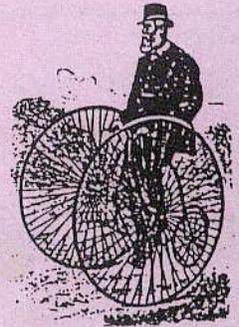
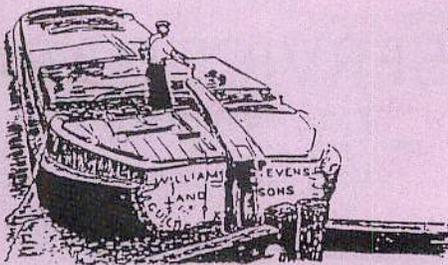
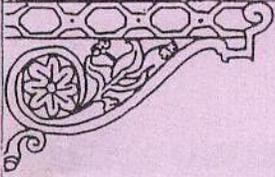
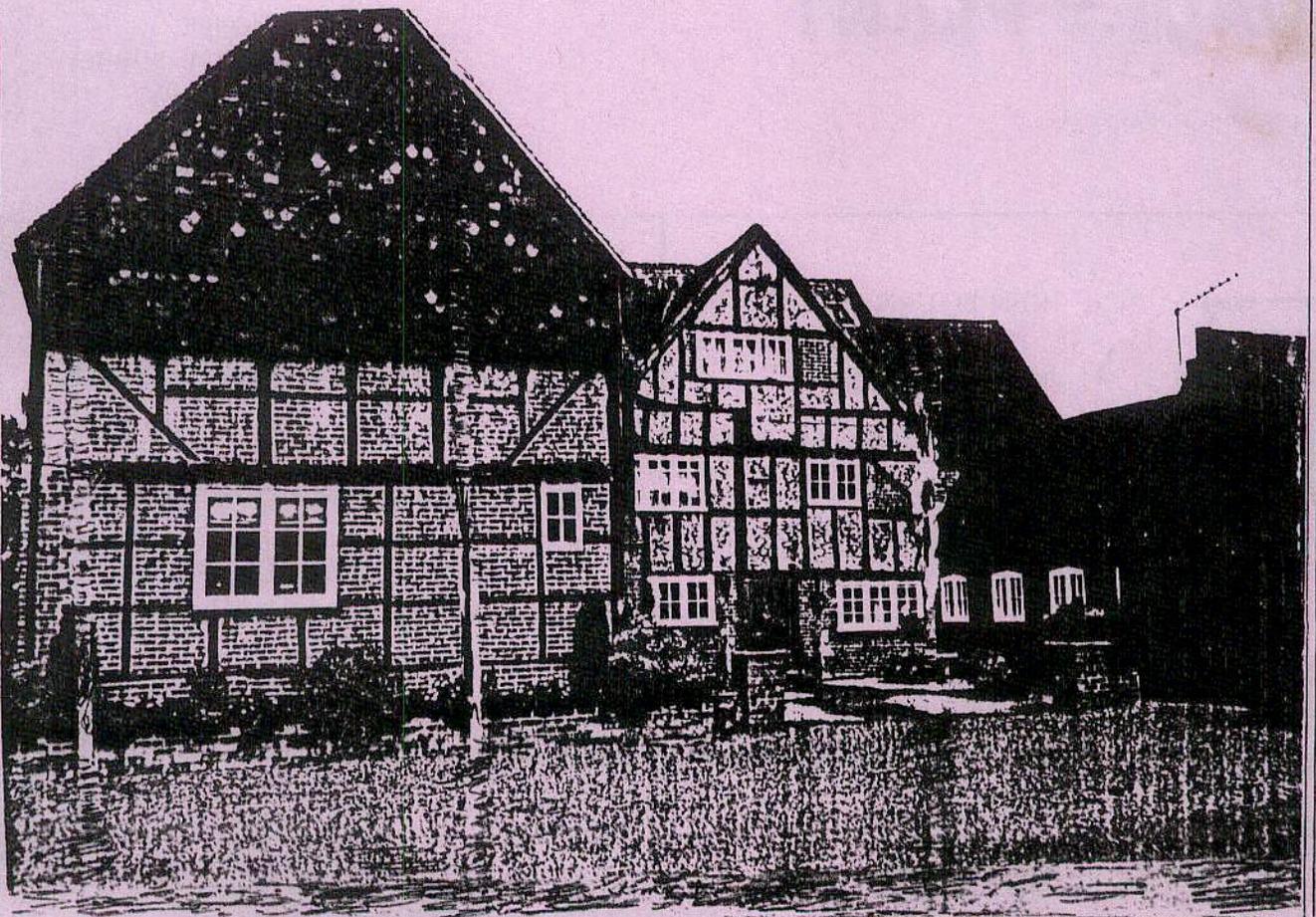


# Send & Ripley History Society



Newsletter No.91

March/April 1990



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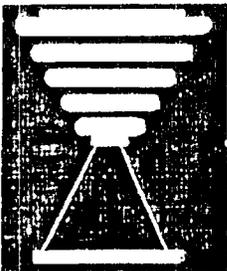
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# Send & Ripley History Society

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March/April 1990

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**Cover Illustration:** This shows Homewood Farm, Ripley, which dates mainly from the 16th/17th century, taken from a recent photograph, kindly loaned by Mr P S Rubin, the present owner.

## SPOONS FOR THE WORKHOUSE

An Illustrated Talk by Dr Ron Cox

Notes by Ken Bourne

On 12 December Dr Ron Cox gave an intriguing and accomplished account of the social history of the poor, a revealing insight into society's attitudes towards this perennial problem.

