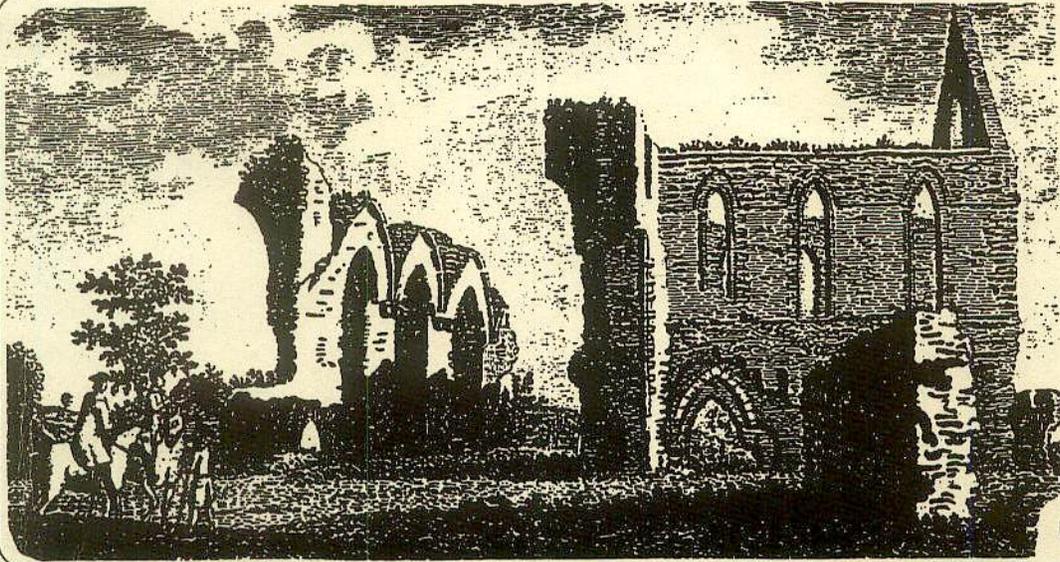


Leslie A Brown

DESIGN 4/4/05

# Send & Ripley History Society

20th ANNIVERSARY 1975-1995



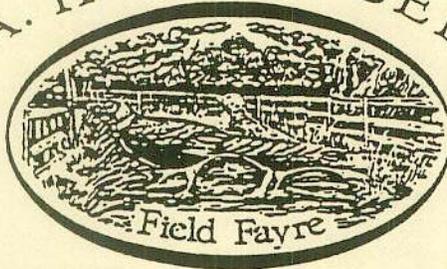
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Newsletter No.122

May/June 1995



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# Send & Ripley History Society

*Established 1975 as Send History Society*

Registered Charity No 296324

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Typed by Mrs. Chris Parker.

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Newsletter No 122

May/June 1995

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**Cover Illustration:** The George Inn, Borough High Street, Southwark, the only remaining galleried inn left in London. Rebuilt after the fire of 1676.

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

At the AGM we expressed our concern over the falling numbers attending our various meetings. It was resolved, from the various suggestions received, to continue with as varied a programme as possible, but to increase the advertising, through posters, in addition to the Newsletter. This seems to have worked, since the meetings in April and May were very well attended, and the exhibition featuring VE Day memorabilia, as well as the 1939-45 period room, attracted a record number of visitors. Over the three days, May 6, 8 and 13, almost 120 people attended, a very satisfying response. There are no further indoor meetings until September, but there are, however, two outdoor visits arranged, so please consult the forthcoming events for information on these.

I am pleased to say that there seems to be no shortage of material for the Newsletter, but do please keep the articles coming, and if anyone among our members, or friends of members, would like to contribute on any topic, please contact the Editor. Articles on archaeology, industrial archaeology and bygone domestic articles or farm machinery would be particularly welcome.

## BOUGHTON HALL

### Part 2 - From Griggs to Boughton Hall The Building of a Gentleman's Residence

By Ken French

In the imposing Dutch style residence, there is little remaining of the earlier "Griggs". When I was carrying out work for Mr Hensher in the 60s, I can recall seeing part of an oak timber-framed structure exposed in the narrow back servants' staircase, and according to older residents of Send, the original house may have been timber-framed, but was more or less gutted. I saw elsewhere use of cast iron beams. The first principal rooms, drawing room and dining room, were added with the bedrooms over. The large room parallel to the road, which they called the Salon, may well have been smaller rooms originally. The large kitchen near to Aldertons, with a bedroom over, was new (a further room has recently been built on that end). Facing the coachhouse side, they made a study and also a room they called the "Traders' and Vicar's Hall", with its own cloakroom and side entrance.

