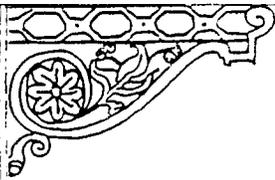
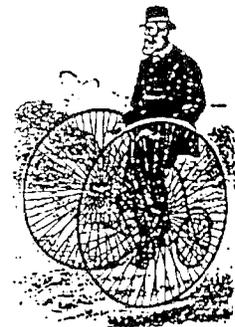
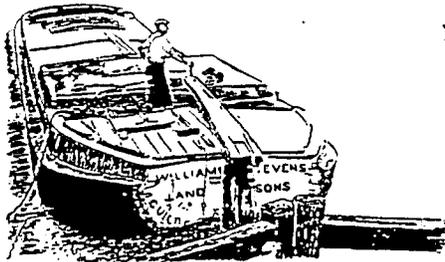


# Send & Ripley History Society

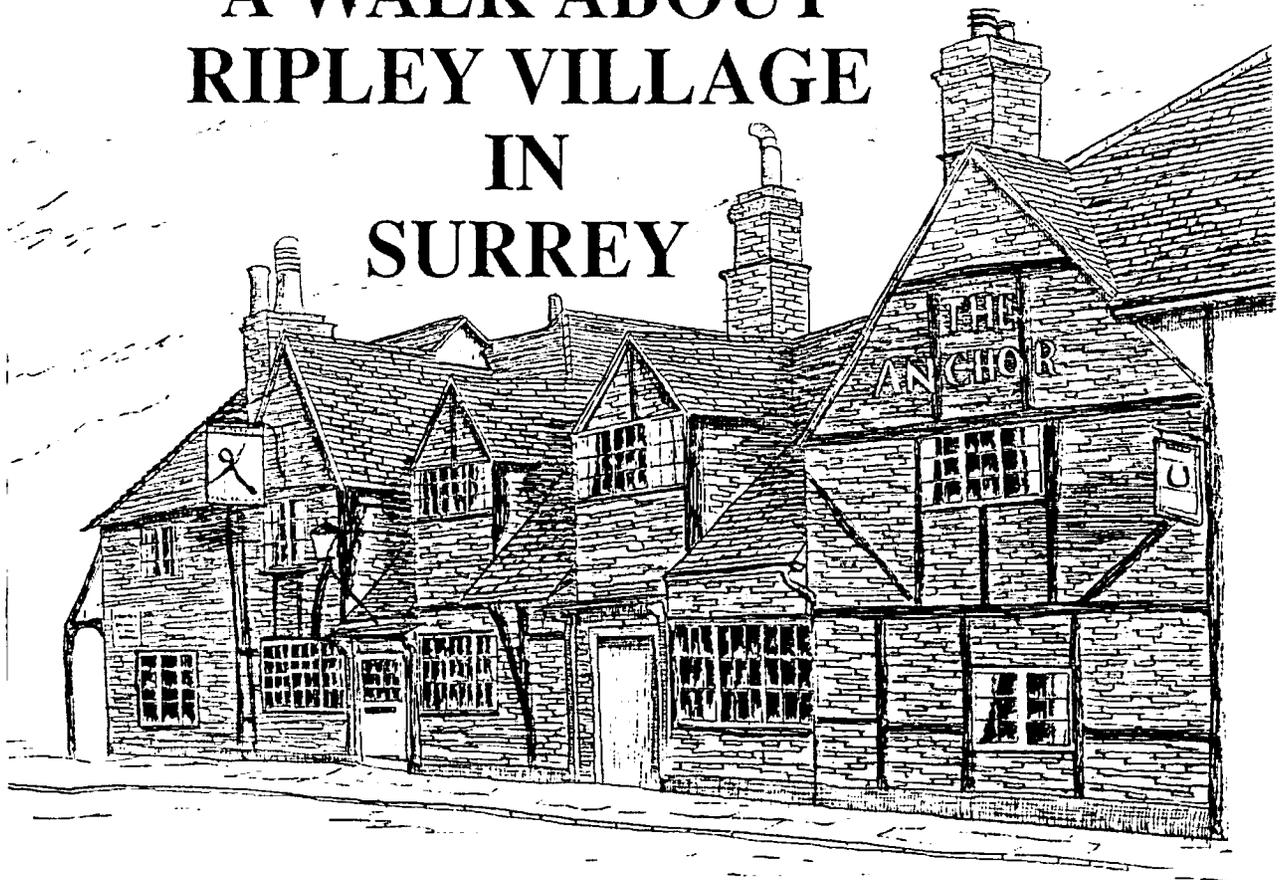


Newark Priory.

