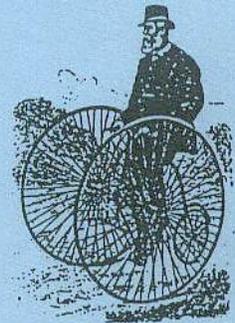
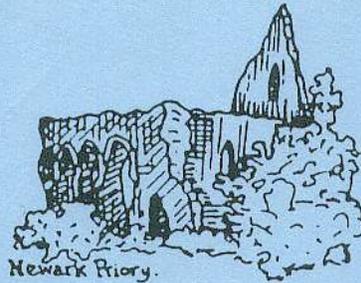
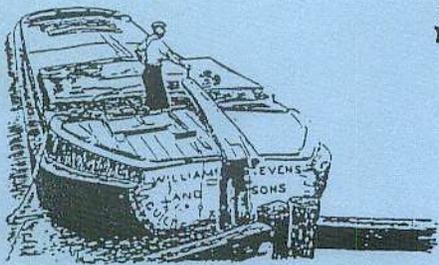
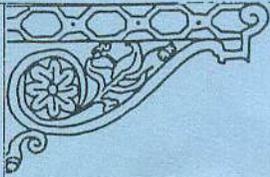


Send & Ripley History Society



Newsletter No. 78

Jan/Feb 1988



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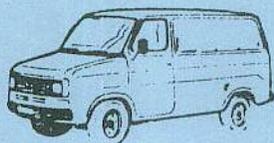
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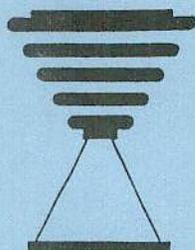
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January/February 1988

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Cover Illustration: Copy of a photograph which appears in "Victorian and Edwardian Surrey from Old Photographs", compiled by Martyn Goff (1972), showing Dorking High Street 1895, with the celebrated White Horse Hotel on the right. This inn was formerly known as the "Cross House", it then being rented from the Knights of St John of Jerusalem at Clerkenwell. Some parts of the building are more than 400 years old. We wish to thank the publishers, B T Batsford Ltd, for permission to reproduce this photograph and those accompanying the article on the history of Dorking.

THE FORMER CLIFFORD JAMES SHOP, HIGH STREET, RIPLEY

Notes on Its Architectural History by John Slatford

Members of the Buildings Group recently visited the building in Ripley, at present unoccupied, but which until recently was Clifford James' leather goods shop. Previously better known as Pinnock's Cafe, this timber-framed house is a property of outstanding architectural interest in Ripley High Street, between Town & Country Cars and Manor House Antiques.

Although now a house of three bays, it is possible that there was originally a fourth bay at the end where the apparent crosswing, Amberley Cafe, stands. There is some uncertainty whether Amberley Cafe was added as a crosswing, or built as a separate house. This is because the in-filled space between the two properties (approximately 4 feet) is much larger than would normally be the case with a true crosswing. In fact this space encloses two separate chimneys, indicating that Amberley Cafe could have been built quite separately. To date examination of the roof area at the join has not been possible, so either theory could be correct.



It is clear from study of the present three bays of Clifford James, that it was built as an open hall house with the end bays floored over and the centre bay open to the roof. If, as has been suggested, there was originally a fourth bay, then the central hall would have been of two bays with one floored over, a not uncommon transitional feature.



Although examination of the roof space was very restricted, there was clearly visible evidence of wattle and daub partitions up to apex level. The inside faces of these partitions are sooty, but not heavily so, indicating that the house, although built as an open hall, did not remain so for very long. The central bay would then have been floored over and the large brick chimney built at the rear to serve a new fireplace. From the ground floor at each

end, the original access points to the upper rooms are still to be seen and the way in which the floor over the hall was inserted can be determined. In later years various extensions were added to the rear and more chimneys were built. It is quite likely these changes coincided with dividing the house into several smaller properties.

The roof is of through side purlin construction, with collars and two queen struts at each truss. The Eastern end is hipped with a gablet (a small gable). The Western end is now continuous with Amberley Cafe, and so its original form cannot, so far, be determined. All of the principal posts are jowled, and it would seem that the frame was fully triangulated with heavy curved braces. Not all of these are present today, but in most cases the mortices are still to be seen.

From the evidence it was concluded that the main section of the house (Clifford James) was a late open hall type of good quality, built most likely between 1575 and 1600. The hall was probably floored over within 50 years and the other alterations and extensions made at various times up to the present century. Although the date over the crosswing (Amberley Cafe) reads 1597, it is felt that this is not genuine, the most probable date being around 1650.

