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CONTENTS

Page No.

Events Forthcoming	7
Milk Coolers and Milk Collection	8
Mineral Extraction in Send, Part 3	2
Natural History	
Ornithological Report	7
Wild Flowers Project	6
Wild Flowers - Report on Open Meeting 17/9/81	2
New Members	6
Secretary's Report	6
Singleton Open Air Museum - Report on Visit 11/10/81	4
Tice, Miss Ethel - One Hundredth Birthday	10
The Victorians at Home - Report on Dorking Symposium	9

WILD FLOWERS - OPEN MEETING 17th SEPTEMBER

Recent Newsletters have referred to the wild flower survey in the Send area being carried out this year by members of the Natural History Group.

On 17th September Ken Bourne showed a selection from the many photographic slides he has taken during the spring and summer, concentrating this evening on the flowers and grasses in bloom during July and August, together with the butterflies and other insects they attract.

The idea of the survey had arisen from Dorothy Challen's 1925 collection made principally along the waterways from Triggs Lock to Papercourt. However, because the National Trust chose this year to dredge the canal using mechanical diggers which deposited two feet of black mud along the towpath, the survey had shifted to the fast-flowing stream which runs under Send Marsh Road (where it used to be known as Keep Stream) past the back of Goodgrove and across to Prews Farm. This stream is so far undisturbed and there is a wide variety of reeds and rushes as well as waterside flowers. The area has proved to be very fruitful - or perhaps one should say, flowerful.

Ken's superb slides showed what variety and wealth of colour there is at the height of the summer - creamy meadow-sweet, tansy, great willowherb, spirea, Himalayan Balsam, and the spires of rosebay willow-herb. Not all the names are so attractive, for example, the hogweed. Despite its name, Ken's photographs showed what beauty it possesses, a close-up revealing delicate white flowers making up an intricate pattern. Similarly, a close-up of just one flower head of the willow-herb displayed almost tropical colour and form.

Despite the decline in numbers of butterflies over recent years, due in part to the widespread use of herbicides and pesticides, Ken had captured many of them with his camera, including the Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and the brilliant Adonis Blue, together with other bugs and beetles which feed on flowers.

The survey is continuing into the autumn months, and we look forward to another chance to see more results of Ken's enthusiasm and skill with his camera, proving that even the thin, sandy soil of Send can provide a beautiful and sometimes undervalued habitat.

MINERAL EXTRACTION - PART III IN A SERIES OF OCCASIONAL NOTES

Previous notes in this series appeared in Newsletters 28 and 36. The last pits written about were those on Send Heath excavated by the firm of Stanley Atherton between 1920 and the 1940's. The notes have been compiled from information supplied by residents of long standing, from observations on the ground and from such Ordnance Survey maps as are readily available to the writer. The present objective is to record and publish as much as possible before memories become too hazy and evidence disappears. Later researchers will doubtless consult the local authority minutes and planning records among other sources for more precise details of dates, etc. In the meantime, most dates can only be approximate, but any corrections or further recollections will be gratefully received.

To finish the story of excavation on Send Heath, we return to Stephen Spooner, who, it will be recalled, had worked out his site between Send Road and the canal by about 1930 and brought the land back into use as

