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EVENING VISIT TO NEWARK - ALDEBURY - 26 MAY 1983

This evening outing to Newark attracted an attendance of 40 members. It provided an opportunity to look again and reassess a very historical area which the Society first visited some seven years ago. The earlier name of Aldebury means an Old Burial Place or Defensive Site.

The Mill

The main course of the River Wey may have meandered originally almost up to Pyrford Church, as evidenced by the parish boundary, or it may have been, as now, the Priory Stream. But whichever it was, it was realised early on, probably by the Anglo-Saxons, that by making a cut from where the canal bridge now is across to near Newark Lock, a substantial head of water would be provided as a source of power for a water-mill, and this was done before the Domesday Survey of 1086, since the entry there undoubtedly relates to a mill on this site. In his book, "Old Surrey Water-Mills", published in 1951, Hillier writes that among Surrey water-mills Newark must take pride of place and says that it may be the oldest in Surrey. There was no other in Surrey with three separate great wheels and eight pairs of mill stones. In about 1200 the Priory was built, the site of which was possibly influenced by the vicinity of the existing mill. In the 13th century Thomas and Alice De Send gave the mill to the Priory. In the Ripley & Send Manorial Court Rolls of 1530 the mill is called Le Owte Mill. It passed from Edmond Emott to William Gibbes on licence from the Prior and Convent of Newark. In 1653 the River Wey Navigation was completed and the oldest parts of the last mill on the site, if Hillier is correct, dated from about this time. In 1671 Francis, Viscount Mountague, claimed damage for lack of water for his mill. In the Court Rolls of 1683 John Glasyer is mentioned as having property between Le Mill River and Ripley Green; this shows that the mill stream to Ockham Mill had already been dug by then, although John Baker, in "Seeing Eye" in the Surrey Advertiser of 22 September 1979, thought that it was not until 1862. John Senex's map of 1729 shows the stream to Ockham Mill. In 1795 the inventory of John Biddle, deceased, showed a valuable corn mill with two water wheels driving four pairs of stones producing 30 loads per week. In 1832 there was an agreement with the River Wey Navigation for the river level never to fall too low for the mill to operate. From some time before 1841 up until 1861 the miller was Edward Eager. In the mid 19th century the third external wheel was added. Henry Bailey, paper maker, was miller from 1862 to 1880, although this mill was never other than a flour mill. Joseph Jarman and family ran it from 1880 to 1943 when it closed, a bomb having fallen nearby during World War 2, possibly damaging the structure. Hillier wrote in 1951 that "Sooner or later it must inevitably be destroyed by fire." Sure enough, the prediction came to pass on the night of 2-3 December 1966.

Flood prevention works in the area were carried out from 1912 to 1928 and works were completed in 1935, as shown on a brick pillar nearby. After World War 2 a new bridge was built over the Priory Stream. Sylvia Lewin, in her booklet, "A Short History of Pyrford and Wisley", relates how Elizabeth I (1558-1603) appointed agents to "vewe" the Wey and punish anyone causing floods or obstructions. The agents retorted that though the Pyrford end of a long wooden bridge over the water meadows was indeed "ruynous", it was for the Queen to provide timber and have it repaired. It would be this bridge which in 1279 (Assize Rolls) was called Scendebrigge and not Cartbridge, as stated in the Place Names of Surrey, because the latter would not have been built before the River Wey Navigation was dug.

The Eel Trap

John Slatford pointed out the remains of the eel trap, which prior to the construction of the flood relief works earlier this century, and of the canal in the 17th century, had its own stream, whether originally natural or man-made it is impossible to say, but as with the mill, there would have been a powerful head of water. An account of this feature was given in Newsletter No. 12 after our previous visit, and a short article on the subject by two of our members was published in the Surrey Archaeological Collections No. 72. This eel trap is almost certainly on the site of the earlier monastic one. There was a large culvert under the Pyriord to Ripley Road, which allowed a pool, which is now empty, adjacent to the road on the East side, to be kept filled to a level controlled by the sluice gates on the main River Wey. When eels were needed, and especially when the moon was full or after heavy rain when eels would be moving in large numbers, the sluices in the main weir would be shut as far as possible and a sizeable flow of the river diverted through the eel pond. This passed through a sluice gate in the trap with sophisticated gearing, dated 1818, by Sharp, into a small brick bay floored with a strong iron grating supported on girders at an inclined plane and sealed by a further iron grating at the far end. The water passed through, leaving eels stranded on the grating. They would wriggle through an opening in the brick wall into a more secure chamber, consisting of another gridded compartment with running water, which in turn was connected to a deeper pit where they could be kept alive for a few days. The earliest brickwork appears to be contemporary with the iron sluice, but the upper courses have been repaired, and a crude inscription, dated 1909, in the cement carries four names known locally in the building industry.