At the rear of the property are two brick buildings. One of these appears to have been a stable and coach house with a hay loft above, probably built in the mid 19th century. The other, which is smaller, is perhaps a little older. The original purpose is not clear, but it is interesting, and possibly suggestive, that the present owner referred to it as the "brewhouse".

Unfortunately, documentary research into early ownership and occupation of the property has so far failed to establish any historical link, but, as always, it is possible that in the future a connection may be found.

We are indebted to Mrs Voural for making it possible for us to carry out this study.

HISTORY OF DORKING

An Illustrated Talk by Vivienne Ettliger

Notes by Ken Bourne

Mrs Vivienne Ettliger, of the Dorking & Leith Hill Countryside Preservation Society, and a member of the Council of the Surrey Archaeological Society, gave a learned and entertaining talk on Dorking's historical past. Her talk, which was liberally illustrated with excellent slides, commenced with a brief outline of the geology and topography of the area, explaining the probable reason for the town's location. It continued with a speculative glimpse of Dorking through the ages from the Roman period to the present day. The following account summarises some of the more interesting highlights.

"Dorking is situated adjacent to the River Mole in a gap in the North Downs on a direct route between Winchester and Canterbury West to East, and London to Brighton North to South. It also lies directly on the line of the Roman road, Stane Street, which ran from Chichester to London, although no evidence of the road has so far been discovered in Dorking itself. The remains of a Roman settlement have, however, been found near the bus station.

"Dorking no doubt existed in Saxon times, as it was recorded in the Domesday Survey as a manor including a church, taken over by William the Conqueror. It subsequently passed to William De Warrenne about 1088, one of William's barons, and remained in this family until 1347. Up to this time Dorking was probably little more than a farmhouse and a few scattered buildings, plus a church. The original Y-shaped development as a town occurred from the Middle Ages. The oldest buildings, mostly concealed behind modern facades, date from the mid 15th century. This was the period when East, West and South Streets developed. West Street was also known as 'The Chipping' (the old name for a market, other examples being Chipping Norton, Cheapside, etc), the market spreading either side of Pump Corner.

"Among the items found was a mediaeval lead phial or flask. This is a pilgrim's flask, doubtless lost by a traveller from Canterbury, who would have purchased it as a memento of his visit.



Coach and horse outside the White Horse Hotel, Dorking. Some parts of this building are more than 400 years old.

"The modern shop facades in Dorking, as in many old towns, often conceal features of much earlier buildings. Above the Linen Shop, for example, is preserved a mid 15th century arch and wall painting which were discovered beneath many layers of plaster during rebuilding. These may be seen, on request, by anyone interested.

"The old parish church featured some 13th century and a great deal of 14th century work. The vicar was supported by a brotherhood who

provided money to pay for a chaplain who said mass at the side altars for the deceased. This church, unfortunately, was demolished and rebuilt by the Victorians.

"When Robert Dyas's shop was being rebuilt in the High Street, some late 17th century wall paintings were discovered. These have been carefully removed and are on public view, displayed behind glass panels in the shop. There are many cellars carved out of the sandstone beneath the shops in the High Street, and it is believed that the entrance to an extensive system of caves once existed in South Street. The purpose for which the caves were built is not known, but they were used in the 17th century for storage.

"Dorking was famous in the 17th and 18th centuries for a special kind of fish soup called 'water souche', consisting of fresh water fish, such as perch, tench eels, and root vegetables, parsley and salt, boiled in water and served hot. It was also renowned for fowls, particularly 'the Dorking Capon', a large chicken.

"Stories of Dorking personalities abound. In the 18th century, the heyday of coaching, coachmen were larger than life characters. William Broad, driver on the London to Dorking coach, was known as 'Old Hocard' and said to be the inspiration for Sam Weller, Dickens' famous character from 'Pickwick Papers'. Major Peter Le Belier, who returned to Dorking in 1763 after service in the army, was very devout, but wore shabby old clothes which he rarely changed. He was consequently known as 'the walking dunghill'. He used to give money to children if they could recite the Lord's Prayer. He requested that on his death, he should be buried upside down on Box Hill. The reason for this bizarre request is not known, but it was duly granted.



