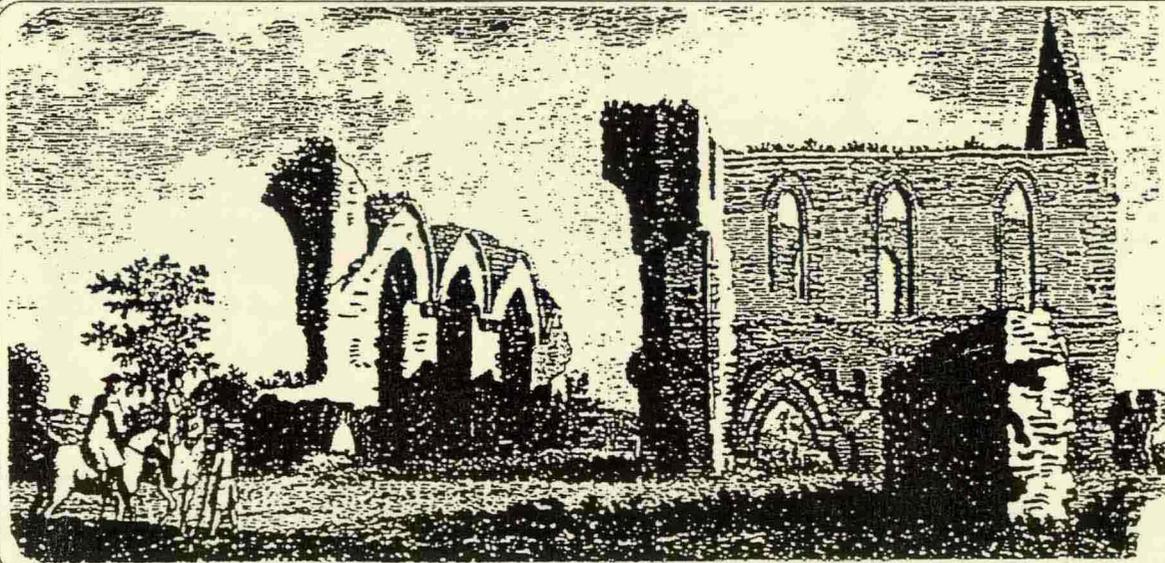


Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

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NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 6 No. 188

May/June. 2006



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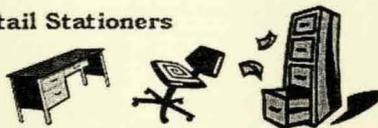
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Note. Unless stated otherwise all photographs and illustrations are reproduced from SRHS archives or are provided by the authors.

Cover photo: - The Green Lantern Restaurant c1970, see page 2.

Editor's Comment

Thanks to our contributors and the care they take to ensure accurate reporting, the Journal contains much local information in articles on a varied range of subjects relating to the two villages. We hope you continue to find it interesting. As editor, I am always on the look out for new or old stories that will add to our knowledge of our past, so please keep them coming. As reported previously, it is seldom that there is a surplus of articles that will allow forward planning but I am always optimistic that one-day this will be achieved. So if you are planning to write something that will interest our readers and you need help, let me know and I will be pleased to help, or I will know a man/woman who can.

Clare McCann is planning the **next exhibition at our museum** about local **Garages**, cars, etc and is seeking help to set up the exhibits, but first of all, is appealing for photographs, artefacts or memorabilia. For more information see 'Forthcoming Events' in this Journal.

The Green Lantern in Ripley - Memories of a Waitress Jackie Herring (née Bourne)

The Day the Fire Brigade Came to Tea

My very first job was in the early 1970s, working as a waitress at The Green Lantern Restaurant in Ripley High Street. A couple of my friends had started working at the weekends, one at the Cedar restaurant for the excellent rate of 30 new pence per hour, whilst the other was at The Green Lantern which paid 10p less. Jobs at the Cedar didn't come up very often but my friend told me of a vacancy at The Green Lantern and that was how I started, at the age of 14, working there every Sunday until I left school three years later.



The waitresses' uniforms were a very practical nylon overall in pale pink and white check with two useful pockets at the front for your note pad and hankie. In those days of bell-bottom trousers and platform shoes, however, it was not my idea of high fashion. (Yes I did wear platform shoes to work and very comfortable they were too, though I did fall off them once or twice!)

Inez and Evelyn, the Misses Murray, owned the establishment and cooked all the food, which was delicious. Just about everything was 'homemade'; they baked their own bread, scones, cakes and my favourite pudding - rhubarb crumble. Their Sunday lunches included very traditional British fare such as roast beef with all the trimmings and oxtail stew and tongue with caper sauce but they also served a fabulous beef curry. The roast potatoes were to die for. Pre-cooked, they finished them off on the top of the cooker in lard or beef dripping, which meant they were very fluffy on the inside and deliciously crisp and crunchy on the outside. Yummy! Puddings were wonderful, particularly the crumbles because they used stale cake crumbs for the topping (it makes all the difference). Welsh rarebit was part of the tea menu as was buck rarebit, both of which I also enjoyed. The Murray recipe for welsh rarebit was grated cheddar cheese, Worcestershire sauce, butter and English mustard; the mixture was then combined and spread evenly on a part toasted slice of bread and put under a hot grill until melted and bubbling. Buck rarebit was Welsh rarebit with a poached egg on top.

The tables in the restaurant were not numbered but had names. The 'till', the 'fireside', the 'slope', in the 'corner', the 'window', the 'door' and the 'cosy', are the ones I remember but there were quite a few more varying in size and shape and seating from one to as many as could be squashed around a table; fourteen I think we had once around a table for eight.



The Green Lantern interior.

The Misses Murray were lovely ladies who seemed to me to be extremely ancient. They had three dogs. Robbie I remember was the black Scottie but the rest of their names escape me. Inez usually arrived at the back door, after walking the dogs, carrying the smallest under her arm. Both ladies were tall, spoke with slight Scottish accents and were very kind.

