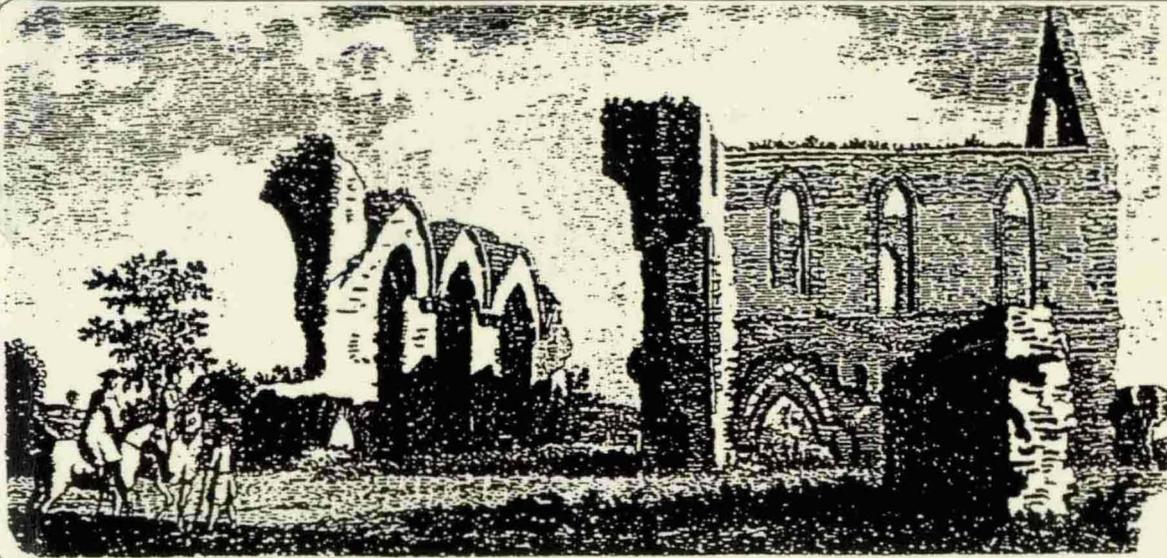


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# Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

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NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 6 No. 203

Nov/Dec 2008



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**Cover photo:** Send Forge c1930s, see page 9 for more detail.

## **Editor's Comment**

Thanks to a splendid response to my appeal for more articles there is again plenty to read, mostly of local interest included in this winter's issue of the Journal. Thank you, to all who have contributed and my apologies to those authors whose articles have been held over to the next issue of the Journal.

**Thanks** to our authors who regularly contribute articles to the Journal: Jane Bartlett, Les Bowerman, Sheila Brown, Pat Clack, Clare McCann, Mavis Davies, David Porter, Christina Sheard, John and Bette Slatford, Andy Jones, plus Anne Bowerman who edits the 'Forthcoming Events' section. Thanks also to the following authors who have contributed comments/articles this year: Alan Baker, Betty Batten, Derek Bromley, Jill Bromley, Denys Clayton, Brenda Dabbs, Brian Ellis, Janet Hilderley, Christine Lavender, Peter Lawrence, Tony and John Milton, Geof Parker, Geof Salmon, Michael Sex, Nick and Kyra Somerfield, Sid Stanley, Bob Stonard, and Peter Warren, Your support is much appreciated by our readers and the editor.

**Thanks** are also due to our advertisers. With their support the Journal can continue to be produced to a high standard at low cost, Please support them whenever you can.

**A reminder** that subscriptions are due and a renewal form is included with this edition of the Journal.

On behalf of Send and Ripley History Society I wish you all:

## **A HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

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### **Murder in Send, 1895** **John Slatford**

In another response to the Society's website we have learned from Mrs Ann Knight, who lives in West Sussex, of a murder she has uncovered in her family history. One of her family names is Tickner, very prolific and well known in this area. Her great-grandmother Ann Tickner was one of sixteen children born to James and Martha Tickner mostly in the Godalming, Cranleigh and Alfold areas. One of the youngest was Henry Tickner born in Alfold in 1850. Little is known of his early years except that he lived with his widowed mother in or near Dunsfold at least until 1871. He later worked as a labourer in Woking for about five years between 1877 and 1882. It would seem that he served in the Army in the Egyptian wars possibly in the mid-1880s and later he turned up in Aldershot where, in 1890 as a bachelor, he was married to Harriet Clarke. She was the widow of an Aldershot soldier John Clarke. They had a son Evelyn John Victor Clarke, baptised in Send on 28 August 1887, who was living in Send in 1891 with his grandmother and step-grandfather Charlotte and James Bartlett.

It must have been a turbulent marriage because by 1893 when they were living in Sutton they were separated. By 1895 she was living with her by then widowed mother Charlotte Bartlett somewhere on Send Heath. He was also living in Send and working for the Wey Navigation Company – his boss was Walter Grove. He was said to have called regularly at his mother-in-law's house to bring money (four shillings per week) for his wife. On 11<sup>th</sup> February 1895 he turned up at his mother-in-law's house armed with a billhook that he had borrowed from his workplace. There he attacked his wife about her head with the weapon. She was taken to the Royal Surrey County Hospital where she died fifteen days later as a result of her skull being fractured.

Henry was charged with her murder and his trial took place in Guildford in June the same year. The trial was reported at great length (as Victorian journalists always seemed to do) in the Surrey Advertiser and County Times on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. It makes fairly gruesome reading and a transcript is reproduced here in full. His defence attempted to prove that there was some history of insanity in his family which might have explained his alleged history of violence towards his wife. This was to no avail and he was found guilty and sentenced to death. He was hanged at Wandsworth Prison on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1895.

***SURREY ADVERTISER AND COUNTY TIMES,  
SATURDAY, JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>, 1895.***

**THE SEND TRAGEDY**

On Wednesday morning, Henry Tickner (42), labourer, described as of imperfect education, was indicted for the wilful murder of his wife, Harriet Tickner, by striking her on the head with a billhook, at Send, near Guildford, on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Great interest was manifested in the case and the hall commenced to fill some time before the formal opening of the Court. The gallery, which was, as usual, reserved for ladies, was quite full. – Mr Biron and Mr H Murphy prosecuted and the prisoner was defended by Mr L. J. M. de Michele and Mr Bettsworth Piggott. The prisoner had considerably altered since he was before the magistrates. He had grown much stouter, and the rough beard then on his chin had grown considerably. To the charge from the Clerk of the Assize, he replied, “Not guilty”, in a low but clear voice. He appeared to be suffering from strong emotion and to feel his position acutely, and during the great part of the case kept his face buried in his pocket handkerchief, crying and trembling the while.