In the middle ages the monasteries tended to look after the poor, although legally the responsibility was that of the Lord of the Manor. After the suppression of the monasteries, a difficult period for the poor followed. Although a series of Acts were passed, these did no more than tinker with the problem. In 1601 there came the great Poor Law Act, the foundation of the poor law institution for the next 200 years. The problem then, as now, was to distinguish between the "can't work" and "won't work". Basically, in each year the churchwardens and between two to four substantial householders would be nominated by the parish as overseers of the poor. In practice it was difficult to find more than one or two substantial householders. Nomination had to go to a Justice of the Peace for confirmation. The overseers were charged with the duty of maintaining and setting to work the poor of the parish. The sick and infirm were to be maintained by the parish and the able-bodied were set to work with materials given as necessary. Children whose parents could not support them were set to work. This required money, which was raised by taxation on every person occupying land or a house within the parish. The "poor rate", as it was known, was to be collected by the overseers and accounted for by them each year.

Ideally the books were supposed to balance, ie income from the poor rate should be sufficient to meet the needs of the poor. Here was a piece of legislation embodying considerable optimism, for, as was not surprising, seldom, in fact, did the books balance. If the Lord of the Manor approved, houses could be built on wasteland for the "impotent" poor, known as poor-houses. In some cases existing cottages were purchased or leased for this purpose. Beddington is one example, and Ripley too had its poor-houses (adjoining, and eventually becoming part of, the Anchor public house; much later, in the first half of the 18th century, poor-houses were provided in Newark Lane, now Nos 42-48). Overseers' accounts, many of which are in the County Record Offices, show that they often had difficulty in collecting the poor rate. The overseers were unpaid, untrained and unwilling people who had this duty thrust upon them. They often did not keep very good books, eg Wallington "1786 John Gale the rates not to be got as books being mislaid". Overseers were also slow to pay bills. Not surprisingly, in 1662 the most important poor law enactment was introduced, the Law of Settlement and Removal. Any stranger settling in a parish could be removed by order of the Justices unless:

1. He/she rented a Tenement at £10 per year, then they could stay.
2. Or if they produced security which would indemnify the parish against the need to support them, called a Settlement Certificate. Even for a temporary stay, such as working on the harvest, a certificate was necessary. A further Act of 1685 was introduced to overcome the practice of clandestine residings.

For it was possible before the Act to take up residence in a parish, and if undiscovered for a year and a day, the person or persons could stay and would become the responsibility of the parish. This came about for various reasons, not the least being that some parishes had better facilities for the poor than others. Only one place of settlement was allowed. In cases of dispute over the place of settlement, the matter was decided by a board of examiners, who then either accepted the persons or arranged for them to return to the parish of origin. Several examples of dispute as to parish responsibility were given. One example related to one Anne Martin and her sons, James and Samuel. Anne married James Martin, a soldier in the 1st Battalion of the Royal Scots. In 1806 he was stationed at Demerera in the West Indies. He had subsequently deserted his wife, and she was sent in February, with her sons, to Sanderstead in Surrey. That parish threw her out, and by the following November she was at Beddington. Beddington decided that Eye in Suffolk was her proper place of residence, so she was sent there. Eye sent her back to Beddington. After considerable examination by Beddington overseers, it was decided to send Anne and her children to Diss in Norfolk, where she appears to have remained. As it is seen, considerable effort and expenses were incurred in establishing what was considered to be, after examination, the proper place of residence. Between 1776 and 1815, the expenditure nationally incurred in litigation between parishes rose from £45,000 to £287,000. These sums of money, if spent on the poor, would have gone some way to alleviating the poverty. It is said that parish constables spent a great deal of their time escorting migrants through a parish to ensure they did not stop on the way.

An interesting problem arose when the boundary of a parish ran through the middle of a house. The difficulty of deciding which parish the occupant resided in was resolved by stipulating that it depended upon where the occupant had his bed, ie where he slept. One can imagine all kinds of problems that could arise in agreeing the position of the bed. By the early 1800s the need for greater and greater administration was proving too much and the system began to collapse.

Constant references to illegitimacy was not so much a moral matter as more a concern of finance, since if you were illegitimate the place of settlement was where you were born. In the case of legitimate births, your place of settlement was in your father's parish. Hence the indignation of the parish towards "lewd" women, since the parish became responsible for the maintenance of the child and its mother. Parish overseers went to great lengths to avoid becoming the unwitting recipient of bastard children as charges to the parish. Escorting the mother and unborn child out of the parish by order of the magistrate could take time, sometimes proving impossible.

To overcome this problem, an Act of 1732 decreed that a woman pregnant with a bastard child must declare herself so and she must name the father. This, of course, led to many difficulties, particularly in the naming of the father. The records are full of references to the alleged father, and denials, and the subsequent problems of establishing the domicility of the yet to be born child. For the law maintained that in the case of bastard children the parish where the child was born was responsible for that child for 15 years, if in need of care.