Marjorie Goddard who lived next door (on the left, behind the iron railings, see side-view photograph) was a senior waitress working at The Green Lantern. In her youth she had been a dancer on the stage and must have had a wonderful repertoire of stories as well as her marvellous collection of signed photographs. Unfortunately I didn't know who the stars were that she talked about so the stories went over my head just a little bit.

Once or twice we had a famous face amongst our customers. The best known was Ted Ray who was absolutely delightful and relished the attention he got from both staff and customers alike.

We also had our regular visitors. One particular family came so often and always ate the same thing, so much so that we nicknamed them after what they ate. Sunday teatime was their time and Heinz tinned spaghetti on toast was what they ate. Mum, Dad and two children, so we called them 'the spaghettis'. Lovely people they always left a tip!

One particularly quiet Sunday I was in the kitchen laying up a tray with tea things ready to serve some customers in the restaurant, when a strange man came to the back door. 'Is there anything in this sink?' he asked pointing to the washing up area. It was an unusual question and took me by surprise, so I didn't answer but just stared at him instead. He repeated his enquiry and I diffidently replied that I didn't think there was to which his response was -"It didn't matter this is an emergency"- and thrust what looked like a coat into the sink full of washing up water. Once sodden he hauled the dripping cloth out of the sink and, carrying it, ran through to the restaurant.

I do remember feeling a trifle surprised but instead of following him to find out what he was doing I continued laying the tray and then took the tea to my customers. The man had been busy; he had flung the soaking coat, or whatever it was, over the logs burning in the grate. Where the fire had been was now a hissing, steaming, smoking mass of dark cloth. The smoke was drifting out of the fireplace, rising and travelling in a thick mist across the low ceiling of the restaurant.

The Green Lantern had a very large fireplace and the chimney still had steps inside for the 'sweep's boys'. I coughed but still served the tea to my now coughing customers. They very politely enquired what was going on, to which the answer came in the form of a large fireman complete with helmet walking through the front door.

I later found out that, whilst returning from walking their dogs across the green, Marjorie's daughter and boyfriend had spotted flames coming from the Green Lantern's chimney. The daughter had called the Fire Brigade whilst the brave boyfriend had extinguished the fire in the grate.

Just to be sure the brigade swept the chimney to clear any soot that might have been the cause of the fire.

I really can't remember very much about what happened in the restaurant after all this. I think we continued serving, in fact I am sure we did but there were not that many customers about and those that did stay ate their tea with their coats on as we had opened the doors and windows to get rid of the smoke and it was a chilly day.

However I do recall that by way of a thank you the Firemen were served a very special 'set tea' consisting of a huge pot of tea (refilled several times), freshly baked homemade scones with cream and jam, homemade brown bread and butter, slabs of chocolate cake, coffee and walnut cake, fruit cake also wholemeal, shortbread and flapjack biscuits, all absolutely delicious and of course on the house.

Those were the days!

Jackie would like to know where the pictures of The Green Lantern came from, particularly the interior view which is just as she remembered it. Editor.

Memories of Lucas Cottages
Tannery Lane 1950-51
By David Porter

The recent extensive coverage in our Journal regarding the development of the Send Chemists and Walnut Tree Garage sites have prompted me to add these very early memories of my life (50years) in Send.

My uncle, Mr Frederick Sidney Hillman, began working for J & K Dedman soon after they purchased Send Post Office and Stores circa 1928. When we arrived in the village in 1949, my mother, Mr Hillmans's youngest sister, was well advised on the everyday life in Send. My uncle Fred and aunt Lily lived just two doors away from us in Send Barns Lane.

There was no Chemist, Newsagent, Hairdresser or Shoe shop in Send when we arrived. However, some trades were home based such as Mr Lumley's in Potters Lane who was a Hairdresser and gave a good value-for-money haircut to Send-schoolboys, in his garden shed! Equally important was the repair of boots and shoes; both were expensive to buy new, so repairs to soles and heels gave them extended life.



Dedman's Austin delivery van KPE 393 early 1950s
(Photo from D Porter)

Send schoolchildren had to walk long distances on unmade roads and footpaths, such as Wharf Lane, Sandy Lane and Farm Lane and in winter through the quagmire that awaited them at the end of old School Lane. Sturdy footwear was therefore very important. Boot and Shoe repairs, were undertaken by Mr Fred Bowers of Lucas Cottages in Tannery Lane. Fred and Cissy Bowers occupied the middle cottage of which there were, and still are, five in the row. The inside of the cottage was small and the kitchen window in the corner above the sink overlooked the brick wall of the outbuilding near the pavement. This building still stands today.

I recall with ease a visit to collect or deliver some shoes on a bitter cold winters day when I was very young. I sat upon my mother's knee at the kitchen table. There was much snow on the ground; very likely it was the winter of 1950/51. The kitchen tabletop did not have a polished surface. My late mother said it was a scrubbed top typical of many at that time.

During a conversation between Cissy Bowers and my mother there occurred a very loud bang! This scared me and I had to be comforted by her for a while. Fred and Cissy's son, Jeffrey, had thrown a large snowball at the kitchen window almost breaking the glass! Cissy became very angry as snow slid down the window and the resulting commotion did nothing to reduce my distress.

When Wally Broomfield opened his new shop in 1951, our visits to Cissy Bowers ceased and her husband Fred ceased to repair shoes soon afterwards.

Other occupants of Lucas Cottages at the time were the families of C Smallbone, W Styles, Eve and in the late 1950s Patsy (nee Masters) and Jim Anderson. Patsy Anderson undertook ladies hairdressing in the kitchen of their end cottage (nearest the Tannery). Hot water came from a primitive Ascot water heater.