Mr Biron, in opening the case, said that the prisoner was employed by the Wey Navigation Company, and was living at the village of Send, his wife being separated from him in consequence of the earlier violence of her husband, and living with her mother, Mrs Bartlett. The marriage did not appear to be a very happy one. In 1893, while the prisoner and his wife were living at Sutton, the wife obtained a separation order, which enabled to live apart from her husband, he paying her 4s per week, and this payment was kept up to the date of this terrible occurrence. This was important, as such an order could not be made unless the magistrates were satisfied that it was not safe for the wife to live in the same house with her husband. On Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> prisoner went to the foreman of the works where he was employed, and asked for a half-holiday. This was granted him, and he afterwards went into a workshop where he was seen to take a billhook, remarking to a fellow workman that he had a job to do with it. In the evening, about seven o'clock, the prisoner went to the house where his wife was, and called her out. The people in the house heard a scream, and running out saw the prisoner striking his wife repeatedly. The woman was taken into the house and was found to have terrible injuries to her head and hand. The prisoner gave himself up to P.C. Shakespeare, and the woman was taken to the County Hospital, where she lingered till Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, and died.

Mrs Charlotte Bartlett, widow, of Send Heath, mother of the deceased, gave evidence, and stated that from the time of the separation order in 1893 her daughter lived with her. Prisoner repeatedly called at the house to bring money for his wife. On these occasions he was friendly with the deceased but he seldom went away without threatening her in some way. Witness herself had heard prisoner threaten to “do for” his wife. On Feb 11<sup>th</sup> witness, her daughter, and her daughter’s little boy by a former marriage were at tea, when a knock came at the back door. Witness kept the back door locked on account of prisoner’s threats. Deceased went out at the side door and met the prisoner. Just at the time the lodger Kinggett came in at the gate and came to the side door. Witness opened the side door for him and heard a scream. She pushed by Kinggett and went to the spot where the scream came from. There she found the prisoner, with his wife on the ground, in the act of striking her. She rushed at prisoner and pushed him over. Kinggett then picked deceased up and took her indoors, witness following. Deceased was wounded in the head and hand, and witness got some rags and bound her up. Witness then went for P. C. Shakespeare and deceased was removed to the hospital.

Cross-examined – Deceased had only known Kinggett for about three months, while he had been lodging with witness. Kinggett was a married man with one child, but she did not know that he had deserted them. Kinggett used to write to his wife. There were six rooms in witness's house. The last payment was made on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Prisoner was in the Egyptian Campaign. He was afterwards a farm labourer and might have had to use a billhook in his business. On February 11<sup>th</sup> witness did not hear any conversation between prisoner and his wife. Up to the time Kinggett came up the deceased and prisoner seemed to be on friendly terms.. The door was shut and fastened with a spring lock. After the blow was struck, she did not hear deceased say anything about Kinggett. She did not hear prisoner say "Now I know you sleep in Jim's (Kinggett's) room" nor did she hear her daughter reply "It does not matter to you if I sleep in the same bed." Deceased always slept with witness.. She heard her daughter say "Look at my poor hand", but she did not hear Kinggett say "If I had not been here this would not have occurred," nor did her daughter say "Jim, you will have to go away now." Prisoner did not like witness having a lodger, and objected to Kinggett. She did not know prisoner's relations and did not know that he had a sister who died in Caterham Asylum.

Re-examined – The prisoner's threats commenced before Kinggett came to lodge with her. She never saw the slightest impropriety between her daughter and Kinggett.

James Kinggett, carpenter, stated that since November he had been lodging with Mrs Bartlett. On February 11<sup>th</sup> he returned from work about a quarter-past seven, and on reaching the cottage saw the prisoner talking to his wife at the corner of the house. Witness usually went in at the back door, and had to pass the prisoner and his wife. As he passed them prisoner said "I don't know how you may get on, but I could not get in." Witness found the door fastened and returning to the side door, passed prisoner and his wife, when prisoner put out his hand and said "Good night." They shook hands, and witness said "Good night" and passed on. On getting to the door witness heard a thud and a shriek. Mrs Bartlett rushed out, and witness saw deceased lying on the ground, picked her up, and carried her indoors.

Cross-examined – Prisoner was there then. Deceased did not say anything in the presence of the prisoner. Witness never said "If I had not been here this would not have happened." He used to go home occasionally after coming to Mrs Bartlett's. It was not true that his wife had not seen him between the time that he came to Mrs Bartlett's and that she only found out where he was by the reports in the newspapers. Witness did not know that prisoner objected to witness lodging in the house. Witness did not recollect how much money he had sent home to his wife and family while he was at Mrs Bartlett's.

Re-examined – He sent home what he could afford. There was no truth in the suggestion that he left his wife and children to live in adultery with the deceased woman.

Walter Grove, foreman in the Wey Navigation Company, stated that on February 11<sup>th</sup>, about one o'clock, prisoner came and asked for half a day off. Witness gave him permission and prisoner walked towards the workshop. Prisoner that morning was working about half-a-mile from where his wife lived but he lived about a quarter of a mile in the opposite direction. After going to the workshop prisoner went towards his lodgings.

Cross-examined – Prisoner was a quiet decent man in his work and was a good workman..

Alfred Wye, a workman in the employ of the Navigation Company, stated that on February 11<sup>th</sup> about five minutes past one o'clock, prisoner came to the workshop and picked up a billhook, saying he had a little job to do with it. The billhook was similar to the one produced, and prisoner took it away. Witness could not identify the billhook.

Grove, recalled, stated that the billhook belonged to the Wey Navigation Company.

Joseph Shakespeare, Police Constable 149, stationed at Send, said he lived about 30 yards from Mrs Bartlett's house. On February 11<sup>th</sup> prisoner came to witness's house, about 7.30 and said "I have assaulted my wife." Witness heard Mrs Bartlett call out "Come at once" and went to the house, where he found the deceased lying on the floor with a wound in her forehead and blood streaming down her face. Witness said "This is a serious matter" and asked what prisoner had done it with. He replied "I have done it with a billhook and thrown it in the garden." Witness searched the garden and found the billhook (produced). In reply to the charge, prisoner said "I know all about it; I meant to do for the whole b----- lot."

Cross-examined – Did you caution him? I consider it was a caution when I said "This is a serious matter." – Q: Is it not your duty before you get any statement from a prisoner to caution him? It depends upon circumstances. – Q: You use your own discretion? Yes. – Q: Have you any instructions with reference to cautioning a prisoner before you get a statement from him? Yes.

Q: Then, why did you not do so? Have you told us all he said? No, I could tell you a great deal more. – Q: Did he say “I have come to give myself up for assaulting my wife?” Yes, and he added “I hope she is dead.” – Q: Did you say “Perhaps you have killed her?” No. – Q: Did you say anything like that before the magistrate or the coroner? No.