106 South Street, Dorking, in 1906, which even today retains some of the air of a market town.

"The 19th century saw the expansion of Dorking, with many changes to the old shop fronts, and development into the busy town we know today, still, however, closely guarding many of its past secrets."

We are indebted to Vivienne Ettlinger for an intriguing glimpse of this nearby market town, and the fresh perspective of it which her talk has given us.

ADA, COUNTESS OF LOVELACE

A Biography by Peggy Aldridge

The Age of the Computer is now upon us. In 1987, a computer is as much a part of the living room in most homes as is a television set. As a result, the name

of Ada, Countess of Lovelace, has become public knowledge. In America the United States Defense Department call their computer ADA.

However, until a few years ago, little was known of this member of the English aristocracy, apart from the fact that she was the daughter of Lord Byron,** the poet, who was "Mad, Bad and Dangerous to know"!

The Honourable Augusta Ada Byron was born on 10 December 1815, at the Piccadilly home of her parents, George Gordon, 6th Lord Byron, and his wife, the former Anne Isabella Milbanke, heiress to the fortune of her uncle, Thomas, Viscount Wentworth. Augusta Ada's birth was registered in the parish of St George, Hanover Square, by the Reverend Noel, on 30 December 1815.

According to letters and papers left for posterity, the marriage was now breaking down. Lady Byron was unhappy at the state of affairs which existed between them, and decided, with her husband's permission, to take their daughter, Ada, on a visit to her parents' home, Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire.

At first the correspondence which flowed between husband and wife appeared amicable, with frequent requests for him to join her. Finally, after a good deal of procrastination on Byron's part, and reports received by Lady Byron from friends and others, she decided to consult doctors and lawyers concerning her husband's state of health. Acrimonious correspondence followed, and at last, with Byron's agreement, a formal Deed of Separation was drawn up. Ada was allowed to be brought up by her mother. Her father, having suffered the rumours which were emanating from London society at the time, decided to leave England. He never saw his wife or child again.

Ada, as she then became known, had many governesses and tutors - they all, at one time or another, fell from favour with Lady Byron. Some lasted longer than others, but inevitably they were dismissed. Despite these changes, Ada seems to have been more than just unusually intelligent. According to the words of others, she had inherited her mother's "high morals" and her father's "charm".

Much attention has been paid over the last few years to her work with Charles Babbage and his Analytical Engine, the forerunner of today's computer. The one published article by Ada Lovelace has, apparently, given the modern day computer experts an idea of Babbage's scientific thoughts on his planned machine.

Until the age of 17, Ada led a fairly sheltered life, mostly among her mother's friends. She was duly presented at Court in 1832, an event which evoked comment from her mother to friends: "You would have been amused had you seen me throwing my mind into ball dresses!" She goes on to say she felt "obliged" to give thought to these matters! Rather an extraordinary remark, even at that time, when most families were anxious to introduce their daughters into Society and to find a suitable husband for them. In the event, of course, little was engineered by Lady Byron to find a suitable husband for Ada. It appears to have come about quite naturally through her mathematical friends rather than as a "Court Presentation".

Ada's interest in mathematics finally introduced her to the de Morgan family and also that of Mrs Somerville. Her friendship with the Somervilles ultimately led to the introduction of William, 8th Lord King. Woronzow Grieg, a son of Mrs Somerville's from her first marriage, was a close friend of William King, the two men having been undergraduates at Trinity College, Cambridge. William and Ada met on frequent occasions at the Somervilles' home in Chelsea, where it would appear the formerly reticent Lord King showed his affection for the attractive Miss Byron. Their courtship was mainly through letters, as they appear to have written to each other every day, expressing their views on their meetings.

** The Bicentenary of Byron's birth is being celebrated this year - Ed.

His proposal followed very quickly and his letters of May/June 1835 show his joy at her acceptance. Her letters to him talk of her outings with Mrs Somerville, concerts attended, and meeting the people with whom she had a shared interest in science and music. His to her were equally interesting, in that he referred to the building work he was carrying out on his estates in Surrey and Somerset. It was obvious he wished to make sure she would enjoy the beauty of the countryside which he found most attractive, and in one letter he refers to Ashley Lodge, Porlock, Somerset, as the hermitage to be "worthy of your presence".

It was not long before William was requesting permission to inform his family of the "news", particularly his mother - with whom he was not on very good terms - but more particularly his uncle, Lord Ebrington.

