSEUM OPEN SATURDAYS 10 -12.30

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 22, at 3 pm - Guildford Ghosts

Meet at Tunsgate at 2.45 for prompt departure at 3 pm, to hear a talk on the ghosts of Guildford. This is a guided walk round Guildford, and a collection will be invited from those who attend in aid of the Friends of Guildford Museum.

Thursday, 11 September - Church Room, Send, 8 pm

An illustrated talk by John Jannaway, entitled "Surrey Murders".

Saturday, November 8 - Surrey Local History Council Symposium, Chertsey

The symposium this year has the theme, "Victorian Celebrations" - further details to be provided in due course.

Thursday, November 27 - 8 pm, Ripley Annex

An illustrated talk by Mrs Hazeldine on "Queen Victoria and her Doctor".

Newsletter Contributions

The closing date for contributions for the next Newsletter is Friday, 25 July.



SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

OPEN: May-September, Saturdays 10-12.30 & 2-4.00.
October-April, Saturdays 10-12.30

ALSO: 3rd Sunday of each month, so as to coincide
with Ripley Antique Fair, in the Village Hall.

Other times for school groups and small parties
by arrangement.

*Please contact George or Irene Bleach on 01483 222233 if
you require information or wish to help in the museum.*

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

"Then and Now, Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life"	Out of print
"Guide to Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Send"	£1.25
"Then and Now, a Victorian Walk Around Ripley"	£1.50 (only 4 copies remain)
"The Straight Furrow", by Fred Dixon	£1.50
"Ripley and Send - Looking Back"	£4.95
"A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey"	£2.00
"Newark Mill, Ripley, Surrey"	£2.85
"The Hamlet of Grove Heath, Ripley, Surrey"	£4.00

Apart from the out-of-print publication, all the above are obtainable from the museum on
Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office.

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The Hautboy

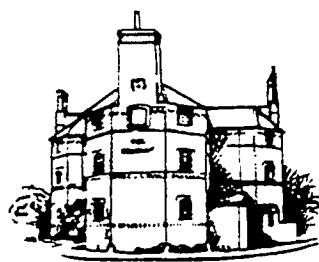
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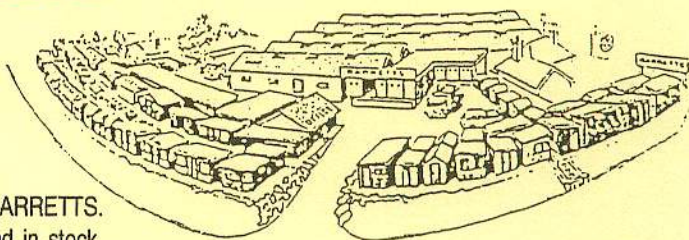


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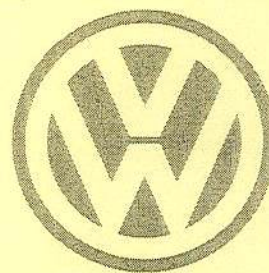
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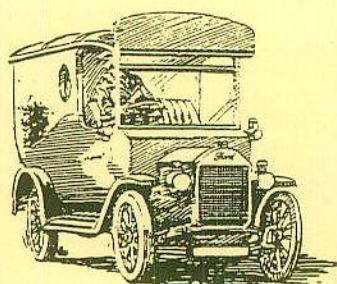
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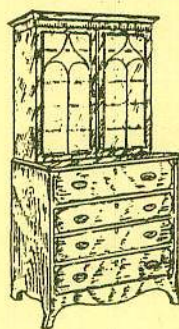
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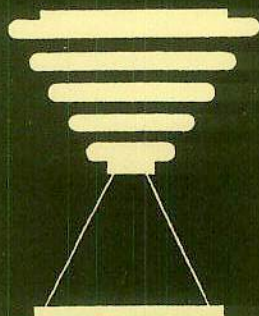
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