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SENDHOLME AND THE LANCASTERS

With the sale of Sendholme, and the auction of its contents on 20th July, the final curtain has come down on the direct connection of the Lancaster family with the village after nearly a century. Several members were present at the auction and it is good to be able to report that practically all of the items with local connections have either been bought by members or should be available to members for research purposes. The items described in the sale catalogue as Churchwardens Accounts covering 1883 to 1904, a plan of pewholders and notes compiled by the late Mr Lancaster were returned direct to the church by the Executors. Items bought by members include photograph albums, estate papers, and a waggonette.

For some of those who attended the auction, this was both the first and the last opportunity of savouring the atmosphere of this large Victorian family home, whilst for members with long connections with Send, it was an occasion for nostalgia. For the interest of all members, this would seem a suitable occasion to publish some extracts from a talk given by Marjorie Sex two years ago. It is stressed that the talk consisted of random recollections which, although they bring out sharply the flavour of the times, cannot necessarily be guaranteed as regards details. It is hoped that in subsequent editions of the Newsletter, after the necessary research has been done (any offers?), detailed articles on such topics as the Lancaster family, the Soup Kitchen, the Lancaster Hall and the Cricket Club will be published.

NOTES OF A TALK GIVEN BY MARJORIE SEX
TO THE SEND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
AT THE LANCASTER HALL ON 28/11/75

My father was born in Send 100 years ago, I was born here 72 years ago, and my husband, Ron, 74 years ago.

At Sendholme it was rather like the television programme "Upstairs - Downstairs". Mr & Mrs Lancaster who lived there were very wealthy. They had two daughters, Eveline and Elsie. Elsie died in 1938 (as previously noted in these pages, Eveline died in 1976 aged 100 - Editor). They had a combined indoor and outdoor staff of nearly 30. These included cooks, kitchen maids, a housemaid, a between maid, butler, footman, a lady's maid, coachman and two grooms. The staff had houses in the village. There was no main drainage (there still isn't), no electricity and no gas. They also had boys to do the knives and see to the coal.

Mr Lancaster was patron of the living of the church. They had the village very much in their hands, but they were very kind and responsible. The school and the church were very closely connected. The Vicar had to come at least once a week to the school. Mr Lancaster would come once a quarter to the school and go through the registers and hear you through the church catechism - also the Ten Commandments. We children didn't know what adultery was - we pronounced it "adoctery".

Mr Lancaster would always come to the rescue with money if necessary. He had the soup kitchen installed at the Baigents. People would go with jugs and jars and buy very good soup at about one old penny. It was very useful for people out of work and with no National Assistance.

Sendholme had a wonderful conservatory, wonderful gardens, a beautiful lake, and a cricket ground run for the village by the Lancaster family. Teas were provided at the cricket ground under primitive conditions. My father was captain of the cricket team. My mother, my sister and I made tea in a copper in the open air and served it in an open-fronted shed. There was an annual cricket week and if any of the men had to take a week off work to play for the team, Mr Lancaster would pay them the equivalent of their wages. It was he who provided the Drill Hall (now called the Lancaster Hall). It was equipped with climbing bars and ropes, and there was a rifle range which was between the house and the hall. The range had a floor of sand; to walk over it planks had to be put over the sand. There was a very strong rifle club. At first floor level was the Institute to which the men used to go.

The flower shows at Sendholme were wonderful. A marquee was hired. The big houses would contribute flowers and things. There were cottagers' classes and upper classes. The children had morris dancing and there was a brass band. The transport from Sendholme was by horse. They had carriages and a brougham. For the cricket pitch they had a mowing machine pulled by a pony with a donkey following to pick up the grass in a cart. The donkey and the pony would wear leather shoes made by Mr Broomfield, who had his shop where Tysons the chemists now is. The donkey and cart would arrive at church fixtures with a load of produce.

The staff at Sendholme were expected to be present in church for services. The Lancasters had the pews near to where their plaques are in the church. Before the start of the service Mr Lancaster would look around to check who was there and who was not. Anybody who was absent would be taken to task on Monday. On Sunday nights Miss Elsie Lancaster would walk from Sendholme to the Church Room with a lantern with a candle inside it.