John Terry, house surgeon at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, stated that the deceased was brought to the hospital about half-past one in the morning of February 12<sup>th</sup>. She was suffering from fracture of the skull and a wound to the left hand nearly cutting it off. The fracture of the skull terminated in inflammation of the brain, and deceased died on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The injuries might have been caused by the billhook.

Cross-examined – The injuries were not necessarily fatal. – Q: Might not the interval of time between 7.15pm and 1.30am before she was attended to have had some considerable effect upon her? She was seen before she came to the hospital – the doctor came to the hospital with her. Most forms of insanity were hereditary. If a mother and three sisters in one family exhibited signs of insanity he should expect there would be some degeneracy of intellect in other members of the family. A person predisposed to insanity might become insane suddenly under the influence of strong excitement or jealousy.

Re-examined – Insanity was not always hereditary. He should not expect a man who was insane to show full knowledge of the act directly after he had committed it; neither should he expect evidence of premeditation in a man acting suddenly in a gust of passion.

By his Lordship – I have never known a person to become insane one moment and sane suddenly. He thought there would be an interval.

George Edward Walker, medical officer at Holloway, stated that he had had the prisoner under observation since May 2<sup>nd</sup>. He could detect no sign of insanity. Prisoner had a full appreciation of the act he had committed.

Cross-examined – Prisoner appeared to be of a low mental type.

Re-examined – He had known temporary insanity last only a few minutes, and the man apparently sane a few minutes later. He would not, however, expect a man who was insane to show any premeditation, and he should not expect such a man to show a full appreciation of the act after he had committed it.

By his Lordship – A man who was insane would not be aware of what he had done.

In addressing the jury for the defence, Mr de Michele asked the jury to reduce the crime to one of manslaughter. He did not ask them to find the prisoner not guilty on the ground of insanity – the defence was that jealousy, whether well founded or not, coupled with a predisposition to insanity, was the cause of the crime. The marriage was an unhappy one. Prisoner had complained of Kinggett being in the house, and the fact that Kinggett denied having heard what Mrs Bartlett must have repeated to him in the course of conversation – that prisoner objected to his presence – showed that his evidence was not to be trusted. He submitted that this man’s evidence was most unsatisfactory. Were they necessarily to infer that the prisoner took the billhook, which he used in his work, with the intention of murdering his wife? He thought such an inference was absurd on the face of it. Even up to the moment when the blow was struck prisoner appeared to be on friendly terms with his wife, and it was when Kinggett came up it was a sudden access of rage, and a predisposition to insanity, that made him lose his consciousness and self-possession, and made him inflict a blow which was the result of provocation to such an extent as would reduce the charge from murder to manslaughter.

Harriet Puttock, sister of the prisoner was the first witness called for the defence. She stated that her sister, Mary Nicholls, was for five years in Caterham asylum, where she died. She also had a sister named Emily Widgery, who showed signs of insanity and was in a private asylum for five years. Ann Pullen, another sister, had been of weak intellect all her life. Witness’s mother, when under witness’s care, wandered away from home at Corbett’s Green, Sussex, to Epsom. She was picked up by two ladies and taken to the County Hospital where she died. She was always strange in her mind. Prisoner was the youngest of sixteen children.

Moses Matthews, farmer, of Alfold, said he knew prisoner’s family well, and agreed that several of them showed signs of weak mind.

Mr Alfred Lee, of Mount Hermon, Woking, stated that the prisoner worked for him from about 1877 to 1882. He was always a respectable man, and was a very good man at his work.

Cross-examined - Witness never saw any sign of insanity in prisoner but he was of an excitable disposition.

This closed the case for the defence, and Mr Biron, replying for the Crown, pointed out that in order to justify the reduction of the charge from murder to manslaughter, it would be necessary to prove that the prisoner acted under such provocation as to make the act an uncontrollable one. If every suggestion thrown out by the defence had been proved up to the hilt there would be no such provocation as would reduce the act from murder to manslaughter. Mr Biron dwelt on the threats used by the prisoner towards his wife, and the fact that there had been a separation, which could only be granted for a serious assault. There was not the slightest evidence that the prisoner had any animosity towards Kinggett, whom he was said by the defence to have known to be the seducer of his wife.

His Lordship, in summing up the evidence, pointed out that many of the difficulties often found in such cases were absent. There was no doubt the prisoner struck the fatal blow, or that the woman died wholly and solely from the injury she received at the hands of the prisoner. The only question on which there could be any doubt was whether or not the act of the prisoner amounted to what the law called wilful murder, or whether it was done by him when he was not responsible for his actions. Any motive suggested for the act would deprive the prisoner of having the charge reduced to one of manslaughter, and the only defence would be that the prisoner was not responsible for his actions. They might be sure that it was for no work of his employer that the handbill was to have been used, and there was no suggestion that he wanted it for any private work of his own. He was afraid there could be no other conclusion but that the prisoner wanted the handbill for the purpose for which it was used – namely for striking his wife down. With regard to the suggestion that the prisoner was insane, the evidence was rather the other way. He had been a good workman and a steady man, and while he lived with Mr Lee for five years, he never showed any signs of insanity. It was the same where he was working at the time of the crime. The mere fact that his sisters and family had been rather weak minded was no proof that he was weak minded, or that when he committed the act he did not thoroughly know what he was doing. He knew what he was doing – he was perfectly sane afterwards, and there was no ground for suggesting that he was not perfectly responsible for his actions. There was a suggestion that the prisoner's wife had been unfaithful to him, of which there was no evidence, but rather positive evidence the other way. Even if that were in the prisoner's mind it made the matter worse, as it gave a motive for the crime, and made it more serious against him by showing that believing the wife was unfaithful he determined to take her life. His Lordship alluded to the strength with which the blow was dealt – sufficient after nearly cutting through the arm to fracture the skull – and said he failed to see anything which would justify the jury in finding him guilty of the less serious crime. Had they ever heard a case in which a more malicious mind was shown than was displayed in the whole conduct of the prisoner?

The jury retired at three minutes past one, and were still absent when the Court rose for luncheon at twenty-five minutes to two. On resuming at twenty-five minutes past two, the foreman of the jury, in reply to the clerk, stated that the verdict of the jury was "Guilty of murder, with a strong recommendation to mercy."

The prisoner, who had his face still buried in his handkerchief, was weeping bitterly.