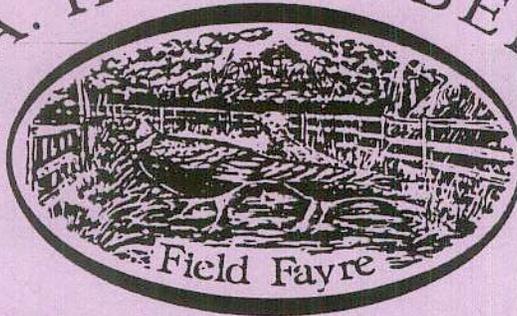


Newsletter No.94 September/October 1990

## A WALK ABOUT RIPLEY VILLAGE IN SURREY



A. H. CONISBEE



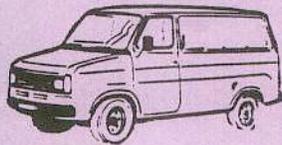
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# Send & Ripley History Society

Established 1975 as Send History Society

Registered Charity No. 296224

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Typed by Mrs Chris Parker.

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Newsletter No 94

September/October 1990

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**Cover Illustration:** This is a reproduction of the drawing by Ray Davies, on the cover of the Society's new publication, "A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey", a guided tour for individual visitors. It is on sale in the area in Ripley and Send Post Offices and at The Paper Shop, Ripley, priced £1.50.

## MILK BOTTLES AND DAIRIANA

### A Talk by Tony Durrant

Notes by Bob Gale

Regrettably the presentation, "Windmills and Water-Mills" originally scheduled for this occasion had to be cancelled at the last moment owing to the indisposition of the speaker, Ken Major. Fortunately, however, Tony Durrant of the Surrey Bottle Collectors' Club was able and willing to step into the breach, for which the Society is most grateful.

Tony brought a large selection of milk bottles to illustrate his talk; he even allowed one or two prime examples to be handed around the audience, and luckily they were returned to him in one piece!

Tony reviewed the history of milk distribution, noting that originally people in the country used to go to the local farm and collect their milk from the pail. In the towns cows were often stationed at a street corner and milked direct into the containers. Later small dairy shops were established in the towns, selling loose milk, and the cows were actually kept at the back. Eventually, beginning in the last century, Dairymen set up a delivery service, by horse and cart or push pram, with a large churn from which milk was ladled into customers' containers. Later milk kettles, hung around the cart or pram, were filled and sold to the customers - sometimes unscrupulous milkmen would deliberately leave the milk kettle lids off, allowing rain to get in and water down the milk!

About the middle of the 19th century the trade became very competitive, so that there was a keen struggle to offer warm milk, supposedly "fresh from the cow", just the opposite to present day practice. It was recognised at this time that there was a need to produce a simple inexpensive delivery container, and it was in the United States that the milk bottle first made its appearance. The Thatcher Bottle Company produced the "Thatcher Patent" (now fetching, incidentally, some £ 3000 in auction), of which there are some 200-300 varieties. This bottle had a wired-on glass lid. In England around 1875/80, one or two dairies, particularly in the North, approached bottle makers to see what design they could devise. Several different designs were produced. At the time the principal mineral water bottles were the marble closure Codd and the round-bottomed Hamilton, neither of which was suitable for milk, although cases were known where the latter bottle was used for milk by seamen. One of the first known milk bottles used in Britain had appeared as early as 1851, the year of the Great Exhibition, and examples have been found in the Serpentine. Bottles were embossed or engraved with logos and pictures, for example, of cows. Dairy companies based in towns, such as London, often gave themselves names with a country flavour, eg the Wiltshire Dairy Company. The original closure used in bottles was probably a waxed cork, but the best form eventually evolved was the disc top, probably at first made of wood, later cardboard. Tony pointed out that the popular bottle of around 1890, used in the London area, was very similar to the modern "pinter" bottle designed by computer. However, technology has improved and the weight of glass in present day bottles is very much reduced. Coloured glass, such as aqua green or amber, were used in early bottles, but eventually clear glass was preferred. A significant trade in imported milk bottles developed from the States and Austria, the latter (the Calypso Bottle Company) producing bottles using the seamless spun glass technique. The standard size of milk bottle closures became 44 mm around the 1890s and early 20th century.