On 8 July 1835, the Honourable August Ada Byron and William, 8th Baron King, were married by Special Licence in the drawing room of Lady Byron's home, "Fordhook", Ealing, Middlesex. The ceremony was performed by the Reverend Gamlen from Weighington, Co Durham. The witnesses were Lady Byron, George Anson, 7th Lord Byron, Lord Ebrington, Hester and Charlotte Louisa King - William's sisters - and Olivia Acheson, a close friend of the bride's mother.

Within a few weeks of marriage, Lady Byron paid her first visit to the newly weds at Ockham Park. Thereafter she wrote many letters to Ada, giving her advice on how she must now manage her own and the household affairs. This advice took the form of warnings concerning what she said in front of other people (mainly the King family), and exhortations to study the scriptures and hold family prayers. As Ada was of an impractical nature, no doubt, the advice was required. However, later on it would be true to say Lady Byron's remarks were not always well received.

On 12 May 1836, at their London home, 10 St James's Square, Ada gave birth to her first son, who was named Byron, after his famous grandfather. William had undoubtedly looked forward to the first child being a boy, an heir to all the King family lands and title. Unfortunately, despite the hopes of his parents, this son was never to attain their early expectations. In due course the small family returned to Ockham Park.

Meanwhile Ada pursued the learning of her duties as the respected Lady King. She continued her favourite pastime of riding and playing the harp. Soon Ada was writing of the endeavours of Byron in walking and climbing. Later we find her complaining of having to curtail her activities owing to the impending birth of her second child. Anne Isabella King was born on 22 September 1837. Despite Ada and William's first disappointment at the birth of a daughter, Ada is later to be found writing to her mother of being charmed with her "metaphysical child".

In June 1838 William was elevated in the Coronation Honours to the Earldom of Lovelace, it would appear for no other reason than "family connections". Lord Melbourne was Lady Byron's cousin, he in turn had been Prime Minister and Chief Adviser to the young Sovereign, Queen Victoria. Ada was now a Countess, Byron became Viscount Ockham, and their daughter became Lady Anne Isabella King.

At the age of 23 years, Ada became the mother of a third child, a son, Ralph, born 2 July 1839.

Ada's intentions were now to continue her mathematical studies and we find her fervently writing to Charles Babbage on the subject. However, she was also suffering from ill health and consulting doctors. It appeared to be nothing too serious, at least that was the opinion at the time.

In between times Lovelace, having been appointed Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, continued to carry out his official duties. More to his liking were the unofficial "duties"; his building work at the recently acquired estate at Horsley and at the house, Ashley Combe, Porlock. At the latter he was installing facilities for sea bathing. One of Ada's doctors had recommended frequent hot baths and sea bathing, but Lovelace had refused a bathroom at Ockham Park, due to expense with the plumbing. However, it appears a bathroom was installed at Horsley. How often the sea bathing facilities were used at Ashley Combe is open to speculation. The weather at Porlock leaves much to be desired, even at the height of the English summer, as the writer knows only too well!

Ada's social life was rather restricted, due to "illness", which persisted despite the many "cures" proffered by others. One friend who stood by her throughout was Woronzow Grieg. He knew more about her than almost anyone else, except possibly Babbage. Grieg had taken a brotherly interest in her marriage to his long-standing friend. Ada confided in him regarding her financial matters, and the horse-racing, together with the attitude of Lovelace and their marriage. In 1848, or thereabouts, Ada was in debt and it was to Grieg she turned for help. Throughout Ada's difficulties Grieg managed to remain on good terms both with mother, Lady Byron, and her daughter. Later in 1848, Ada must have told Lovelace of her money difficulties and, to his credit, he stood by her.

All the while the children were being educated by tutors and governesses, etc, to the tune of Lady Byron, who appeared to advise Lovelace on all aspects of education.

During 1850, Ada and Lovelace travelled North, making various excursions and visits, including a visit to Newstead, the former family home of her father, Lord Byron. Here the couple met Colonel Wildman, the then owner of Newstead, as well as finding time to visit the races! On their return from their travels Ada spent some time at Ashley Combe, presumably to enjoy the bathing facilities.

In 1851 Ada fell deeply into debt, due to her gambling losses, and her association with John Crosse, a rather disreputable friend of the family. At the same time, Lovelace became alarmed at her state of health and rushed off to visit Lady Byron, who was staying at Leamington Spa, to inform her of the situation, ie Ada's illness and debts. Unfortunately the interview did not turn out as he anticipated and, to his cost, he found an antagonist and not a friend. From then on the whole situation regarding Ada changed. At the end of 1851, Lovelace was advised of her precarious state of health. She was suffering a great deal, but Lovelace was forced to leave her in their London home, 6 Great Cumberland Place, whilst he carried out his civic duties. In January 1852, Ada was ill and weak and in severe pain. At times she had a short respite, which deluded everyone there was hope for her condition. At such times she attempted to continue her scientific studies.

