

SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

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All Day Outing to Stane Street - Details.

Meet at 9.30 a.m. at Send Marsh Green. It is advisable to share cars as far as possible. Halt and alternative rendezvous at the main car park at Midhurst at 10.30. Proceed via Singleton and The Trundle Iron Age hill fort to Hainaker Hill fort & windmill (920098) at 11.30. The energetic will follow the course of the Roman road for approx. 6 miles on foot over a variety of terrain (packed lunch en route). Binoculars advisable for natural historians. Those not wishing to walk can drive or be driven to Bignor where all will meet again at approx. 3 p.m. to look at the Roman Villa (987147). Drive via Stane Street (A29) to Oakwood Hill (135373) to see how the Roman surveyors solved the problem of the river crossing. Return home, time permitting, via the site (052449) of the Romano-Celtic pagan temple on Farley Heath on the spur road off Stane Street. O.S. maps 1" Nos. 181, 182, and 170, or 1:50 000 Nos. 186 and 187, will be useful.

RECOLLECTIONS OF SEND SHORTLY AFTER THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

Part 2 - Shopping

It should be borne in mind that in the year 1900 there was no gas or electricity in the village - no cars, no refrigeration, no main drainage and no made up roads as today. All of this made shopping a very different proposition from what it is today and it was nearly all done in the village. The most important place to shop was the Post Office Stores, then known as the Surrey Trading Company, which combined all items of grocery with a small amount of haberdashery and was situated in the same place as today. There were no ready packed items, and there were several chairs in front of the counters for the use of customers. Behind the main counter were bow-fronted metal bins, painted in black and gold, to hold dry goods - rice, sugar, tea, etc. These were weighed up by the assistant and put into cones of thick blue paper twisted at the bottom and pinched and tucked in at the top. Seven-pound tins of biscuits were ranged along one side of the shop, and customers could choose from various kinds and have them weighed up. It was possible for children to buy a pennyworth of broken biscuits. Butter, cheese and bacon were arranged at the end of the counter and weighed and wrapped as required - absolutely no pre-packed items. The shop was lit by oil lamps and not heated at all. A man cycled round the outlying parts of the village, taking orders for groceries to be delivered next day, and collecting money for the previous week's order. Shops always stayed open late on Saturday nights, but were closed on Wednesday afternoons.

There was a small Sub Post Office in Potters Lane run by Mr Roake, who was the church verger as well as the Sub Post Master. He sold small items such as stationery, sweets and medicines which did not require prescriptions. The Royal Mail cart, painted scarlet and of course horse-drawn, called once every day on official business.

A further grocer's shop was owned by the Webb family at Cartbridge (now Quilter Cave Ltd), who were also bakers. Bread and cakes were made on the premises and hot cross buns, costing a halfpenny each in old money, were delivered to customers early on Good Friday.

There was a small thatched cottage (now Corner Cottage) at Send Marsh, used as a grocery shop, run by Mr & Mrs Collins. Probably their main customers were the gypsies employed by Mr Boorman at the nearby fruit farm to pick all kinds of soft fruit in season. They lived in tents, huts or caravans. These people were paid in metal discs of various values, which had to be saved and changed into cash on Saturdays (the Society possesses a number of these, which are available for inspection on application to the Secretary). When cash ran short, Miss Collins would accept these discs in lieu of cash and change them herself at the end of several weeks. She was a very quiet old-fashioned lady, wearing out of date clothes and always a hat, indoors or out. She was very polite and patient and was loved by all who knew her. The shop has now disappeared.

The Victoria Wine Shop at Mays Corner was then a very small old-fashioned off-licence, dairy and grocer's shop. It was very dark and gloomy and had a small iron gate shutting off the family living rooms. This was run by Mrs May and her daughters. The field beside the shop, now a row of council houses, was used as pasture for the cows, and was cleaned up on Saturday mornings for the football team's matches. The milk was sold from a small room behind the house - no bottles or deliveries.

The other village milk supply, apart from one or two home farms, came from Hillside Farm run by the Baigent family, who about ten years ago retired from the farm. Miss Lizzie Baigent drove a horse-drawn milk float around the village and measured the milk with a long-handled dipper - no milk bottles!