THE RIVER WEY NAVIGATION

A WALK ALONG THE TOWPATH - 7/7/77

On 7th July a party of about 20 members, with their families and friends, met at Worsfold Gates to walk the Navigation bank to Triggs Lock and then on to Send Church through some of the best documented land in the Parish. Passing the abutment of the old bridge at Worsfold Gates, the party moved South and soon came to the overgrown, mud-filled bend in the river known as Chamberlain's Hole. For almost three centuries, until 1930, before straightening, this bend taxed all the barge masters' skill to negotiate it successfully with a loaded barge. A complementary bridge to the one at Worsfold Gates stood here for the horses to recross and pull from the opposite bank when the barge had passed the initial sweep of the bend. A large vertical wooden roller was mounted on an upright of the bridge to avoid scoring the rope as the horse moved round the last sharp curve in the river.

Opposite Chamberlain's members crossed a modern concrete bridge carrying the towpath over the large "Jack ditch", known higher up its course as "Boggy Rocks" to boys of the Strudwick and other local families on their bird nesting exploits almost three generations ago.

Beyond this bridge is Sendhead, of over 30 acres, containing about 12 acres of Glebeland running along the river bank. This land was set aside for the benefit of the mediaeval vicars of Send and the income from it was part of their stipend. The land, although let to a tenant in later years,

still remained the property of the Vicar of Send, and when a faculty was obtained, and the land eventually sold in the 1950's, the Church was still mindful of its duty to maintain moral standards in the Parish and insisted that the new owners covenanted to do their best to prevent swearing, gaming, lewd acts and such on the land for ever, and to allow no fairs on the Sabbath.

In 1671 the Vicar of Send, James Tichborne, apparently momentarily lost faith in the canal undertakers, and with numerous other landowners, made claims through the Courts for outstanding unsettled damages to their property occasioned during the cutting of the navigation in 1653. These claims have been published from P.R.O. and appear in S.A.S. Collections Vol. 62 pp. 94-108.

Claim No. 56 says

"James Tichborne of Send, Vicar, claims £6 for damage to his glebelands by wearing away of the soil by the towing of barges and other vessels. Part of the land is 5 acres of meadow in Scend meade in the parish of Send near Triggs Lock."

The towpath leaves Send Mead by a wooden footbridge crossing the natural river bed, and ascends to Triggs Lock, until recently one of the few remaining turf lined locks in England. Beside the lock the lock-keeper's cottage, small, two rooms up and two rooms down, of the 18th century, with a later extension at the rear to house a blacksmith's shop, and seemingly an impossible place for a former lock-keeper to bring up a family running into double figures. The wall of this little house bears a fire plaque giving particulars of the Fire Office, with headquarters in Birmingham, proof that this city was the hub of the great canal network in the 18th century. From Triggs Lock a view is obtained across the flood plain of the River to Send Church with the Earl of Onslow's Clandon Park and the spire of West Clandon Church set on the backcloth of the North Downs beyond.

Triggs Lock is important, as southwards the canal is artificial to Broad Oak, and constructed in an excavated causeway or aqueduct lined with chalk and puddled clay well above the meadow level. This posed problems of drainage to which Sir Richard Weston, one of the undertakers, was equal. Considerable remains of his system to drain the meadows, passing in tunnels under the canal, are still working satisfactorily today, and remind us of his stature as an agriculturalist.

It is considered by Hillier and other authorities that the missing water-mill in the huge Manor of Woking stood where the lock complex does today, and that it was necessary to demolish it in 1653 when the canal was constructed. This was probably so, but no visual evidence remains today except a distinct haunching of the old course of the river through Send Mead, which would provide a head of water to drive a mill.

A few years ago the owners of Send Mead found themselves at cross-purposes with the Church Commissioners who had discovered small areas of land in Send mead on which Tithe had not been redeemed; this land having been introduced into the Send mead from Sutton Green during river straightening operations in 1927-30. In spite of a variety of protests by the owners, the Church proved all-powerful, and with the aid of the threat of a Warrant for Distraint on the cattle on Send Mead obtained their money.