The dairy trade developed considerably in the 1920s, so that there were, for example, 33 dairymen listed in Canterbury alone. They would have sold quarts, 1 1/2 pints, pints, halves and quarters. Competition was keen with say six or more dairies supplying a single street.

The early dairy roundsman was responsible for washing the bottles, filling, capping and delivering them and collecting payment - and would get fined for broken bottles. Some dairies charged the customer for the bottle if not returned. Kilner's produced bottles

with a base in the 1920s. Tony produced a bottle from Boughton Hall Farm, Send, belonging to the dairy named Keene.

In the 1930s further changes occurred, particularly in hygiene - TB testing, pasteurisation and, eventually, the development of the aluminium ("aly") cap, as a result of a law, enforced in 1952, requiring external closure. By this time a number of dairies had already amalgamated to form the larger groups known today.

Tony noted the use of the bottle as a carrier of colour advertising with silk screen printing and gave a number of examples. Bottles have become lighter - down to 12 oz from 17 oz. Trippage (number of "trips" made in a bottle's lifetime) in London is about eight or nine.

The UK remained a bastion of doorstep glass bottle delivery, though Tony noted that it was returning in Holland, some parts of Spain and Hong Kong - carton milk was, however, cheaper when purchased in shops. Plastic milk bottles were again a possible innovation, but their lightness made them unstable and easily knocked over. Finally, Tony expressed his optimism that glass milk bottle deliveries would remain a feature of this country, despite the gloomy forecasts of its demise by many people.

The Society is indebted to Tony for his ready response in undertaking this speaking engagement at such short notice and for his relaxed, amusing, informal but informative style of delivery.

---

#### REUSED TIMBERS, PARTICULARLY AT GROVE HEATH FARM

Letter to the Editor from Charles Marshall:

As usual, I read the Newsletter with interest, this time especially with the notes by Les Bowerman on the tour of Send Marsh Green.

On page 4 he refers to "re-used timbers", but he does not mention their origin, so presumably they come from older buildings.

However, I was especially interested since when viewing Grove Heath Farm (the home of my forebear John Daw, 1757-1817) I was kindly shown a barn where the roof timbers included an easily identifiable former ship's mast.

I suppose timbers from ships no longer serviceable were easily obtainable from Portsmouth, some 40 odd miles away, and one wonders if this was a regular practice or a one-off occasion.

It would be interesting to know if members are aware of any other instances of this practice.

The above letter was shown to Les Bowerman, who comments as follows:

It seems that at nearly every old house the Buildings Group has visited, one has met with the knowing observation "Ship's timbers there, you know!", and this is the experience of other similar researchers. However, in not a single instance in Send or Ripley has this been borne out by the evidence of what we have seen.

Where the timbers are more or less straight, they are usually easily identifiable as having come from another house, as in the instance of Send Marsh Manor House mentioned in the letter. Where they have a distinct curve, it is either because they have grown that way, or they have clearly warped, either naturally or by pressure when still fairly green, ie usually by weight of a tiled roof pressing onto the purlins, as in the case of The Georgian House in Ripley. The clear evidence has always been that they have not been used before, or they have come from an earlier house.