Newark Priory

Ken Bourne addressed the party at the Priory notwithstanding the attentions of a herd of cows. He outlined the history of monasticism by relating that St Anthony, born near Memphis (251-356 AD), who lived as a hermit in a cave on Mount Kolzim near the North-West corner of the Red Sea, is generally regarded as the founder of monasticism. His fame as a philosopher and writer and his mode of living, renouncing all physical comfort to devote his time to prayer and meditation, greatly influenced Western thought. The Rule of St Benedict (480-583) was the first monastic legislation developed from the Eastern model and adapted to European needs. It is based upon vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, the followers dividing their time between holy contemplation, sincere prayer and honest toil. Following the introduction into England by Augustine of Canterbury in 597 AD, the Benedictine Order became pre-eminent from its founding in the sixth century until the Danish invasion in the ninth century. By the tenth century monasticism in this country had degenerated to a shadow of its former glory. In Europe other Orders developed in a new wave of religious fervour, and perhaps the most notable and influential were the Cistercians founded at Citeaux in 1109, coming to England and settling at Waverley, Surrey, in 1128 and Rievaulx in the Rye Valley in Yorkshire in 1132. This was a more austere Order, isolating themselves from the outside world.

Newark Priory, however, was founded by the Augustinian Canons or Black Canons, so called from the colour of their outer garments. These Canons Regular had evolved many decades prior to the Norman Conquest and subsequently arrived in England, probably encouraged by Lanfranc at the beginning of the 12th century. They derived their name from St Augustine of Hippo (354-430) and not St Augustine of Canterbury. The first foundation was at St Botolph's Priory in Colchester in 1103, some 25 years before the Cistercians arrived in England. The second completely new Priory, Holy Trinity, Aldgate, London,

was founded in 1107 by Henry I's Queen, Matilda (mother of the more famous Matilda who waged the war of Succession against her cousin, Stephen). The Queen's foundation rapidly created five important daughter houses at Oxford, Dunstable, St Osyth, Plympton and Launceston. There is a strong probability that the Canons of Newark came from Oxford (Dorchester upon Thames).

Although basically monastic, the rule of the Augustinian Canons was less strict than the Cistercians and allowed more freedom of movement outside the confines of the priory. They were popular among the laity, and the movement developed rapidly throughout England with 140 foundations in England and Wales, rising to a peak of 200 in 1350.

The priory at Newark was founded by Ruald De Calna and his wife, Beatrice De Sandes, some time after 1171 and before 1195. It is dedicated to St Mary and St Thomas the Martyr, the church being built in the cruciform style of which little now remains except the North and South walls of the presbytery and part of the choir and the walls of the South transept and part of the South wall of the nave. The Priory had been founded as a home for 13 Canons, but when it was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1539, they were down to nine including the Prior. In 1545 the Priory and its extensive lands were granted to Sir Anthony Browne, Master of the Horse. The extensive buildings were never reused, except as a quarry for building and road mending material (vide Homewood Farm). Tradition has it that the Speaker, Arthur Onslow, who died in 1768, put an end to the demolition, resulting in the ruins being preserved for posterity.

The talk was illustrated by the scale model of the Priory made by Charles Thurbin. The visit concluded with a look at the remains of the Priory Gatehouse and the conjectured courses of the Priory water supply. The Society is grateful to Mr Reuben, the farmer at Homewood Farm, for permission to visit the eel trap and the Priory.

ALL DAY OUTING TO STANE STREET NEAR CHICHESTER - 19/6/83

Twenty-one members attended this all day visit to West Sussex. The first stop was made at Midhurst where, from a short distance, were seen the stately ruins of Cowdray House, built in the first half of the 16th century by Sir William Fitzwilliam, Earl of Southampton, and half-brother of Sir Anthony Browne, grantee of the Newark Priory property after the Dissolution. On the death of the Earl of Southampton in 1543 Cowdray passed to Sir Anthony (as also did Oxenford Farm, which the Buildings Group had looked at the previous week). On his death in 1548 it passed to his son, Sir Anthony Browne, 1st Viscount Montague. In 1552 the 1st Viscount Montague had entertained Edward VI here in sumptuous style. In 1591 Elizabeth I had been entertained here for nearly a week, and Henry VIII had in 1538 been here several times. Cowdray House remained the home of the Viscounts Montague for several generations, but in 1793 it was destroyed by fire. Early this century the property was bought by the 1st Viscount Cowdray of Midhurst, who saved it from decay and arranged for its preservation. Members who heard Lt-Commander Whitehead's talk a year ago will remember that the only known picture of the battle against the French in the Solent in 1545, in which the Mary Rose was sunk, came from Cowdray House.

The Trundle is a prehistoric site on an exposed hilltop on the Downs adjacent to Goodwood Racetrack. It is unusual in that it is a Neolithic causewayed camp surrounded by a later Iron-Age hill fort. Its importance may be gauged by the fact that it merits several mentions in Eric Wood's "Field Archaeology in Britain". In the period 2000-3000 BC Neolithic farmers

were settled rural peasants, growing corn in patches and keeping cattle, pigs and sheep. The most distinctive feature of these primary Neolithic farmers was the causewayed camp. It consisted of a bank with external ditch interrupted by causeways. It was primarily a stock shelter, but people lived in the shelter of the bank. The Neolithic farmers may be contrasted with the Mesolithic people, who were nomadic and whose shelters were hollows scraped in the ground, as at Abinger, which the Society visited in 1979. In the 3rd century BC the camp was surrounded by an Iron Age hill fort. This was a defensive structure. The Romans stormed and destroyed the major hill forts, e.g. Maiden Castle, and the inhabitants trickled down to the plains. But the downward movement had begun before that. From the Trundle they had moved to the Belgic town at Selsey and later to the new Roman town at Chichester, Noviomagus (the "new town in the plain"). The Belgae had come from North-East France and Belgium in the late 2nd century BC.