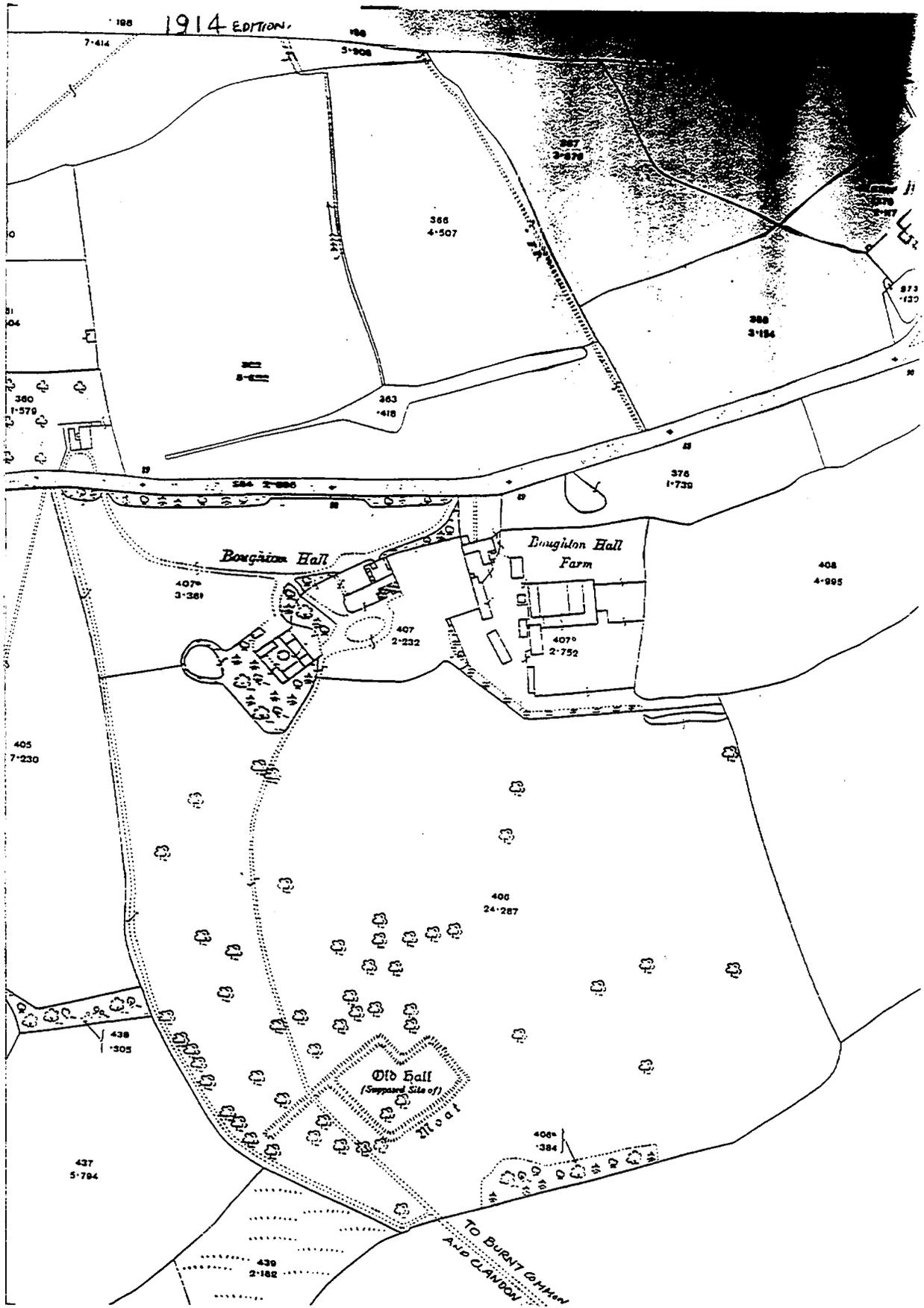
The two principal rooms had high ceilings, with painted panels to window sill height above a deep skirting. Above, Astragal beads were fixed to the walls to make wall panelling. The drawing room, with bay windows on two sides, had a cornice with Prince of Wales feathers and a white marble fireplace (cut down in width). Doors led to the hall and the study. The dining room had only one bay window and a plain cornice. Its cast iron fire had a carved wood surround. Doors led to the conservatory and the servants' pantry as well as the hall. The principal bedrooms had painted panelling to chair rail height, and cast iron fireplaces with wood surrounds. The Paultons later built across the window intended to light the stairs, to form a joint dressing room.

The salon had pine panelling to half the height of the walls. The open fireplace, with its log basket, had a pine surround to match. The ceiling and beams were also panelled in Victorian style. This room connected not only with the main hall, but also with the study and visitors' hall, and the kitchen quarters through the pantry.

One had to go up steps to the pantry. The level had had to be raised over the cellar. This added height was necessary, as the ground water table was high. (The cellar was mostly filled in by Mr Hensher in 1961.)

The pantry (with its safe for the silver) led to the servants' hall and kitchen quarters.





The kitchen, with its stone slab floor and cooking range, had a dumb waiter to the bedroom over (many a time I have had a ride in it!).

In the brick-paved courtyard outside, the well was connected to a rotary pump to fill the water storage tank in the roof space on the second floor. This was for washing only, as the toilets were "Moules" earth closets. The cabinet at the back of these had a slide which one pulled to release a set amount of sawdust. The unlucky footmen took turns to empty the toilet pails and to pump up the water. It wasn't until 1900 that water was connected, by lead pipe, to the water company's low pressure main in Send Barns Lane, near Elmsleigh House. There was no mains water in Send Marsh Road until 1929.

The courtyard was surrounded by lean-to buildings: the laundry, the doghouse on the one side, and the vegetable and fruit store, the bottling room on the other. Wide doors under a brick arch led onto the back crescent drive, and a door led to the kitchen garden. The kitchen garden was later taken away and added to Aldertons in 1939.

The roof of the house was raised, though not over the principal bedrooms, in order to create staff bedrooms - the one on the left by the stairs for the butler, and three intercommunicating rooms on the right for the housekeeper and maids. These had windows with Dutch gables of different styles. Most of the windows had strong metal frames, with a fancy metal catch, fitted into soft wood frames with oak sills (forerunners of the metal windows of today). All the chimneys had to be built with reasonable heads, but no pots. The exterior walls were rough cast on solid brickwork, except the front wall to the kitchen, where a high level grapehouse was fitted.

To complete the creation, the stable block was built. This consisted of low brick buildings with tiled roofs, forming a square round the central court, and consisting of a coachhouse, stables, harness room and workshop, with pigeon loft above. It was in this workshop that my Uncle Robert, as a boy, used to be allowed to make things with James Mellor Paulton, who was a good engineer.

### Part 3 - THE PARK AND THE GARDEN

The Paultons laid out the grounds to suit their country seat. A crescent driveway of gravel, with a mown grass border each side, was made at the back of the house. One entrance was opposite Goodgrove, the other where the entrance to Aldertons now is. See Ordnance Survey Map dated 1914 and the picture of the house taken from the rear, ie facing Goodgrove, c 1900. Each entrance had a wrought iron gate bounded on each side by one red and one white horse-chestnut tree. One of the original gates to the right of the house, almost opposite Goodgrove, is still there, as the recent photograph shows. The gate posts, however, are different from those shown on the gate nearest Aldertons. Holly hedges were planted with a shrubbery behind. Pollarded elms bordered the road to the two estate cottages opposite the Manor House.

The main carriage drive, using the original track starting at Burnt Common, was diverted to run past the moat towards the house, through the white gate which separated the park from the garden proper. It then branched one way to the front of the house, the other through the new carriagehouse courtyard to connect with Send Marsh Road.

The Paultons planted thousands of spring bulbs in the garden, which extended farther in front than it does now (the boundary was altered 1939-45).

Spoiling their view from the house was the barn behind Boughton Hall Farm (Aldertons). A new barn and single storey farm buildings were erected on the Send Marsh side of the farm.

The family always allowed people to use the drive. People on foot went that way to Clandon station for a shopping trip to Guildford. The older people found the going easier as Send Barns Lane, Send Marsh and Send Dip were all forded with stepping stones.