When the subject is considered logically, it would not have made economic sense to haul heavy timber up from Portsmouth (a good 50 miles rather than 40, surely) by horse and cart. Before 1749, when the Turnpike Act was passed to amend the road to Petersfield, it took a whole day to travel from Guildford to London, according to a note in the County History by Manning & Bray, let us remember. Doubtless, also, any serviceable timber from ships no longer required would have been used in the Portsmouth area for other ships. It would be interesting to learn whether there are any instances of reuse of ships' timbers in houses in Portsmouth. I don't recall seeing any in the house or two we inspected when the Society visited Portsmouth some years ago.

It should also be borne in mind that suitable wood was fairly readily available locally (Oakride and Ockham, for instance, indicate the presence of oak in the area). For the most part, if the wood required much cutting, relatively new material would have been easier to work with.

After penning the above paragraphs, it was recalled that R T Mason devotes space to the subject in his "Framed Buildings of the Weald" (1964). He goes as far as to lump ships' timbers together with secret passages, former pubs, and even ghosts as being romantic local legends having more substance in people's minds than in reality. Having said all the above, reuse of marine timber would not necessarily be ruled out without close inspection.

As far as Send Manor is concerned, there are two tie-beams exposed at second-floor level, which is semi-attic. From their size and the mortice work visible on them, they are clearly the upright posts of an earlier timber-framed house. There is, naturally, no indication of where the earlier house was situated. There is a good chance it was on the same site, as there is reason to believe that there was an earlier house here, but they may have come from elsewhere. There is nothing special about them to indicate anything particularly grand.

As far as Grove Heath Farm is concerned, the claim is unusual in stating categorically that the item in question was a mast. This implies a straight piece of wood. By kind permission of Lord Baden-Powell, John Slatford and this writer went, as a result of this letter, to inspect what is actually there. We found a very nice barn of mediaeval origin, constructed largely of reused wood and much altered over the years. There are two good trusses with curved braces and queen struts of large scantling, and a massive reused post in rectangular section in the middle of the West end; but of anything resembling a mast not a sign. Another barn, in machine sawn softwood, has, by way of contrast, king posts where the post is in tension rather than in compression, as it is with a queen post or strut (a good place to view the difference), but again not a trace of anything a jolly Jack Tar might recognise. Lord Baden-Powell told us he was disappointed to find, when he moved into the property a few years ago, that a derelict grain barn, as he described it, had been demolished by the previous owner. Unless the remains are still lying around somewhere, we shall never know whether the mast had been there in all its seafaring splendour, or whether it is just another version of a standard romantic yarn.

---

## THE TALBOT HOTEL

### Scene of an Incident in a Pre-Victorian Novel

Contributed by Les Bowerman

"Gilbert Gurney" is an interminable, and to our minds, boring novel published in 1836, the year before Victoria came to the throne, and some years before the railway to Guildford and Portsmouth killed the coach trade on the London to Portsmouth road. There is a copy in the British Library under reference N1328. One incident in it may be of interest to members of the Society. It is in volume 1, chapter 5. The item, moderately amusing in itself, is clearly fiction, but the subsidiary details of what refreshment was taken, etc,

have the ring of truth about them. The author, whose name I unfortunately omitted to note, had very likely at some time been a visitor to the inn.

At page 221 Daley, one of the characters, is telling the tale to his friend Gilbert Gurney: "I found I was within two miles of Ripley and going towards London . . . . I hitched onto a large waggon . . . . After three quarters of an hour I was dropped, gun, gaiters, bag and all at the door of the Talbot - facing the green . . . . I began knocking loudly at the door of mine ostlery." "And a nice enough inn it is", said Gurney. "It turned out to be past midnight", said Daley, "and by luck the exemplary widow who occupied it had not gone to her rest, or roost." He told her he had fallen asleep, etc, and lost his way. She offered food and drink, but said all the beds were full.

Daley continues: "Thank you, Fanny", said I - I used to call her that in her husband's time, but he was killed switching a rasper three years earlier. (This phrase in the book is quoted as a reference in the Oxford English Dictionary. It seems to mean jumping a high hedge, presumably on horseback - LGB.) "I ate cold fowl and ham, and drank hot brandy and water, and eventually punch. Mine hostess sipped shrub, (a liquor made of orange or lemon juice, sugar and rum or other spirit) till two." She then offered him a bed in the inn, but only if he did precisely as she bid.