In the event of the mother and child being in need of care, they were sent to the poor-house, or workhouse, as it later became known. The authorities grew aware that it was not easy to organise labour in the workhouse to bring in an income. Thus in 1792 an Act called "Gilberts Act" stated "only the aged, the impotent and children need enter the workhouse". The able-bodied could instead have what was called "out relief" in money or kind. The Oxted Overseers' records, a fine collection, at Kingston Record Office provide evidence of expenses being paid for the sick and infirm. Also many cases of doctors' bills being paid by the overseers for those sick in the care of the workhouse. In some instances, permanent inmates can be traced in the records from the cradle to the grave. Cases of overseers being asked to pay hospital bills were also not uncommon. On 8 February 1830, Sister Powell, of St Bartholomew's Hospital, wrote to the Oxted overseers, concerning a patient "Gentleman, William Smith has been in the hospital nine weeks and is now getting better. His washing is 9 pence per week and his tea and sugar 1 shilling per week making together 15s and 9d, which we will be glad to receive from you as soon as convenient. Mr Surgeon Winson is thinking of moving him to Margate Infirmary as soon as the weather is warmer." The Oxted overseer refused to pay because Mr Smith had not been forwarded to the hospital by a parish officer and they needed to know the reason for the charge. The hospital administrator replied, advising that the charges were over and above those normally absorbed by the hospital, ie these were considered luxuries. The unfortunate Mr Smith was then sent to Guy's Hospital, where his hand was amputated, and once again he pleaded for assistance, apparently to no avail, and the final outcome is not recorded. Then came the 1834 Poor Law Act, merging the 14,000 parishes in the country into 585 unions. This then resulted in a smaller number of parish unions, one workhouse serving several parishes, and collectively known as "poor law union workhouses". Each union had a board of guardians, elected by substantial ratepayers. These workhouses were designed to make occupancy unattractive, although some tried, within limited means, to be fair and just.

Returning to the title of this talk, the accounts for the workhouse in Keston, near Bromley, Kent, gives two entries for expenditure in 1714, viz "Paid for porridge pot for workhouse 1 shilling and 4 pence. Paid for two spoons and two pans and a dish 6 pence", an entry which seems to look forward more than a hundred years, when Charles Dickens wrote "Oliver Twist".

Note: Bringing this historical account concerning care for the "socially deprived" up to date, the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 abolished poor relief on a parish basis and created the unions of several parishes under a single workhouse. These were managed by boards of guardians locally and the Poor Law Commission nationally. From 1847, the Commission became the Poor Law Board, and from 1891 to 1919 it became the Local Government Board, and in 1929 was administered by the Ministry of Health.

Further reading on this subject:-

"Poor Relief in England and Wales 1601-1634", by G W Oxley - David & Charles.

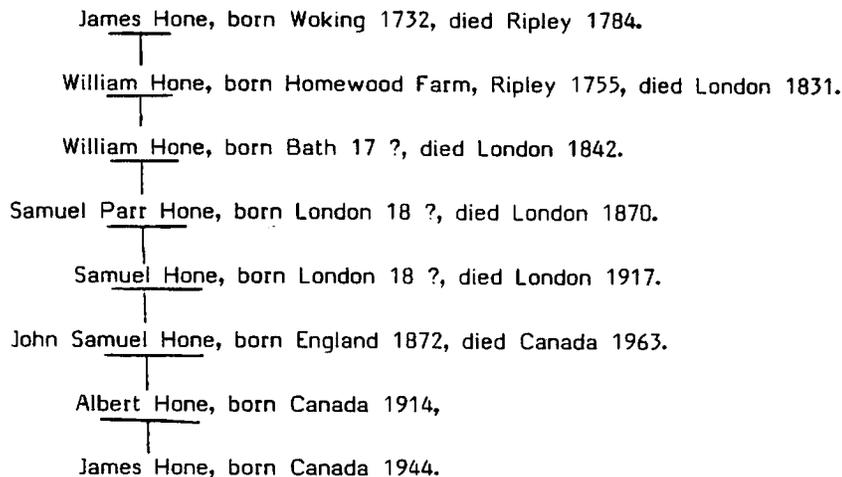
"Sources for English Local History", by W B Stephens - OUP.

## THE HONE FAMILY AND HOMEWOOD FARM

In the course of our study of local family history, Bette and I have corresponded with, and occasionally met, people with Send and Ripley interests from many parts of the world. One of the latter is Jim Hone, a third generation Canadian whom I met by chance in the Local Studies Room in 1987. In his family research, he has traced back to his 5 X great grandfather, James Hone, born in Woking, and who came to Homewood Farm in Ripley as a tenant farmer. We have tried to go back even further with Jim, but, so far, without success, except to establish that they were probably in Horsell and/or Bisley.

Jim's 3 X great grandfather was William Hone, a man prominent, albeit controversially, in literary and journalistic circles in the early 19th century.

Briefly, the family tree is as follows:-



We have been fortunate in persuading Jim to write for us about his ancestors. In the first part, which follows, he deals with William Hone, the writer. In the second part, which will appear in a future issue, Jim will be describing his ancestral connection with Ripley.

John Slatford

### THE FAMILY OF HONE: PART 1, WILLIAM THE WRITER

By Jim Hone

William Hone, one of the more prominent and extremely controversial literary and journalistic figures of early 19th century England, had family roots in Ripley, Surrey. Although he was born in Bath and lived most of his life in and immediately around London, one of the final missions of his life was to visit the place of his father's birth. He recorded the event in his final publication - "The Early Life and Conversion of William Hone, by Himself, edited by his son, Wm. Hone. 1841."

Although the son had outstripped the father in terms of worldly accomplishments, fame and recognition, Hone wanted the world to know about the devout, steadfast man who had been born in Ripley almost a century before. It was his special tribute. his way of acknowledging publicly that his late father's profound faith and simple way of life, although in sharp contrast to his own personal trials, turbulent public career and tormented irreligion, had equal merit. His father was as much deserving of a printed memorial as he was. This is William Hone's tribute to his father, William Hone of Ripley.