The evening closed with darkness falling on the Hon. Secretary as he gave a discourse on about 100 mediaeval horseshoes which he is preserving at Send Court Farm.

By Stander.

See next page for Editor's note.

Editorial Note: Of the Wey Navigation Claims of 1671, No. 20 reads "JOHN TRIGG of Sutton, yeoman, claims £5-13-0 for work done on the construction in 1655." Is this the person whose name the lock still bears? Likewise, No. 55 reads "JOHN WORSFOLD of Send, husbandman, claims £60 for work done in repairing the banks of the river, at the rate of five shillings per week. Makes his mark." Although this has long been a common name in the area, it is distinctly possible that Worsfold Gates take their name from this claimant or another member of his family.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE IN SEND

Keen-eyed readers of the article "1952-1977" in N/L 15 may have wondered why there was an asterisk after the sentence which read "For some this is not the first Jubilee they have witnessed, many recalling the Silver Jubilee of George V and Queen Mary in 1935." The reason is that it was intended to add an editorial footnote to the effect that some still recall Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Our 88-year-old member, Mr French, remembers it well. Local celebrations took place at Sendholme and consisted of races and a tea for the children followed by a cricket match. The basic facts are confirmed by the Parish Magazine of June 1897.

It had ceased to be obligatory for a man with a red flag to precede motor cars less than a year before the Jubilee, and Mr French recalls how, as children, they would go to the Send Marsh junction with the London Road especially to watch vehicles go past trailing clouds of dust along the unmetalled surface. Likewise, he remembers the first time a motor car came through Send.

* The Locomotives on Highways Act, 1896, exempting light locomotives (under 3 tons) from the restrictions imposed by various earlier Acts came into effect on 14/11/1896. The 60th anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession was on 20/6/1897.

RECORDING WILD LIFE

When I was four years old I became interested in wild life, and six years later on my tenth birthday I had a small tape recorder as a present. Since then I have made about 30 recordings of birds. In April '77 I joined the Wild Life Sound Recording Society and went on a weekend organised by them to record wild life sounds. Whilst there I recorded: chaffinch, willow warbler, chiffchaff, the dawn chorus, song thrush, cuckoo, great spotted woodpecker and greenfinch.

In my back garden I have recorded blackbird, wren, great tit and song thrush. This year, for the first time, we had house martins nesting on our house. From the bathroom window I was able to position the microphone about 2 feet from the nests to record the adult birds as they chatted to each other whilst building their nests.

I was lucky enough to hear a nightingale at Bramshott Chase and recorded it at 8 a.m. Back in May I went on a Send Natural History ramble to Clandon Cutting, and at 4.30 a.m. recorded the dawn chorus. I also recorded a wren and a red legged partridge there.

Wild life recording is difficult, as wind, aeroplanes and cars can spoil a recording, but with time and patience I hope to get some better recordings.
Derek Croucher aged 11

THE CRICKET GROUND AND PAVILION AT SENDHOLME

In the article entitled "1952-1977" in the previous edition of the Newsletter, it was stated that "The Lancaster family ... provided the Cricket Pavilion and Green." It has been pointed out that this is not strictly correct, and it seems appropriate to enlarge a little on the playing of cricket at Sendholme, Crickets Hill.

The earliest known reference to the place name is on John Rocque's map of 1770 where Cricket Hill Farm is recorded. There are other Cricket Hills in Surrey. It is not known for certain what the origin of the name is, but there is no reason to suppose that it comes from the game in this instance.