Roman Stane Street, the main interest of the day, was first encountered at Halnaker, but first the 18th century windmill was visited. It is built on a hillside overlooking Chichester on what the Ordnance Survey describes as the site of an ancient fort. It is a brick tower mill with the four sail arms still in place, but apart from one large iron pulley in the hood, it is devoid of machinery. The remains of an earlier oak vertical shaft lie in the vegetation nearby.

And so to Stane Street. The conquest of Britain started in AD 43. There were four legions in the campaign, which began at Richborough, Kent. There had been three crossings of the Medway and the Thames and at Colchester. There had been no fort at London. Three prongs of the campaign spread from Colchester. The IX Legion went via Ermine Street to Lincoln. The XIX and part of the XX went North-West via Watling Street and St Albans. The II Legion proceeded by way of Stane Street to Chichester Harbour to contact the supporting fleet at Fishbourne. The British King, Cogidubnus, there was friendly. This was primarily built as a supply route, so no forts were necessary. The Roman road surveyors used an instrument known as the groma for alignments. The compass was unknown. The terminal points of Stane Street were Old London Bridge and Chichester East Gate. The distance was 55.1410 miles direct. A number of different alignments were used on the road, but the third main point was Pulborough on the Arun. There were Mansiones or posting stations at Merton Abbey, Dorking, Alfoldean and Hardham.

The basic road consisted of firstly the road surface or metalling, which would be up to 30 feet wide, secondly the embankment or agger under the surface and thirdly two side ditches 84 feet or 62 feet apart.

Whilst one party of members drove the vehicles by later roads from Halnaker to Bignor, another intrepid bunch proceeded on foot to trace the direct Roman route along a wooded path, a Forestry track and over open downland. The course is readily followed, since most of the agger remains as do stretches of the side ditches. The view from Gumber Corner is as spectacular now as it doubtless was for the Roman road builders two thousand years ago with the rolling downland leading down to the Solent with the Isle of Wight beyond. The principal difference would be the elegant spire of Chichester Cathedral, which went up in the 14th century. Skilful alignment ensured that the Roman horsedrawn and pedestrian traffic had a more gentle climb over the Downs than any of the later more casually constructed roads achieved (e.g. Duncton and Bury Hill). The same skill ensured farther North that Leith Hill was avoided.

The descent of the North side of the Downs, by way of a terrace cut into the hillside, showed that the original surveyors were prepared to allow pragmatism to triumph over rigid adherence to the strict alignment. A short spur road led originally to the Villa at Bignor. Natural historians in the party were gratified to observe, among other things, yellow wort, field hellebore, field scabious, hedge woundwort, spotted orchids, butcher's broom, woodruff, wayfarer tree and lady's bedstraw. It seemed late for the May trees atop the Downs, which were still in full bloom.

After a brief diversion to look at the perfect example of a 15th century timber-framed Wealden house in the village, the Villa was visited. After the $5\frac{1}{2}$ mile walk in the blazing sun, the modern refreshment room at the Villa was not an unwelcome sight. A Romanised farm already existed on the site by the early 2nd century, and this was followed by increasingly grand Roman buildings until the Villa in its final form was one of the largest in Britain, covering some $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres. The mosaics are in design and execution among the best found in this country. They are mainly 4th century.

From Bignor all traces of Stane Street have vanished, until at Pulborough the modern A29 resumes the original course. At Alfoldean there was a Roman bridge and camp. At Rowhook the Chequers Inn marks the spot where a spur road to Farley leaves Stane Street. At Oakwood Hill the Ordnance Survey shows the course of Stane Street leaving a private road to cross the stream, straight as a die, before the A29 through Ockley rejoins it. In practice this was impossible in view of a 50' drop in not much more than that number of yards. Hilaire Belloc, in 1913, suggested a double zigzag course down to the stream, but it was left to S. E. Winbolt in 1931 to find the sensible route via a terrace and cutting which the ever pragmatic "gromatici" adopted, and which can still be seen today with some of the surviving metalling. Boswells Farm, the earliest part dating from about 1500, and in appearance much as it would have been then, was glanced at in passing. (See Newsletter No. 35 for more detailed account.)

The final point of interest was the Romano-Celtic temple on Farley Heath, said by Eric Wood to be one of the most remarkable archaeological sites in the county. The earliest traces show this to have been a pagan shrine in a Celtic temple. (400-150 BC.) It consisted of a square chamber or cella containing a cult statue and altar, enclosed in a secret garden, here bounded by a polygonal wall. The spur road from Stane Street led directly to the temple (and possibly continuing to the Roman road complex near Bagshot). An extensive quadrangular camp was built around the temple by the Romans, who continued the pagan worship. The finding of over one thousand coins among other objects at the site indicates that votive offerings were made at the shrine. Militia exercises in the 19th century produced mounds which confused elucidation of the Celtic temple site.

There is very little evidence of the 400 year Roman occupation in our area, and it is therefore the more satisfying to know that this exceptional site is within easy reach of an evening visit. Any members who would propose to make an individual visit should be aware that the ground plan of the Celtic temple is marked out in modern concrete and the Roman boundary bank has to be looked for carefully. The Society can provide a copy of the site plan if required.