Most villagers at that time kept chickens and possibly a pig, and Mr Harris, employed by Glosters of Woking, drove a van supplying chicken and pig food. Another small van came from Harker's Stores in Woking, bringing things like soap and candles. He had a barrel fixed at the back containing paraffin. This was needed by householders because, as noted above, gas and electricity had not yet arrived.

Mr Charles Tice, uncle of the present partners in the building firm, was the local undertaker, making the coffins on the premises. He was also a coal merchant, although some coal came from Woking at 1s 3d old money for a 1 cwt bag. There were various small items, not catered for by the shops, which were supplied by separate traders. A gaily painted little cart, again horse-drawn, brought icecream. The driver rang the bell and customers rushed out with basins to buy a Sunday treat. Mr Wigman brought fish and greengrocery once a week, and the muffin man and the winkle and shrimp man also called on Sunday.

The amazing thing about all this was the almost total absence of hygiene, and yet there seemed to be no complaints of food poisoning.

Marjorie Sex

BIRD REPORT - MARCH/APRIL 1983

March

On the 3rd of the month there were six male shoveler on "Manor Lake" (O35563) with ten great crested grebe, all but one of which were in summer plumage. A lesser spotted woodpecker was calling by the river at Papercourt Lock, and there were also long tailed tits and a pair of grey wagtails displaying. A quick trip to East Horsley produced the hoped for sighting of hawfinches near Horsley Towers. On the 27th only a pair of shoveler proved of interest in the Papercourt area. On the 29th, after work, I watched a pair of common scoter on "Manor Lake": normally sea duck, a few cross the country on their way North in March and April. I saw a female common scoter here in 1979.

April

On the 1st of the month two chiffchaffs were located singing, one at Ripley Sewage Farm and one in the Papercourt area. Three shoveler on the "Duck Pit" (O35563), one cormorant flying North, three green sandpipers and a redshank were seen later at Ripley Sewage Farm. On the 2nd a little ringed plover was found on a ploughed field near Ben Turners. On the 3rd a male wheatear was found in a stubble field off Rose Lane, Ripley. On the 10th a sand martin flew North over Ripley Sewage Farm, where there were two shelduck and five green sandpipers. Four little ringed plovers were seen displaying on the 19th and there were swallows and sand martins present. On the 24th a redshank was on Ripley Sewage Farm with one green sandpiper. A corn bunting was singing at "Manor Lake" car park, where there had been two black redstarts one evening before I arrived. A little owl was seen at its nest in Tithe Barns Lane in the afternoon. On the 26th a lesser whitethroat took up residence in the Triangle Cafe car park: singing from a hawthorn bush, it was still present on the 28th.

On 1st May, precisely on schedule, the first swift was seen in the Papercourt area.

David Nurney

Editorial Note: A cuckoo was heard at Send Marsh on 23rd April.

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP - BEES AND THEIR FLORA

About 22 members met at Derek & Jill Bromley's house on 25th March and enjoyed a talk by Mr Tony West on the subject of "Bees and Their Flora".

Introduced by Derek, a former keen bee keeper, Tony began his talk by briefly outlining the history of the honey bee, *apis mellifera*, following with a fascinating description of life in the hive, and concluding with suggestions for helping bees by cultivating the most suitable flowers.

Traditionally the bee favoured by English bee keepers is the "British Black", a small rather aggressive but highly productive bee, but in 1922 this strain was virtually wiped out by a parasitic mite. Since then it has been replaced by the yellow and brown bee imported from Italy.

Bees collect pollen as food (protein) and nectar (carbohydrate), the nectar being converted from sucrose to fructose plus glucose. This is done by reducing the water content by evaporation when passing from bee to bee upon their tongues within the hive. In the process they add an enzyme called invertase, the result being a viscous liquid called honey. Pollen and honey are stored as food for the bees, and when required a small amount of pollen is mixed with honey to produce "bee bread", a food for bees in the larval stage. The adult bees' food requirements are frugal, although they must have water, which they obtain from dewdrops or shallow pools. They also produce a substance called propolis a sort of glue, which is used to modify or repair the hive.