Meanwhile Lady Byron kept up her antagonism towards her son-in-law and, in some respects, her daughter. She did, however, ask her lawyer, Dr Stephen Lushington, to visit Ada to appraise her of the situation, and this he did.

In August 1852, her son, Byron, came home to see her, which was a "welcome visit". A few days later her doctor informed Ada and Lovelace that she had cancer. Ada was now anxious to see all the children. Annabella and Byron, who had been staying with family friends at Aldermaston, came to the house, Annabella being allowed to tend her mother at intervals. Ralph was in Switzerland and contacts were being made for him to return home.

For Ada's comfort she was now in a downstairs room on a fracture bed. Her son, Ralph, arrived on 26 August to see her.

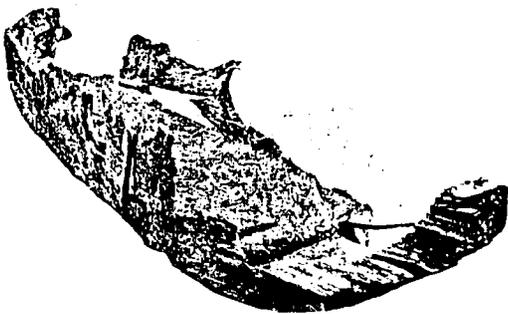
Ada's illness was now causing her more pain. During the last few weeks she asked to see certain associates. Her mother had taken up residence in the house, despite the presence of the "antagonist", ie Lovelace.

Augusta Ada, Countess of Lovelace, died on 27 November 1852. She was buried, in accordance with her wishes, in the Byron vault at Hucknall Torkard Church, alongside the father she had never known. Her mother, Lady Byron, did not attend the funeral.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCHES IN THE WEY VALLEY AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Introductory Notes by Bob Gale

There is clearly established evidence of pre-Romano settlements in this area, notably the so-called British Stronghold of St George's Hill, Weybridge. Archaeological excavations on this site at the beginning of this century were reported in the Surrey Archaeological Collections XXIV (1911) by Eric Gardner. Although, according to Gardner, no implements had ever been found on the site, "a large number of implements and urns, dating from the Bronze Age (which ended in this part of the country about the 5th century BC), have been discovered in the immediate vicinity of some of the fords and on what may possibly be tracks leading to the Camp from the fords." There is also strong evidence of a substantial Romano-British settlement of the 1st century AD centred on Cobham (Leigh Hill), with which finds of cinerary urns at Brooklands and Wisley, containing cremated remains, are thought to be connected. A considerable number of finds of pottery and implements dating from various periods have been made in the River Wey above and below the bridge at Weybridge (some of these are in Weybridge Museum). A barrow was discovered at Silvermere in 1830 and found to contain three 1st century AD burial urns. A prehistoric dugout canoe, possibly dating from the Bronze Age, was discovered in the bed of the River Wey at Wisley. Another had also been found in Weybridge 20 years earlier where the Wey entered the Thames. Gardner surmised that "Wisley Common would seem to be a very promising area for research, situated, as it was, on the main approach to the Camp. He regarded the latter as "one of the most important prehistoric monuments now remaining in the County of Surrey". As he wrote this, the 900 acres of woodland at St George's Hill was passing into the builder's hands.



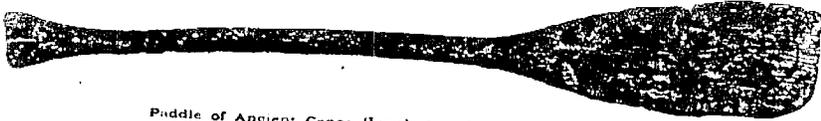
DUG OUT CANOE. River Wey at Wisley.
Length, 27 feet.



CINERARY URN AND ACCESSORY URNS FOUND AT WISLEY.
Height: 31 ins. 11 ins. 5 1/2 ins.