"It's a double-bedded room occupied by a . . . . sad lady. Otherwise you must sleep in an armchair by the fire. She is an invalid, drugged with laudanum. You shall have the other bed, but it is to remain perfectly apart." Daley decided to take it, but after a while succumbed to the temptation to go across to the other bed to see (perhaps the landlady knew the sleeper would not be averse to his intrusion, he persuaded himself). Unfortunately, he made some noise, which was heard by the landlady, who immediately ordered him out of the room and would eject him from the house.

There were lads in the yard then getting up, and she ordered a chaise and pair to take him to Guildford. So off he went to Guildford, where he stayed at the White Hart. On seeing a mourning coach arrive there somewhat later, he learnt that the young lady in his room at the Talbot was a corpse, and that she had died there. It was in the double-bedded room No 3, which he was to share with her right over the gateway. He then felt sorry for the landlady, who had good-naturedly strained a point for his accommodation.

---

## THE FORMER CLIFFORD JAMES SHOP, HIGH STREET, RIPLEY

By John Slatford

In 1987, the Buildings Group carried out a survey of this house, the results being reported in N/L 78. At that time, the original form of the house was established, but there remained a number of questions unanswered concerning the "4 Coffee" cafe next door.

The present owner, Mike Herwig, is currently refurbishing the property, and we have had further and better opportunities to look again at the construction. In the upstairs room adjacent to the cafe, the walls have been stripped to reveal much more detail of the structure and, more importantly, the roof space over the cafe. Thus it has been possible to establish the sequence of building, the relationship between the two parts and the roof style of the cafe.

The uncovered end frame of "Clifford James" at first floor level was found to be complete with wind braces and much original wattle and daub. It was interesting to see on one small part of the latter that the outside was once finished with a white lime wash (evidence that 16th-17th century timber-framed houses were once black and white in this area?).

Also of interest was the heavy weathering of the outside faces of these end frame timbers, indicating that the house had stood on its own for a considerable period, perhaps as long as 100 years. It was also noted that the original build at this end was gabled, in contrast to the hip with gablet form to be seen at the opposite end.



THE 'A COFFEE' CAFE & FORMER CLIFFORD JAMES.

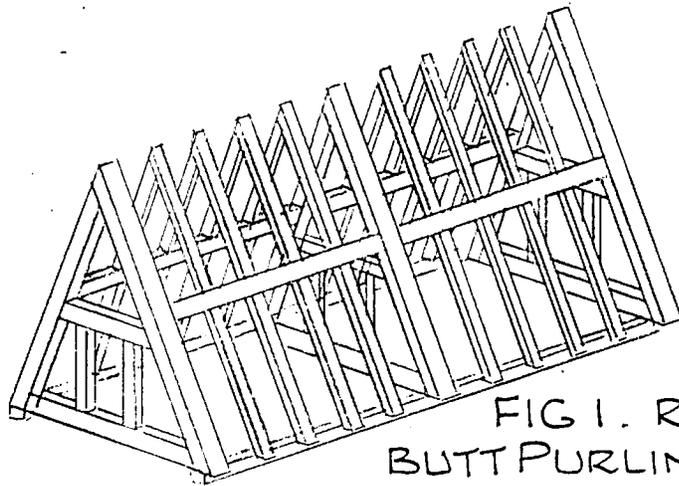


FIG 1. ROOF WITH BUTT PURLINS IN-LINE

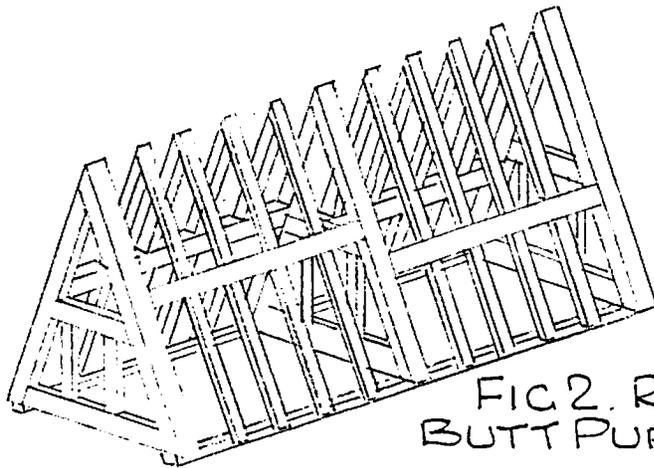


FIG 2. ROOF WITH BUTT PURLINS NOT-IN-LINE.