Traditional hives were made from straw called "skeps", but these have gradually been replaced with the modern wooden movable frame hive, invented in 1874/5, which allows better access and is adjustable in size. Bees are social insects, conforming to an ordered regime. About 60,000 bees inhabit a hive, a few hundred of which are drones, male bees who do not work, but whose sole purpose is to mate the one queen bee, who will lay up to 1500 eggs a day. After mating the drones die or are killed, and in any event most of them are driven from the hive as winter approaches and activity diminishes. The work of looking after the hive, building the comb for storage and breeding, and foraging for nectar is divided between sterile female worker bees whose life span may be between 6 to 26 weeks. They literally work themselves to death. The queen survives for four to five years. Several new queens are bred by feeding with a special substance known as Royal Jelly. The first to emerge from a cell immediately kills the others and a new hierarchy begins. The eggs develop into larvae within three days and increase their weight 500 times within the next six days, after which they pupate for 12 days and emerge either as drones or worker bees.

The hive is maintained at a constant temperature of 30 degrees C., either by reducing the heat loss through the hive by forming a cluster, or by ventilating in hot weather, using their wings to fan cool air through the hive.

Bees work one type of flower at a time, scouter bees going to considerable trouble to indicate to worker bees the direction and source of

nectar by performing a complex dance within the hive. As each source becomes exhausted; so new ones are located. A cross section of a pollen store will reveal the varying coloured strata of the different flowers visited. For example, rosebay willowherb pollen is blue, horse chestnut is brick red, pussy willow bright yellow, bluebell cream, dandelion orange and so on.

The average yield of a hive in a season is 30 pounds of honey. In May, when bees are at their busiest, coinciding with the horse chestnut blossom (the so-called bee keeper's barometer), it is important to check the hive and add another super (section) to enable the colony to expand within and avoid the need to swarm and leave the hive.

Bees have a short proboscis, about 6 mm long, and so prefer flowers where nectar is accessible within this length. They are active throughout the year, although less so in winter, but they still require food, and flowers which bloom early or late in the year should be planted. Particularly suitable are snowdrops, aconite, crocus, daffodils, bluebells, single flowering cherry, anemones, gorse, heather, white dead nettle, ground ivy, veronica, violets, dandelions and many others.

The accompanying slides of many flowers and bee activities were a delight to see, and were ably presented by fellow apiarist Eric Piper. The evening concluded with a general discussion and a vote of thanks to Tony and Eric for their delightful and informative talk, and to Derek & Jill for their hospitality.

K. H. Bourne

THE RESOURCES OF GUILDFORD MUNIMENT ROOM - 22/3/83

Although some of our members have visited the Muniment Room at Quarry Street in Guildford for the purpose of checking details of local history, the resources and work carried out there were probably a mystery to the rest of us. Mrs Shirley Corke's lively description of her work as archivist, illustrated by 40 or more slides specially chosen for their local interest, gave some insight into the range of duties performed by the dedicated staff.

Mrs Corke and her fellow archivist, with the assistance of a secretary, are always busy, and their work load will shortly be increased, as the Muniment Room will be closed on Fridays as well as Mondays, due to a shortage of staff. Their time is principally taken up with inspecting records of all ancient parishes in the Guildford diocesan district, of which there are about 140. These records are collected, sorted and indexed under various headings and stored for safety in acid resistant boxes. Needless to say, space is becoming limited in the Muniment Room, as the first slides showed.

A recent unusual task for Mrs Corke and her colleague has been to visit the Hestair Dennis factory in Guildford to sort through stacks of boxes and files of the firm's records going back to the beginning of this century. There were drawings of all the parts ever designed and made by the firm and even of alterations of parts, and they only had one and a half hours to list everything.

Local churches have been a rich source of documentary information. A slide was shown of the first register of St Mary's Church, Guildford. This dates from 1591 and mentions the occupations of many Guildford fathers at that time, showing the importance of the cloth trade. Occupations taken from a register of St Nicholas's Church, Guildford, revealed urban trades such as painter, glazier, gardener and "gentleman".