Colenso (Len) Smallbone lived in the first of the five cottages, No.1 Tannery Lane at the corner of Tannery Lane and Send Road (*died 1992, obit. N/L 103, p10. Editor*). Bill Styles lived in the second cottage next door. Franks Harris Ltd of Guildford employed Mr Stiles, who drove a grey Ferguson tractor owned by them, driving it each day to and from work and parking it at night outside Challen's garage opposite. (*See also Bill Styles obit. 1991 N/L 97, p4. Editor*).

There is currently an estate agents sign outside the end cottage near Send Road advertising 'Office Space'. Obviously a 'Change-of-Use' consent has been obtained. Editor.

Ripley Nursery

By Jane Bartlett

Everyone told me that the nursery was a small family concern, and it is true that I always found Moira Dadswell in the office, and her son David and grandson Darren running the centre with assistants. True it is a family concern, but in its early history it was far from small, and I realised why the older generation call it Luff's nursery. A. Luff founded the nursery firm at New Malden Surrey in 1897. He acquired Wimbledon Park Nurseries, and further expanded in 1914 with a lease of Coombe Wood Nurseries, Kingston Hill, once owned by J Veitch & Sons. Not only were the Veitch family famous plant-hunters themselves in China, Japan and the Far East, but they had employed other collectors such as E.H.Wilson. In 1922 this was joined by 45 acres of land in Ripley and Send, once owned by Staines Boorman, the market gardener. Mr Luff made his two sons Norman and Roland (Moira's father) joint managing directors.

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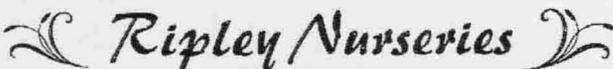
The Ripley Nursery was larger than the one we know now. Bob Whapshott, himself a nurseryman, once told me of the growing fields at the other side of Burnt Common on the London Road (What is now the slip-road off the A3). They once owned a house there, later the trout farm, which had, Bob said, a beautiful show garden with a waterfall, a bridge over the stream, and a pretty summerhouse. Sid Stanley worked at the Ripley Nursery for a couple of years after the war. The field next to the nursery on the Portsmouth Road grew roses and shrubs. There were growing fields and five long greenhouses behind Methold's garage. Sid did not work in the nursery but was one of the 11 men sent out to do landscaping over to Bromley, the Horsleys, Cranleigh and other neighbouring villages. At one time the firm designed a garden in Italy, although he did not go there. He thought there were about 12 people working in the nursery with Mr Cherry (a most suitable name) as manager. He remembers Mr Middleton, the B.B.C. gardening expert visiting to gather hints and ideas for his next programme. Moira remembers tomatoes, cucumbers and alpines growing in the greenhouses. They also grew carnations which they sold in their florists shops. At the back of the office was a giant chest of square drawers for storing seed, each with a knob and a label with the name of the seeds. These were weighed out on small scales and put into little bags.

Instead of forty years of expansion, things began to go downhill, when Norman, the business mind of the two brothers, died young. Roland had always been artistic and loved designing gardens, but was not a businessman. Wages for labour were higher and fewer people were able to afford the labour-intensive herbaceous gardens of the past. The Malden and Kingston Hill nurseries had already been replaced by housing. In 1959 Roland sold the house and garden at Burnt Common and 13 acres of land. Moira was determined to keep some part of Luffs and persuaded her husband Leslie Dadswell to leave the R.A.F. in the mid '60s to take over for five years. He paid redundancy money for most of the men, and no longer grew most of their plants. After his death Moira ran it in a very small way, as a centre rather than a nursery.

There has been a new trend in gardening. Many people want an instant garden with easy maintenance, and container grown plants, which can be planted at any time of the year. Moira's son, David, early on showed an interest in plants, and as a schoolboy earned pocket money in the holidays by budding and grafting roses at Hendrickson's Nursery.

He joined Moira 5 years ago to run the nursery but with a new approach. Trees and shrubs, large and container-grown, are imported from Holland. He does sell herbaceous plants as well, and of course roses, but he does not grow them. Loving plants as he has always done, he can always find for you plants he does not normally stock, and is ready to give advice on planting and growing.

So Luff's nursery (see advert on right) is now a flourishing but smaller Ripley garden centre, with a new style, but with descendants of the founder in charge.

The logo for Ripley Nurseries features the name 'Ripley Nurseries' in a stylized, cursive font. The word 'Ripley' is larger and more prominent than 'Nurseries'. The text is flanked by decorative, leaf-like flourishes on both sides.

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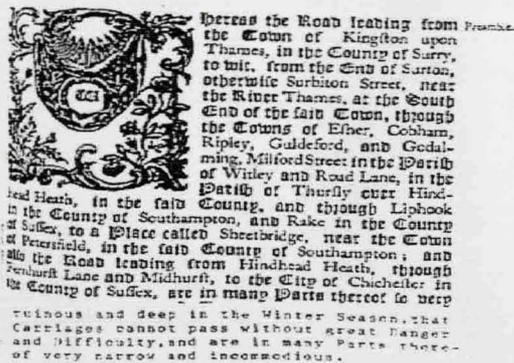
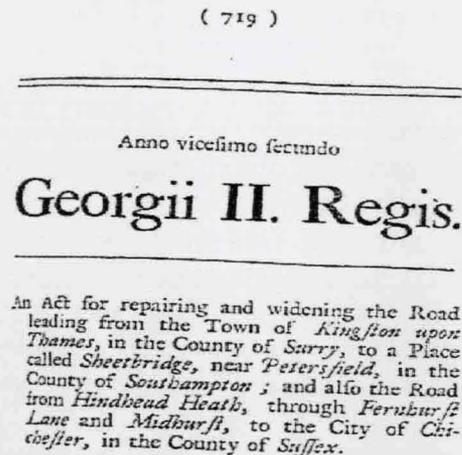
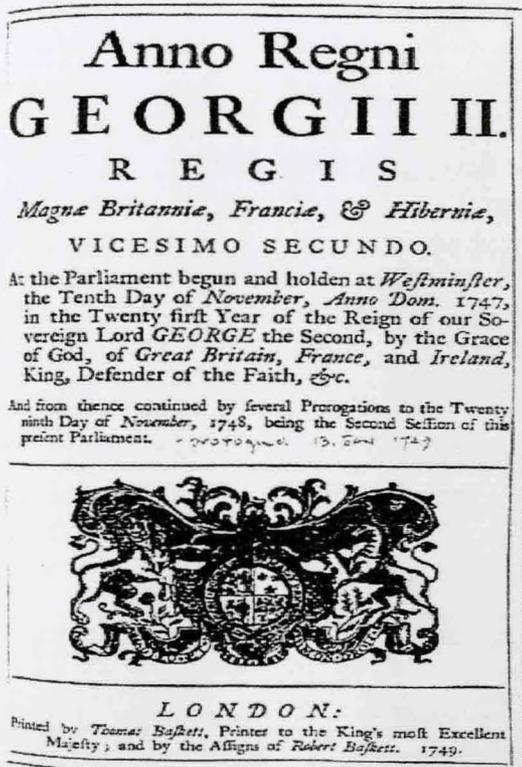
Ripley's Turnpike Era