The stripping out of the ceilings over the upper floor provided a complete view of the soot encrustation over the centre bay, previously seen only from the hipped end. This showed the centre roof to be more heavily sooted, and thus an open hall for longer, than our previous conclusions suggested.

The rear and partition walls of the cafe end upper room had large areas of wattle and daub still remaining, albeit in poor condition. The survival here of so much original wall infilling confirms that the brick nogging on the front and on the hipped end of the house is not original. A nice item of fine detail we observed were the upright and horizontal wattles tied together with twisted osiers, or some such, which were still pliable enough to be untied without breaking.

As previously reported, the roof construction of the "Clifford James" part is through-clasped side-purlin with collars and two queen struts at each truss. It has now been established that the principal rafters were reduced in section above purlin level.

By complete contrast, the roof of the cafe has side butt-purlins. This type of roof uses short lengths of purlin tenoned into and between the principal rafters. The common rafters are divided in two above and below the purlin. It was an early method in other parts of England, but was not generally adopted in the South and East, as an alternative to the clasped purlin, until the 16th century. There were two ways of tenoning butt purlins into the principal rafters. Earlier builds were in-line (see fig 1), but this required large section rafters to avoid weakening at the deep mortices. Later builds were staggered, or not-in-line (see fig 2), enabling the use of smaller section (and cheaper) rafters.

The roof of the cafe appears to be a mixture of in-line and not-in-line purlins. It is possible that the builder found the latter necessary on one principal rafter because its uneven shape left insufficient thickness for an in-line joint. Thus, it is reasonable to assume that this roof is actually of the earlier form. All the roof timbers were clean, ie not sooted.

The cafe is a build of two bays, but later extended to the rear. It was built onto "Clifford James" as a crosswing with the intermediate roof built over at the same time. The latter can be determined by the fact that the outside faces of the cafe rafters within the intermediate space showed no evidence of nailing or battening for earlier tiling. It would seem likely that the intermediate chimney was built at the same time as the crosswing, otherwise the space between the two buildings would have been smaller.

Our earlier conclusion was that "Clifford James" dates from 1575-1600. The new evidence suggests an earlier build of perhaps 50 or 75 years. If this is so, then it is more likely that the date on the gable over the cafe, 1597, is genuine.

It is hoped to report separately on the history of ownership and occupation of the properties. A great deal of information has come to light in this respect which will form the basis of a future article. In the meantime, several items of interest have been discovered during the recent work. One of these was a very nice photo of two infants in a pram. On the back was written "23rd September 1900-Reggie aged 2 years-Ida aged 6 months". We were told they were members of a family, named Warner, who lived there at that time. Found behind a bricked-up alcove was an interesting Victorian cast-iron cooking stove bearing the maker's name. This was O'Brien & Thomas of Upper Thames Street, London. When clearing the ground floor, a halfpenny, in good condition and dated 1475, was unearthed. As work has proceeded with the refurbishment, much of the original fabric has, unfortunately, been found to be in such poor condition that it has had to be replaced.

Our thanks are due to Mike Herwig for giving permission for these further studies to be made.

## VISIT TO PENSHURST, KENT

Notes by Ken Bourne

Penshurst is situated in the "High Weald" of Kent, the wooded upland now known as the North Downs, stretching from Surrey through Sussex to Kent. Pen (enclosure) Hurst (wood) alludes to the time when much of Southern England was thick forest and highland and formed a safe haven for a small community.

The route to Penshurst passed through Chiddingstone Causeway, until recently one of the major areas for the cottage industry of cricket bat and ball manufacture. Some cottages still bear witness to this fact with names such as "The Stumps", "The Wickets", etc.