"He was ever kind to all. His honesty, love of truth, and integrity, were inflexible. In difficulties, he left all to God, and in all he was marvellously helped: he literally lived a life of faith, and while counted a fool, was wise. It often seems that he would be overwhelmed, yet he never suffered from distress. He had great domestic affliction; walked about with his children dying in his arms, and smiling through his tears; was poor, yet never wanted; wearied heaven with his prayers till they were answered; and read one book only - his Bible."

William Hone's lifelong struggle to come to terms with the Christian faith of his father ended in victory when he died a year after writing this.

Before describing Hone's connection to Ripley, a little summary of his career:

A social and political reformer, bookseller, journalist, publisher, pamphleteer, folklorist and antiquarian, Hone's output was prolific and his mark on his times profound. He is justly accorded recognition as a "maker of 19th century culture" (the title of a recent book which includes his story).

William Hone is distinguished in British history as a champion in the battle for the freedom of the press; and especially for his victorious self-defence in a landmark series of trials at the end of 1817, first before Mr Justice Abbott, and then before the Lord Chief Justice Ellenborough. The crusaders for reform were delighted with this positive turn of events. The poet, Shelley, for instance, gladly contributed £5 to the fund which was established for him after his ordeal, through the efforts of Sir Francis Burdett, Robert Waithman (later Lord Mayor of London), Lord Cochrane and others. Coleridge defended him publicly in a letter to the Chronicle, and Keats exulted in his victory as reflected in his letters to his brother, and in the inspiration he received to write the poem "Nebuchadnezzar's Dream" to celebrate the occasion.

In continuing opposition, however, were the likes of the Poet Laureate, Robert Southey, who was outspoken in his antipathy to what Hone represented - upsetting the old order. So were the Wordsworths.

The charges laid against him had been "blasphemous libel" for a series of riotous pamphlets he had brought out earlier in the year. In the form of parody, a mode in which he was particularly adept, he mercilessly lampooned the Government, led by Liverpool, Canning, Sidmouth and Castlereagh; as well as the pleasure-loving Prince Regent. Several titles convey the tone of his assault: "The Late John Wilkes's Catechism of a Ministerial Member; The Sinecurist's Creed or Belief; The Political Litany; and View of the Regent's Bomb, Now Uncovered for the Gratification of the Public in St James's Park". His journal, "Hone's Reformists' Register", the publication of which had been supported by Francis Place and his patron, the philosopher, Jeremy Bentham, had effectively complemented his all-out war of words on the Government for most of the year.

The authorities, led by Lord Sidmouth, had thought that they could easily silence him through the libel laws. But in vain. To their chagrin, Hone opened the floodgates to waves of unprecedented public criticism of the prevailing social and electoral systems. He stimulated the escalating political agitation of the day. And for the next several years, through his relentless pen and his press, working out of quarters in Fleet Street and then Ludgate Hill, Hone was in the forefront of the unstoppable political process which culminated in the Great Reform Act of 1832.

As a historical coincidence, another famous son of Surrey, William Cobbett, whom Hone knew well, had been similarly charged in 1810, unfortunately, with different results. Trying to defend himself, he lost and had to spend the next two years of his life in gaol. When he saw the same potential for trouble looming in 1817, he fled the country. Leigh Hunt and John Hunt of The Examiner, also Hone's friends, had suffered a similar fate. So, the risks Hone took in the battle for a free press were indeed grave and perilous. Compelled by principle, to him they were worth it.

Hone's resulting fame and some degree of fortune kept him in the political arena for another few years, a period in which he collaborated with the great caricaturist, George Cruikshank. Their steady stream of squibs and pamphlets entertained the common people and provoked their oppressors. Some of the best known were "The Political House that Jack Built", following Peterloo in 1819, "The Bank Restriction Note not to Be Imitated" and "The Queen's Matrimonial Ladder" in 1820, on the occasion of the Queen Caroline affair. He also published William Hazlitt's "Political Essays" in 1819.

An unfortunate foray into further religious controversy in 1820, through a book he assembled and called "The Apocryphal New Testament", got him into deep trouble with religious leaders and critical journals, such as the "Quarterly Review". Although he redeemed himself in many eyes with a book called "Ancient Mysteries Described", which he issued in 1823, he never was able to shake off the image of blasphemer, atheist, and irreligious radical. It cost him dearly.

Hone eventually retired from the forefront of politics and controversy to embark on a career in a field he loved - what we now term "folklore". He was one of the earliest British folklorists in the tradition of Brand

and Ellis, and later Chambers, providing his avid readers with lively information on their heritage and customs in serial publications he called "The Everyday Book", "The Table Book" and "The Year Book". These were published between 1825 and 1832 and are now standard works in libraries around the English speaking world. One of his closest friends and collaborators during these years was Charles Lamb. Former antagonists, Robert Southey and William Wordsworth, were avid readers; as was Sir Walter Scott, who commented favourably.

Unfortunately, the effort and financial commitment involved in these works eventually led to his bankruptcy, from which he never really recovered. His large family of 12 suffered the penalty of his failure. His last years were spent in poverty and in hack work, made endurable only by his remarkable religious conversion and the generosity of friends. Cruikshank and Charles Dickens attended him in his last illness, and were at his funeral in Tottenham at the end of 1842.