By Mike Knight of the Milestone Society

The concept of a 'turnpiked' highway was first tested by a Petition put to the government of Charles II in 1663. This novel scheme, aimed at improving the awful road conditions that were supposedly amended under the provisions of a previous Act from 1555 – the so-called Statute labour requirement – sought Royal Assent for tolls to be raised from road-users along the King's Highway. This first instance was from Ware (Herts) along the course of the former Roman road, Ermine Street. It ran into Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire; only one of three tollgates was erected, at Wadesmill, before public outcry against this "travel-tax" brought the trial scheme to an end in 1674.

The merits of the system had, nevertheless, been recognised and by the reign of Queen Anne several Acts had been approved for the creation of Turnpike Trusts, albeit in a haphazard manner. As those roads so re-organised, and often re-graded and straightened, proved by and large to be successful, a spate of Petitions flooded the Parliaments of George I and even more so that of George II (1727-1760).

In 1710/11 [9 Anne cap. 8] an Act approved the creation of a Trust from Portsmouth to Petersfield; this was followed in 1718 by another [4 George cap.4] between Southwark and Kingston. Yet, it awaited another thirty years before a Petition to cover the intervening highway was given Royal Assent [22 George II cap. 35].



The 37-page Act of 1749 was headed:-

"An Act for repairing and widening the Road leading from the Town of Kingston upon Thames, in the County of Surrey, to a Place called Sheetbridge, near Petersfield, in the County of Southampton..." and was printed in gothic script with but minimal punctuation; it became operable from 24th June 1749.

The Act listed 94 gentlemen who would be responsible to carry out the duties and who should assemble for their first meeting "at the House of Elizabeth Spooner, widow, being the Sign of the White Hart at Guldeford". There was also a branch road south from Hindhead to Chichester, which will not be dealt with here.

The 94 trustees included the political luminaries of the Right Hon. Arthur Onslow, Esq., Speaker of the House of Commons, and the Right Hon. Henry Pelham, Esq., First Commissioner of the Treasury and Chancellor of His Majesty's Exchequer. In addition there was an impressive line-up of one Earl, two Lords, eight Knights, four Lieut. Generals, two Doctors of Divinity, an Alderman of the City of London, the Warden of Godalming, the Bailiffs of Kingston and Mayor and Magistrates of the Town of Guldeford! A separate list of trustees for the branch line to Chichester was also appended.

Amongst the local places noted are Esher, Cobham and Guildford, but no mention of Ripley. Tollgates were to be erected and also, if necessary, purpose-built tollhouses; charges were to be made upon both passenger and commercial traffic. The complexity of these charges had to be displayed on a large tollboard, and this assumed at least an elementary numeracy amongst toll-collectors – none of whom would be popular figures in their community.

Basically there were three components of toll:

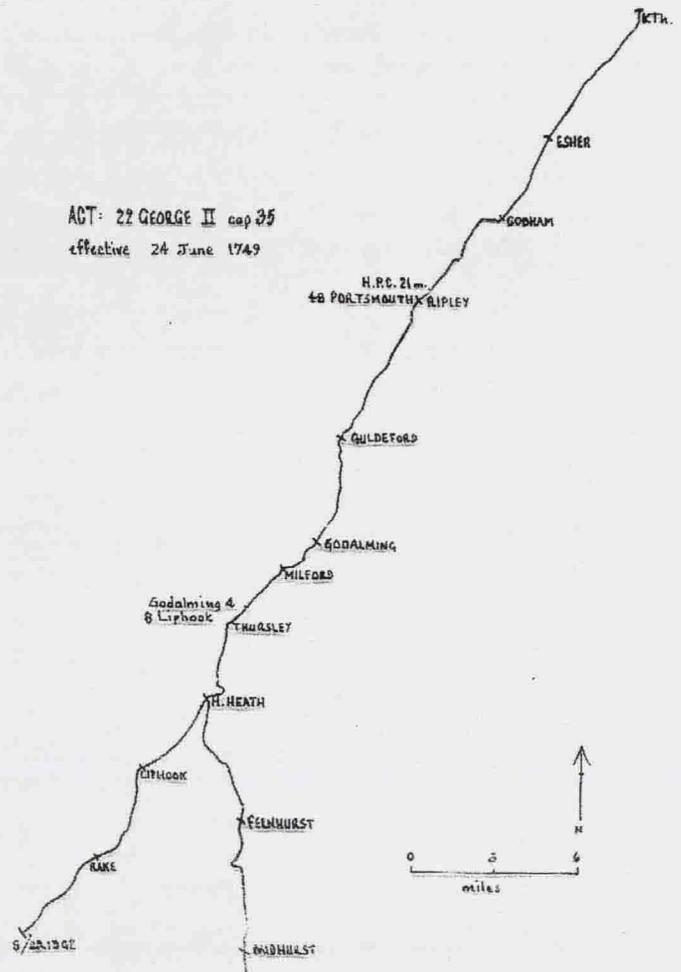
- i. for carriages of every description, essentially passenger, from 3d to one shilling.
- ii. for waggons and the like, essentially merchandise, from 3d to 1/6d.
- iii. for beasts on the hoof, including fowl, from 5d to 10d per score, in proportion.