My Uncle Robert French (born 1886) could remember on several occasions men

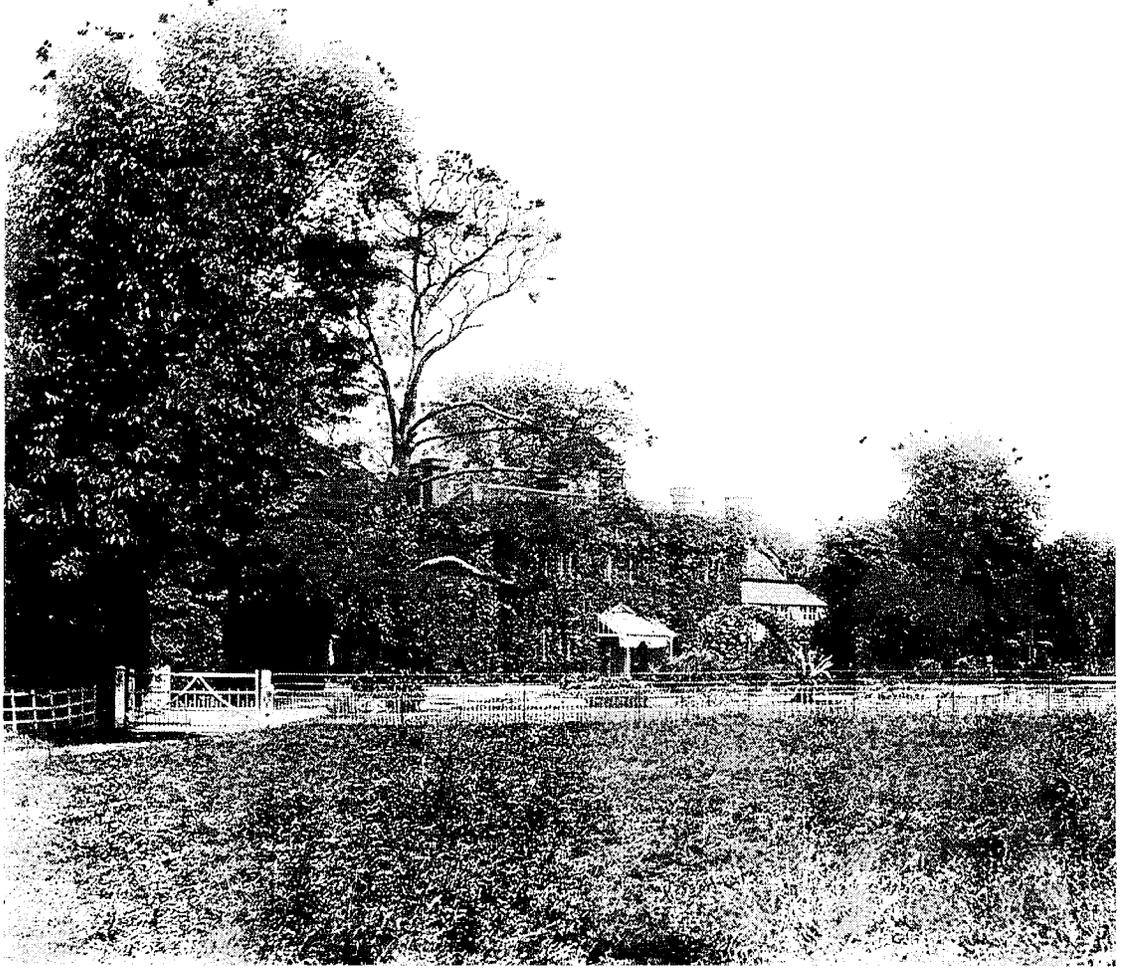
leading teams of horses through the park. As a young lad, when playing in the park, he saw a team of heavy horses being watered at the pond near the moat. The driver told him they were returning to Byfleet after their boss had been hired to haul felled trees in the woods over the hill (Newlands?).

Robert got involved in an incident over the right of way. In 1914, the house was let for a short time. One day Mrs Monk and Mrs Wisdom (see photo), of Boughton Hall Cottages, were having their usual stroll through the park when a young man turned them back, telling them it was a private road. Much distressed, they called on my grandmother, Mary French, to escort them, accompanied by Robert. The young tenant came after them on his horse, wielding a polo stick. Robert, in his 20s and weighing some 18 stone, was well used to dealing with "toughs" caught stealing his father's pheasants in Stringham's Copse, so he won the day.

Mr Clarence Sex, the blacksmith, hearing about the incident, went with another Send trader to Goodgrove to protest to George and Mary French about the treatment their "bully" of a son had given to "decent gentry", and that "the old dears should use the main roads". The interesting point was that Clarence's son, Ron Sex, was to marry Marjorie Strudwick, whose father and brother were perhaps the greatest protectors of footpaths the parish ever had.

In reply to Robert's letter of complaint to the Parish Council, the lessee, Mr Douglas, said that he "had no real objection, but there was no right of way." Mellor Paulton replied, when appealed to, that it was a public footpath, and he had known it used for 50 years. The drive was used up to 1924, when Mr Sandeman bought the hall, and diverted the right of way to its present position.





**TALK BY LYN MILEHAM ON HIS WARTIME EXPERIENCES  
GIVEN ON TUESDAY, 4 APRIL, AT RIPLEY VILLAGE HALL**

*Regrettably, space does not allow the opportunity to give justice to the most enthralling talk, delivered by our member, Lyn Mileham, which covered his experiences from the day he joined the Territorial Army, just before the 1939-45 war, his subsequent mobilisation and, after training and promotion, to disembarkation, via convoy to the Middle East. His experiences during the convoy, fortunately, although not uneventful, were without mishap or loss of life to the crew and passengers of the 23 ships of the convoy.*

*Lyn's subsequent experience, when disembarking in North Africa and being taken prisoner, is given by George Bleach in the following summary, compiled from Lyn Mileham's very detailed notes.*

Within a fortnight, the unit was in the North African Desert and the Germans and Italians, under Field Marshal Rommel, were intent on invading Egypt, so much so that on 24 January 1942, Lyn and a number of his comrades were overtaken, made prisoner, and sent back to the Italian Army at El Aghela. The next month was spent being moved in trucks through a series of towns which later became famous, as Montgomery victoriously followed the same route to meet up with the American Army. The next stage of Lyn's incarceration was a dangerous journey by ship from Tripoli to Naples, via Palermo in Sicily - dangerous because British submarines and planes from Malta were eagerly attacking any German or Italian movements to or from North Africa.

Having arrived safely at Naples, the prisoners were transferred to a train of box cars and, on reaching Capua at dawn, were marched to a camp and put under canvas in pouring rain and bitterly cold winds. It was now the end of February and a fortnight later, they were moved into another camp and wooden huts. This "comfort" was only to last for three weeks because on 6 March 1942, they were off for another train trip - again in box cars - travelling all night and passing through Bari, to reach Camp 65 at Altamura at midday. The prisoners were to spend more than a year at Camp 65, but they did have a "summer break" of ten days working on a farm near Spinnazzola.