Manorial records gave details of tenants' names, work they were given to do, and food and money to be provided, plus information on open fields and footpaths. Estate collections are valuable sources for local historians and a slide was shown of a 13th century deed, with many witnesses' names at the bottom, relating to Horton, which was between Gomshall and Abinger, but has now disappeared. An old map of Send was shown, featuring Alderton Farm and many other details. An interesting indenture, dating from the end of the 17th century, records the sale of timber to Lord Onslow - "205 oak timber trees from Frithys Wood and 44 from Durant Ride." Mrs Corke pointed out that this was just one example of how timber was continually being cut and depleted in Surrey. William Bray's volumes of collected papers contain many snippets of local interest, including an account of timber being sent from Lord Montague's estate in Sussex to the wharf in Send.

The only inventory in the Muniment Room relating to a local resident was a list of "goods, chattels and fixtures belonging to Thomas Burdock," a carpenter who lived in Ripley. This included his work benches and lathe, kitchen and parlour furniture, with a total value of £8 17s 6d.

The variety of slides shown by Mrs Corke proved how much local history could be discovered by searching through the archives in the Muniment Room, although she explained that the archivist's job is to conserve all documents and records, and not to find out history.

Anne Bowerman

AN EVENING OF RIPLEY HISTORY - 19/4/83

The open evening held on 19th April in Ripley Village Hall was attended by 91 people who listened to four short talks on different aspects of the history of the village. The following notes are by the speakers concerned.

The general picture was sketched by the Secretary, Les Bowerman. The first known reference to the locality is in a Saxon land charter of 960-2 where it is recorded that 20 hides of land at Sendan were bought by Archbishop Dunstan from Earl Aelfeah. The same figure is used in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when Reginald held it from Alfred of Marlborough, who in turn held it from the King. The Tithe Commissioners calculated that there were 2,395 acres of arable land in the parish in 1843. The exact meaning of a hide has been lost, but it is generally understood to be approximately 120 acres of arable land, which was regarded as the quantity necessary to support one family. Simple arithmetic shows that the amount of arable land was therefore similar and suggests that the present parishes of Send and Ripley have always comprised much the same area.

The oldest surviving building is the chancel of Ripley Church of about 1160, and the first mention of Ripley appears shortly after when in 1200 it is recorded that Ruald De Calna and Beatrice De Sandes gave the oratory of Ripelia with other property to the Augustinian canons to build a church in a New Place (i.e. Newark). The ancient route from London, possibly Romanised, cutting through the parish is crossed by a minor road, perhaps giving access for the builders of Chertsey Abbey (666 A.D.) to chalk quarries on the North Downs. This remote crossroads doubtless seemed to the monastic builders of 1160, maybe Augustinian canons from the abbey at Dorchester-on-Thames, a good situation from which to extend their work. The name may come from Rippa's Lea, meaning woodland or a clearing in woodland, or from Rippel, meaning a strip of woodland or a coppice.

From 1200 to the 1540's was the monastic period when the village was in its formative stage. The Priory would have been a very influential factor with its large church, extensive buildings, and important and educated people coming and going. Stalls were probably set up around the crossroads, particularly in the London direction, followed by shops built behind them to give the present basic layout of very wide verges. The first houses were timber-framed and open-halled, of which period a crosswing remains at Richardson's hardware shop, and Vintage Cottage is a good example of a Chaucerian house.

The 1540's to 1750 cover the Latin phase of the Manorial Court. It starts with the surrender of the Priory to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1539 and the grant of the extensive Priory lands to Henry VIII's Master of the Horse, Sir Anthony Browne. It covers the period when the remaining timber-framed houses were built, the Nundmay Fair was held, and the main road increased in national importance as Henry developed the British Navy at Portsmouth. The naval connection is still reflected in three inn names, the Ship, the Anchor and the Jovial Sailor. The road was in such a bad state that it took a whole day for the stage coach to travel the 30 miles from Guildford to London and two main meals had to be taken en route.