a nursery. In 1928/29 he and his men dug what now shows as a small triangular hollow between Send Close and the more northerly Atherton Pit. One corner extends up to the Church Room in Send Road. About a year later he started excavating at Polesden Lane, but this was taken over by Hall & Co. Ltd. in 1931 (more about that in a subsequent instalment). By 1934/35 (not 1935/36 as stated in Newsletter 28 under Place Names), he was back at Send Road to start the pit nearest to Cartbridge in the angle between that road and Potters Lane. The material was removed manually with a shovel and thrown against a screen as described in N/L 36. The digging was done by the late Messrs. Jack Pullen, father & son. Older residents recall them digging by the light of a candle in a jam jar during the Second World War. Mr Spooner had charged 6d for a 1 yard cart load of sand in the 1920's, but by this time it was 3/6d. This was far from excessive when it is realised that there are 144 shovelfuls to the yard and that the material had to be handled three times at least - firstly loosened from the bank, secondly flung against the screen, possibly moved elsewhere, and finally shovelled into the horse-drawn tip-cart. It was a hard, meagre, but independent living. Before they had worked out the site, Athertons moved across from their pit behind the Church Room, and re-excavated with their 9" suction pipe to well below the water level. Our members Reg and Alberta Giles, whose garden adjoins, would say as the machine came ever nearer to where he was labouring "They'll catch you, Jack, if you don't watch out!" After this pit filled with water it was used, still during the War, for testing amphibious vehicles, "Ducks", etc., from the Field Vehicles Proving Establishment on Chobham Ridges; older members remember the vehicles lined up in Send Road waiting to descend the large concrete ramp into the water.

Before moving away from this area, we return briefly to 1928/29 when Ricks, the builder, (mainly operating at Westfield and Mayford), took sand from a small site extending from the south of Pembroke House up to the drive leading to Worsfold Gates. After the War he went further down Potters Lane (then Guildford Road) to Mr Lewry's Little Stanyards Poultry Farm where the late Mr Joe Godfrey Senior dug manually for several years. An Albion lorry was used to remove the material. This was probably the last Send pit to be dug by hand.

In 1930 the brothers Syd, Tom & Albert Smith began digging a 4 acre site on the west side of Send Hill. They started at the southern end, opposite what is now Winds Ridge, but this part has now been filled in. They encountered a water problem at the lower end and caused consternation when they pumped it out and flooded Farm Lane. Much of the sand extracted went into the ribbon development along and around the Kingston By-Pass. Digging ceased at the beginning of the War. The site is now usually called Roberts Pit.

In about 1937, Messrs. A. Otterway & Son, under the style of "The Surrey Sand & Gravel Co."), began taking sand from a 4-5 acre site on the east side of Send Hill. They resumed after the War and went up as far as Winds Ridge where they had their plant. This site subsequently became overgrown and a favourite spot for local naturalists. It was later back-filled and in 1965 an estate of 26 houses was built across it by Trend Housing Ltd. after first passing through the hands of the builder, A. Munn of Send Hill. It was called Orchard Way at the suggestion of Mr Frank Neville after the Parish Council was asked to propose a name. There was never an orchard there, although Mr Munn planted many fruit trees at Winds Ridge.

Half of the back garden of "Morva" on the west side of Send Hill has been dug away for the sand which it contained. This was done by the aforesaid Syd Smith, who lived there.

Mr Tom Smith excavated a site of approximately 10 acres at the rear of Orchard Way in the late 1940's to early 1950's. It extends as far as the playing field of St Bede's School. Being on the hill, it was dug basically dry. Nature rapidly reclothed it with trees and it became the haunt of fox and rabbit. It was used as a Council refuse tip for some 15 years until 1976 when the Society's Natural History Group unsuccessfully asked for the remaining unfilled part to be retained as a small nature reserve. In that year it was reinstated for agricultural use to comply with a condition imposed following the Planning Inquiry when consent to excavate was first granted.

The 28 acre "Send Court Quarry" opposite Sendholme and between Potters Lane and Send Hill had to have a footpath diverted before operations began in 1962/63 by Hall & Co. Ltd. It is believed to be the first site in the country to have been progressively brought back to agricultural use as excavation proceeds so that at any time only a small area is unable to be farmed - i.e. the working face. For this they received the national award for the reinstatement and landscaping of quarries. Excavation ceased when the far side of the site was reached in 1976, and what was previously a plateau is now saucer-shaped.

Finally, as far as this part of Send is concerned, there is the 34 acre site currently being excavated by Hall Aggregates (Thames Valley) Ltd opposite Cricket Hill Farm in Potters Lane. The application for planning consent was first made in 1975. It was turned down by the local authority, but allowed on appeal by the Secretary of State for the Environment in 1977.