THE FRAME PLOT

In mediaeval times timber houses were constructed by building a frame consisting of a rectangular base, which formed the ground sills, the timbers being morticed together at the corners. The principal upright posts were morticed into these. These posts were the height of the walls and carried the horizontal wall plates to support the roof structure. Between the principal uprights, the wall space had upright or quartered panels called studs.

The process of constructing this frame - cutting the tenons and mortices and fitting the timbers together on the ground - was usually carried out some distance from where the building was to be erected on a plot of ground called a frame plot or framing place. The frame was then transferred to the site in pieces and erected. The timbers were all marked by the carpenter to facilitate reassembly. Many of these carpenters' marks are still visible today on the timbers of mediaeval houses.

A well documented example of construction away from the site is the roof of Westminster Hall. This was pre-fabricated in 1395 at "the place called the Frame-bay by Farnham" and 30 waggons were required to carry the timber.

There was also a "Frame Plott" in Ripley. In the Ripley & Send Court Roll for 1621 is an entry which reads: "Laurence Goddard and his wife Alice and William Emott have alienated to Thomas Smart a newly erected tenement called Le Frame Plott with a garden and a barn adjacent, between the highway towards the north and west sides and the tenement and lands of Nicholas Burley, gentleman, to the south side and the tenement and curtilage of William Emott to the east side." Document reference No. 94/3/36 in the Guildford Muniment Room reads: "1696 demise for one thousand years as mortgage and counterpart ... Richard Joshua of Ripley, baker, to Jeremiah Leggatt of Send, miller, ... cottage with garden etcetera ... lately new built called ... the Frame Plott" (boundaries given as in 1621 above).

From this information it is tentatively suggested that the "Frame Plott" in Ripley was on the corner of Rose Lane where the bakery and Richardson's Supermarket are situated and it extended to the Ship Inn, which was the tenement of William Emott referred to above, known in 1621 as Chapmans (vide notes on the Ship Inn on another page). The plot was roughly an acre. It is very unusual to be able to locate a frame plot as closely as this.

Bette Slatford

THE GEORGIAN HOUSE, HIGH STREET, RIPLEY

By kind permission of the owner, Mr. Amis^x, The Georgian House was visited twice by Les Bowerman, Derek Bromley and Ken French of the Buildings Group. On the second occasion John Slatford also attended.

This house, on the North side of the High Street, opposite the church, has, as its present name indicates, a Georgian front elevation, nicely executed in brick (all headers), with fine mortar joints and rubbed cambered window arches. The porch is modern. For some time prior to the 1930's it was "The Lindens" from the lime trees, some of which still stand. Mr Amis's family have owned it since 1947. Around the turn of the century it was the home and surgery of Dr F. E. Pearse, surgeon. The earliest map on which the house is shown individually is the Inclosure Map of 1804 where it appears to be of much the same plan as now.

^xMr. Richard H. Amis was recently invested by the Queen at Buckingham Palace as Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. He has for many years been active in the field of industrial health & safety and with the disabled, and was for 11 years Guildford Borough Councillor for the Lovelace Ward. - Editor.

The earliest part of the building is the West crosswing (the ground floor addition to the extreme West can for present purposes be ignored as a late Victorian doctor's surgery). It was a two-bay two-storey house with attic rooms in the high-pitched roof. No evidence could be found of any timber-framing in the brick walls, although the small area of bricks laid on edge visible from the road at first floor level on the West wall adjacent to the facade hints at the possibility. Apparently original 2" bricks are visible externally only in the West wall, but for such a short section that no regular pattern of bonding is apparent. The rear external chimney on the West wall is in the same 2" bricks with the first floor string course continued round it, suggesting that the chimney is contemporary with the wall. The width of the chimney at ground floor level indicates that the main source of heat for the house was here, and this is borne out by what can be seen of the fireplace behind it.

Inside the original house the front ground floor room has a high ceiling of approximately 9' 6" with exposed first floor joists parallel to the road supported on a heavy (12" x 12") girder beam bearing on the front and central partition walls. The beam appears to be original, as do most of the joists. The chamfer stops on the beam are ornamented, whilst those on some of the joists are plain. The joists are properly halved to the central beam. The height of this ceiling is a puzzle, but it could be due to the dropping of the original floor level. This room had a fireplace, but the external chimney in bricks of standard modern design indicates a date later than the original build. (The upper part of the chimney is in brick similar to the Georgian front.)

The ceiling of the rear ground floor room is lower than that of the front room. The under side of a girder beam can be seen, but the first floor joists are covered by a plastered ceiling. The beam, 10" in width, runs from back to front as in the front room and bears on the central partition wall slightly to one side. Beneath this beam is a post which could be false. The girder is chamfered with a raised diamond design near the chamfer stops.

The first floor, which was originally two rooms, has been divided recently at the rear to provide a bathroom. Structurally the rooms are uninteresting, but the front one has a very nice early cast iron bedroom fireplace surround with combined fire basket and ashtray below protruding well into the room. A staircase has been inserted centrally to provide access to the roof space, which at some time has been converted to provide accommodation for servants. One side of the staircase has a stud partition with the arched central tie beam of the original house exposed above it. The high pitch of the roof has enabled the two attic rooms to be floored at tie beam level and ceiled above collar level. The through side purlins which are exposed in the rear attic room have sagged to such an extent as to give credence to the inevitable suggestion that they are "ship's timbers". However, they bear no signs of re-use to support the suggestion, and Ripley is too far inland and had too plentiful a supply of hard wood grown locally to make the idea tenable. Two straight wind braces are also exposed in this room.