Sendholme was built about 1870 by George Devey (1820-1886) for William Hargreaves (of the same family as the inventor of the spinning jenny). The Hargreaves were succeeded by the Leese family, who laid out the cricket ground and held country house matches there. The Lancasters, who bought Sendholme in 1889, continued the tradition, and the time came when Mr Lancaster would sometimes ask village cricketers, who used to play on open land where the fishing lakes off Potters Lane now are, to make up his team. This writer is not in possession of sufficient facts to write a history of the Send Cricket Club, but suffice it to say that the Club with its corrugated iron changing room (still there), with a roof then thatched with heather, prospered at Sendholme. After the Second World War, there was a general desire to improve the facilities and it was also felt that some of the better fixtures would be lost if better accommodation could not be provided. Members of the Club accordingly buckled to and designed and built the present pavilion themselves. Most of the money was raised by the Club, with some help from other sources. The achievement was fully reported in the "Surrey Advertiser" in the spring of 1950 under the heading "CO-OPERATIVE TRIUMPH - Cricketers build their own pavilion". Our President and Ron Sex both figure prominently in the report.

The reference to the "Green" in the article "1952-1977" clearly relates to the cricket ground, which is now held on a lease granted by Miss Lancaster.

Most of the facts recorded here come from our two members noted above and include details gathered by our President during his long friendship with the late Mr Harvey Bugg who came to Sendholme with the Lancasters as their gardener and who remained with them in active employment in that capacity until his death aged over 90.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members. The following have become members and we welcome them:

- Mr & Mrs D. R. O'Connor, Lone Oak, Send Hill, Send.
- Mrs M. Truphet, Sunyani, Send Marsh Road, Ripley.
- Mr & Mrs R. Hatcher, 104 Send Road, Send.
- Mr J. R. W. Prosser, 7 Newark Close, Ripley.

Membership stands at 72 double and 54 single, which makes 126 total subscriptions paid.

Diary Dates

Thursday, 15th September ... Committee Meeting at Send Court Farm at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, 20th September ... Natural History walk with Ted Bartlett at Farley Heath. Meet at 7.30 P.M. in the elbow of the old road at Send Barns.

Thursday, 22nd September ... Open meeting at 8 p.m. at the Church Room, Send Road. Mrs Peggy Aldridge will speak about the Lovelace family and Ockham Park. See additional notes below.

Sunday, 25th September ... Natural History walk with Ted Bartlett at Pagham Harbour. Meet at 7.30 a.m. at Send Barns.

Sunday, 2nd October ... Visit to Cosford Water Mill and Thursley. Meet at 2.30 p.m. at Send Barns. See additional notes below.

Sunday, 9th October ... Natural History walk over the Sheepwalk, Old Woking. Meet 7 a.m. at Send Barns.

Wednesday, 12th October ... Natural History walk with Ted Bartlett at Pagham Harbour. Meet 8.30 a.m. at Send Barns.

Sunday, 23rd October ... Natural History walk with Ted Bartlett at Frencham Little Pond. Meet 8 a.m. at Send Barns.

Sunday, 6th November ... Natural History walk at the Chuntries, Guildford. Meet at 7 a.m. at Send Barns.

Wednesday, 9th November ... Natural History walk with Ted Bartlett to see the autumn tints at Ranmore Common. Meet 8.45 a.m. at Send Barns.

Thursday, 24th November ... Open evening - "Sounds Natural", the inside story on recording wild life - an illustrated talk by Mr John Fisher of the Wild Life Sound Recording Society.

Additional Notes on Meetings:

Thursday, 22nd September. Mrs Aldridge is the archivist and historian of the Lovelace Papers and archivist to the present head of the Lovelace family, Lord Lyttons. She is a member of the Byron Society; Lord Byron's only daughter, Augusta, having been the first Countess of Lovelace.

Mrs Aldridge has many fascinating stories to tell of this family and their house at Ockham, for the Earls of Lovelace, together with the Earls of Onslow, were the two great families that wielded a benevolent influence over this part of Surrey from the early 18th century.

Mrs Aldridge intends to bring a selection of documents from the archives, some referring to local families, together with the original Royal Charter of Henry VIII in 1545 granting the Newark Abbey manors of Send and Ripley and Ockham to Sir Anthony Browne at the dissolution of the monasteries.