In a later note (SAC XXV 1912), Gardner reported further important finds in the area, in particular more Romano-British funeral urns discovered at Wisley. During soil removal operations at the sewage disposal works close to Wisley Church and the River Wey, a complete kiln containing some broken pottery was found - and destroyed - probably also 1st century AD. Several other sites in the field were thought to be of a similar nature. Some flint flakes found scattered in the same field were thought to have only a fortuitous connection with the kiln and its contents. In a meadow at Send, higher

The illustrations shown here are reproduced by kind permission of Surrey Archaeological Society.



Paddle of Ancient Canoe (Length, 53 inches).

up the Wey Valley, a remarkably well-preserved paddle had been found, thought to be associated with the ancient canoes of this part of Surrey.

Remains of a large urn used for grain storage were also reported to have been discovered at Old Woking. Finds of Viking and Saxon weapons in the River Wey and Thames were also noted.

Gardner believed there was substantial evidence to suggest that a considerable community must have existed along the banks of the Wey in the 1st century AD.

The foregoing notes serve as an introduction to the following report by Ann Watson, which was published in the Ockham & Hatchford Residents Association Newsletter of November 1987:

SEEN FROM THE MOTORWAY

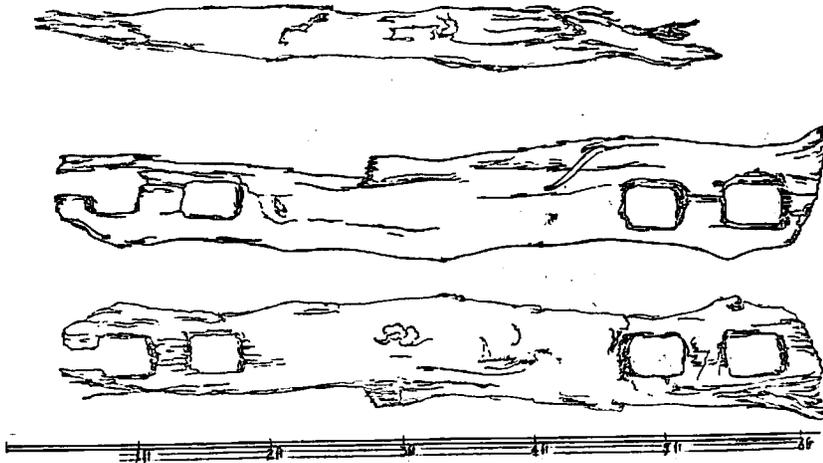
On a trip from Wisley to Heathrow in April, large-scale earthmoving work was noticed near Wisley Sewage Works. Now, these sewage works are well known as a major prehistoric site. (Many sewage works are built on prehistoric settlements, most of the basic requisites being the same in each case: A well-drained gravel site near a small river, for example).

When Wisley Sewage Works were being constructed in 1921 quantities of Iron Age, and Roman pottery were dug up. This pottery is now in Weybridge Museum. Earlier, in 1911, two dug-out canoes were found by boys bathing in this river, and there is, in addition, a late Bronze Age site at Sanway, adjacent to the sewage works. So earthmoving in this area was something meriting closer inspection, and it turned out that a relief sewer was being laid from Byfleet to Wisley.

Usually, when archaeological expectations are high, one is in for a disappointment. Weeks of "site watching", often in appalling conditions, are rewarded with absolutely nothing to report. But on this occasion things were very different! Almost immediately small areas of charcoal and burnt clay were visible once top-soil had been removed, and on investigation these turned out to be iron-working hearths. Their highly primitive character showed that they were almost certainly prehistoric, but no actual dating evidence, such as pottery, was found, so a sample has been taken for magnetic dating. No result has so far been received. Radio-carbon dating of the charcoal would be possible, but is extremely expensive to carry out.

One particularly interesting aspect of the find remains unexplained: where did they obtain the iron ore? There is a long and well documented tradition of iron working in the area around Wisley, but the source of the iron ore has never been discovered.

The new sewer was to cross the silted up stream known as Broad Ditch, which is the ancient bed of the River Wey. There is evidence that the river flooded and altered course often in antiquity. This promised to be a fruitful spot to watch, and so the contractor's men were "chatted up" in preparation, and told of possible dug-out canoes and votive bronze armour. Although clearly thinking all archaeologists quite mad, they were amused and listened politely. But the chatting up proved to have been worthwhile, for when, in the middle of the Ockham Flower Festival, they dug up pieces of ancient timber from eight feet beneath clay silt, they carefully put them to one side. Again, these are almost certainly prehistoric, for they have not been sawn, nor worked by metal tools. Some of these pieces are piles or posts of alder wood. The rest are of oak. Two of these might be parts of boats. The biggest and most impressive is a split tree trunk, nearly



six feet long, with two large and roughly rectangular holes at each end. No-one so far approached has seen the like before. However, the most plausible theory is that it formed the sill of a sluice gate. It would be most interesting if it indeed turns out to be from prehistoric times.