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## 100 YEARS AGO - EXTRACTS FROM "BICYCLING NEWS" 1890

Contributed by Les Bowerman

April 5th

There were simply hundreds of well-known men out on the Ripley Road this week, and the Mecca of all good cyclists was crowded. A very warm crowd "hurried" back, C. A. Smith, on the balloon tyre, being, of course, expected to come in first by a mile or so, as Smith is very little, if anything, behind our best man, and is quite as forward in condition after his long spins of late. Moreover, the last part of the journey is just that sort of bumpy macadam on which this patent should score. Strange to say, however, S. F. Edge, on a mere solid-tyred M. and C. safety had the cheek to finish rather a long way in front; whilst P. C. Wilson on a solid-tyred "Whippet" was there or thereabouts.

NB: The "balloon tyre" is, of course, the pneumatic rubber tyre invented by John Boyd Dunlop in 1888 and at this time just beginning to come into use. L G B.

April 12th

By special act of grace on the part of Messrs. Marriott and Cooper, one of the new cushion-tyred "Ripley" tricycles was ridden for experimental purposes on Saturday week by one of the N.R.-cum-Stanley tricyclists. The following is his opinion of it:- "M. and C.'s new cushion tyres are not so enormous as the Pneumatic, but are not, on the other hand, so effective in getting rid of vibration. They are more comfortable than solid tyres, but less luxurious than the 'life-buoys.' The roughness of a bad road which makes an ordinary machine traverse a succession of V.'s is modified by a cushion tyre into a row of U.'s and in the case of the Pneumatic is almost done away with altogether."

NB: In 1883 Tom Marriott won a 24 hour tricycle race which finished in the Ripley area, final refreshments having been taken at the Anchor. Thereafter he teamed up with Fred Cooper to sell inter alia the "Ripley" tricycle. It was exceptionally light for the time and was actually designed and built in Coventry by the Rudge Cycle Co Ltd. One of its successful users was S F Edge, who later went on to great things at Brooklands in motor cars. The "cushion" tyre was made of hollow rubber. L G B.

May 10th - the First Cyclists' Service at Ripley (in 1890)

This was not so well attended as we hoped it would have been, having regard to the number of cyclists present in the village. We really think wheelmen might spare the brief space of time necessary to attend, and thus encourage the Vicar in his broad-minded course. Mrs. Riminton of Brockley very ably officiated at the organ. In his address Mr. Hooper referred in feeling terms to the death of the bright little lad, Edward Collier, who always blew the organ at the cyclists' services. The poor little fellow died of consumption, and was buried shortly after the conclusion of the cyclists' service.

## THE HISTORY OF FOOD FROM ELIZABETH I TO ELIZABETH II

### Final Part of a Talk Given by Anne Bowerman at the AGM

Appropriately for 27 February, Shrove Tuesday, the lecture began with a slide depicting pancakes and waffles shown on a 400 years old painting. Pancakes have been eaten since Roman times. The Olney Pancake Day Race commemorates the occasion in 1445 when the shroving bell was rung in this Berkshire village and one woman rushed to church in her apron with a pan.

#### 16th Century

At this time food eaten was similar to that in mediaeval times. Main items were roast and boiled meat, poultry, fish, potages, frumenty (wheat cooked in milk), bread, ale, wine and some fruit and vegetables. Exotic vegetables began to be introduced. These included tomatoes, kidney beans and potatoes, but these were only for the rich. Sugar also began to be available for aristocracy. At the end of the Tudor period, the thick wholemeal bread trenchers had given way to thin, square wooden boards with a hollow. These were used before plates became popular.

#### The 17th Century (Stuart Period)

This was a time of expansion and change. Regular trade with new countries meant that the rich had a wider variety of foods. However, three quarters of the population were poor, living in hovels in the country or slums in the towns. Ten per cent of the population lived in London. Townpeople were not very healthy. They ate white bread, whereas farmers lived on rye or barley bread. For townspeople, there were few vegetables and fruits, which resulted in scurvy and bad teeth and skin. Common food was bread, pastry, meat, poultry, fish, sweetmeats, but very few dairy foods. Consequently, there were vitamin deficiencies. Then came a rise in market gardening, with fruit and vegetables sold in Covent Garden from 1630 onwards. Potatoes were still not generally popular. A shortage of wood in the South-East resulted in more cauldron cookery, with several things being cooked together in one pot. Joints of meat would be cooked in boiling water with pot herbs and puddings in cloths. Roasting was done with joints of meat on long iron spits rotated by a turnspit or even by a little dog. It could take four to five hours. The weight-driven clockwork jack was invented at this time. Coal gradually replaced wood as fuel for cooking and heating. This resulted in altered hearths, with a raised grid for coals and air space underneath with a door. The resultant fierce heat and flames tended to burn pans. Forks were introduced early in this period, resulting in cleaner eating. Plates began to be used in 1641, with the introduction of a white earthen trencher. Birds, game and fish were served whole. Delft ware from Holland became popular, but the aristocracy used silverware. Pewter was also used. Table knives began to have more rounded ends. When the Puritans were in power, food became plainer, with spices and garnishes not permitted. Coffee began to be imported in the middle of the 17th century, and coffee houses started.

Three meals a day were taken generally, with breakfast, dinner at noon and supper in the early evening. Dinner consisted of three courses: 1) soup and main meat. 2) a variety of lighter meats, game and sweet stuff. 3) fruit, sweets and cheese. Supper consisted of just one course with numerous dishes.

Vegetables became more popular at the end of this century. Cakes and puddings also became popular during the 17th century and indeed, Britain still has a greater variety of these than in the rest of the world. The healthiest people at this time were probably the yeoman farmers and their families, who ate oat gruel for breakfast, home made rye and barley bread, and dairy foods, fruit and vegetables.