Nationwide, the system prevailed along main thoroughfares, and by 1830 a network of turnpike roads eventually became the basis for our trunk roads in the 20th century. Between c1870-1890, when rail competition was supreme, the Trusts were "dis-turnpiked" and their supporters invariably lost much of their investment.

Several clauses in the 1749 Act are worth noting (in précis form):

a) "..... and after such new Roads shall be completed, the Lands and Grounds constituting the former Road may be sold by the Trustees to such persons as shall be willing to become Purchasers thereof, for the best Price that can be gotten"

b) "And for preventing Frauds, be it enacted that if any Person having paid the Toll shall give of the same to any other Person in order to avoid payment, such Persons giving and receiving shall forfeit the Sum of Twenty Shillings" [and the bait for exposure] "which Penalty shall go and be paid One Moiety (10/-) to the Informer"!



c) "..... the said Trustees shall cause the Roads to be measured, and Stones or Posts to be erected, at a Distance of One Mile each from the other, and upon which shall be denoted the Distance of any One Town or Place from any other"

d) "if any Person shall maliciously break or pull up any of the Stones or Posts or obliterate the words, Letters, Figures and Marks, and be convicted before a Justice of the Peace, every such Person shall forfeit the Sum of Forty Shillings"

Through the wooded cutting over Esher Common dropping down to Cobham and making a kink before straightening into Ripley, via Ockham Common, the original road passes Sutton Place and leads into central Guildford. Several milestones are known to survive along this stretch, and illustrate the requirements made in the Act, for directions. Distances are recorded between:

<u>Hyde Park Corner</u>	and	<u>Portsmouth</u>
15	(road cutting A302)	54
24	(Sutton Place gate A3)	45

All measurements must add to a total distance of 69 miles. Missing, due to roadworks, are:

16	[Cobham 1 // Esher 2]	53
18	[Ripley 3 // Cobham 1]	51

But, re-discovery of a milestone (see photo on right) just inside Ockham parish boundary (south east bank opposite Bridgefoot Farm), excavated and limewashed in March 2006, displays 61 incised characters on its road side facets and four more on the rearside benchmark.

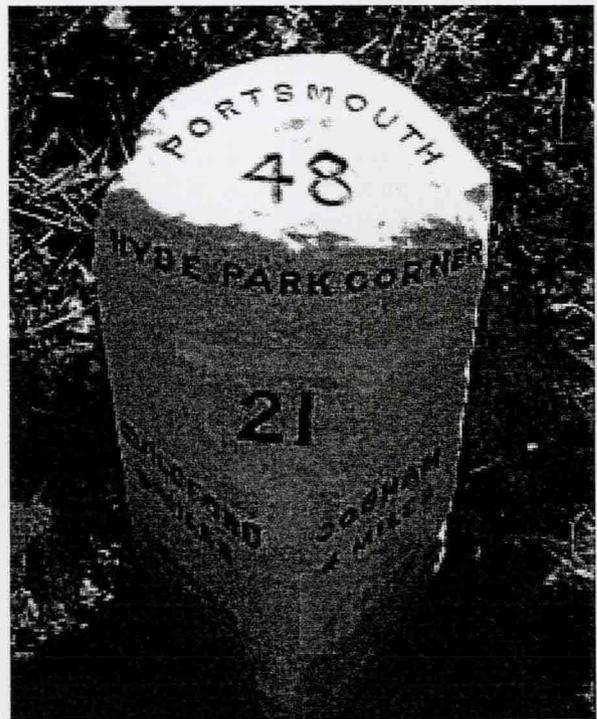


Photo by Les Bowerman

The only milestone truly in Ripley Parish lies to the south west of the village, within the south verge, opposite Milestone Close. [HPC 22 // P 47]. There are two in Send parish – one at Burnt Common and the other north east of the Potters Lane Junction.

Not long after the Acts had been rescinded, milestones became of use from 1869 on to the new craze of bicycling. On the assumption that each stone was 1760 yards from the next, cyclists would compete against each other and the clock, in speed trials. And when the stones became damaged, or were removed, a cry went up from the cycling press to have these obsolete waymarkers repaired.

"The milestones on the Hog's Back want renewing or renovating. The weather may account for their illegibility, but surely the same contrary power cannot have removed about half-a-dozen necessary fingerposts." *Bicycling News* – August 9th, 1890.

An interesting if somewhat futile test was carried out in early 1894 and reported [in author's précis] in "Cycling" of 14th April 1894. The crux of the issue is as follows:

"There are milestones on the Portsmouth road, and for the most part they are remarkably accurate in their measurement being in most cases a trifle over distance. We recently

checked the measurement of these stones from the 12th milestone from London [ie Hyde Park Corner] which is just past Ditton Green to the 59th, ie in Horndean [Blendworth, Hampshire.]"

The chief discrepancies were listed in the article which concluded that "A balance struck shows a net total of 89 yards short of 47 miles" over the 69 miles.