Les Bowerman

SINGLETON OPEN AIR MUSEUM

-On Sunday, 11th October, members of the Buildings Group visited the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton.

The tour started at Hambrook Barn; this excellent example of an aisled barn has been adapted as an exhibition hall. Great interest was shown by members in the display of different types of tiles and bricks and building construction. The walk then continued to the Catherington Tread-Mill, which is housed in a timber-framed building with thatched roof and walls infilled with split hazel panels. The wheel is a small one and it is thought that it may have been driven by a man or a boy. The wheel is in working order and is set over a demonstration well of about 15 feet. The President told a hair-raising tale of how he nearly fell through the trap-door into the 300 foot deep well beneath when viewing the tread-mill in its original position at Catherington near Portsmouth.

The walk continued to Winkhurst, a mediaeval house with two bays, a hall at one end and a central hearth. The party then proceeded through the wooded area, which is now being coppiced again in a seven-year cycle after years of neglect. The Charcoal Burner's Camp was the next stop and proved to be of particular interest, with the kiln construction well demonstrated. The charcoal burner and family lived on site in a turf hut as is essential to watch the burning kilns at all times.

A short walk brought us to Hangleton Cottage, the reconstruction of a 13th century building with thatched roof. The walls were constructed of flint rubble, which is typical of the downland area in which the remains of this cottage stood. This was a most interesting building, and one was conscious of a very real feeling of the past in the cottage's dim interior.

Members then proceeded to Pendean, a late 16th century farmhouse, one of the first buildings to be reconstructed at Singleton. A cheerful log fire burning in the large ingle nook fireplace was welcomed by the party on this cold day. The large chimney breast continued through to the upper floor where warm air circulated from the back of the inglenooks to warm the bedrooms.

A shepherd's hut on wheels was then seen, equipped inside to enable the shepherd to stay and watch over his flock. Further on the company were dismayed to find that the cattle sheds had unfortunately been badly damaged by fire the day before we arrived. After passing the small granary, the next building was the fine Bayleaf Farmhouse. There is some impressive jettying of the first floor, (this type of house was known as "Wealden" as it was most popular in the Central Weald of East Sussex and West Kent). Its large open hall and central hearth are one of its main features. Another item of interest is the "garderobe" (mediaeval French for "loo"), which is a small construction on the outer wall of the bedroom. It is assumed that there may have been a conduit of some sort to the ground, and it would seem proof of rising standards at this time.

We then proceeded to Titchfield Market Hall, a most interesting building, which had been restored from a very dilapidated state to its former splendour as a market hall. Close by, work is being carried out on a flint and brick cottage brought from the village of Walderton. The rebuilding is hoped to be finished by 1982.

Great interest was taken in the Carpenter's Shop, particularly by the men, this had a large collection of tools, some of which are still being used during demonstrations on week-days.

The pond was passed on our right, complete with the Revensay windpump and assorted ducks. Lurgashall Water Mill, which is usually one of the main features of the museum, as it can actually be seen working and grinding corn, was unfortunately not in full operation on the day of the visit due to a mechanical breakdown. The members were however able to see enough of the mechanical operation to easily understand the function of the water-driven stones which actually grind the corn, and to see how the other parts of the machinery operate. On leaving the mill members were able to purchase some of the stone-ground flour to take home.

Like the Carpenter's Shop, the Smithy is a working unit with a large forge and a fine collection of traditional blacksmith tools, many of them hand made, coming in most part from Booty's Forge in Horsham. The paving bricks of cream colour for the front floor, where the shoeing is normally carried out, also come from the same source.

Court Barn was the last visit, a large open-sided building of the late 17th century, with a thatched roof. This housed an exhibition given by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, of particular interest were the ornamental drain-pipes and equipment for the dressing of lead.