The staff of the Museum of London, with their great experience of medieval and Roman sites on the waterfront of the Thames, are

very interested in these finds, and are trying a sophisticated method of tree-ring dating known as dendrochronology. If this fails, then they intend to do a radio-carbon analysis. This is a very protracted process, but the results, when available, will appear in a future Newsletter.

DOCUMENTARY GROUP PROGRAMME REPORT

Notes by Bette and John Slatford

Members may be interested to learn that the Group has acquired a microfiche reader. We expect that the instrument will prove extremely useful in assisting with local genealogical research. We are finding that a lot of research material is now being reproduced on microfiche and expect a lot more to become available in the future.

The principal fiche we have so far is the International Genealogical Index for Surrey. For the benefit of those who do not know, this is a research aid produced by the Mormon Church, recording baptisms and marriages for much of the world. The index for Surrey is produced on 54 separate fiche and lists, perhaps, nearly one million names transcribed from registers and other sources, mostly dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Of course, the index is far from complete and, in fact, never will be, but it remains a valuable aid. Any member seeking help with Surrey family research might find our facilities useful and we will be very pleased to help.

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM

Report by Beryl Gomme

As in previous years, the Symposium was held at Surrey University. The theme this year was "Surrey at War". The morning lecture, on "Mediaeval Warfare and Castles in Surrey", was given by Dr Derek Renn, who addressed our Society not long ago.

After lunch, Mr R J Milward spoke on "Civil War in North Surrey", with particular reference to Wimbledon, where Mr Milward had studied the effects, in detail, on the lives and conditions of ordinary people during those troubled times. His lecture was illustrated with maps and photographs.

The final presentation was "Newdigate - Village at War", compiled and narrated, in dramatised style, by costumed members of the Newdigate Society. The readings - extracts from the parish magazines, personal correspondence and newspaper reports of the period 1913-18 - were illustrated by photographs of the houses, events and inhabitants of the village. This presentation created a very moving personal account of the First World War. The sepia photographs of the men killed at the front were a sad reminder of the terrible, senseless waste of young life in wartime.

In the morning and during the lunch break, there was time to view the many exhibits by the local history societies and other organisations, such as the Surrey Records Office. Those exhibiting had worked hard to display interesting and informative aspects of the effects of war on their own localities. The emphasis was very much on the First and Second World Wars; and there were some imaginative ways of getting the message across - not the least being Esher's three cages of live carrier pigeons to illustrate their use by the Corps of Signals.

Our own display attracted much attention. Frank Brown's splendid multi-image paintings, one of the Second World War and the other of Nelson, were colourful focal points. The display was in three parts: Send Heath Camp during the Seven Years' War, 1756-63, under the command of Earl Ligonier of Ripley; the general association of navy traffic (including Nelson) during the Napoleonic Wars with the Portsmouth Road through Ripley; and finally the effects of the Second World War on the parishes. Items such as ration books, gas masks, tin hat and a flying suit, helmet and goggles, kindly loaned by members, aroused forgotten memories and much interest.

We were very pleased to find at the end of the day that £40 worth of Society publications had been sold. (It is worth recording that some other history societies - Bourne, Banstead and possibly more in the future - have paid us a very flattering compliment by adopting the exact format of our "Then and Now" book for their own publication - Ed.)

We must thank Bob Gale and his band of helpers (notably including Beryl herself, Tony Medlen, Kate Smith, Iris Watts and Les and Anne Bowerman - Ed) for organising the display for us - and many thanks go to Frank Brown for the loan of his paintings.

1987 CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

The Society's 1987 Christmas Social, attended by some 80 members and friends, was well up to the high standard set in recent years. The venue chosen, the Lancaster Hall, helped considerably to create a mellow and warm atmosphere which greatly enhanced the proceedings.

It virtually goes without saying that the catering was as good as, if not better than, previously, thanks to the efforts of the team, led by Anne Bowerman, which included Iris Watts, Beryl Gomme, Barbara and Alan Tinkler (Thanks once again, Alan, for an excellent spicy punch, which induced a nice rosy afterglow), and not forgetting several other members who contributed mince pies, etc. The Society also wishes to thank Davina Bowler for her delightfully designed table decorations which she kindly donated to the Society.