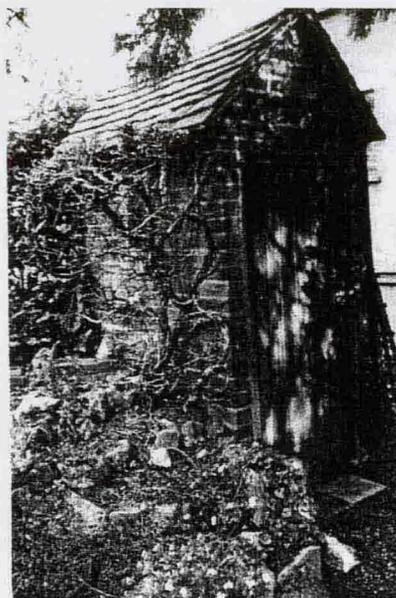
Today, the 21st century slowly and patchily acknowledges these milestones as wayside monuments of a bygone transport age. Some have been listed, others have been neglected, removed, damaged – even stolen! But nationwide there is now an interest and a commitment to preserve these simple facets of our heritage; the Milestone Society, created in May 2001, plays its part.

This article edited by Les Bowerman, is based on a talk to the Society given by Mike Knight on 15th March, 2006. The Honorary Secretary of the Milestone Society is Terry Keegan, The Oxleys, Tenbury Road, Clows Top, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY14 9HE. Website www.milestone-society.co.uk.

Another Ripley Privy Discovered!

Notes by Ken Bourne

Following on from the report in the previous Journal 187 page16, and the appeal for more information about the whereabouts of other Privies, another one has been discovered in Ripley! It would appear that there are more of these old private places of convenience about than had at first been suspected. The photograph on the right was given recently to Les Bowerman by Sid Stanley and shows the old privy that is in the garden of The Georgian House, Ripley. Like the others it is probably Victorian but there is no other information about it at present.



*In England during the Roman occupation the army and the ruling classes were keen on personal hygiene although the general population did not necessarily follow their example.

*In medieval times, only the great castles and large manor houses had privies; the standards of everyone, great and lowly, had apparently fallen.

Possibly the only 'local' example of the use of flush toilets and a washing culture being practiced was at Newark Priory. Editor.

*It was not until the beginning of the 18th century that water closets of the sluice type were installed in Windsor Castle and larger houses soon followed this fashion. Alexander Cummings took out the first patent for a water closet in 1775. In the 19th century the Rev. Henry Moule invented the earth closet. In 1848 these inventions were followed by the passing of a public health act making it law that a fixed sanitary arrangement of some kind, whether it be an ash-closet, a privy, a water-closet or bucket, must be fitted in every household.

Because of better public sanitary conditions the population thrived, as is evident in the 19th century population census returns. However, it is not until well after WW2 that that the privy had become a curiosity and who knows, there may still be, in remote communities, a privy or two still in service?

*With acknowledgement to - *Cotswold Privies* by Mollie Harris, Chatto and Windus, 1984.

Police Constable W Bridger no 266 of Ripley Reported by Andy Jones

I was handed a document in October 2005 for the Send& Ripley History Society archives. It was a 'Return of Special Services' form, which was found at Ripley police station. It was discovered earlier this year when alterations were being carried out to update the 'Callers Counter' and when a cupboard was being moved to create a doorway to the offices and counter. The document, which dates from 1926 to 1929, was an expenses form filled in by Policeman W Bridger No. 266, who was based at Ripley police station, which was part of the Woking Division of the Surrey Constabulary. It begins with two duties at Gatwick Races from 11/6/1926 to 12/6/1926 for which he was paid 15s-8d (about 79p). Then there were two entries for 1927, one to Gatwick Races on 7/1/1927 and the second to Woking police station with a stray dog on 21/11/1927. The next five entries were for the year 1928 starting on 6/1/1928 again to Woking police station with a stray dog, the next two entries were to Lingfield Races on 9/3/1928 and 10/3/1928. Then two more visits to Woking police station with stray dogs on the 29/10/28 and 20/11/1928. The last entries were for 1929 and were to Gatwick races again on the 6/2/1929 and 7/2/1929 for which he was paid 15/6 (about 78p).

The trips to the races were done by cycle and train and took about fourteen and a half hours and the trips to Woking with the dogs was about one and a half hours in duration. P C Bridger used and stored cycle No. 6, so how many policemen were based at Ripley and how often did they fill in an expenses form? This one was issued in 1910 and should have been used by 1920 but was still being used much later as this is a loose page from the book.

Woking

Division.

Return of Special Services performed by *Police Const. W Bridger No 266 of Ripley*
for the Month of _____ 191

Time of returning to Residence.		NATURE OF SERVICE	TRAVELLED.			No. of Miles travelled.		Railway Fare	Cab Fare or Horse Hire	Total Amount.
Date.	Hour.		From	To	Returned to	On Foot.	By Train.			
11-6-26	8	Duty at Gatwick Races.	Guildford	Gatwick	Ripley	Cycle	6 25	3 10	6	4 4
12-6-26	8 1/2	Duty at Gatwick Races.	Guildford	Gatwick	Ripley	Cycle	6 25	3 10	6	4 4
<i>Meal Allowance 1/8</i>										
<i>Total 15 8</i>										
7-1-27	7	Duty at Gatwick Races.	Guildford	Gatwick	Ripley	Cycle	6 25	3 10	6	5 10
21-11-27	9 1/2	In Woking P. Sta. with Stray Dog	Ripley	Woking	Ripley	By Bus 12 miles	1/6	Return	1	6
1-28	12	In Woking P. Sta. with Stray Dog	Ripley	Woking	Ripley	By Bus 12 miles	1/6	Return	1	6
2-3-28	8 1/2	Duty at Lingfield Races.	Ripley	Lingfield	Ripley	Cycle	8 1/4	3 6	3	8
3-3-28	8 1/2	Duty at Lingfield Races.	Ripley	Lingfield	Ripley	Cycle	8 1/4	3 6	3	8
20-10-28	12 1/2	In Woking P. Sta. with Stray Dog	Ripley	Woking	Ripley	By Bus 12 miles	1/6	Return	1	6
20-11-28	12 1/2	In Woking P. Sta. with Stray Dog	Ripley	Woking	Ripley	By Bus 12 miles	1/6	Return	1	6
6-2-29	8	Duty at Gatwick Races.	Guildford	Gatwick	Ripley	Cycle	6 30	3 9	3 6	7 3
7-2-29	8	Duty at Gatwick Races.	Guildford	Gatwick	Ripley	Cycle	6 30	3 9	3 6	7 3
<i>Cycle Storage 1/6</i>										
<i>Total 15 6</i>										

The Manor of Gatwick as it was known was bought by the Gatwick Racecourse Company in 1890 and was a racecourse in 1891 and Gatwick Airport was built beside it in 1930. It co-existed until about 1936 when I think the airport became too large, so it is possible that local policemen from Ripley could have done duty there from its beginnings to its closure.