The outing ended with a visit by members to the well stocked shop sited in the Market Square. There is so much to see and so much to say about Singleton Open Air Museum that it is very difficult to compress all this into one article and therefore the reader must forgive me if I have missed out a lot of details and some of the buildings. The museum is extremely interesting and educational; it gives the visitor a clearer understanding of how old buildings were constructed and what it was like to live in them. The outing was very much enjoyed by members and grateful thanks are due to Jim Oliver for his helpful comments.

Barbara Tinkler

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Major J. W. Molyneux Child, Croxteth Hall, Kiln Lane, Ripley.

Mr & Mrs P. Stevens, The Lodge, Sendholme, Potters Lane, Send.

Total Membership consists of 105 double and 64 single subscriptions.

Mr Gerald Sanger, CBE

Although he was never an active member of the Society, we are nevertheless sad to record the death recently of Mr Gerald Sanger, CBE, at the age of 83.

He had been, among other things, Editor of British Movietone News, and had played a prominent part in local Conservative Party affairs.

Duplicating Machine

The Committee has taken advantage of a favourable economic moment to buy a second-hand Gestetner electric duplicator. Once we have learned its little ways, the quality of reproduction of the Newsletter should be better than was possible with the Editor's archaic hand model which has given sterling service for the past seven years (less one year when we were able to photocopy).

WILD FLOWER PROJECT

There are few flowers to be seen in the Autumn compared with the abundant growth of Spring and mid-Summer, and those that are in flower are often species which have been cut down earlier in the year and are having a determined second attempt before the frosts come. Typical examples are the Umbellifers, Hedge-Parsley and Fool's Parsley, and Yarrow (*achillea millefolium*); this latter plant was known by the Greeks and named after the warrior Achilles, as he is reputed to have used the plant for medicinal purposes in healing his wounded soldiers. *Millefolium* refers to the leaf structure which is narrow, lanceolate in outline and having many linear leaflets.

The recently landscaped motorway embankments and verges on the new Guildford By-Pass have produced an excellent crop of Corn Marigolds, once the base of farmers but now rather rare. The seeds of the Corn Marigold will lie dormant for years, and although they normally flower between June and October, the yellow flowers began to appear in September and are still in bloom in early November. Similarly out of season is that other member of the Daisy family growing in great profusion, the Scentless Mayweed. These wild flowers are a welcome sight and an unexpected bonus from the landscaping of the motorway verges.

The principal advantage of Autumn is, of course, the splendid display of Autumn tints of the dying leaves of Beech, Oak and Horse Chestnut, etc. Every year, at about the beginning of October, small boys present themselves at our front gate requesting permission to remove "conkers" from the trees. They are always a week or two early, and now, when the "conkers" cover the ground and I could do with some help to pick them up, there are no small boys to be found. Perhaps there is a reason for this?

K. H. Bourne

ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT

September

On the 1st a sparrowhawk flew over the Wimpey Estate at sunset. At Ripley Sewage Farm on the 6th birds included a cormorant and two migrant whinchats; a little ringed plover stopped for a while at Papercourt, as did a sparrowhawk: in the evening mandarins were roosting behind Send Church and a little owl was seen at Sendholme.

On the 10th migrants included a wheatear, a whinchat, a common sandpiper and a green sandpiper at Old Woking Sewage Farm. On the same morning Papercourt Gravel Pits held 165 Canada Geese, a cormorant, a heron, a kingfisher, swallow, house martin and sand martin. Two shoveler arrived late in the afternoon.

On the 15th a sanderling appeared at Papercourt Gravel Pits and stayed for an hour; the bird was in very dark first winter plumage. Also present was a whinchat on the allotments and 64 Canada Geese on the sandspit.

October

Canada Geese remained around the 50-60 mark well into October. Pochard began to increase, reaching 60 by the 17th. Kingfishers were regular, and by the 18th fieldfares and redwings were present in large numbers. On the 24th a green sandpiper and three cormorants turned up at Ripley Sewage Farm. There were 94 pochard at Papercourt and also an escaped Crowned Crane, which had apparently visited Ripley Sewage Farm and been fed on bacon and eggs. A party of three green sandpipers visited Ripley Sewage Farm on the 27th with one remaining to the end of the month when there were seven cormorants at Papercourt and pochard had reached 107.