His Lordship then assumed the black cap, and, addressing the prisoner, said:- Henry Tickner, the jury have found you guilty of the serious charge on which you were committed for trial, and I am bound to say on evidence that can leave no doubt in the mind of any reasonable person who has heard this case that their verdict of "wilful murder" is the only verdict open to them to find. No words of mine are required, and none shall be uttered, to aggravate the painful position in which you stand, and I hope no words are wanted to make you realise the enormity of your crime. I can find nothing, I regret to say, to extenuate the circumstances, and have therefore but one duty to perform – though it is a painful one – that of passing sentence upon you. The sentence of the law is that you will be taken from hence to the place from which you have come and from thence to the place of execution; that you will be hanged by the neck until you are dead, and that your body be buried within the precincts of the gaol in which you have been confined until the time of your execution, and may the Lord have mercy on your soul.

The prisoner – My Lord, can I see my friends before I go?

His Lordship – Yes.

The prisoner – Thank you, my Lord.

The prisoner was then removed.

(Transcribed from the original. September 2008)

## Letters

Letter from Les Bowerman

### **'Send Marsh – Remembered' – Journal 201 p 2.**

I read Kyra Somerfield's article with great interest, having lived at Send Marsh Green for 31 years, and would like to make some observations in response.

1. The caption to the postcard 'Manor House', Send Green, reads that it is undated. My copy of this card is date-stamped 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1914, so the photograph must have been taken some time before that. This is the earliest detailed photo we have of the 'Manor House', so it is interesting to note a few differences between then and now. In the photo the chimneys are plain. Gordon Stewart doubtless changed them to the present more decorative ones between the wars. The gigantic elm tree on the left side of the drive was in its prime then. Thereafter it deteriorated slowly and by 1977 all that remained was a circle of bark standing about 9" high. There are now only two small pieces left. Just beyond the elm tree a small section of return to the brick wall can be seen. This corresponds to a similar small section still on the right side. These confirm that there was earlier a front wall forming a courtyard as depicted in J Hassell's water colour of 1824. Neither the present sundial centre front of the house, nor the box trees around the drive appear in the photo. Both of these features would have been introduced by Stewart.

2. Kyra, recalling childhood memories, mentions 'Mill House' and adds that the mill had long gone. The Editor identifies it as the Old Keep House, which is in Send Marsh Road. I had not previously heard of a 'Mill House' in Send and wonder whether Kyra can say if this was ever its formal name or whether it was perhaps a romantic name made up by children.

3. Kyra's colourful account of playing in the elm trees on the green opposite Send Marsh stores is borne out by other postcards, (*see Six Elms postcard in Les's article on Send Marsh Green page 11*) presumably photographed at the same time as that mentioned above since they are all by 'WHA' and bear consecutive numbers 1380-1387. (for a further reference to 'WHA' see John Slatford's article on Ruth Hill of Rose Lane in Journal 202). One of the cards, postmarked 1910, shows a cluster of six pollarded elms of which at least four have very large holes in the trunks. Another is entitled 'The Nine Elms, Send Green.' The card showing the 'Manor House' indicates that three larger, unpollarded trees had at the time of the photographs just been felled. Another card shot some time between 1920 and 1940 shows the then remaining three elms in a very poor state indeed, so one suspects that it was anno domini rather than either Dutch Elm disease or Health & Safety which finally saw them off.

---

Letter from David Porter.

### **Reservoir behind Prews Farm Journal 202, page 7.**

Sid Stanley referred to the digging of the reservoir but did not give a date. I suggest the excavation took place in the 1930s.

I can confirm that the pump engine located inside the brick built engine house was a two-cylinder 'Paxman-Richardo' diesel engine, probably made pre-war. It was a vertical engine fixed to the concrete floor with its back against the north wall of the Pump house. The fuel tank and the two water-cooling tanks were outside the building behind the north wall. Both water-cooling tanks were about the same height as the building and about 4ft dia. It was a slow running engine (about 750-800 rpm).

It ceased operation in the early 1960s and was earmarked for preservation by a group of enthusiasts from nearby Ben Turners, however, the engine was found to be incomplete, and so the project was abandoned. There were several missing parts including the fuel injection pump. The fuel to the engine was gravity fed from the tank outside. The tank was filled from oil drum/s using a semi-rotary hand pump. I saw the derelict engine house in 1970 when, part of the roof open to the elements, windows broken, glass and spilt fuel on the engine house floor it was a sorry sight. At that time 'Bennetts' who had purchased the land from A W Secrett, used a tractor, (International Harvester?) which drove a separate pump via the power take off (PTO) attachment to suck water from the reservoir and irrigate the land.

Back in the 1950s, further upstream where it flows to the right behind the small field to the rear of Boughton Hall Cottage, there stood a simple cubical 'Privy' for the use of the land girls. To the left of this timber constructed WC there was a plank bridge over the stream. I recall the remains of a much wider timber bridge at this spot evident in the stream banks on both sides. I suggest this may have been the original crossing point over the stream prior to the building of the 'Pumping Station' slightly further downstream, which included the construction of a brick bridge. Bearing in mind that the stream once flowed across Send Marsh Road between the Keep House and Boughton Hall Cottage, prior to the road bridge being built.

I was told by the late Alfred Doe that an official public footpath followed the perimeter of Secrett's field from Send Marsh Road (where the stream once flowed over) to Prews Farm and Polesdon Lane (Ben Turners now Danesfield).

The Doe family have lived at Boughton Hall Cottages ( now cottage), Prews Farm and Heath Barn Cottages at various times.