At the end of May 1943, events in North Africa were hotting up - to put it mildly! The axis forces had been driven out of Tunisia, and with our allied troops poised to make new moves, probably to invade Sicily, and then on to the mainland of Italy, the Italians were understandably getting jittery. On 30 May, Lyn and his colleagues were paraded by the Carabinieri to be searched (at 11 pm!), prior to being moved North. The next day they entrained, this time having the luxury of coaches - with corridors! - and then proceeded through Bari and along the Adriatic Coast. In the afternoon they were shunted to a siding because of bombing at Foggia ahead. After four days' travelling, they eventually disembarked at Urbiscaglia and marched to POW Camp 53, on 2 June 1943.

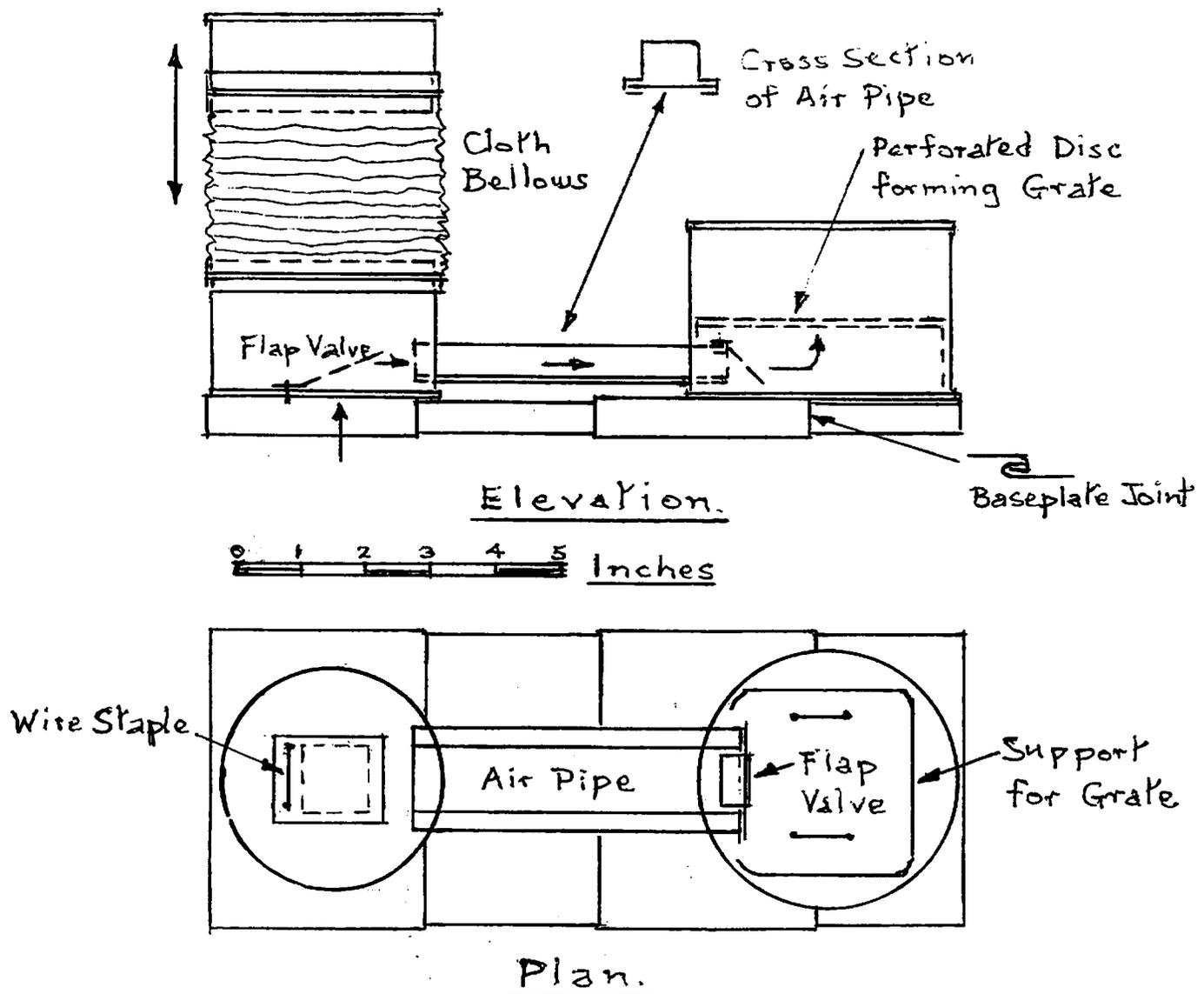
By September 1943, the Italians had surrendered and the POWs were again marched to a station at midday and entrained in box vans, this time with German sentries on the train. After a temporary detrainment at Stalag IVB at Muhlberg-on-Elbe on 22 September, they eventually arrived on 5 October at Brux, Sudetenland, where they were to spend the rest of the war at Kolumbus Lager, Stalag IVC, alongside the Kolumbus coal mine and about a mile from the Brux Hydrierwerke, one of Herman Goering's synthetic petrol plants, which made oil, gas and various other products from the local brown coal. Lyn and 64 other prisoners were sent to work digging foundations, unloading gravel and cement, shovelling concrete, and other heavy jobs, in preparation for a new plant alongside the existing one. This was to be the regular work for the prisoners for the next seven months.

As the tide of war changed, the site was frequently bombed by American and British aircraft. On 21 December 1945, about 500 Flying Fortresses passed over on their way to Dresden, and about 50 of these diverted to bomb the factory site. By 7 May 1945, the Russians were advancing and the next day the Germans left, and two Russian tanks and an armoured car came down the road past the camp.

On 20 May 1945, American trucks arrived at the camp and took them away about midday. On 24 May, Lyn, with many others, left transit camp at noon and flew in a Lancaster, arriving at Dunsfold Common at about 6.30 pm, where they had tea in the hangar and went on to a reception camp at Sompting, near Worthing.

Lyn did not dwell too much on the hardships that he and his companions must have endured during his period as prisoner of war. However, he did show a copy of a device he had developed to overcome some of the hardships of being without hot water or any form of heating. This device, known as a blower cooking stove, is shown in the accompanying sketch, and will surely be of interest to the engineers among our membership. The blower worked rather like a pair of bellows, which introduced more oxygen to any item being burnt, such as pieces of wood or coal. The additional oxygen allowed higher temperatures to be obtained and, therefore, faster heating of water for hot drinks. These devices were in great demand and could be exchanged for cigarettes or other precious items, and thus formed one item in a bartering system which helped to ease the arduous conditions.

A full account of Lyn Mileham's experiences in the Army and as a prisoner of war have been deposited by Lyn Mileham with the History Society for reference purposes.