The exhibition presented by the Society at the recent SLHC Symposium, held at the University of Surrey, was especially recreated for the evening. Depicting Send and Ripley "at war", it again featured two of Frank Brown's splendid multi-image paintings (the co-operation of the artist and the Ripley Branch of the British Legion was greatly appreciated in this matter).

John Slatford once again ran a successful and well supported raffle with some excellent prizes. Bob Gale teased and tormented the well-fed wits of those present with another popular quiz, this time based on the past year's issues of the Newsletter.

Live entertainment was provided by a couple of very accomplished young professional musicians, Simon Carr (oboe and cor anglais) and Deborah Clay (piano), who compiled their varied programme with a number of popular carols, with vocal accompaniment by the appreciative audience. Simon and Deborah also "premiered" a piece of music, a rumba, written especially for the occasion by one of our members, Pauline Marshall.

It was indeed a most enjoyable event putting, it is hoped, all those who attended in the right spirit for the coming festive season.

Bob Gale

RIO CAFE AND BRIDGE END, HIGH STREET, RIPLEY

Anne and John Cornell, members of the Society, who run C & C Autos, are looking for more information concerning the commercial history of their site.

Reference to Kelly's Directory of 1903 shows that it was occupied by the Hampton family and was listed as a wheelwright's. Mr Charles Allwork Snr, a well-known local builder and Chief Officer (Captain) of the Ripley Fire Brigade, and his family subsequently lived here for many years.

There are unsubstantiated rumours that during the Second World War work for the Ministry of Supply was carried out at the site. If you have anything further to add to this sketchy information, Anne and John would be interested to hear from you (please phone Guildford 225003).

Editor

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mr P Canham, 54 Elm Road, Chessington, Surrey
Mr & Mrs R Bridger, Southease Cottage, Send Marsh Road.
Mrs Ruth Gale, 12 Fullerton Drive, Byfleet.
Mr & Mrs F Dean, 8 Bramble Way, Send Marsh.

Total membership stands at 301, comprising 110 double subscriptions and 81 single.

Index and binding of Newsletters

The Society had two sets of Newsletters numbered 1 to 36, bound in 1981, as did a number of individual members. An index has been prepared for the next volume, 37-72, and is available to members from me for the cost of photo-copying. Also, please contact me if you would like either of your volumes bound. The cost is likely to be about £10.

ERRATUM

Newsletter No 77, page 8 - in the article on the Great Storm of 1987, entitled "An Ill Wind ...", the first lines of the third paragraph should read: "With such wholesale destruction, the recitation of losses forms an almost endless litany."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 23 February ... AGM at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, commencing at 8 pm, followed by an illustrated talk by our member, John Molyneux-Child, on the History of the Local Manors of Dedswell and Papworth (Papercourt).

Tuesday, 22 March ... Open meeting at the Ripley Village Hall, commencing at 8 pm, when Mr Michael Blackman, President of the Weybridge & Walton-on-Thames History Society, will give a talk on the history of the latter town.

Tuesday, 19 April ... Open meeting at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, commencing at 8 pm, when Mr Stephen Tudsbery-Turner will speak about Lord Howard of Effingham and the 400th anniversary of the Spanish Armada.

Having omitted to do so in the last Newsletter, I should like to wish all our members a belated, but sincere, Happy New Year - Editor.

Next Newsletter Contributions for the next edition of the Newsletter should be submitted by Friday, 4 March.

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Hours of Business

Mon-Fri, 9.30-12.30 2.00-5.30 Sat 9.30-5.30

Other times by appointment



NOTICES

The History Society's AGM. Please note that this will be held on Tuesday, 23 February, at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, at 8 pm. A copy of the agenda is attached to the current Newsletter.

The meeting will be followed by a short illustrated talk by our member, John Molyneux-Child, on the History of the Local Manors of Dedswell and Papworth (Papercourt). John has recently published a book entitled "The Evolution of the English Manorial System".

Age of Chivalry. Members might like to note that this exhibition, covering Art in Plantagenet England 1200-1400, which is being staged at the Royal Academy of Arts in Piccadilly, continues until 6 March 1988.

Open Meeting. Mr Michael Blackman, President of the Weybridge & Walton-on-Thames History Society, will present an illustrated talk on Walton at Ripley Village Hall on Tuesday, 22 March 1988, at 8 pm.