David Nurney

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 9th December ... Annual social evening at 8 p.m. in the Red Cross Hall, Sandy Lane. Tickets priced £1.50 to be purchased before the day from Ken Bourne, Les Bowerman or Newsletter distributors. It is hoped to re-erect the Victorian kitchen seen successfully displayed at the recent Symposium at Dorking, and members are invited to come in Victorian costume. It is hoped to serve refreshments, including mulled wine, in keeping with the period and season.

Thursday, 21st January ... Open evening at the Church Room, Send Road, when Mr Matthew Alexander, Curator of Guildford Museum, will give an illustrated talk on ~~aspects of~~ the history of Guildford, arguably the most important of the ancient boroughs of the County.

Thursday, 25th February ... 7th Annual General Meeting of the Society at 8 p.m. in the Church Room, Send Road. Items for inclusion on the Agenda must be in writing and received by the Secretary, Les Bowerman, The Manor House, Send Marsh, before 28th January. The formal business will be followed by a talk or discussion to be announced in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Thursday, 18th March...Open meeting in the Church Room.

Thursday, 15th April ... Open meeting in the Church Room.

Specialist Tutorials. The Surrey Local History Council has arranged for two specialist tutorials to be given to members of affiliated Societies this winter. The details are as follows:

Saturday, 5th December ... 2.15 p.m. at the Brew House, North Street, Guildford. Mr Hugh Barty King will talk about the History of English Wines with special reference to Surrey.

Saturday, 16th January ... Also at 2.15 p.m. at the Brew House
Mr Kenneth Gravett will talk about Timber Trusses and Joints.

Tickets are £1 for each tutorial, inclusive of tea and biscuits.
Applications, with money, please, through our Secretary, Les Bowerman.

Spring Programme 1982 (Dates to be confirmed)

The Mary Rose Trust, the registered charity, presided over by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and responsible for the salvaging of the Flagship of Henry VIII, has promised to send us a speaker in the Spring. The "Mary Rose" sank in the Solent with the loss of 700 lives on July 19th 1545 on her way to engage the French Fleet lying off the Isle of Wight. It is proposed to raise the wreck in 1982, but already some 10,000 artefacts, many in "new" condition, have been rescued from the silt which covered the wreck. This is an excellent opportunity to hear and see something of an enterprise which is causing international interest.

Mrs Daphne Grimm, the accomplished and popular speaker at the recent Dorking Symposium of Local History on "The Inside of a Victorian Cottage", and a W.E.A. and university lecturer on country subjects, has agreed to speak on some aspects of this extensive theme, and has asked members to bring any articles, owned by them, associated with the household of former times.

Interest has been expressed in a visit near Lady Day 1982 (end of March) to attend the Court Leet of the Manor of Stockbridge in Hampshire. This court deals with the jurisdiction of the Manor, and is a rare survival uninterrupted from the Norman Period, and this should be of interest to members, especially those working on the Ripley & Send Manor Rolls.

The present Lord of the Manor is Miss Rosalind Hill, who succeeded her father, Sir Norman, and who bears this Office with the dignity and sense of tradition which benefits an eminent historian. She is Professor of Mediaeval History at Westfield College, University of London.

Members interested in attending should speak to the Hon. Sec. in good time. Transport is not a problem.

Jim Oliver

MILK COOLERS AND MILK COLLECTION

In the report on the Ripley Summer Event in N/L 40 "galvanised iron milk cooler" should have read "tinned copper milk cooler"; the rest of the milk vessels are tinned steel. The reason for the tin coating is to stop acid reaction occurring between the milk and steel tainting the milk.

How We Get Our Milk

The following notes show how your daily "pinta" has come from the farmer since the mid 20's until the present day.