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### The Hughesdon saga

#### A personal addition by Alan Baker

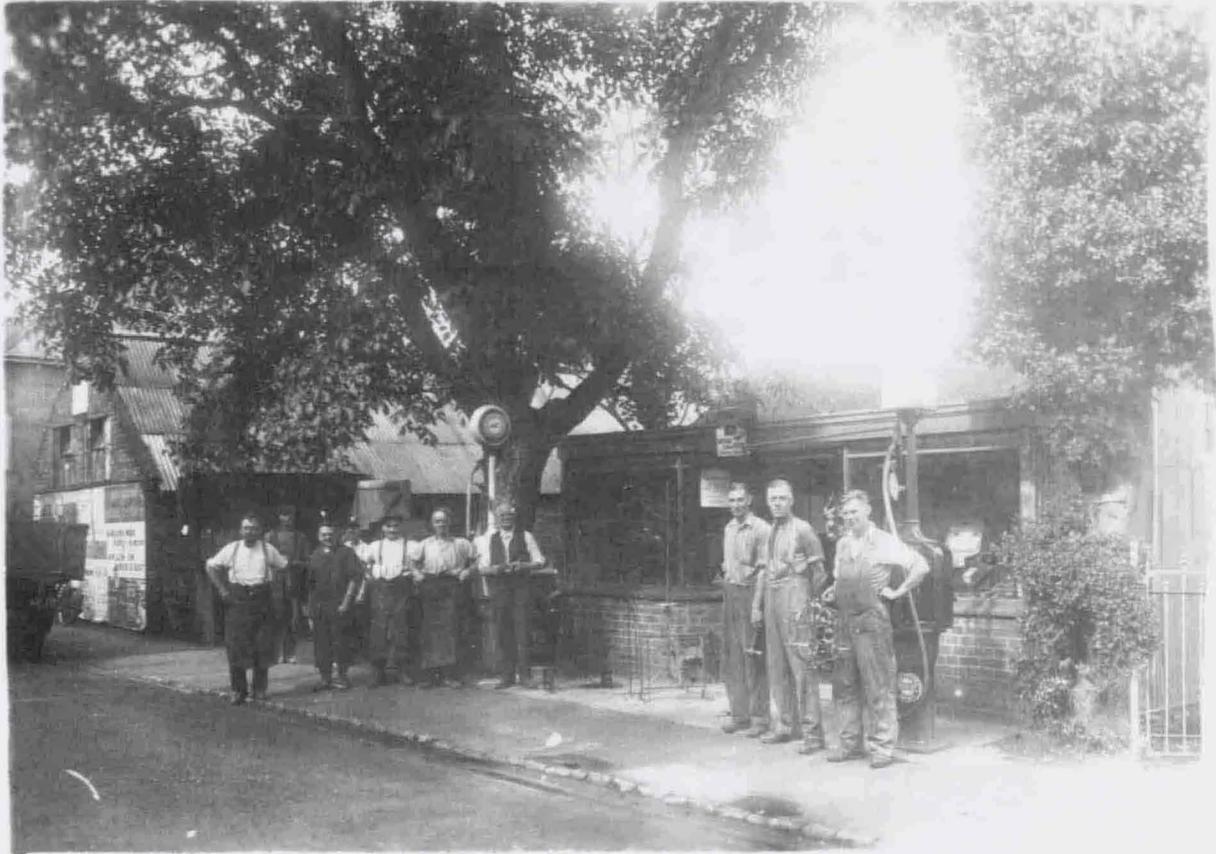
I much enjoyed Clare McCann's contribution in the July/August Journal (number 201) on Charles Hughesdon's autobiography 'Flying Made It Happen', and can add a little to it from personal knowledge. My memories of Charles - as a name only - go back to the pre-WW2 days when he was one of a handful of sporty young men who were mad enough about flying to take part in major long-distance competitive events such as the King's Cup Air Race, and had the money to indulge this particular whim. Such races were seen by aircraft manufacturers such as De Havilland as important enough in terms of international prestige for them to design and develop 'dedicated' high-performance aeroplanes; the DH contribution was the original Comet, a small twin-engined racer totally unlike the eponymous airliner of the early post-war years. Charles Hughesdon was among those who flew this handsome machine, with some success.

The wheels of time now clank forward to the early 1980s, not very long after my late wife, her daughters and I came to Ripley from Cobham. In my journalistic capacity I received from one of the commercial-vehicle makers a press release (with photograph) of a truck that had been specially converted in Australia to carry a surviving original Comet from one museum to another. The blurb specifically mentioned that, "this aircraft had been flown in pre-war races by a number of well-known pilots including Charles Hughesdon".

Well, I couldn't just let things go at that, so I wrote a nice little note to Charles and sent him a photocopy of the press release together with the picture. Within a couple of days I received an equally nice little acknowledgement to the effect that "it brought back some very happy memories of those relatively carefree days". I should have kept the release and that correspondence! As it is, my memory is so timeworn that I can't even remember who made the truck that carried the plane that was flown by the chap who lived by the green at Ripley.

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### Send Forge



Member Michael Morris has donated to the Society the attached photo of Send Forge taken, I calculate, around 1930. His father, who worked for Ron Sex before the war, he told us in his recent article, is on the far right of the photo. I think the 3rd from the right is probably Ron Sex.

Les Bowerman.

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**Ivy House**  
**(junction of Old Woking High St and Broadmead Rd)**

Notes by Les Bowerman

At page 18 of the last issue of the Journal in the Appreciation of Roy Doe there was an editorial note asking for further information about the above property. Phillip Arnold, the Woking Palace historian, has drawn my attention to the following paragraphs in the West Surrey Family History Society CD entitled "Woking Collection." The paragraphs originated in the Westfield & Kingfield Women's Institute scrapbook of 1949 in a contribution believed to have been written by Doris M Worsfold.



**Ivy House** (probably by Doris M. Worsfold)

'One of the old houses of the village has recently been demolished. It was centuries old "Ivy House" which stood at the junction of the Send road with the High Street. This was a very dangerous corner. The National Trust thought the house worth preserving but the Woking Council overruled this on the question of safety, and shortly before the last war bought the property. In a few years, a wide road and probably a roundabout will occupy the site of the house that may have had historical connections with James I.

The oldest part of the house was low roofed with heavy beams. The date 1700 was scrawled on one bedroom wall, but this was thought to be only the date of re-decoration. The last residents, Mr and Mrs Lambson, left on August 24<sup>th</sup> 1948, and so ended 130 years' residence by the Hart family. It was in the early 1800's that Mrs Lambson's great grandfather opened Woking's first butcher's shop there. The original house was old then, having previously been a brewery. Mr Hart added the shop front as seen in the picture. In the shop roof he placed four stuffed animals; one buffalo, two four-horned sheep and

a Sicilian lamb. When Mrs Lambton left she gave them to the Council, and they remained in the building until it was pulled down.'

There seems to be no evidence to support the statement that the house was ever a brewery, although it presumably could have been, being very close to the White Hart Inn. The postcard from my collection, showing the house and its shop-front, was post-marked 1907. The nearby bridge over the River Wey used to be known, in Send at least, as Hart's Bridge, doubtless due to its proximity to Hart's butcher's shop.

The WSFH CD is obtainable for £15 plus postage from Mrs Rosemary Cleaver, 17 Lane End Drive, Knaphill, Woking, GU22 2QQ.

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## SRHS Tour of Send Marsh Green

Notes by Les Bowerman

On 8<sup>th</sup> July the Society's third tour of Send Marsh Green took place, attended by some 30 members. For the record, previous tours took place on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1990 (reported in Newsletter [as it then was] 93), and 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1999.