The mid 18th to mid 19th centuries can be regarded as the Turnpike Era. An Act was passed in 1724 to make up the road from Kingston to Burton (Burnt) Common, but nothing came of this. The 1749 Act was effective, which concerned the road from Kingston to Petersfield, and resulted in great improvement to the road surface, so much so that the "Rocket" was able to cover the 70 miles to Portsmouth in nine hours at a speed of about eight miles per hour. The Ripley Turnpike was just South-West of the Jovial Sailor and it is recorded (S.A.C. 35) that in 1763 the charge for a coach and pair was 9d with 13s 6d for a fresh pair of horses from the Talbot to Kingston and back. No doubt because of the ease of travel on the road by then, in 1813 Ripley became the post town for a wide area, including sleepy old Woking. Increased prosperity brought by the turnpike doubtless accounted for extensive building and rebuilding of houses at this time.

In 1838 the railway from Nine Elms in London reached Woking Common (and Southampton the following year). With the completion of the branch from Woking to Portsmouth in 1847, the bulk of the through traffic deserted the road with the result that by the 1860's it is recorded, rightly or wrongly, that at that time there was only one carrier per week through Ripley as opposed to a stated 27 coaches per day through Cobham in the 1820's. Then came the bicycles referred to below.

From 1895 motor traffic increased to such a pitch that, prior to the opening of the by-pass in 1975, it virtually bisected the village into two parts. In 1905 the Send & Ripley Parish Council Minute Book records a petition sent to the District Council from property owners and residents in the main street of Ripley to request that the road be covered with a "solution", as at Cobham, to prevent dust nuisance arising from motors. The surface was tarmacadamed in the 1920's.

The separate parishes of Send and Ripley were created ecclesiastically in 1879 and civilly in 1933.

St Mary's Church, Ripley

Ken Burns, Chairman of the Society, outlined the history and architectural features of the church. The charter of Beatrix de Sances, in 1210, refers to the church as the "paratory" of Ripley and its connection with the founding of Borek Priory by Augustinian black canons, or canons regular,

about 1190 A.D. These were followers of St Augustine of Hippo, 354-430 A.D. (festival day 28th August), and not St Augustine of Canterbury, who died in 605 A.D. The Prior was patron of the church in Send and the chapel in Ripley from its founding until the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in 1539. Indeed St Mary the Virgin, Send, was the mother church until the ecclesiastical separation in 1879.

The fact that there has been a right to hold an annual fair in Ripley since 1219 on St Mary Magdalen's Day has caused it to be conjectured that the hospice chapel had originally been dedicated to that particular saint.

R. N. Bloxam, who lived at Ripley Court, in his excellent booklet, "The Church and Parish of Ripley, Surrey", published in the early 1960's, refers to a mid 14th century deed, discovered in the 1930's, among Lord Spencer's manuscripts at Althorn in Northamptonshire. The deed is by one Geoffrey de Dine, a name connected with Dunsborough House, wherein a grant of a croft of land was made to the hospital and brethren of St Mary Magdalen at Ripley; the land was in the neighbourhood of Ripley House.

The distinguished antiquary, P. M. Johnston, in his article in Surrey Archaeological Collection Volume 16, quotes Edward VI's Commissioners in 1552, when valuing the goods of Send & Ripley, as stating of Ripley Chapel "one mile from the Parish Church, builded long time past for an Hospital and sithen altered; unto which Chapel the Parishioners dwelling nere have used for their own ease to resort to hear Divine Service."

In 1823 Cracklow made a drawing of Ripley Chapel, showing the South-East view of the building. It then consisted of a chancel and nave built in the Early English period (although we know the North side of the chancel, not shown in the drawing, is Norman). In 1846 the nave was pulled down and rebuilt, when the vestry was also added. Due to shortage of accommodation, the South aisle was added in 1869.