Details of "Blower" Cooking Stove as made from Red Cross Parcel Pins in P.O.W. Camps in Italy 1942-43.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MUSEUM CURATOR

### A Talk by Miss Adona Goodall - Curator of Godalming Museum

*The following notes are submitted by Norman Carpenter and are particularly appropriate in view of our experiences so far with our museum and the visit to Richmond Museum on Sunday, 25 June.*

Adona has been in the post six months, after four years as Assistant Curator at Salisbury. She is very young!

She obtained a London Degree in History of Art and History before taking an MA in Museum Studies at Leicester.

Her talk began by defining a museum, and then she gave a brief history of museums, from the Ashmolean in Oxford in the 17th century to the start of natural history collections and classical antiques from the grand tours in the 18th century. She then outlined the idea of education in museums, both at the V&A and nearer home, the Haslemere Museum - the latter even setting its own exams at the time.

In the 1860s, Salisbury upgraded its sewerage system and this gave rise to a large amount of artefacts, including many pilgrim medals, being recovered.

Then came the question of how much should be on display. For example Salisbury has only one tenth of its total on display at any one time. Godalming has 3000 articles and has a collecting policy of only accepting articles that are really required, eg relative to the area, otherwise donors get extremely annoyed when items are returned after a period, being surplus to requirements. The museum should generally aim at one main theme - Godalming have selected local history only.

Adona then outlined the war that exists between curators and conservators, the latter supposedly saying lock all items in boxes and they will be preserved, whereas curators wish for the maximum number to be on show. Realistically both sides have to view the practicalities of conservation in their equations. They include the following examples:-

1. The use of acid free wrapping paper;
2. the dreaded oak/pewter reaction;
3. the effect of ultraviolet light on items;
4. pests - including carpet beetles.

She then talked of the modern educational use of museums and the importance of ready access for students, including the handling of exhibits.

Godalming is obviously a larger outfit than our own museum, having two full-time employees funded by Waverley Council. However, there are several sources of funding for local museums, including the South-East and the Surrey Museum Groups. The aim of these committees is to help museums fulfil their potential for the education and enjoyment of residents and visitors, which closely matches Adona's own definition of "heritage kept safe and shared with everybody".

Norman Carpenter

### BETTY DIMOND

It is very sad to have to announce the death of Mrs Betty Dimond, who died just before her 67th birthday, on 26 February 1995. Betty had been a member for a few years and was a regular attender of the Society's meetings. Our condolences are tendered particularly to Elizabeth Nunn, whose constant companion and chauffeuse she was.

Les Bowerman

## FRED DIXON, EX-HEADMASTER RIPLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

I feel honoured to be able to write a few lines in memory of Fred.

Like all schoolmasters, he had his moments, and so did we, his pupils! All who have read "The Straight Furrow" are familiar with the village school in those days, which included the war. It was most difficult in those days for anyone to try to obtain academic achievements - with air raid practice and, of course, the real thing, learning became close to impossible.

Having said that, several pupils did do quite well in those times of tremendous change and upheaval. Fred instilled in us that the "three Rs" were right for some, but to all of us there were the other three Rs of equal importance - responsibility, reputability and reliability. Our aims, he said, should be in both areas. He will long be remembered for this and for his fairness and counsel to all who sought it.

Having myself been nominated a School Governor, I telephoned Fred Dixon for any advice he might have to offer. His reply was swift and certain: "John, at all times consider the interests of the children first and act or vote accordingly."

This for me sums up in a few words all that he stood for. He will be sadly missed by all.

John Hutson

Fred Dixon, who would have been 99 in July, will be remembered in the Society as the author of "The Straight Furrow". We first met him some ten years ago, having heard about his memoirs, which he produced mainly for his own amusement after his retirement. He was the last Headmaster of the old National School in Ripley from 1936 until 1961. During this time, he became well known for his outspoken views on education and generally on how things should be done.

When we first saw his manuscript, we were fascinated with his recollections of how he became a school teacher, and then Headmaster at Ripley, and of his "battles" with the vicar, the Rev Thomas, and Captain Pearce, the Chairman of the School Managers. It was immediately clear that here was a book worthy of a wide readership.

In his later years Fred lived at the Bridge House Retirement Home at Elstead. We were in touch with him regularly and sent him a small royalty cheque each year for sales of his book. This he greatly appreciated and always wrote back by return to express his thanks. I am told he was still doing crosswords up to a few days before he died.

John Slatford



### RAYMOND E M DAVIES, MPharm, FPS, 1924-1995

Ray Davies, a member of the Society for some years, passed away suddenly in April. He was taken ill whilst he and Avril were on a safari holiday in Kenya and died shortly afterwards in hospital in Mombasa. Ray was best known locally as an accomplished water colour artist. He had been a leading member of the Woking Society of Arts for many years and had successfully submitted his work on several occasions for Royal academy exhibitions. One of his favourite painting subjects was Send Church, and it was as a result of his interest in a particular item in our church guide that he and Avril joined our Society.



Ray had read in the Send Church guide of the 1716 memorial to Richard Stoughton, "doctor of Physick" and "famous throughout the whole world for his Cordial Elixir". Being a qualified pharmacist and a pharmaceutical journalist by profession, he was interested in researching this apparently colourful character, who was born in Send in 1665. Subsequently, his article, "Doctor Richard Stoughton and His Great Cordial Elixir", was published in the Pharmaceutical Journal in March 1988, together with his delightful painting of Send Church, reproduced on the front cover. A year later he gave a most interesting talk, based on the article, at one of our open meetings (reported in Newsletter No 86).

He continued to support the Society in various ways, in particular with the illustrations for our "Walk About Ripley" booklet, and help with stewards' duties in the museum. When Ken Bourne and Les Bowerman gave up their roles as Chairman and Secretary, they were presented with paintings commissioned from Ray.

Quite apart from the legacy of his many paintings, Ray will be especially remembered for his quiet unassuming manner and willingness to have his "arm twisted" for special favours. We extend our sincere sympathies to Avril and her family.

John Slatford

### SEND SCOUTS' FETE MONDAY 8 MAY 1995

Once again the Society had a stall at the annual Scouts' fete held at the Recreation Ground in Send. Despite the threat of rain after the spell of very hot weather we had been having, it remained dry, with warm periods interspersed with a chilly wind. The stall was ably run by Audrey Sykes and Patricia and Tony Medlen, who by the end of the afternoon had practically sold out and taken around £57, which will be put towards funds for the museum. Thanks particularly to Audrey, who provided most of the goods, to Eric Ferris for assisting Tony to erect the Society's tent, and to Les Bowerman for transporting the tent to and from the Recreation Ground.