Before the visit to Penshurst Place, a splendid example of a 13th century Kent manor house, built in the High Weald near Tonbridge, a diversion was first made to another phenomenon of ancient origin, but recently revived and now becoming a growth industry, wine making.

Penshurst Vineyard, lying about a mile outside the village, has developed on several acres of land, including apple orchards purchased a few years ago, and produces a very pleasant white wine, which is blended to offer dry, medium and sweet varieties. A limited quantity of cider is also produced from the extended apple orchard. The owner, Davod Westfall, described the history of wine production in England up to the present techniques employed in his own modern vinery.

At the time of Domesday there were approximately 40 vineyards, mostly owned by the monasteries. The growing of vines for wine making declined after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1537, only being subsequently produced by private estates and landowners. One notable vineyard was established by Charles Hamilton at Painshill Park in the early 18th century. It is said that his wine resembled the best quality champagne. Wine making has now expanded considerably to over 400 establishments. David's talk was followed by a wine tasting under his expert guidance.

The excursion continued with a visit to Penshurst Church, the area in front of which is known as Leicester Square. Claimed to be the "original", predating that of the famous London square, both are named after one of the Earls of Leicester. This charming area is surrounded on three sides by vernacular buildings dating from the 14th century. One magnificent timber-framed jettied building is known to have been used as the Guild House and an inn, but has now reverted to private ownership.

The earliest part of the parish church building, dedicated to St Thomas a Becket, is c 1100, although it is thought to have been founded in 860. Much rebuilding was done in the 19th century, attributed to Sir George Gilbert Scott, architect of the Albert Memorial, the Foreign Office and many other fine buildings. Built of Kent ragstone, quarried nearby, much of the earlier building periods remain, notably the 15th century porch, nave and South aisle, 1200-90. The tower contains a peal of eight bells, one of which was cast pre-1400. The font is 15th century, bearing an emblem of St Thomas.

Although situated in the Archdeaconry of Rochester and Deanery of Shoreham, it is a "peculiar", being under the benefice of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The first recorded rector, Willemus, was appointed by Bishop Thomas two days before his martyrdom in December 1170.

Almost adjoining the church is Penshurst Place. The old manor house, built of the same stone as the church, dates from the 13th century. The first recorded owner was Sir Stephen de Penchester, who died in 1280. He was a constable of Dover Castle and Warden of the Cinque Ports. It was purchased in 1338 by Sir John de Poultney, a rich financier who built the Great Hall at Penshurst, said to predate that at Westminster.



It is notable not only for its splendid mediaeval architecture and great size (62 ft long X 39 ft wide), but the timbers of the roof are chestnut rather than oak, the former being resistant to attack by long horn beetle.

To span the hall's great width, the designer (probably William Hurley, Edward III's master craftsman) contrived an unusual system of king posts resting on collar beams, which in turn are supported by enormous arched braces. Sir John died of the plague in 1345, and the house passed by marriage to Sir John Devereux, who obtained a licence to crenellate in 1392, and also added other fortifications. There followed a succession of owners, each adding features to the property. The Sidneys acquired Penshurst in 1552, by grant from King Edward VI, and ownership has remained with the family up to the present incumbent, William Sidney, 1st Viscount De L'Isle, VC, KG. The Earldom of Leicester passed to the Sidney family in the mid 16th century, and was retained until the mid 18th century.

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## PRESENTATION

Before the open meeting on Tuesday, 18 September, held at the Red Cross Centre, Send, John Slatford made presentations to former Chairman, Ken Bourne, and former Secretary, Les Bowerman, to commemorate their 15 years' tenure of office from the date of founding the Society in 1975. The gifts presented were water colours painted by Society member, Ray Davies, of subjects selected by the recipients - Newark Priory by Ken Bourne, and the barn in his own back garden by Les Bowerman.

In thanking the Society and Ray Davies in particular for these beautiful paintings, Ken and Les said the gifts would give them much pleasure, gracing the living-room walls of their respective houses (in Ken's case, his new cottage, to be completed shortly, and called "Maybank", in Tannery Lane).