The roof over this section of the building is original and was constructed with three trusses of which only the centre is now visible. It consists of tie beam, principal rafters, queen struts, collar and clasped purlin. The rafters, which do not diminish above the purlin, bear on the purlin and are lapped, halved and pegged at the ridge. All rafters are of broadly similar scantling, some as much as 6" x 4", laid flat, and some carry carpenters' marks. The timber work appears to be wholly oak and is

exceptionally clean throughout the roof. All the evidence (clean rafters, walls of 2" bricks, external chimney on the West side whilst East-side roof was originally thatched or tiled at the front, which would not have been so had it been added as a crosswing to an earlier house) points to this having been an original free-standing gabled house of about the first half of the 17th century standing end on to the road.

It must have been in about 1800, or just before, that the house was given its Georgian appearance with a wide front elevation, the roof behind which, parallel with the road, is in soft wood in the modern manner with continuous purlins, jack rafters and ridge-board. Large section soft wood wall plates have been used, tied with large tie beams. A rear projection, parallel with the original building, is seen on inspection to be contemporaneous with the extension, although there is some older timber, probably re-used, at plate level. The Georgian front constructed at this time necessitated the original front gable with its truss being replaced with a hip, sloped back at such an angle as to give the desired Georgian effect of uniformity to the front elevation. Evidence inside the old roof confirms this to have been done.

The Georgian build ends at the East with a chimney stack, the fireplace of which has been closed off internally. The bricks of the lower part of this stack are smaller, which implies that there might have been something earlier than Georgian here. The Eastern-most section of the present house is formed of two single storey buildings linked together and joined to the main building. There is a certain amount of exposed timber internally of poor quality construction. One building shows an end truss externally, of somewhat better construction, on which rafters have been added to raise the roof level. It is possible that this portion of the building consisted of out-houses which were linked to the main building when the 18th century extension was added. A noteworthy feature in this section is the pantry, sunk some two feet below ground level, to provide a coal store.

A final puzzle remains in that the previously-mentioned front chimney built on the West wall in standard sized bricks carries no less than four flues, two of which are unaccounted for. It can only be speculated that they served an earlier extension where the Victorian surgery is. If there had been such an extension, it may have been of two storeys with access at the upper level through the main bedroom of the original house, and it could be the subsequent blocking of this which accounts for the bricks on edge mentioned earlier.

THE SHIP INN, RIPLEY

Members of the Buildings Group carried out an inspection of the Ship Inn on Sunday, 5th June. The party consisted of Les Bowerman, Ken French and John & Bette Slatford.

Outwardly, from the High Street, the building appears to be of 18th century brick and tile construction. In fact this conceals an earlier timber-framed house. The original build was a two-bay unit, 28' in length, parallel to the road, and 14' in depth. Inspection suggests that the large brick chimney on the left, when viewed from the road, was part of the original house but external to it.

There is documentary evidence, of which more later, to support the conclusion that the reconstruction took place in the early 18th century. When this happened, the brick skin embraced the whole of the original frame and

the chimney, thus giving the impression that the latter was built internally. In order to provide extra rooms in the roof space, the roof was completely rebuilt approximately two feet higher. None of the original roof remains, but evidence of its form can be seen in the shape of the plaster on the end walls of the attic rooms. Windows for these rooms were provided in the small gables in the new roof, all of which internally up to collar level is clad in lath and plaster. Probably at the same time as this reconstruction, a new extension was added at the back of the house, creating a double pile layout. Part of the roof structure of this can be seen through a small hatch in the stair well. It is of very light construction without any noteworthy features. The new brick front was good quality work, with dentilation along the eaves level, and a false window space (i.e. intentionally bricked up) at first floor level to match the windows on either side. Strangely for a front which is otherwise symmetrical, the false window is offset to the right. The brickwork is in Flemish Bond.

Internally it would seem that the ceiling timbers in the ground floor, i.e. the public bar area, are part of the original construction. These consist of three principal beams running from front to back with short joists in between longitudinally. To the right there is now a corridor which lies within the framework of the original house. Here a door leads from the street to provide the only access to the rear of the property. In this corridor can be seen almost the only evidence of the original timber frame. The rear principal corner upright (which is 6" square), together with adjacent horizontal members, is just visible, having been cut off six feet from ground level, no doubt to provide a clear way through the corridor. Most of the righthand wall is in fact the end wall of the "Sweet Shoppe" next door. There is evidence here to suggest that originally there was a gap of some 15" between the buildings. Another feature of the corridor is the massive York stone paving slabs lining the floor, one being 79" long x 39" wide. Back in the public bar, at the lefthand (East) end, inglenooks either side of the brick fireplace have been formed in the extra space provided when the walls were extended round the chimney as previously noted. To the rear of the bar there is a raised area, beneath which is a semi-basement used as the beer cellar. In one corner of this basement can be seen another fragment of one of the principal corner uprights. The ceiling on the first floor is probably part of the 18th century reconstruction. In the main room of the first floor the principal ceiling beam is parallel to the front of the house and was re-used from an earlier building, there being chamfered mortices for joists on the under side.