Send is a very ancient place name going back at least to Saxon times, the first reference being in a land charter of 960-'61 and it has a substantial entry in the Domesday Survey of 1067. It was not so much a village as such as a series of hamlets as was often the case in Anglo-Saxon times. The vicinity of Send church was one such hamlet. The prettiest is Send Marsh Green. This is not an ancient name – it was previously Kenning Marsh. It embraces the area from the green itself up to Aldertons, Boughton Hall and Goodgrove. Prior to the Inclosure Awards of 1814/15 the area was almost rectangular, covering the front garden of what is now The Willow Pool and wide verges along Send Marsh Road, the outline of which is still just discernible. The front part of the front garden of the so-called Manor House has never been enclosed and in the past "Kunjer" Pullen from Send Marsh Cottage(s) is said to have sat there once a year in his deck chair reading his paper to maintain the (presumed) right of the public over it. In the absence of anybody registering that right under the Commons Registration Act 1965, it will have ceased.

The first mention of Send Marsh as such to have surfaced so far is in a deed of 1623 in the Minet Library at Lambeth. It refers to a "messuage, orchard, backside and 13 acres of land called Mabanckes at Send Mersh." It probably relates to what later became the Send Manor Estate.

Send Marsh Green, with wide verges extending up to Aldertons, would have been common land, probably low-lying and wet, ie marshy. The pond at "The Willow Pool" is all that remains of the marsh, although heavy rain sometimes sees the nearby end of the Green under water. A fringe of elms, the remnants of which are seen on old postcards, and the pollarded stumps of which were mentioned by Kyra Somerfield in Journal 201/3, probably led to drying out and grassing with Kyra's rough tussocks.

**Old Manor Cottage.** This is the oldest domestic building in Send. It is presently owned by our Treasurer, Christina Sheard, and husband Patrick, who unfortunately were away on the day of the tour. However, most of the main points of interest can be seen from the road. They are:

- 1) The long passing braces on all three sides of the earliest build which indicate a pre-1450 date.
- 2) The adjacent principal posts near the front door which indicate the mediaeval way of extending a building. Carpenters were reluctant to interfere with the original structure.
- 3) The erection notches on the main posts which show how the pre-fabricated sections were held in place in the course of erection on site.

The south bay (with the passing braces) is the solar end of a hall house of which the central hall and service bay have long since gone. The replacement was itself an open hall which became smoke-blackened. In the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century the hall was partially floored and a smoke bay built where the cross-passage was. In the roof the south side of the smoke bay remains, made of wattle and daub. A groove atop the collar and socket holes in the rafters show where the north side of the smoke bay was. All was heavily sooted prior to construction of a brick chimney in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. When the Society's Buildings Group inspected this property in 1981 they concluded that it could not be dated with certainty before 1450. Dendrochronology in 2006 has placed it at 1413 to 1445.



**Send Marsh Cottage.** Formerly Pullens Cottages as noted above. This 18th century house was converted to a single dwelling by the Finley family in the 1970s. In 1989 the chimney on the right hand wall was demolished by a thunderbolt. Although not as old as the other properties, it nonetheless contributes to the pleasing impression of the Green as a whole.

**April Cottage.** This is a typical smaller timber-framed house for this part of Surrey. Again, practically the whole story can be read from the road. The closely placed posts indicate that the main living bay is flanked on the left by the original smoke bay, into which a chimney was later added. The right hand end bay is contemporary with the original build, ie 1550 to 1600. The exposed gable end shows that the roof is of side purlin build. Queen posts stand on tie beams to support the collars, purlins and thus the roof. There is much re-used timber, the infill of which would originally have been wattle and daub.

Although not visible from the road, if one could look up to the first floor window it would be possible to see the diamond shaped holes in the top of the window frame which held the original wooden mullions at the time when the window was not glazed.

The attached Pipp's Cottage was built as a grocer's shop in 1920 by Holdforths, a local firm. Groceries ceased in about 1975, whereupon electrical fittings were sold until 1978, after which it became residential.

**Corner Cottage.** An integral part of the scene, this house, owned by our members Charles and Diana Gibson, was originally of two main bays flanking a central smoke bay. The front door leads directly into what was the smoke bay, in which there is much soot encrustation in the roof. The brick chimney



Postcard called Six Elms: April Cottage on left Corner Cottage on right

would have been inserted into the smoke bay in about 1600. The house is a standard mid 16<sup>th</sup> century type. There are later extensions on both ends. The timbering adjacent to the road was fitted when the premises ceased to be a shop after World War 1.

**Willow Pool barn.** The barn, now a less visible part of The Willow Pool, was the principal building in the former farmyard of Send Marsh Farm. It was constructed of re-used timbers contemporary with the farmhouse, which is now known alternatively as Send Manor or The Manor House. Gordon Stewart's wealth between the Wars resulted in over-restoration of the barn, including the installation of a minstrels' gallery. The present owners, members Simon and Pam Crane, expertly cleaned and treated the timbers just before 1990 and have recently done more extensive restoration work including the replacement of much rotten timber and the fitting of insulation to modern standards, which ensures its survival in basically its original form.

**Send Manor or The Manor House,** formerly Send Marsh Farm, Butchers Pond Farm, The Old Court House, High House, and originally (probably) Mabanckes. For ease of reference on the tour I used (and in these notes will do likewise) the word "Manor" to refer to this property, although it was never a manor house in the dictionary sense of being the mansion of the lord of the manor (Lord Onslow and Surrey County Council being -



respectively the past and present holders of that title for Send & Ripley, not to be confused with our member Lieutenant-Col. John Molyneux-Child who is the present lord of the manor for Dedswell and Papworth alias Papercourt which were part of the ancient parish of Send).

The western elevation shows the basic development of this double-piled house. The front section is built of narrow Tudor type hand-made bricks in English bond with alternate courses of headers and stretchers, a style of brickwork which ceased in this area in about 1650. The rear half of the house is in thicker machine-made salmon coloured bricks laid probably in mid-Victorian times. A former first floor window has been blocked, presumably around 1800 to reduce the burden of the window tax, but possibly also to make the very airy room behind less draughty. The roof of the original build is in oak with butted purlins in line, a style which came in around here in 1700 or later. Reconciling the two dating factors, it is suggested that the house was built about 1670, possibly for a yeoman farmer with other means, since the 37 acres, which is the maximum size the farm seems to have attained would hardly have necessitated a large barn or funded the construction of such a big farmhouse.