Cosford Mill and Thursley. Members will be certain of a cordial welcome at Cosford Mill, which was purchased by an old Send resident 23 years ago in a derelict state and is now a most comfortable and interesting brick and timber-framed mill house. Further restoration is still necessary on the mill adjoining the house, but enough remains to give members a clear idea of the working of a country corn mill. An old bakehouse stands in the grounds and the whole is situated in an idyllic spot.

Thursley Church will also be visited. The churchyard contains interesting monuments with the Old Brewhouse at Hill Farm alongside. The church, in spite of restoration, still preserves a magnificent timber belfry, two Saxon windows and the charcoal oven in the sanctuary which was used to bake the wafers used in the mediaeval Mass. Underlying the churchyard wall at the east end is the former Priest's House, or Old Rectory.

WILD LIFE AROUND THE VILLAGE

The year 1977 has proved to be the year with the emphasis on flora rather than fauna. Following the drought of 1976 and the dying back of trees and plants in general, a complete new burst of life has been the result.

On looking back in my natural history records which I have kept for the last 35 years, I cannot see a year to compare. The bramble is heavily laden with fruit, and so too are the hazel trees, with nuts a-plenty. The corn-fields told of the same story up until a few weeks ago, that is until the rains came.

Extremes in nature can cause some very unexpected results; the abnormal conditions of 1976 caused a severe lack of moisture at the roots of most plants. Trees of various species are showing the results this year. Our Beeches are perhaps one of the worst affected, growing as they do up on the high chalk downs. However, the water table all but vanished, leaving the trees to live almost on night dew.

Having comparatively thin bark the beeches were almost dehydrated, the flow of moisture in the cambium layer pretty well stopped. This provided ideal conditions for a certain fungus to gain a strong foothold. In common with all species of tree, the beech has its own quota of insect life living on or within its framework - and it is one of these insects which weakens the resistance of the tree, allowing the fungus to kill the bark. The insect, known as the FELTED BEECH COCCUS, is present in most beech trees; but under normal conditions its activities are neutralised by the vigorous growth of the tree.

An exciting find by the Secretary of our Group was a Purple Emperor Butterfly, which was settled on a buddleia in the garden of 14 Orchard Way. The larvae of this species live on willow, and it is at this time, when the females are laying their eggs, that opportunities arise for spotting it. Naturally both the male and female are high fliers, around the tops of oak trees is the favourite haunt. The males of this species of butterfly have a terrific craving for carrion, and it is this fact that has led to the capture of thousands of specimens by the collector.

Our own colony of Sand Martins has been given a reprieve, for the sand workings are to be carried on into the next field. This year their numbers have increased tremendously, providing a spectacular show of community living. As usual the Kestrels, Little Owls, and Carrion Crows have preyed upon them,

sitting quietly on a convenient lookout post - to dive swiftly in and carry away their victim to eat at leisure. Other birds to visit the area this year include the Crossbills, these have been seen flitting from tree to tree in their "CHIMES", little parties of agitated feathers.

Sparrowhawks have returned to the village, those handsome dashing hawks whose mastery of the air is superb in every way. It is a bird of the pine woods, preferring this type of tree to any other; taking over an old squirrel's drey, or perhaps a disused crow's nest. Sadly, one of the pair which looked kindly on our village as a place to rear their offspring, came to me with a broken wing, splintered with shot.

Once again the Little Ringed Plovers have nested at the gravel pits, but only just - for they have been harassed by certain members of the community. However a number of young did succeed, so it is hoped that they will return again next year.

P.S. Since writing the above notes, the Sparrowhawk has died.
E. J. Bartlett

TILFORD FORESTRY COMMISSION - 3/7/77

Only five people including the leader met at Send Barns at 3.45 a.m. for the ramble to Tilford. To see deer was the main object of this outing, but not one was to be seen. The visit was made worthwhile, however, by seeing a rutting ring and the glorious sunrise slanting through the trees. At 6 a.m. the group proceeded to Frensham Little Pond where reed and sedge warblers were heard. The highlight of the morning came as a hobby wheeled overhead uttering its sharp cry.