There is insufficient evidence of the earlier build of this house to establish its date, but research into the Court Rolls of Ripley & Send Manor and related documents has produced a number of references which record the history of the house and site, its owners and occupants. It is hoped that this will be the subject of a later article when the research is complete. However, it can be said now that a mortgage of 1732 (Guildford Muniment Room reference 46/1/18) describes the rebuilding of a messuage bearing "The Sign of the Ship", but "heretofore called Chapmans". Furthermore an earlier reference of 1621 (Ripley & Send Court Baron) describes the alienation of a "messuage called Chapmans". Thus it is certain that the original house existed before 1621 and that the rebuilding which is now seen took place in or around 1732. There is no evidence in the house to suggest that the original building was before about 1600.

Our thanks are due to Mr & Mrs David Shuttle, the licensees of the Ship, who welcomed us and made the building freely available for us to study.

John Slatford

RECOLLECTIONS OF SEND SHORTLY AFTER THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

PART 3 - GAMES AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

In the first decade of the century there was no electricity, radio or television in the village, and calculators, videos, electronic games such as Space Invader, one-armed bandits, etc., had not been thought of, and cars were only just appearing.

It followed that games and spare time activities were simple, and all took place in the home or village or within reach of horse transport. Cricket matches took place at Sendholme between local men and nearby villages. Teams playing away used a waggonette from Ripley and later a waggonette belonging to Mr Brown - the Mr Brown who ran the Send horsedrawn bus. Football was played at Mays Corner in a field used for grazing cows, today filled with council houses, and later in a field at Sadlers Farm. The present Recreation Ground was used for grazing his cows by Mr Baigent of Hillside Farm.

There was an evening institute for men in the first floor of the two cottages, 85 and 86 Send Road. This was reached by a staircase inside the front door of No. 86. The houses are still known by the older villagers as the Old Institute, although very few people remember why. Information on this has been given to me by Mr Harold Giles, now aged 87, who has lived near the Old Institute all his life. In 1910 the Drill Hall, now known as the Lancaster Hall, was given to the village by Mr A. H. Lancaster, and there was no further use for the Old Institute. The upper room at the Lancaster Hall was a billiard's room and also used for chess, dominoes, bridge, cribbage, and games teams visited nearby villages. Downstairs was a hall, stage and rifle range, but no kitchen or lavatories, as mains drainage had not yet arrived. Tea and coffee for dances were made in the caretaker's copper.

At the time a smaller hall was given at Burnt Common by Mr Grant of Sendhurst Grange, then a private residence. This hall was later used as a garage, then as a small cafe, and later demolished to make way for the "Happy Eater" restaurant built on the site.

There were, of course, no discotheques or cinemas, but there were twice-monthly whist drives, a monthly dance and an annual concert by the school-children. These children also gave an exhibition of Morris Dancing at the summer Flower Show at Sendholme. Apart from cricket and football, there were no outdoor activities for men, who were too busy with gardens and allotments.

The children had a variety of outdoor games such as marbles, which could be played along the street, as there was almost no traffic, or in the school playground. There were two expressions used in a game of marbles. A child would shout "Fainites" when he wanted the game to stop, or "Snugs after Good Friday" when he could seize all the marbles in use at the time. Whipping tops were in use, which could be whipped along the road, and skipping was a favourite game with little girls. Bowling hoops were in use at that time - wooden hoops being bowled by girls with wooden sticks, and iron hoops by boys with an iron stick called a "skimmer" or "skeemer". A mysterious game called Fag Cards, using the cards given in cigarette packets, had to be played against a wall. There was also Hopscotch marked out on flat ground with white chalk in squares. All these games had their special seasons - very difficult to determine. Quite suddenly they would appear, and equally suddenly they would disappear for a further year.

Country pastimes were always followed, e.g. primrosing, wooding, mushrooming, blackberrying, collecting horsechestnuts for the game of "conkers" and gathering wild flowers for a competition at the Flower Show. There was enthusiasm then about bird nesting - much to be deplored and now rightly forbidden.

Such were the spare time activities 70 years ago - a busy, contented and on the whole a very happy time.

Marjorie Sex

TUDOR HOUSE, RIPLEY - HISTORICAL NOTES

When I purchased Tudor House in Ripley High Street in 1977, I was given a typewritten copy of a "Historical Note" of unknown origin, which persuasively suggested that the property, including the adjoining Cedar House, dated from roughly the mid 16th century and was one of the earliest posting inns, the George, on the Portsmouth Road. The history of posting, according to the Historical Note, dates back "at least as far as the mid 16th century, the rate per mile being fixed at one penny by statute of Edward VI in 1548". The establishment of the George Inn was said to be circumstantially linked with the Dissolution of Newark Priory on 15 January 1539.

I was also told that a Right of Common attached to the freehold of the property in the form of "Farren", or grazing rights, permitting the owner of Tudor House to pasture six sheep or two cows or one horse on Ripley Common (as it then was, now a Green). Farren is said to be a measure of land/rights of pasturage equivalent to half an acre/two sheep. I was given some relevant documents of recent date which, at a cursory glance, appeared to provide support for the claim and I thought little more about it. I turned my attention instead to the dire and insistent necessities of renovation, but the Right of Common was to be the startingpoint which not only led to a reassessment of the age of the building, but also to the revelation of a fascinating phase in its more recent history.