If we are to have more fund raising events of this nature in future, we are dependent upon receiving more goods to sell, so if you are turning anything out (other than clothes or very old electrical goods) and wish to donate it to the Society, please let any of the Committee members know.

Patricia Medlen

### VE DAY EXHIBITION, MAY 6, 8 AND 13

On 6 May, the History Society set up a room setting of the period 1939-45 in the small room adjoining the village hall, and this was open to the public and included, in particular, the Over 60s, who were celebrating the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe in the village hall. Consequently the exhibit room setting was extremely well attended, with over 40 visitors sitting down and making themselves "at home" and discussing their memories with members of the History Society. In fact the interest was so overwhelming, there was not time to complete the visitors' book.

However, on the following Monday, 8 May, the exhibit was open all day, and a further 35 visitors called into the museum and the period room setting, and this number of attendances was again repeated on the following Saturday, 13 May. The visitors' book subsequently recorded the last two days' attendances, and overall it is estimated at least 120 people from both the parishes of Send and Ripley came to view the exhibits. This must be a record attendance since the museum was opened.

We are grateful to Ken Bourne for planning and arranging the 1939-45 room setting, and to Frank Brown for designing a suitable poster for the event and assisting with the chimney breast mockup, and to John Slatford for the arrangement of the exhibits in the museum. We would also like to thank in particular Pat Clack, who provided many articles for the exhibit, in particular the 1945 calendar featured on the front page of the last Newsletter, and the letter of thanks, dated December 1942, from 10 Downing Street, Whitehall, and signed by Clementine S Churchill. Thanks are due also to Mrs Donn for the loan of a Home Guard tunic, a gas mask in a case, ration books and ID cards, and also a photograph of the Home Guard in Send which featured many well-known local men, including the late Mr A D Donn, who wore the very tunic that was on display. Audrey Sykes provided the radio, which, with the aid of a concealed tape recorder, produced a very convincing repertoire of wartime songs. Les Bowerman provided many items of furniture, including the utility chairs, the hall stand, complete with fox fur stole, all of the pictures and copies of "Illustrated News" and books of the period.





Jane Bartlett provided most of the items on the table, including the knitting and repair work, the very edible looking pie in an enamel dish, and a china egg which was definitely not edible. Phyllis Bourne provided the lady's bicycle, manufactured just at the end of the war without any chromium plating, and a sideboard made just prior to the war. Ken Bourne provided the fire surround and the cast iron fireplace and a box Brownie camera, and Tony Medlen provided the two carpets, plus old magazines.

Sadly the exhibit had to be dismantled, to make way for other users of the village hall, on Saturday, 13 May, but the exhibition continues. Primarily the smaller items remained on display in the museum until the end of May.

Thanks are also due to George and Irene Bleach, who not only provided items for display, but also assisted practically the whole time the exhibition was open. Thanks also to Peter Spindler and all the others who assisted with this successful event.

#### MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

A copper alloy finger ring, donated by Mrs Avery of Newark Lane. This was dug up in her garden and is probably 19th century.

A back door key from Highlands Farm, Send Marsh Road, donated by Jim Carter. Highlands Farm was demolished about 1970.

Les Bowerman, Archivist

*Please note that a number of items that have been donated to the museum just prior to, or since, the exhibit mentioned above are in process of being listed and selected for retention. Any items for which the museum cannot find space, or are not strictly relevant, will be returned to the donors. Please note that photographs should always have appended a description of the subject and a date wherever possible.*

*K H Bourne*

## GORDON STEWART (ENTREPRENEUR), SEND MANOR

By Reg Giles

Gordon Stewart was living at Send about 1921, having recently bought the Manor and farm, and spent a lot of money having it all repaired and decorated and the barn made into a ballroom. I am not sure of the exact date, but my uncle, Harold Giles, went to work there in 1924 and was made foreman of his first poultry farm. He had an electric light plant installed to serve the house, workshop and offices. Send Marsh was still on paraffin with the rest of us then.

Mr Stewart was of medium build, with brushed down grey hair, always smartly dressed, and he wore pince-nez glasses. Every morning he left for London at 9 am and the



butler put a new flower in his buttonhole at the front door. His business was selling Morris cars, for which he had the agency for the Southern half of England. He had a percentage on every car sold in his area. He traded as Stewart & Ardern. His Head Office was at Acton and he had several more showrooms. He drove a Bullnose Morris in the London to Scotland Rally and was so impressed by its performance that on his return, he gave Bill Morris, his friend, an order for 250 cars, Morris's first ever big order. They sold so well that within months he added 500 more to the order and had really started something.

Gordon helped the village right from the early period of the slump in the 1920s by employing about 25 people, building chicken houses and runs. He employed three gardeners, poultry boys and girls, and again in the 30s slump, when I worked there, he kept a butler, cook and maid in the house. He had a chauffeur and help, plus 25 building and maintenance men, 10 kennel boys, 5 dog cookhouse staff, 30 kennel maids, 2 office girls, 3 trainers and 8 managers. There were 500 Great Danes, which ate 1000 meals a day, consisting of 2 lbs of meat and biscuit, seven days a week. Gordon also bought up a mill and animal food company, complete with baker, salesman and a couple of other staff, then proceeded to make dog biscuits, etc, and sell animal foods. When war broke out, he was able to keep going as a business, and then it became a government food store.



HRH the Duke of Kent and Mr G Stewart

About 1936, several dog shows were held and one or two had royalty to grace or open them. Gordon also put on two or three poultry shows, with breeders and manufacturers from miles around to display birds or equipment.