Bob Gale

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## SEDGELEY COTTAGES, POTTERS LANE, SEND

Following the article in the last N/L, Reg Giles has written to say he lived at the above address as a boy for several years after World War 1. He was in No 3 with his mother and family in 1920. He says he well remembers Mr Sedgeley being mentioned and believes he was the owner. Some of the cottages in Sandy Lane, where he lived, were also called Sedgeley Cottages (and are still?). Reg goes on to say that a Bill Harding, who ran a one-man building business in Cartbridge, used to collect the rent (1s 11d) every Monday for "the mysterious Sedgeley". Reg was still living there in 1925 when the May family bought the property.

John Slatford

## A WALK ABOUT RIPLEY VILLAGE IN SURREY

Our new publication is now on sale. Priced at £1.50, we believe this little book will meet a long overdue need to provide a guided tour for individual visitors to the village. It is based upon organised tours we have arranged in the past for our own members and groups from other societies. The book is available at various shops, etc, in the area, and in particular at Ripley and Send Post Offices, and at The Paper Shop, Ripley.

On the subject of visits, we are, on 10 October, honoured to be host to the Surrey Archaeological Society for a visit to Send Marsh and Ripley, with some 60 members, including the President, Lady Hanworth, expected.

John Slatford

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## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

### New Member

We are pleased to welcome the following new member:

Mr Truan, The Talbot Hotel, High Street, Ripley.

Total membership stands at 284, made of 109 double subscriptions and 66 singles.

**Norman Bradley** We record with sadness the death on 14 September of Norman Bradley of Corvara Cottage, Send Marsh Green. Norman, who was 70, had been a member for five or six years. With Doris, he had been a regular attender at open meetings, and visits and meetings of the Buildings Group. We extend our sympathy to Doris and the family.

**Mrs E Donn** The death of Mrs Donn of Tannery Lane is also noted with sadness. Believed aged a little over 90, Mrs Donn had been a member since our earliest days, having attended our first open meeting in 1975. Although always taking a close interest, she gave up receiving the Newsletter last year when she was unable to see to read it, and did not renew this year. Condolences are extended to her family.

Les Bowerman

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday, 25 October . . . Open meeting at 8 pm in Ripley Village Hall, when Mr Ian Currie, Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, and co-author of "Surrey in the Hurricane", will give an illustrated talk on "Drought, Deluges and Dust Devils", to show the variety of weather conditions experienced in South-East England during the past 200 years.
- Saturday, 10 November . . . Surrey Local History Council Symposium, at the University of Surrey. Doors open at 10 am. The theme is "The Artist in Surrey". Tickets will be available from the Secretary, Audrey Sykes.
- Tuesday, 20 November . . . Open meeting at 8 pm at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, when Eric Tupper, member of the Royal Institute of Naval Constructors, will give an illustrated talk entitled "Oddities of London", an entertaining account of interesting features of the London scene.
- Thursday, 6 December . . . Open meeting at 8 pm at Ripley Village Hall, when Terry Hewitt, Committee member, who teaches historical geography at Roehampton Institute, will give an illustrated talk on the "Historical Geography of Dartmoor".
- Saturday, 19 January 1991 . . . The Society's social will be held at Ripley Village Hall at 8 pm. It is hoped to include a silent auction as part of the evening's entertainment.
- Wednesday, 27 February . . . Annual General Meeting at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send. It is proposed to follow with a question and answer session on matters of local history.

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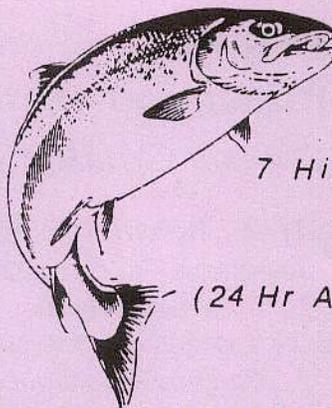
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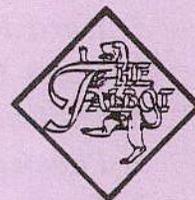
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