#### The 18th Century

Kitchen fires changed to being an enclosed brick slack with flues, iron plates on top and a grate. By the end of the century, cast iron stoves were produced, which made it easier for women to operate, and thus cooking became more of a woman's job. Butcher's meat was cheap, as cattle were kept in winter at this stage, therefore a great deal was eaten. Roast meat became popular, with simple sauces. Many puddings were produced, but less bread. More sugar was used, but fewer spices, colours and flavourings. Tea became fashionable, at the expense of ale. Spirits were cheap, resulting in much drunkenness, as depicted in the Hogarth pictures. Coffee and chocolate were also used. Health problems resulted from too much protein, animal fat

and alcohol, but little fibre. Smoking did a great deal of harm. Common illnesses were gout, diabetes, apoplexy and cirrhosis of the liver. Labourers in the South-East and Midlands suffered from having to eat bought bread and cheese, potatoes, and tea which was cheaper than beer. Scurvy and rickets increased. Food poisoning was rife, as was lead poisoning and verdigris from copper and brass pans. Hannah Glass caused some improvement with her advocacy of cleanliness. There were risks from milk, bread and flour. Alum, powdered chalk and ground bones were all used illicitly to increase the bulk of these commodities. By the end of the 18th century, breakfast tended to be taken at nine or ten o'clock in large country houses. It consisted of coffee, tea or chocolate with rusks or cakes. At eleven o'clock there was sherry and biscuits or cake. Dinner, the main meal, was taken at two, and later on at three or four, and finally back to two or three in the afternoon. Supper, first at ten o'clock, and later at seven or eight, was the final meal, with afternoon tea interposed at 5 pm.

## The 19th Century

This was the beginning of the industrial age. Gradually, enclosed coal cooking ranges became more widespread, and by 1860 the neat little cottage range had appeared, which was built into the old cooking hearth and had an adjustable ventilator in the oven door. Cooking became easier, but blacklead and brass cleaning still took a great deal of time. One of the main problems was that heavy hods of coal had to be carried to the range. The rise of the middle classes resulted in more cast iron and factory goods. Magazines had advertisements for kitchen equipment. More books were produced on etiquette. Scientific advances meant that more convenience foods were available. By the 1890s, larder shelves had canned meats, fruits, vegetables, bottled sauces, pickles, jam and essences, etc. There was also self raising flour and baking powder, as well as black treacle. Many fresh foods at this time were delivered to the home, eg bread, muffins; the fishmonger with his ice-cart. The greengrocer's cart and the milkman's cart, from which jugs were filled from milk churns. For town labourers, potato vendors provided quick hot snacks, also there were pie and sausage stalls.

During the 18th century, bread had become a staple food and wheat replaced other grains in the production of food from 1800. Wheat had to be bought and milled as needed. Ordinary people were limited to local food and their own preserves. The gap between rich and poor became wider. Thousands of country labourers had lost their small homes and vegetable plots due to the enclosures of land. Food became expensive due to war. Unemployment grew and a bad harvest resulted in widespread food riots. Families moved to city slums and factory work. The position was even worse in the 1830s and 1840s when wages fell to the lowest for over a century. The middle classes, as usual, prospered. 1845 was desperate, with low wages, potato crops hit by blight and a poor corn harvest. Famine and starvation in Ireland and parts of Scotland and England followed, and the Government was forced to repeal the Corn Laws in 1846. This lowered the price of bread and wheat.

While the poor struggles to exist, middle classes coped with the demands of entertaining and maintaining large households, helped by Mrs Beeton's "Book of Household Management". Isabella Mayson was the oldest of 21 children. Her stepfather was Henry Dorling, manager of the grandstand at Epsom in its heyday. In 1855, Isabella married Samuel Beeton, who was a publisher. Mrs Beeton became editor of his Domestic Magazine, and then went on to produce her own book. She died in 1865, a week after the birth of her fourth child, when aged still only 29.

## The 20th Century

The first years of the new century were similar to Victorian times. Cooking was still done on ranges, using coal or coke, but gas stoves were gaining in popularity, being easier to control and keep clean. Electrical stoves took longer. Malnutrition was common among the poor, who lived largely on white bread and tea. Vitamins were discovered in 1912, and a start was made in distributing cod liver oil at welfare clinics. After the First World War, more canned food was eaten, which provided a better mixed diet. This was the time of the start of the traditional British breakfast. Cleanliness became more important and Sainsburys and Liptons gave the lead with their shops.

During the Second World War, a population of 45 million had to be fed. Rationing meant fair shares for all, and not just for the rich. There was extra for expectant mothers and there were vitamin supplements. The campaign "Dig for Victory" resulted in more crops, such as potatoes. Carrots and parsnips provided sweetening. The Ministry of Food issued many leaflets and bulletins to help housewives make the most of food and provide interesting meals. There was only one fresh egg a month, made up by dried egg. Rhubarb juice was used

as a substitute for lemon juice. Rationing ended in 1954 with the nation's health better than ever before. There was less tooth decay, there was a fall in the perinatal death rate and the post war generation grew two inches taller than had been the case before 1930. After the war, it took some time to return to normal. More foreign recipes became available and eating in restaurants became more popular. There were also the fast food counters. This resulted in more obesity and a higher level of cholesterol. There is now more vegetarianism.

Nowadays, Britain is worse for heart disease than other countries. The Americans in this respect have improved their rating and it is now up to this country. A healthy diet requires more fibre from bread, fruit and vegetables, and less fat, sugar and salt.

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## HAWTHORNE COTTAGE, THE STREET, WEST CLANDON

### Buildings Group Visit 3 March 1990

Reported by Tony Medlen

An opportunity arose unexpectedly for a visit to this charming cottage on a glorious Saturday morning in March.