Letters

Letter from Frances Francis to John Slatford, copied to the editor:

Many thanks for the copy of the Send & Ripley History Society journal. I enjoyed re-reading the article's about the Mill House. It was great to see them in print and I hope your readers will have enjoyed them too. One small but minor point - the photograph of the car outside **Newark Mill House** is in fact one taken from my father's album - my mother is the lady on the far left in the doorway! (It is credited to Pauline Wilson).

Another article I found fascinating was the one about the **Tea Shops**. As my father was teetotal (certainly in later life after WW2) I presume that he probably made use of some of the tea shops whilst courting my mother in the Ripley area - perhaps after her shift at the telephone exchange they may have met for tea? What a shame I do not know for certain. My 'Clements' grandmother (from Cobham) worked in tea shops and a local inn as a waitress but that was in the Cobham area I believe.

Yet another intriguing coincidence was spotted by my husband - the name of the editor Ken Bourne* - my grandmother was a **BOURNE!!** Her father was CRAVEN BOURNE, born Southwark Surrey in 1850. His father WILLIAM BOURNE was a grocer who had retired from Southwark to Oxted in Surrey by 1861 where he lived in the White House with some of his children who I have not to date followed up. Bourne is a fairly common name and it is highly unlikely that we are related but it was intriguing to see the name. I am sending him a copy of this mail.

I have been away on a 110 day cruise until mid February (our first ever and probably our last!) so have not done any family history at all since October - your journal has wetted my appetite to get back down to research. We certainly hope to come and visit your museum if we get down to your part of Surrey on an open day. Meanwhile thank you again for the journal - it is certainly most impressive particularly for such a small society and very readable. What a pity my link with Ripley is so tenuous.

regards
Frances Francis

**I checked my BOURNE family tree but could find no connection to my family who at the time were living in Kent. My grandfather came to St Johns near Woking c1905. Ken Bourne.*

Assistant Secretary

Due to pressure of work Marilyn Scrace invites someone to assist her by attending committee meetings in her absence (about 6 per year) to take minutes, type them up and distribute them to the committee. Please contact Marilyn for further details on 01483 224025 or alternatively Les Bowerman on 01483 224876.

Vintage Cottage, Rose Lane, Ripley. AD1391.

By John Slatford

The Surrey Dendrochronology Project, a joint venture between the Surrey Archaeological Society and the Domestic Buildings Research Group, has attracted great interest in establishing the age of old buildings using tree-ring dating techniques. Early last year, dating results were published for a number of properties in West Horsley including one, Lower Hammonds Farm, only just outside the Ripley parish boundary. I felt that here was an opportunity to confirm some of the build dates of house in Send and Ripley that we had put forward in the early days of the Society based only upon our limited knowledge of construction details of timber-framed houses. My idea was taken up and the Society decided to support one or two tests of which Vintage Cottage, with the enthusiastic agreement of the owners Fiona and Alastair MacMillan, has been the first to be completed.

The success of a tree-ring dating test depends first upon a preliminary assessment to determine that the timbers in the house are suitable. Having established suitability, the samples required for the test have to have at least 50 annual growth rings with traces of sapwood as a basis for assessment. The samples are obtained using a hollow drill to produce 'sticks' up to 150mm long x 12mm diameter. For Vintage Cottage, eleven samples were taken from different timbers in the original oak framing to enable an accurate assessment and comparison to be made of the years when the trees to be used were cut down.

The science of tree-ring dating is simple in concept in that the width of a tree's growth rings varies from year to year according to weather patterns and other factors. From historical data, the pattern of growth of oak trees in England is known for at least the last 2000 years. Comparison of this data with samples of actual growth of given timbers can enable the felling dates to be determined very accurately.

The project co-ordinator, Rod Wild, first made a preliminary assessment to establish that Vintage Cottage was suitable and on 8th December, the sampling was carried out by Andy Moir of Tree-Ring Services. His report includes some interesting observations and findings on the construction of the house and the possibility that it was built as a cross wing to an earlier house which preceded the present house next door, the front part of which was, until the 1990s, Dowell's Shop. The principal finding in the report is a positive conclusion on the date of construction. The analysis of the samples established that felling of the trees took place in the winter of 1390/91 and, because it is normally assumed that timber was used in the green state, that construction followed shortly after in **AD1391**. In our much earlier studies of Vintage Cottage, we concluded that it dated from the early 1400s and so the house has proved to be earlier still. When compared to results from other properties in West and East Horsley, Vintage Cottage turns out to be the oldest house in this area so far tested by tree ring dating.

The roof of Vintage Cottage today is hipped at both ends over its three bay crown-post frame but in our original studies, we established that the roof was originally gable-ended at the front. It was not then apparent that the front of the house was also jettied at first floor level. The sketch shows how the house might have appeared from the road as built. The chimneys would have been added much later. It is also suggested in the report that the first floor was originally floored over, raising another question about how the roof space came to be heavily sooted. If this suggestion is correct, it supports the theory that Vintage was a 'cross-wing' added to an earlier house in which the hearth was open to the roof allowing the smoke to spread freely throughout the whole of the roof spaces. It is to be hoped that, at some time in the future, a similar study of the timbers in Dowell's may confirm or dispute this theory.