FRENSHAM LITTLE POND - 31/7/77

Fifteen people set out for Frensham. On arrival at 6.50 a.m. reed warblers were heard and seen. A pair of goldcrests flew into a pine tree, and on closer observation their nest, with young in, was located just above head height at the end of a branch. A kingfisher was sighted skimming over the lake. The weather was fine and warm and swifts, swallows and house martins were busy catching their breakfast. Also seen were: a pair of swans with two cygnets, coots with young, a flock of lapwings, a meadow pipit and stonechat, squirrels, rabbits and fly agaric toadstool. Green woodpecker and wren were heard.

BIRDWORLD - 17/8/77

Ten people turned out on an overcast drizzly morning for an outing at short notice to Birdworld at Farnham. There are many exotic birds there, but the four varieties of British owl (Barn, Tawny, Snowy and Little) seemed to hold most fascination for the group. The keepers had quite a job catching and holding a bustard while its tail feathers were clipped. Feeding time for the penguins and pelicans was another attraction. The visit ended with a look around the aquarium at the many tropical fish and "Eric and Ernie" the baby crocodiles.

LOCAL RAMBLE - 21/8/77

There had been some heavy rain before this local ramble and the foot-paths were muddy, but nonetheless nine people turned out and enjoyed a walk

by the fishing lakes where great crested grebes with young were seen. Walking across the fields by the River Wey a heron flew up and settled again a short distance away. A kingfisher's nest hole was the next thing of interest and a kingfisher flew across the field. A grey wagtail was paddling at the edge of the river by Unwin's factory. The ramble ended across the footpath by the sand quarry to see the sand martins. Also seen on that walk: goldfinches, linnets, swallows, green woodpecker, coot, black headed gull, moorhen, partridge and squirrel.

Jean Croucher

THE SCOUT MOVEMENT IN SEND (Cont'd)

After the demise of the original Send Troop, apparently in 1916, an attempt was made to restart it in 1920/21 when Commander Coote came to live in the village. His intention to do this is recorded in the Parish magazines for December 1920 and March 1921, but there is no evidence that it came to fruition.

In November 1925 a meeting was held at Send School to consider the formation of a Scout Troop "for the boys of Send School". This was successful and a School Controlled Troop was registered with the Boy Scouts Association under No. 13412 on 7/2/25. The troop was under the supervision of the Schoolmaster, Mr A. J. R. Rogers with Mr S. K. Penn as Scoutmaster. Meetings were on Wednesdays from 6.30 to 9.00 at the school. There were 21 Scouts initially and no Cubs. It was reported in the Parish Magazine of March 1925, that uniform had been issued but was incomplete, scarves and shoulder knots being wanting. Shoulder knots indicated which patrol a boy was in. As the report in the magazine archly recorded it, "These latter are awaiting a decision as to whether the Troop is to consist of either Hounds, Owls, Swifts, Tigers or Bulls. Presumably a decision cannot be given until it can be ascertained that all can imitate the cry of the being selected ... We wish the Troop all success and may its cry be soon heard in the land of Send".

Summer camp 1925 was at Friday Street. It was reported that bad weather failed to damp the good spirits of the troop, "one and all 'broadcasting' their cheery notes of the 'loud speaker' type without the interruption of 'atmospherics'" - doubtless references to the newfangled wireless. Most of them marched all the way home.

The 1926/27 Handbook & Annual Report for the Woking & District Boy Scouts Association records that 7 Carpenter's badges were gained, and were the only such badges recorded for the District. Summer Camp 1926, to which the Scouts travelled by train, was at Worthing. According to the report by Mr Arthur E. Sex, in the Parish Magazine, they spent most of their time bathing and playing cricket. From the health point of view they did very well, "our only troubles being that George Lepper ate too many sweets and made himself very unhappy for a couple of days".

The Troop put on a concert in the village in December 1926, including a play. It seems to have been successful, but nothing more is heard of this second Troop apart from the fact that its registration at Imperial Headquarters was cancelled on 1/10/29.

(To be completed)

Les Bowerman