Up until 1934 all milk was sold by small dairies, usually with their own farms supplying the bulk of the milk, supplemented by other small farms. These farms would make their own agreements with the dairy as to the amount to be supplied daily and conditions, i.e. temperature of the milk, cleanliness and the price, etc. The dairy had their own inspector, the transport of the milk to the dairy being the farmer's responsibility. The contract would

only be for a month or so, and I can remember my father saying that these contracts were very often not renewed until the night before the old one expired.

This led to such chaos that the Milk Marketing Board was formed, to take all the milk produced by farmers with herds of more than four cows, and then to sell it to the dairies. After that it became illegal to sell milk any other way. The Milk Marketing Board set the price to be paid to the farmer for twelve months ahead, supplying the clean churns and arranging collection from the farm. The Board also collected the money from the dairy and paid the farmers on the 23rd of each month for the previous month's milk; for this service they took out less than one penny for each gallon of milk collected. This system still applies today, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Health of the time setting out the milk regulations regarding cleanliness, which come under the control of the County Health Inspector.

In 1950 when my father changed farms, he started off with new buildings and tuberculin tested cows, but before he could sell any milk there was something like 140 different forms to be filled in to comply with the regulations on buildings, approach roads, fencing, dairy equipment and standard of milk produced, which now covers the cream and solid content as well. Surely no other product is covered by so many regulations. In Surrey now, all milk is collected from the farms in bulk refrigerated tanker lorries, hence the disappearance of the churns and the milk cooler.

E. G. Goldup

THE DORKING SYMPOSIUM

The Dorking Symposium is an annual event organised by the Surrey Local History Council. Each year has a theme, and "The Victorians at Home" was chosen for 1981. Twenty-three societies, museums, etc., were represented, each showing different aspects of Victorian life - from literature to actual objects. Many of the objects on display I personally had never seen before.

One society exhibited a Victorian kitchen dresser-cum-work table with the preparations in hand for the Christmas Fare; this looked particularly charming and nostalgic.

Another showed us a Victorian parlour. The mistress of the house was sewing, surrounded by every conceivable item required for this purpose. We were also able to peep into the nursery. The linen and baby's clothes were beautiful. So much time and effort was put into everything, making their lives very worthwhile I'm sure.

Send's contribution was a late Victorian working class kitchen. With a great deal of hard graft, Ted and Rita Goldup borrowed, rubbed down, and made good a cast iron kitchener. This hard work could only be really appreciated if you had seen it as I did in its raw state, and our thanks go to them, and also to their children, for restoring and transporting this very heavy object to the Symposium. We added a false fire surround with a fringed mantel shelf. Two arm chairs and the traditional ornaments were added to the scene. The whole can be seen at our Victorian evening on December 9th.

Two very interesting talks were given: one from Mr Nicholas Cooper on "The Plan and Decoration of the Victorian House"; the other from Mrs Daphne Grimm on "Inside the Victorian Cottage". The news of this latter talk unnerved us rather, in case we had not been authentic enough, but on

the contrary, she made one or two references about our exhibit.

To complete the atmosphere Barbara Tinkler and I did our best to look Victorian, and hope very much that those of you attending our Victorian evening will do likewise.

Gloria Henson

The Send History Society's exhibit was described at the Symposium as follows: The exhibit represents a late Victorian working class kitchen. The cast iron kitchener is of a type fitted in small houses in Surrey and elsewhere after the Great Exhibition of 1851. It gradually replaced the open range used previously.

MISS ETHEL TICE - ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY

The 20th November was the one hundredth birthday of Miss Ethel (Kitty) Tice, the oldest member of the well known family who have lived in the locality for many generations.

Closing Date for material for the next edition of the Newsletter is Monday, 4th January.

Change of Address

Patricia and Tony Medlen are moving on 27th November to Muir House, Brooklyn Road, Woking. Their telephone number remains unchanged.