At the beginning of 1981, I received notification from the Commons Commissioners of a hearing to be held in Guildford concerning claims of Rights of Common including mine. Puzzled by this, since I had assumed that my Rights were long-established and not in question, I carefully read my own documents for the first time and made some inquiries. Eventually the position was clarified:

The Commons Registration Act, 1965, had required all claims to Rights of Common to be registered within a given period, followed by provision for a similar interval to allow for notification of objections. My predecessors had duly registered their claim and the Surrey County Council, the owners of Ripley Common, had in due turn notified their objections, as an automatic challenge to all claimants. There the matter had rested for upwards of ten years, so it was hardly surprising that it had been incorrectly assumed that the Rights had been confirmed. In fact, of course, the Commons Commissioner had been busy all these years processing similar claims throughout the country. My neighbour from Cedar House and I successfully defended our claim to the Right of Common at the hearing, asserting that our properties jointly constituted the old George Inn and by invoking the Inclosure Award for Send & Ripley dated 1815 (Surrey Records Office). Unfortunately the award only referred to two sheep, so that, as the Commissioner drily commented, "Mr Bolt and Dr Gale will have to share one sheep apiece". Incidentally, apart from one other claimant who had established his Rights prior to the hearing, all the

remaining ten claimants lost their cases by default. Some members of the then Send History Society were finding that their researches were leading them to take an interest in Ripley and, having seen a report of the hearing in the local press, they contacted me to see what evidence I had about the "George". My only evidence was the "Historical Note", which gave no source, and the Commissioner had been on the point of dismissing this unsubstantiated evidence when, to my surprise and relief, the Surrey County Council representatives acknowledged unbidden that the Note originated from the "1965 List of Surrey Antiquities" issued by their own Records Committee and hence admissible as corroborative evidence. The members who had contacted me felt that for the purposes of historical research this was not strong enough proof. I accordingly had visions of the Commissioner's ruling being overturned on appeal and thus losing the right to pasture my sheep. Positive proof came in October 1981 when the History Society obtained and showed me a copy of a map from the Public Record Office dated 1777, detailing property in the parishes of Send and Wisley owned by certain members of the Onslow family. This clearly showed the George Inn marked where the present Tudor/Cedar Houses stand. The following February the History Society formally extended their interests by changing their name and constitution to include Ripley.

A few months later I readily agreed to a request from Jim Oliver, then President of the Society, together with Ken Gravett (of the Surrey Local History Council), to survey the property. Their report, which was presented in Newsletter No. 46 (September/October 1982), dates Tudor House from c. 1620-1650 with later (c. 1840) significant alterations. However, the earliest reference to the George Inn so far discovered comes from the Manor Rolls, which the Society has had translated from the original Latin. Part of the record for 1537, which was two years before the dissolution of the Priory, reads "James Jackson - a tenement called the sign of the George and four crofts of land called Horsecrofts and a croft called Mayden Hawe". Another document (GMR, LM1034/5, translated and annotated by the late R. N. Bloxam), which shows a list of alehouses "in the (east) half-hundred of Oking (Woking)", drawn up by a "John Sliffield high constabell there", at an attributed date of 1576, refers to a "Thomas Stanton keeping the George" at Ripley.

At the other end of its history, it is generally assumed on circumstantial grounds that the decline and finally the demise of the George as a pub was linked with the development of the railway from London via Woking (1838) to Southampton (1839) with a branch to Guildford (1845) and Portsmouth (1847). Certainly, the Tithe Apportionments of 1843 do not include a reference to the George Inn itself, although they do refer to extensive areas of nearby land as George Inn Lands. Another more prosaic piece of indirect evidence came to light recently while digging in the back garden when I came across a great deal of broken bottle glass of mostly beer and mineral water bottles, broken possibly to release the glass marble stoppers in their necks. I unearthed a number of sherds showing a patent date of 1877 (Sykes & MacVay Company of Castleford), which may therefore suggest that drink was still being consumed in quantity on the premises at that date and later. It is curious that this part of the history of the property remains so elusive. This is not, however, the case regarding the first half of the present century.

To be continued

Robert Gale (Dr)

Editorial Notes: It is very pleasing that Bob and his neighbour have succeeded in registering permanently the ancient Right of Common relating to the old George Inn.

The Send and Ripley Inclosure Act, 1803, provides that Ripley Green is exempted from being divided, inclosed or sold and that people with common rights of pasturage in the Parish should be allowed to pasture specific numbers of animals on the Green in respect of specific property. The Inclosure Award, completed in 1815, directed among many other things that William Halliday, his heirs, assigns, etc., should at all times hereafter be able to use Ripley Green to pasture etc. two sheep in right of a message ... lately called or known by the name or sign of the George The only person with a right for six sheep or two cows or one horse was a George Johnson in respect of an unspecified property. The fact that a right to pasture only two sheep was given in relation to such a large set of premises as the George indicates that the land holding of 81 acres which went with the property in 1777 had been separated from it by 1816. "Lately" suggests that it had ceased to be an inn a few years earlier.

The Onslow Estate Map and the Award, read together, enable us to suggest strongly that the George Inn ceased to operate as such some time after 1777 but before 1815. It seems we have to look to some cause other than the railway for its commercial cessation. The broken bottles must presumably relate to some unlicensed use.