The following is a chronology compiled from documents so far discovered:

1623. The deed noted above was the first to mention Mabanckes "at Send Mershe".
1676. A document in the Onslow papers mentions "Butchers Land".
1702. In the Fell Hill Estate deeds and papers a lease by John Haynes and others to Messrs Midgley and Smith refers to a "messuage plus barnes, stables, gardens and orchards ... known by the name of Butchers, also Mabbanks, in Send Marsh."
1773. A Send church, seating plan gives the owner of "High House" as John Tice with Wm Harris as tenant.
1793. Lindley & Crossley's map gives the name as Send Marsh Farm.
1815. One of the Inclosure Awards records that Send Marsh Farmstead belonged to Thomas Drewitt.
1823. Bryant's map records Butchers Pond Farm as being at the same location.
1824. A. J. Hassell watercolour is clearly a painting of the same house, which he calls "The Old Court House, Residence of Mr Drewitt."
1834. A General Court Baron for Ripley & Send records the transfer from Rt Hon, William, Lord King, to his son Peter John, of Send Marsh Farm, purchased from Francis Drewitt.
- 1845 The Tithe Apportionments record Send Marsh House as being owned by the Hon. P J Locke King and occupied by John Sex.
1851. The Census shows Send Marsh Farm occupied by Lucy Lloyd, widow.
1861. The census gives Send Manor House as being occupied by Lucy Lloyd
1871. Send Marsh Manor House is given as the name of the property, the occupier being, farm bailiff Fitch Mumford. The acreage is given as 35.
1874. Kelly's Directory names John Jones as the occupant of Send Manor.
1881. The census shows Fitch Mumford, farm bailiff of 37 acres at the Manor House, Send Marsh.
1891. The Census gives John Jones as occupant of the Manor House.
1901. The Census gives John Jones, aged 84, retired watchmaker, as the occupant of "The Grange"
1906. The Send parish magazine records that John Jones died at the Manor House aged 94 (OK, 84 + 5 doesn't equal 94!)
1915. The parish magazine reports that Mrs Boyle entertained the Scout Troop to tea and games on the lawn of Send Manor.
1921. Gordon Stewart, owner of Stewart & Arden, agents for Morris motorcars, purchases the Send Manor Estate.

The advent of Gordon Stewart brought a whole new chapter to the Manor, much of which has been published in *The Danes of Send Manor*, sub-titled *The Life, Loves and Mystery of Gordon Stewart*, written by Robert Heal and published in 2001. There is a borrowing copy in the Society's library at the museum.

Suffice to say for these notes that *entrepreneur* Stewart financed the production of William Morris's first batch of Morris motorcars and became extremely wealthy with the valuable London and the South East dealership. He was best known locally for the kennels, which he set up on the Send Manor Estate behind the house. This became the biggest Great Dane kennels, and indeed it is believed the biggest kennels of any breed, in the world with, it is claimed, over 500 dogs at one stage. There was a large staff of kennel maids, a canine hospital, a dog biscuit bakery, the Send Grist Mill and a show room in which the dogs were trained and put through their paces for the interest of visitors, and no doubt potential purchasers. Among the visitors were at least two of the then royal princes, who later became the Duke of Gloucester and the ill-fated Duke of Kent. There is also evidence that the Duke of York, later George VI, was a special friend of Stewart, who coached him to overcome his stammer before making his acceptance speech in 1936, and eventually offering him a knighthood, which Stewart refused. It is also claimed that the present Queen and her sister Margaret were visitors as small children. Other close friends were artist Augustus John and record-breaking racing motorist and speed-boater, Sir Malcolm Campbell.

Gordon Stewart also involved himself very much in the entertainment industry, bringing a young Gracie Fields to sing in one of the showrooms at the Manor, and eventually in 1946 buying through his company Send Manor Trust Ltd the Strand Theatre. A road safety film "Alert Today – Alive Tomorrow" in which the future George VI appeared, was made by Stewart. Another film, the "Pied Piper of Hamelin," was made at Send Manor, for which he paid Ripley rat-catcher Jack Townsend to catch 300 rats which local man Albert Hepburn trained and for which Harold Giles built cages and a film set at the back of the Manor to represent the village street of Hamelin. This film was to be designed to publicise Stewart's "Children's Safety Crusade" in George VI's coronation year. A fleet of 40 suitably decorated Morris vans with loud speakers toured the country to publicise the film. A photograph exists of 12 of them lined up on the drive of the Manor.

Foreseeing the advent of war and the likely resulting shortage of staff and meat to feed the dogs, Stewart began running down the kennels as early as 1936. Yet another of his enterprises behind the Manor was the British Poultry Development Company referred to by Kyra Somerfield as 'the green-painted egg factory'. As a small boy during the war I recall cycling over from Kingfield Green to Send Marsh with my mother and sister to buy pullets (2 black Leghorns and 2 Rhode Island Reds) to keep us in eggs.

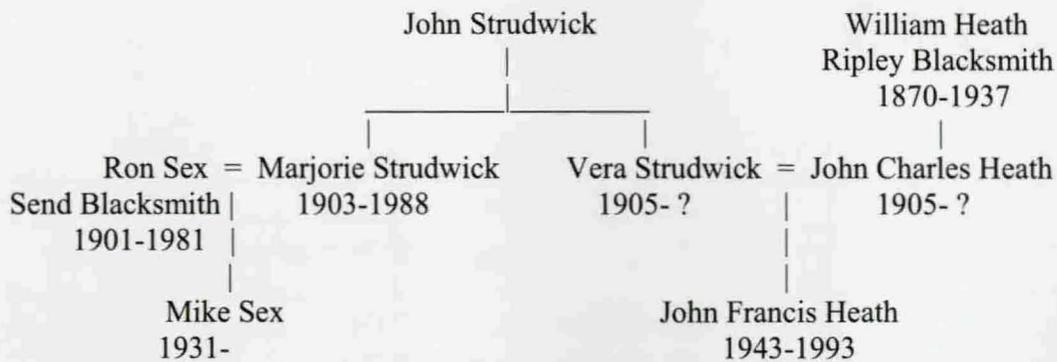
In January 1952 Gordon Stewart died aged 66 and his ashes were placed in his mother's grave at Send Church. Later the Manor was divided into five flats, which remained the situation for 17 years until Anne and I bought it in 1977. At that stage the barn, post-war attached house and pond, by then named The Willow Pool, went into separate ownership from Send Manor.

## 1981 Memories from "Roundabout the Villages"

John Slatford

Some recent correspondence I have had with our member Mike Sex has produced some interesting snippets about the family of William Heath who was Ripley's blacksmith for over 40 years until he died in 1937. His youngest son John Charles Heath was married to Vera Strudwick who was the sister of Marjorie Sex, Mike's mother. Their son, also John, became a fire officer in South Wales and, since his death, his daughter Kindre has passed on some of his papers to Mike. In 1981, John Heath wrote to Peter Conisbee, Ripley's butcher for all of his working life, about an article Peter had written entitled "Random Reminiscences of Ripley" for a magazine called "Roundabout the Villages". John had received this from his aunt Marjorie Sex because in the article, which Peter wrote about his childhood memories of the village, he mentioned spending hours at the smithy door watching Bill Heath at work. John Heath's purpose in writing was to add some further scraps about his grandfather including a mention of inaugurating a "Village Boy" using the water trough (this must have been the same one which is now outside our museum) and a boast that only Ripley Smithy had put a shoe on an oxen!