Vintage Cottage as it might have appeared when built



Vintage Cottage as it is today

It has been rewarding to find that all our previous conclusions about the age of the house have been bettered even if there are some doubts about next door. We are grateful to Fiona and Alastair for their forbearance with the disruption caused by the tests but we know they are very pleased with the result.

In conclusion, there remains the possibility of extending this project to study some of the other older houses in our villages. Rod Wild has advised me that he would be very willing to visit anyone who may be interested and carry out a preliminary survey at no cost and I would be pleased to make arrangements whenever needed. The full cost of a tree-ring dating survey would be around £500 depending upon the size of the property.

Rose Onslow.

We are sad to hear of the death of our member Rose Onslow who died on the 26th of February 2006 aged 87. The funeral was held on March 6th at St Mary Magdalen Church, Ripley. Rose was part of Ripley all her life. She was born in the Clock House, then a private house, not a restaurant, and later moved into Ripley House. Her mother, Angela, was the daughter of Mr and Mrs R.M. Pearce, the founders of Ripley Court School, where later her father Guy Onslow became headmaster.

Rose left the village during the war to join the WAAF, where she worked on fighter direction plotting in both Ireland and Stanmore. She returned to Ripley - this time to stay in Rose Lane with her mother in Ripley Court Cottage. The rambling Ripley House had been sold and in 1949 had been split into several households. The schoolroom as Rose remembered it, is now a dining room, and what was once the housekeeper's room is now someone's drawing room. When her mother died she moved into her present cottage, 9 Rose Lane. She worked until she retired in the hospital laboratory.

Always a quiet person; someone who never complained or said anything unkind, yet she had a wide range of interests. She played tennis, went birdwatching, did square dancing, and always, even when older, took part in village activities. For many years she was treasurer of the W.I., and until just before her death was an active helper in the Ripley Good Neighbours scheme.

She will be missed by many.

Jane Bartlett.

A keen member of this society almost since it began Rose regularly attended our meetings and could be relied upon to provide valuable information about Ripley's past often supported by documents. One small but important item among many we will always be grateful for is the sketch of Ripley Chapel and the village school that appeared on the Rev C R Tate's notepaper. This can be seen on page 61 of our first 'Then and Now' publication. Editor.

Forthcoming Events

Anne Bowerman

Tuesday, 16th May - A guided walk to look at some of the older houses in Shamley Green starting at 2.30 pm from the Arbuthnot Hall (by the Green not far past the Red Lion) where there is car parking space. One of our guides will be Marion May who has spoken at a few of our meetings in the past. Tea and biscuits will be available at the Red Lion afterwards.

Tuesday, 13th June - A visit to Sendholme, Potters Lane, Send for members and their partners by invitation of Hilary and Michael Cowan. The evening commences at 7.30 pm and will include a buffet supper with wine for which there will be a charge of £5 per person. Members applying will be able to look round the garden and enjoy a social evening. **Payment before the 6th June is required to avail yourselves of this unique opportunity.**

*paid
10.5.06*

Wednesday 12th July – All day visit to Basingstoke - contact Anne Bowerman for details.

Wednesday 20th September at 8pm. ‘Spies in Petticoats’ – an illustrated talk by Carol Brown

Wednesday 18th October at 8pm. ‘And the Lord Taketh Away’ – an illustrated talk about **The Mount Cemetery in Guildford** by Roger Nicholas.

Wednesday 15th November at 8pm. ‘Clocks – Beginnings’ – a talk by member Keith Blake-Roberts.

Wednesday 20th December at 8pm - The Christmas Social.

All the indoor meetings will be in the Ripley Village Hall Annexe. It would be nice to see a few more members on these social occasions. If you have any enquiries about the programme or suggestions for future events please telephone me, Anne Bowerman, on 01483 224876.

Museum

New Exhibition – Local Garages – Cars – Transport, etc.

A new exhibition is to be set up shortly and offers of photographs, memorabilia, artefacts; etc all relating to Send and Ripley and nearby, will be welcome. Offers of help with setting up the displays would also be appreciated. Please contact in the first instance, Clare McCann on 01483 728548 or Les Bowerman on 01483 224876, or call into the museum on Saturday mornings

Journal Contributions: Closing date for the next edition is **Friday 7th July 2006.**



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Contact Les Bowerman on 01483-224876 if you
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 museum

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

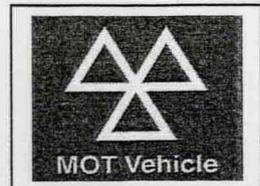
'Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life'	(Reprinted 1998)	£10.00
'Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send'		£1.25
'Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley'	(Reprinted 2004)	£3.50
'The Straight Furrow', by Fred Dixon		£1.50
'Ripley and Send – Looking Back'		£5.00
'A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey'	(Reprinted 2005)	£2.00
'Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey'		£3.00
'The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey'	(Reprinted 2005)	£4.00
'Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures'		£6.00
'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

All the publications are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of 'Ripley & Send Then and Now' and 'Two Surrey Village Schools' can also be obtained from Send Post Office.

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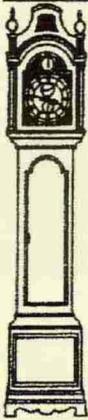


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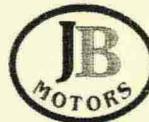
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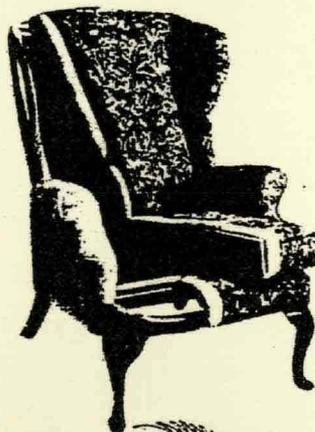
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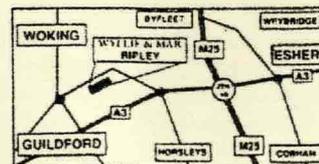
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