The most interesting part of the present church is undoubtedly the chancel, which is principally Norman, dating from 1160 A.D. In the North wall are two round-headed Norman windows, constructed from Bargate stone, rebated externally for shutters or glass. These windows are splayed and dressed internally with hard chalk with beautifully carved roll mouldings and nook shafts with elegant capitals. Opposite, in the South-East end of the chancel wall, is a typical lancet Early English window, splayed internally, the jambs terminating in roll moulding. The South-West chancel window is similar, but has plain jambs, like those in Send Church. The triple lancet East window is early 13th century, replacing the Norman windows. The circular window above is Norman, but the tracery is modern. In the South-West corner is a narrow 13th century priest's door leading to the modern vestry. Originally this door would have served as the incumbent's private entrance to the chapel. Above this door is an escutcheon, depicting the arms of the Onslow family, dated 1575. This is identical to an escutcheon in Send Church dated 1560 and attributed to Roger Onslow. This family became patrons of both churches in the 18th century, and no doubt the presence of these arms dates from this period.

The most notable features of the chancel are the Norman string course, carved with a flower motif enclosed within a crossover band design, itself carved with a lozenge pattern. This has been worked in that durable but expensive material imported from Caen in France. Built at the same time, and no less interesting, are the triple shaft piers, with scallop capitals and angle spur bases, all in hard chalk, typical of Norman work. These triple shafts are located on either side and in the centre of the North and South walls of the chancel, and a further four single columns are placed in

the four corners of the chancel, suggesting that the original purpose was to support a two-bay vaulted roof. There is doubt as to whether this vaulting was ever carried out here, although an example of a single-bay vault exists in Compton Church.

In 1934, during repairs, and as predicted by P. M. Johnston, four recesses were uncovered beneath the plaster in the chancel. These can be seen today and may be coeval with the Norman build, although the trefoil-headed piscina in the East wall suggests a later insertion. The rectangular recess behind the altar was an aumbry used for holding sacred vessels or relics and once had double doors. The square recess in the North wall may have served as an Easter Sepulchre and the similar recess in the South wall contained a shelf for resting the cruets. The situation of the piscina so close to the present floor suggests that the original chancel floor was lower.

The question remains - why build what appears to be the beginning or remnants of a high quality building which, after its dedication as an oratory, became within a few years a hospice and chapel of ease. Did the founders of Newark Priory commence building in Ripley and then abandon the site for a new work at Aldebury? Ken concluded by expressing the hope that further research may one day reveal the original purpose of the chapel of Ripley.

Ripley Houses

Most of the houses described in the talk by John Slatford had been reported in earlier Newsletters. The opportunity was taken to remind members of these and others less well known with a number of slides. Ripley possesses buildings representative of all periods from the 14th century. Some are what they appear to be, but many are not, having been subject to change after change through the years. Vintage Cottage in Rose Lane is probably the oldest house in Ripley, being an externally unaltered, but internally modernised, open hall crown post dwelling of two bays.

The London end of Richardsons hardware shop is a crown post crosswing of similar or slightly later date to Vintage Cottage. The remainder of Richardsons, however, is of more recent construction. It would seem that Conisbee's butcher's shop was built in the late 16th or early 17th century as a crosswing to an earlier house, although externally there is little sign of this. Cedar House and Tudor House, originally the George Inn, were much altered in the 19th century. The building, dating from the early 17th century, had what is known as an interrupted or dropped tie beam roof, an early method of incorporating an additional floor into an otherwise restricted roof space. Parallel wall plates, about two feet apart at the original eaves level, provide the external clue to this form of roof. Across the road the Manor House, one of the finest buildings in Ripley, is again not what it seems. The fine brick front with its Dutch style gables, of late 17th century construction, in fact conceals an earlier timber frame, evidence of this is visible in one of the upstairs rooms.

Of the many interesting buildings in Newark Lane, good examples are: the workhouse built in 1738 and now known as Wisteria Cottages, the brick and slate building constructed perhaps in the late 18th century to house the village fire pump and now used as a garage, and Rose Cottage, possibly a 17th century crosswing.

It was also interesting to compare Ripley High Street at the turn of the century, using slides taken from old postcards and similar pictures of the present day. Surprisingly, perhaps, much remains unchanged!

Ripley - "A Cyclists' Haunt"

The final talk was given by the Secretary, who observed that whereas many guide books mention the early cyclists' connection with Ripley, very few details are ever given. He and two colleagues in the Ripley Section of the Southern Veteran-Cycle Club have researched this and the principal "milestones" were presented to the meeting.