It would be interesting to have a specific authority for the use and definition of the word "farren" in relation to Ripley Green. In Newsletter No. 5 at page 2, we recorded its use particularly for the Broadmead at Send, where it signified, apparently, the various rights attaching to one-acre strips of land.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

The following have recently become members of the Society and we are pleased to welcome them:

Mr S. Pl Inwood, 18 Northwood Avenue, Knaphill, Woking.
Mr & Mrs M. J. Smith, 21 Weston Fields, Albury.
Mr N. Cheetham, Alderton Cottage, Send Marsh Road, Send.
Mr J. L. Butler, 5 Heath Rise, Ripley.
Mrs M. B. Stuart, Willowmead, Brook Lane, Send.
Miss A. V. Brookes, Orchard Cottage, Wisley.
Mrs M. Davies, 190 Send Road, Send.
Mr & Mrs G. Bleach, 171 Send Road, Send.
Mr & Mrs A. Baker, Clova Cottage, 23 Rose Lane, Ripley.

We record with sadness the death in May last of our member Mrs Vera Titcombe, and we extend our sympathies to Bill her husband and Bernard their son who are both members.

"Then and Now - a Victorian Walk Around Ripley"

The Society published on the day of the Ripley Summer Event a booklet entitled "Then and Now - a Victorian Walk Around Ripley", which is an account, with a modern commentary, of a walk made in 1863 by the diarist A. J. Munby. It is for sale from the Society at the price of £1.25. In order to raise funds to help finance this publication, it has been decided to hold a book fair and summer bazaar in the Church Rooms, Send Road, Send, on Saturday, 20 August, from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. It would be appreciated if members would contribute by giving cakes, produce, plants or books, etc., in order to make this sale a success. Please come along on the day and bring your

friends. Contributions should be given to one of the following:
Ken Bourne, Bette Slatford, Barbara Tinkler, Mavis Lake or Patricia Medlen,
or alternatively brought along to the Church Room on the day.

Surrey Local History Symposium - Request for Help

As already announced, the theme of this year's Symposium, which is to be held in Dorking on Saturday, 12 November, is "Schools in Surrey". As usual, the Society will be entering an exhibit. The Subcommittee making the preparations will be pleased to hear from anybody who has objects, books, photographs, etc., connected with the schools in Send and Ripley who would be prepared to lend them, or failing that, permit a sight of them, as soon as possible prior to the Symposium. If you are able to assist in this way, please contact Sheila Brown at Guildford 223024 or the Secretary at Guildford 224876.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Tuesday, 2 August ... Buildings Group meeting at 8 p.m. at 15 Kevan Drive, Send.
- Saturday, 20 August ... Book sale and summer bazaar starting at 10.30 a.m. in the Church Rooms, Send Road, Send.
- Thursday, 1 September ... Committee Meeting at 8 p.m. at 116 Potters Lane, Send.
- Tuesday, 6 September ... Buildings Group meeting at 8 p.m. at the Manor House, Send Marsh.
- Sunday, 11 September ... Afternoon visit to the sites at Old Woking of the Tudor Palace and the Romano-British Settlement for a conducted tour by Mrs Nancy Hawkins. Meet at the Sewage Farm, Carters Lane, at 2.30 p.m.
- Tuesday, 20 September ... Members' Evening at 8 p.m. at the Red Cross Hall, Sandy Lane, Send. A selection of slides will be shown illustrating aspects of local history and Society functions, and discussion will be invited.
- Sunday, 25 September ... Ride of veteran and other tricycles from Ripley to Thames Ditton and back to commemorate the centenary of a 24-hour tricycle race which finished at Ripley, starting at the car park behind the Half Moon Public House at 10.30 a.m. (an event organised not by the Society, but by the Ripley Section of the Southern Veteran-Cycle Club which some members may find of interest).
- Tuesday, 18 October ... Open meeting at 8 p.m. at the Red Cross Hall, Sandy Lane, Send, when Mr R. Schueller will speak about the history of Chobham and some Chobham families.
- Saturday, 12 November ... SLHC Symposium at Dorking with the theme "Schools in Surrey", at which the Society will have a stall.
- Tuesday, 15 November ... Open meeting at 8 p.m. at the Red Cross Hall, Sandy Lane, Send, when Mr M. Sturley will give an illustrated talk on the subject "The Public Houses of Guildford".
- Tuesday, 20 December ... Annual social evening at the Red Cross Hall, Sandy Lane, Send.

This is the end of the 1983 programme. In view of the influx of members from Ripley during the year, it is hoped to alternate the venues for meetings in future between the two villages.

Closing Date

The closing date for submission of material for the next issue of the Newsletter is Monday, 5 September.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, RIPLEY, FLOWER FESTIVAL. July 1st-3rd, 1983.

The many splendid flower arrangements at the festival were contributed by local businesses and organisations. The overall effect enhanced the beauty and serenity of this ancient building.

The Society's contribution (its first in Ripley) took the form of an arrangement by Jill Bromley and Phyllis Bourne of herbs gathered locally and displayed in conjunction with a simple but dramatic model of an Augustinian canon; this represented the church's long association with the Priory of Newark. Other flower arrangements with strong historical connections to mention just two were the Dibble and Stansfield windows. The flowers for the former were arranged by Miss Joan Dibble, a descendant of that much-loved and famous family who were landlords of the "Anchor" in the heyday of cycling. The "penny-farthing" bicycle was loaned by Les Bowerman. The Stansfield window was appropriately furnished in addition to flowers with examples of 19th century mineral water bottles, and a photograph of Stansfield Bros. horesdrawn delivery cart.

K. H. B.