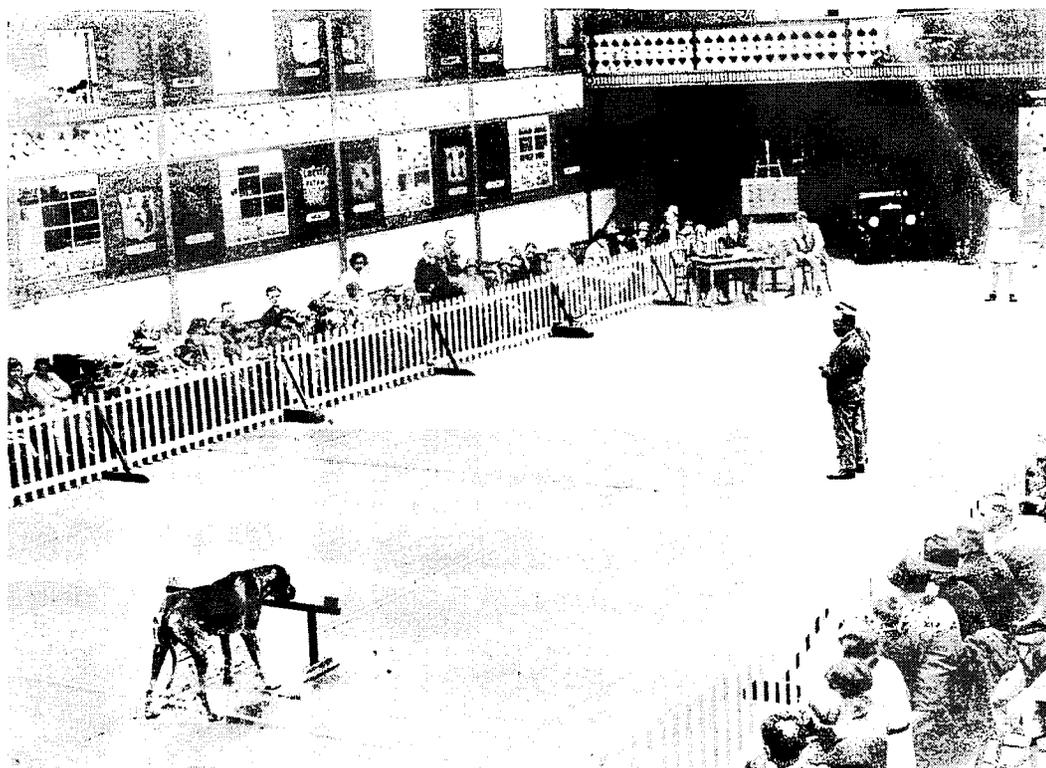
About this time, Gordon started to make Safety First films, as the cars he sold were causing accidents. He hired a crew and the Manor proved to be a ready-made studio, and we all joined as extras. A crew took them round to schools for display. The most successful film was "The Pied Piper of Hamelin". For this we built a full-sized Hamelin (street), and Albert Hepburn trained 300 rats to follow him and his pipe music. To clear this plague, he had a green suit and tricorne hat, and really looked good with rats looking out of his pockets and sitting on his shoulders. He then led the children to safety. It was all very real and the rats knew that Albert would feed them after work.

Gordon presented a Morris Oxford fire engine to the village. We had a lot of fun watching them practise with it on summer evenings. For a long time only one person could drive it, Vernon Grove, and he was mad. The horse and cart section were very wary of it, and I remember seeing old Sam Brown slung off it at Challons Corner.

Another thing Gordon did was to build two bungalows round the green and two pairs of houses from an Ideal Home Exhibition. Jones of Woking built them. He also bought a corner lot and turned it into a nice house from a wreck, all for staff to live in.

In 1935 or 1936, he got involved with the Strand Theatre. He wanted to put a kennel maid amateur actress in a musical, but he fell out with Jack Sylvester, who was running the show. Gordon bought the Strand and fired Sylvester, and took on Joe Loss and his band and put the girl, whose name was Diana Yardley, in the show and she was a huge success. The theatre is still owned by Send Manor Trust, according to the programmes.

Gordon Stewart was, however, quick to sack people for wrongdoing, and he had that old-fashioned habit of seeing you off the premises and shutting the gate behind you. I watched it happen one day, I must say I found it a bit upsetting.



Show Day in "The Barn". Note Morris in background

But the place had its nice side: with so many boys and girls meeting there, there were many romances and several weddings. Gordon would often lay on a party in the barn and instruct his butler to arrange everything. Then the corner shop would get several nice orders.

I went to three or four kennel maid parties and thoroughly enjoyed them - lager and Gordon's gin would flow.

The war changed all that. The dogs disappeared, except for a few of the champions. The poultry farm concentrated on food. About 2500 birds hatched out each week and a similar number went to the London market, along with eggs, ducks and pigeons.

The car business all went into its various wartime work and the place, with every building stacked with food, became a huge food store and the mill churned out poultry food.

Mr Gordon Stewart died on 21st January 1952. He had been to dinner with friends across the green and was entertaining them with a film show afterwards when he had a heart attack and passed away, in spite of a doctor being on hand.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We offer a warm welcome to the following new members:

Mr & Mrs F Colmer, of Fieldway, Burnt Common.

Mr Ronald Castle, Meredith Road, Stevenage.

Miss Grace Rose, Keens Park, Guildford.

Mr K French, Swanage, Dorset (Rejoined).

Membership now stands at 328, comprising 106 double and 116 single.

Bill Sykes



Panorama of Southwark by Visscher 1616  
St Mary Overy (Southwark Cathedral) in foreground

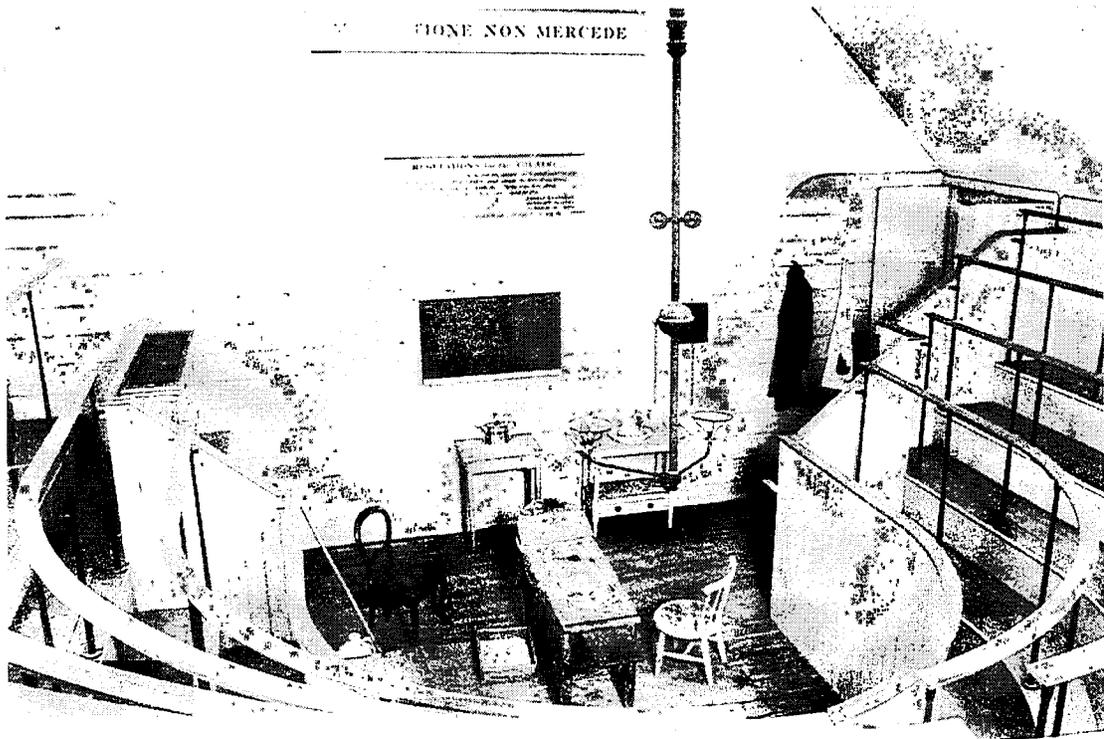
PROGRAMME FOR THE ALL DAY VISIT TO SOUTHWARK  
ON SUNDAY, 30 JULY

Until the 1880s, Surrey County stretched as far as Lambeth and Southwark in the North-East of the country, bordering the Thames. There is much to see in this part of London, and we shall follow the old Portsmouth Road from Ripley all the way to London, up Borough High Street in Southwark to London Bridge. There is much evidence of mediaeval, Tudor and Victorian London. Indeed, Dickens spent his early years living in Lant Street, near enough to Marshalsea Prison, where he took breakfast and supper with his parents.