The original cottage probably dates from the first half of the 16th century, although there are several modern additions. It was originally a three-bay construction with a smoke bay contained within the larger end bay. This smoke bay is still there, but now contains an inserted brick chimney. The roof, while not of high quality, is of side purlin construction with reducing principal rafters and some nice wind braces. From the roof one can see heavy smoke blackening of some of the rafters above the original smoke bay. The wattle and daub that formed the smoke bay is also blackened. All the exterior timbers are well weathered, and in the main living room part of the original timber still survives.

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## SWIMMING IN THE RIVER WEY AT RIPLEY

By Les Bowerman

I recently received a letter from an old friend, Jack Manning, of New Haw, who worked for the whole of his career at Vickers/BAC, and who was a champion racing cyclist with the Charlotteville Cycling Club of Guildford, winning, inter alia, the very last race of any kind at Brooklands before the War (a 100 km points race). He writes:

"Someone who knows that I am a Ripley 'nut' gave me 'Looking Back' as a Christmas present. Congratulations to the Society for producing it. Seeing the reference to swimming in the River Wey reminds me that I learnt in the pool that was below the old eel trap near Newark Mill. Later I swam a lot at Walsham Lock where there was a number of club huts. It was always crowded at weekends - many people cycling down from London. I also swam at Triggs Lock, and I remember the wooden hut tea room at Newark Mill when it was open. I see that it is still standing."

The writer also used to swim and boat a good deal in the Walsham to Newark area towards the end of, and after, the War with a friend whose parents had one of the weekend huts which used to fringe one of the fields at Warren Farm, Pyrford, as doubtless did many Ripley people. Many will remember the spring board and rope on the outer bend, a little way upstream from Walsham. Opposite that can still be seen the tree fringed enclosure where the Rydes School changing room was situated. Unfortunately, swimming in the river came to a premature end in the late 1940s with the scare about polio, or infantile paralysis, as it was then more generally known. After swimming or boating, we would walk over to Ripley mid-afternoon, buy a delicious new loaf from Collins Bakery, and consume it between us there and then. Sometimes on a Saturday evening, the folk from the weekend huts would come over to Ripley for a table tennis competition in the big room at the rear of the White Hart.

Swimming in the Wey had been going on for a long time, as the following paragraphs from "Bicycling News" show:

16th June, 1888 - "The River Wey was much patronised, quite a large number of men indulging in a plunge. Men bathing should do all they can to facilitate the passage of boats up the Wey, as it would be a serious pity if these enjoyable trips should be stopped. This is a question which interests every decent visitor to Ripley."

26th June, 1888 - "From a racing point of view Ripley contained a very 'warm' crowd on Sunday last. One party which went off to bathe included S. F. Edge, F. P. Wood, G. L. Hillier, F. J. Osmond and George Gatehouse, the five riders having no less than ten Championships to their credit, including the 1 mile, two 5 miles, four 25 miles and two 50 miles championships."

Happy days! Unfortunately, with the discharge of raw sewage into the river from the sewage farm, which admittedly happened a year or so ago, nobody is going to risk swimming there at all now for fear of swallowing heaven knows what.

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## ORGANS OF PRAISE

The January/February Newsletter included a contribution which observed that "many are sad to see the passing of the old pipe organ at St Mary's and its replacement with a new-fangled electronic job in Send". And, in fact, many of the people who actually attend the church in Send, faced with an ongoing list of expensive maintenance and repair bills for the old building, were very sad indeed to receive an estimate of £20,000-plus just to put right the worm-ridden, crumbling 1896 vintage organ!

With regard to the replacement instrument, "new-fangled" is not a word that appears in either of my dictionaries (could it possibly have been culled from an ancient Papworth and Dedswell Word Taster's Almanac?) - but hopefully it is complimentary, which would put it in accord with the experts, including the organist of Guildford Cathedral, the Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral, where its big brother is installed, and many other users.

Adverse comment on the new organ, usually preconceived or from people who have not heard it, is far outweighed by that in favour - coming from those who consider that the team of computer specialists and musicians at Bradford University, responsible for the technical design, plus the skills of the German builders, have produced a pleasing sound which is faithful to the tradition and familiar voice of the church organ.

Send Churchman

Note: Having had the opportunity to read this contribution before publication, may I ask if anyone thought to conserve any part of the old decaying organ to exhibit in due course as a link with the past?

Les Bowerman (Putative Museum Curator)

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## CHANGE IN THE VILLAGES

### Traffic Lights at May's Corner, Send

Although most of us, being traditionalists as historians, were probably against the idea of installing automatic traffic signals for the first time in Send, it has to be admitted that the lights installed in February on the A247 (Send Road and Send Barns Lane), at its junction with Send Hill and Send Marsh Road at May's Corner, are remarkably effective. The sequence seems to have the optimum setting to cause the minimum of delay from any direction, and it is vastly quicker and safer to turn out across Send Road. Unseen they may be, in what was a rural setting, but this is unfortunately now a main feeder road for the M25, and it is good, if surprising, to record that something new is so far entirely satisfactory.

Les Bowerman

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**15TH Anniversary Social** Committee member, Wendy Vincent, regrets she was unable to complete a report on the Society's social held on Saturday, 27 January 1990, in time for this Newsletter, and apologises to all those concerned. It will appear in the next issue.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

### New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Peter & Jennie Cliff, Rose Cottage, Newark Lane, Ripley.

### Correction

New member, Jennie Mackenzie, was inadvertently shown in the last issue of the Newsletter as "Mr". My apologies.