The letter with Peter Conisbee's article and some photos are reproduced here. A brief family tree is below:



### Copy of the 1981 letter from John Heath to the late Peter Conisbee.

Dear Peter Conisbee,

I have just received the spring 1981 copy of your magazine "Roundabout the Villages" from an aunt of mine - Mrs M Sex of Send Hill, Send. In it you comment on your "Random Reminiscences of Ripley" and mention watching, in your early years, my grandfather, Bill Heath working at the anvil in the village smithy. Assuming you are interested in obtaining further information on the smithy, I have enclosed pictures I have. The one of Bill Heath at the anvil will, I hope, jog your memory. The others are of, again, Bill Heath standing at the door with another younger man, who has been identified by my father, but I'm afraid I can't remember. One of the stories connected with the smithy that you might be interested in often told by my dad was the inauguration of a "Village Boy" - this took the form of an inverted baptism into the stone trough of the smithy an arm and a leg each being held by the smith and his lad. The other story was of the time that a shoe similar to those out on horses was fitted to an ox at the smithy. Apparently a team of oxen used to draw carts of the Atora Suet Company went through the village and because of the mud on the made up roads of the period they were fitted with

metal shoes. One of the beasts lost a shoe and had to be refitted with a new one – the only blacksmith being Bill Heath – so frequently my dad boasted that only Ripley smithy (that) had put a shoe on an Oxen! The other picture is of my father as one of the village firemen alone and in front of the village fire engine. From the picture, I can identify the engine as a Merryweather “Paxton”. These manufactured from about 1850/60 and were very efficient fire engines – operated by up to 22 men and horse drawn. More about the fire brigade side, I don’t know what year it was awarded but I have the long service medal awarded to my grandfather after 20 years service and then the bar at 25 and 30 years. The medal was awarded by the National Fire Brigade Association and Bill Heath was given the service number 4256. I believe the Association is now called either British Fire Service Assn. or National Fire Services Assn. of GB. Strangely as a parallel, in March of this year I was awarded my fire brigade 20 years long service and good conduct medal, so I suppose the fire brigade has been a family tradition.



**Left William Heath at work in the Ripley Smithy and far right a younger William Heath and the Ripley Merryweather Fire Engine.**

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### **MUNBY**

**Mavis Davies**

I must apologise for an error in my article on Munby in the last Journal. In the first paragraph I gave the name of Munby's wife as Harriet Cullwick, although I called her by her correct name of Hannah later on. Munby did in fact for a long period befriend a woman with a very disfigured face called Harriet Langdon and tried to get employment for her. This must have been why the name of Harriet was in my mind but I can't think how I didn't notice this at the time.

## **Industry exhibit**

Clare McCann



Send and Ripley History Society mounted an exhibit at the August Farmers Market on Ripley Green. This gave the Society an opportunity to show the photos of now defunct local industries, that were first displayed at Tilford (see Jane Bartlett's report - Journal 201 p10) as well as some related artefacts. The exhibit attracted a steady stream of visitors, some of whom went on to visit the museum.

Peter and Blanche Smithers supported the event by helping with the set up and selling period garden tools. Kat Beaumont, from Enchanted Wood displayed her skill in basket making. The Surrey Advertiser kindly sent a photographer and although they were not able to find room for the photo in the newspaper, they have allowed us to use it in the Journal

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## **Elsie Robinson Obituary**

In the last issue I commented on "Another Send Centenarian", Mrs Elsie Robinson. I have just been told that sadly she died on Tuesday of last week, which would be 28th October. We offer our condolences to her family, especially to her son and daughter-in-law, our members Brian and Sue Robinson.

Les Bowerman.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The current exhibition at the museum is **Finds from the Mesolithic Age**. This includes a display of flints found locally, a bow with the string made from nettles and flint tipped arrows. You may also wish to use the lending library and the reference library. Opening times are Saturday mornings from 10.00 until 12.30pm and for two hours on the third Sunday of the month to coincide with the Farmers Market.

**Wednesday 19th November** – “**The Guildford Guy Riots**”, An illustrated talk by Gavin Morgan.

**Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December** – **The Christmas Social** with entertainment by Sandra and Eric Morgan. This meeting is for members only.

**Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January** – “**The Bayeux Tapestry**”, an illustrated talk by Nick Pollard.

**Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February** – **The Annual General Meeting** and talks by members on their **finds and treasures**. **Cheese and wine** will be served.

### Other events

**Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November** – **Boughton Hall Christmas Fair**, in aid of the Arthritis Research Campaign, starting at 10.30am. Please come and support the SRHS stall as well as doing some Christmas shopping.

**Marian May** will be organizing an exhibition in the Guildford House Gallery called “**Flowers in Fashion**”- Floral Frocks 1840 to 1950. The exhibition will be from the **10<sup>th</sup> January to 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2009**. The Gallery is not open on Mondays. Opening hours are from 10.00 to 12.00 and 2.00 to 4.45pm.

For further details of any of our events, please ring me, Anne Bowerman, on 01483 224876.



## SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

**OPEN: Saturday mornings: 10.0-12.30**  
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Other times for school groups and small  
parties by arrangement

Contact Les Bowerman on 01483-224876 if  
you require further information or wish to  
help in the museum.

### HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

'Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life' (Reprinted 2006)	£10.00
'Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send'	£1.25
'Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley'	(Reprinted 2004&7) £4.00
'The Straight Furrow', by Fred Dixon	£1.50
'Ripley and Send – Looking Back'	(Reprinted 2007) £9.00
'A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey'	(Reprinted 2005) £2.00
'Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey'	£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.

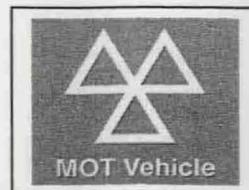


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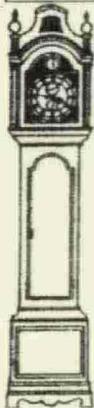


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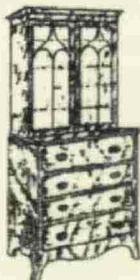
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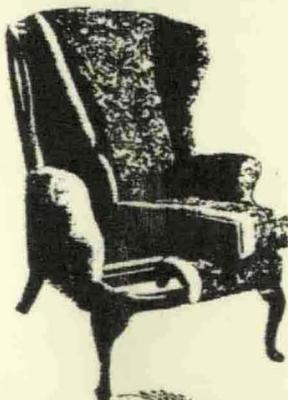
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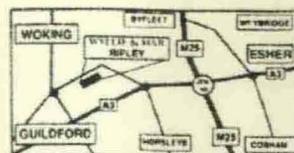
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