The German, Baron von Drais was the principal inventor of the bicycle when in 1817 he produced a steerable two-wheeled vehicle, propelled by striking the feet on the ground. It became known as the hobby or dandy horse, but was virtually killed off by ridicule. Pierre Michaux, a Paris coach maker, was the second main inventor when in 1861 he attached pedals to the front axle of a hobby horse to produce the velocipede or boneshaker. In 1869 such machines became the rage in this country and were for sale in both Kingston and Guildford. The London-to-Portsmouth road, with its magnificent surface, was virtually deserted, and therefore tailor-made for this form of transport. In 1873, when the high bicycle was being developed from the boneshaker, Charles Innes, in "The Public Recreator", describes a ride down through Ripley, "a pleasant straggling little village". By July 1876 the Wanderers' Bicycle Club of Merton were arranging runs to Ripley, and in August that year the Surrey B.C. held their captaincy race from the Griffin at Kingston to Guildford and back to Ripley. In an interview in 1918 Alf Dibble claimed that the Surrey B.C. "discovered" the anchor in 1877 when they held a race over the same course. In 1879 "Bicycling News" was reporting that the Anchor, the Talbot and the Hautboy at Ockham were all very busy with bicyclists, and indeed at Whitsun all the accommodation was full of London men, as a tourist found.

At Christmas 1882 the Temple Bicycle Club spent a very jolly time at the Anchor and presented Mrs Harriet Dibble with a barometer for her kindness to them. The barometer is still with her descendant in Ripley today. That same year Herbert Liddell Cortis, the "Long Wanderer" (he was 6' 2" tall and could therefore ride a very high machine, which meant a higher gear), became the first person to ride 20 miles in an hour when he achieved this feat in a paced race at the Crystal Palace track. He emigrated to Australia shortly after and died from a horseriding accident in 1885. His admirers set up a subscription fund, which resulted in the stained glass rose window in the East end of the South aisle in Ripley Church. One hundred years ago this year the London Tricycle Club held a 24 hour tricycle race from Caterham to Salisbury, finishing at Ripley. In 1886 the Ripley Road Club was formed for the "best Metropolitan riders", but it lasted only three or four years. Also in that year Mrs Harriet Dibble presented the "Anchor Shield" to be competed for in a one mile handicap race at the Southern Counties Cyclists' Camp at Guildford. The shield, now owned by the British Cycling Federation, was shown to the meeting - probably the first time for 98 years that it has been shown to the public in Ripley. After Mrs Dibble died later that year, her daughters, Harriet and Annie, continued the tradition of hospitality to cyclists, and after their deaths, in 1895 and 1896 respectively, a window was erected in their memory in the South side of the South aisle of the church.

Although the Reverend Henry Cooper, Vicar of Ripley at the time, did not really approve of general Sunday cycling, he nevertheless sent into the Anchor invitations to the cyclists to come to the church for special services; and in 1889 they presented him with a writing table and a Hammond typewriter as a testimonial. There was clearly close co-operation between church and pub.

In 1890 there was even a "Ripley" racing tricycle on which a number of national records were established, among them some by S. F. Edge, who later became famous as a racing motorist and designer. The Ripley Tricycle was designed and built in Coventry by the Rudge Cycle Company Limited. By the 1890's Ripley, and in particular the Anchor, were famed throughout the cycling world, so much so that the Earl of Albemarle said that it was the "Mecca of all good cyclists".

A number of the visitors' books signed by cyclists in the 1880's and 1890's, some containing 4,000 plus signatures, are still at the Anchor.

The evening concluded with a lively question and answer session.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mr & Mrs J. L. Lawes, Woodhill House, Woodhill, Send.
Mrs J. Rowe, 109 Georgelands Estate, Ripley.
Mr & Mrs B. Telford, 14 Beech Drive, Ripley.
Mr T. Morrison, Ye Olde Sweete Shoppe, High Street, Ripley.
Ms V. H. Tapp, Ye Olde Sweete Shoppe, High Street, Ripley.
Mr & Mrs H. C. Sage, The Green Cottage, High Street, Ripley.
Mr & Mrs W. G. Daniel, Ripley House, Ripley.
Mr & Mrs J. Bartlett, Little Ripley House, Ripley.
Mr & Mrs C. Smith, Yew Tree House, High Street, Ripley.
Mr W. E. Styles, Tannery Lane, Send.
Mr C. Godsmark, 139A Send Road, Send.