### 15th Annual General Meeting

Thirty-seven attended the AGM at Ripley Village Hall on 27 February 1990.

In his report, the Chairman, Ken Bourne, thanked his Committee and officers for their hard work, and detailed their individual contributions. He concluded by thanking the Society for the support given to him as Chairman and informed the meeting that he was going to provide the opportunity for someone else to become Chairman, because he did not propose to stand for re-election.

Patricia Medlen, the Society's Treasurer, began her report by expressing thanks to the Auditor, Peter Spindler, for his guidance and for auditing the accounts. For the first time, the accounts show a comparison with the previous year. She pointed out that sales of publications amounted to only half of last year's sales, but nevertheless, there was still an excess of income over expenditure.

In his report, the Secretary, Les Bowerman, stated that at 320, membership was the highest ever. The figures for the five previous years were 315, 307, 307, 310 and 304. There had been eight Committee meetings during the year with an average attendance of 11 1/2 out of 14. Those who had provided accommodation for Committee meetings were thanked. There had been seven open meetings, including the AGM, during the year, and the Secretary gave a special word of appreciation to those members who had spoken without charging a fee. There had also been the social in January, for which thanks were given to Anne Bowerman and her team. During the year there had been two outside evening visits, one all day and one afternoon visit. The Society had mounted a display at the fete in both Send and Ripley and at the Surrey Local History Council Symposium. Thanks were given to the Display Subcommittee. Three guided tours of Ripley had been given by John Slatford and Les Bowerman. There had been no Society publications during the year. The usual six Newsletters had been produced, with an average of about nine pages. The nature of the specialist working groups seems to be changing with the passage of time and now tends to be subject groups with a leader, rather than working groups where everybody undertakes certain tasks. This is not really a change for the better, as fewer are involved. Nevertheless, invaluable work has been done in the groups, in particular by Jane Bartlett on local memories, John Slatford on Buildings, Bette Slatford on Documents and Ken Bourne on Photography. Others had been involved, but not to the same extent. Les Bowerman concluded by saying that this was his 15th report as Secretary and that he did not intend to stand for re-election.

Having vacated the chair to Les Bowerman, who paid a tribute to his wise and calm Chairmanship of meetings over the past 15 years, Ken proposed that John Slatford be elected as Chairman in his place. This was carried and, on election, John stated that he hoped to continue as the Society had done for the past 15 years. In the knowledge that Ken and Les would not be standing again, the outgoing Committee had sent them letters of tribute with an offer for Ray Davies to paint any local scene of their choosing, as a parting gift from office. John also stated that the Committee works very hard, but more contribution is needed from members. The Committee is always looking for helpers: typists, in particular, are required by the Documentary Group. On 10 October next, the Society is hosting a visit to Ripley by the Surrey Archaeological Society. This will be an important date for Send & Ripley History Society, and a certain amount of assistance is required from members.

Tony Medlen was elected as Vice-Chairman, Audrey Sykes as the new Secretary and Patricia Medlen to continue as Treasurer. With Beryl Gomme and Valerie Lewis indicating they did not wish to stand for re-election, the remaining Committee members and the retiring Chairman and Secretary were re-elected. New Committee members are, therefore, Ken Bourne, Anne & Les Bowerman, Bob Gale, Rosalie & Terry Hewitt, Bette Slatford

and Wendy Vincent. The Chairman stated he would have liked some new members on the Committee, and asked the meeting to consider who might be co-opted at a later date.

The annual subscription for the coming year was confirmed at £5 for couples and £3 for individuals.

Under "Any Other Business", Ted Goldup asked for someone who might have space in a shed or garage to volunteer to store the Society's pumping engine, because this could no longer be kept in the shed at Clandon, and it was now sheeted up in his garden. The Chairman thanked Ted for taking custody of this Society property for a number of years. Les Bowerman reported that the Society's plough and scuffler, which had also been kept in the shed at Clandon, required a new home.

Tony Medlen concluded the meeting by proposing a vote of thanks to the outgoing Committee, and in particular Ken Bourne and Les Bowerman, who had given up two of the major posts in the Society after 15 years.

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 24 April . . . Open meeting at Ripley Village Hall at 8 pm, when Mrs Avril Lansdell, former Curator of Weybridge Museum, will give a talk on "19th Century Country Life".

Monday, 7 May . . . 2 pm - Society stall at Send Scouts Fete, Recreation Ground, Send Road, Send.

Thursday, 17 May . . . Evening tour of Send Marsh Green. Meet at the Manor House at 7.30 pm.

Thursday, 21 June . . . Evening visit to Chobham village. Meet at 7 pm at Send Marsh Green, or at 7.30 in the village car park at Chobham.

Sunday, 15 July . . . All day visit to Penshurst, Chiddingstone, in Kent.

Tuesday, 18 September . . . Proposed talk by Mr Ken Major, of Surrey Industrial History Group, on "Windmills and Water-Mills", at 8 pm at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send.

Sunday, 23 September . . . Afternoon visit to Museum of Rural Life, Reading.

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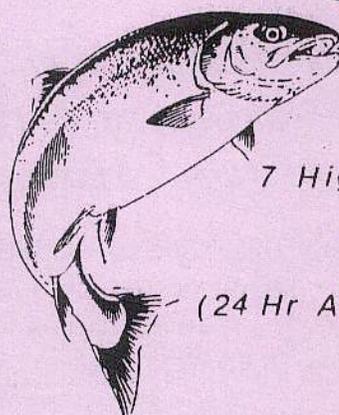
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