We record with sadness the death recently of our member, Harold Timmings, and extend our sympathy to Marie.

Headed Notepaper

The Committee has had a new batch of headed notepaper printed. It incorporates a sketch of Newark Priory, the most significant historical feature in the ancient parish of Send & Ripley. Sheets are available from the Secretary to anybody writing on Society business.

Manorial Court Place Names Index

An index to all the place, field and property names in the Court Rolls of the manor of Ripley and Send for the 200 year period from 1533 to 1733 has been produced by the Documentary Group. Copies are available for inspection from John Slatford, Ken Bourne and the Secretary, as are the translated Rolls themselves.

Copies have been deposited in the Guildford Muniment Room, and the Surrey Archaeological Society Library.

Volunteers for Copying Documents

Bette & John Slatford (Guildford 222107) would be pleased to hear from anybody who would like to assist the work of the Documentary Group by copying documents at the Guildford Muniment Room. Copying can be both interesting and tedious, but the atmosphere is congenial. The task would suit anybody with spare time who enjoys wielding a pencil.

Les Bowerman

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday, 26th May ... Evening visit to Newark Priory. Meet in the car park South of the traffic lights (039574).
- Tuesday, 7th June ... Buildings Group meeting at 8 p.m. at "Beltwood", Send Marsh Road (the last bungalow on the right before Bentinck Nursery), by courtesy of Eric Bottomley.
- Sunday, 12th June ... Buildings Group visit to the Godalming area to inspect a number of Victorian farm buildings. Meet at 1.30 p.m. at Send Marsh Green.
- Thursday, 16th June ... Committee meeting at 8 p.m. at Heath Farm, Tannery Lane, by courtesy of Ken Bourne.
- Sunday, 19th June ... All day outing to trace sections of the Roman Stane Street from Chichester to Ockley, including a visit to the Roman Villa at Bignor. For details see page 1.
- Thursday, 7th July ... Evening visit to Esher (15th century Waynffletes Tower - palace of the Bishop of Winchester, etc.) and Cobham if time. Meet at Send Marsh Green at 7 p.m. sharp.
- Sat./Sun., 9th/10th July ... Not a S.R.H.S. event, but members may be interested to look at the veteran machines at the camping weekend on Ripley Green organised by the Ripley Section of the Southern Veteran-Cycle Club. Best viewing time approximately 10 a.m. on Sunday.
- Wed./Sat., 13th/16th July ... A Victorian Extravaganza, presented by the National Trust, at Claremont Landscape Garden - entertainment, spectacle, fireworks, from 7.30 p.m. onwards each evening. Tickets £4 each - Victorian costume suggested. Any members interested may like to make up a party on the Wednesday. Further details and application forms from the Secretary.
- Saturday, 16th July ... Ripley Summer Event in the afternoon. The Society will have a stall, and it is hoped that among other books for sale will be the Society's first guide to A. J. Munby's walks in and around Ripley in the 1860's.
- Tuesday, 2nd August ... Buildings Group meeting at 8 p.m. at 15 Kevan Drive, by courtesy of Bette & John Slatford.
- Sunday, 11th September ... Afternoon visit to the site of the Tudor palace of Woking. Our member, Nan Hawkins, who is leader of the Archaeological Group of the Mayford & Woking District History Society, will act as guide.
- Tuesday, 20th September ... Open meeting at the Red Cross Hall, Sandy Lane, at 8 p.m. Details later.
- Tuesday, 18th October ... Open meeting at 8 p.m. at the Red Cross Hall, when Mr R. Schueller will speak about the history of Chobham and some of the Chobham families.
- Tuesday, 15th November ... Open meeting at 8 p.m. at the Red Cross Hall. Details later.
- Tuesday, 20th December ... Annual social at the Red Cross Hall.