Southwark Cathedral is the site of a pre-Conquest church, close to London Bridge, and an Augustinian priory, founded in 1106, and subsequently the first hospital of St Thomas of Canterbury, which was founded in 1173, two years after the martyrdom of Thomas a Becket.

Many bishops also had their palaces in London, and quite a few on this side of the river. The Bishop of Winchester owned a palace and gardens from the 12th century until the mid 17th century. The palace was pulled down and all that remains now is part of the foundations and end wall, with rose window, of the Great Hall.

Our first visit will be to the 19th century operating theatre which was part of the old St Thomas's Hospital, and shows what an operating theatre looked like when it was built in 1821. The curator of the museum will talk about the operating theatre and the herb garret above.



Operating Theatre - old St Thomas's Hospital

Across Borough High Street from the operating theatre is Southwark Cathedral, the next stop on the walk along the South side of the Thames. The walk will take us through part old, part new, London with a stop at the ruins of the London Palace of the Bishops of Winchester. The walk continues along Clink Street, site of the old Clink prison (where there is a museum with lots of gruesome details of medieval London life) and on to a lunch stop at The Anchor Inn c.1770. This was a favourite meeting place for Dr Johnson and there are splendid views of the river and St Paul's Cathedral opposite - a good place to obtain sandwiches or snacks and sit outside, weather permitting.

Following the lunch stop, the final visit of the day is to the Shakespeare Globe Theatre and Museum. There will be a guided tour of the museum and talk about the Globe Theatre Project, which is a rebuilt Elizabethan Theatre in the Round, using traditional materials and information obtained about the original construction of the building, which occupied a site very near to the present position when it was built in 1598/99. The Globe Theatre is due to open in the summer of 1996, but construction will be sufficiently complete by August 1995 for a short season of performances. This will therefore be a unique opportunity to see the building just before it opens to the public.

We will meet at the Manor House, Send Marsh at 9.15 am, to leave promptly at 9.30. Transport will be provided in Les Bowerman's minibus, and there will be one or two cars with spare seats. Anyone wishing to reserve a seat, please let Ken Bourne know in good time. There will be approximately 16 seats available, which will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

# Shakespeare's GLOBE



There is a small entry charge to the St Thomas's operating theatre museum, and an admission charge for the Globe Theatre Museum. The cost per person is £6, which includes the guides, (but excludes refreshments) payable to Ken Bourne on the day. This charge is based on block bookings and would increase by approximately £1 if the numbers fall below 10, (which we think is unlikely). We anticipate leaving London at about 4 pm, returning to Ripley by 5 pm. There are no other charges but I am sure the drivers will appreciate a contribution towards petrol (£1/person?).

## MEMOIRS ON THE HOME FRONT 1939-45

### Talk by Jean Parrott to the Society on 29th April

Jean began her talk with a recording of Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain's historic broadcast, announcing that a state of war existed between this country and Germany from September 3 1939. The subsequent preparations for war, and particularly the conditions on the Home Front in England, were amply illustrated with articles on display from Jean's personal collection. These included identity cards, gas masks, newspapers, posters emphasising the need to make do and mend and avoidance of careless talk informing the enemy, instructions on blackout precautions, and practical hints on diet and how to make meat and other produce go further; how to save fuel by cooking with pressure cookers, how to save eggs with egg free cakes, eat less bread, "eat potatoes instead", and, of course, grow your own vegetables by "digging for victory". Jean also referred to the woman's role in the wartime. On the Home Front, this meant driving vehicles and joining the Women's Land Army, or serving in the local hospitals or working in munitions factories. All these precautions and activities to save food were, of course, to cut down on the volume of imports from the Commonwealth, which was brought in by large convoys, which were always at risk from enemy submarines or air power. Increasing shortages, as the war went on, increased the need for innovation and ingenuity in making do. In fact rationing did not end until 1950 and identity cards were abolished in 1952.

Jean ended her talk with another recording, this time the historic speech by Winston Churchill on May 8, declaring that hostilities in Europe had ceased, and that May 8 and 9 would be national holidays.

Approximately 40 people attended this talk at Ripley Village Hall, which was no doubt due to the subject and also to the very entertaining speaker. Our thanks to Jean Parrott and to members for assisting with the refreshments and raffle.

K H Bourne

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, 25 June, 2 pm - meet at the Museum of Richmond, Surrey**

Visit the Tudor Palace (remains), built by Henry VII in the 14th century. Walk around Richmond to see Tudor, Georgian and Victorian architecture. The tour, which will be led by an experienced guide, starts and finishes at the museum, and on conclusion, tea will be served. There will be a charge of £4.50 to cover the cost of the guide and the tea. Anyone wishing to take part - booking required in advance, please - also anyone requiring a lift, contact Ken Bourne. If you require a lift or would like directions, please meet at Ripley Museum at 12.50 pm. We will leave for Richmond at 1 pm sharp.

**Friday-Sunday, 21-23 July**

St Mary Magdalen Church, Ripley, Flower Festival.

**Sunday, 30 July**

Visit to mediaeval and Tudor Southwark. See separate details on pages 18-20 in this Newsletter. Meet at the Manor House, Send Marsh, at 9.15 am, cost £6.

**Friday, 18 August, 8 pm**

History Society barbecue at the Manor House, Send Marsh, by kind permission of Anne and Les Bowerman. Tickets £4.50, please pay Les Bowerman in advance.

**Thursday, 21 September, 8 pm, Ripley Village Hall Annex**

A talk by Royston Heard on "The Golden Years of Radio".

**Saturday, 21 October - Surrey Local History Council Symposium, to be held at Chertsey Hall, Chertsey, Surrey (Time to be advised)**

The theme, "The Houses We Live in".

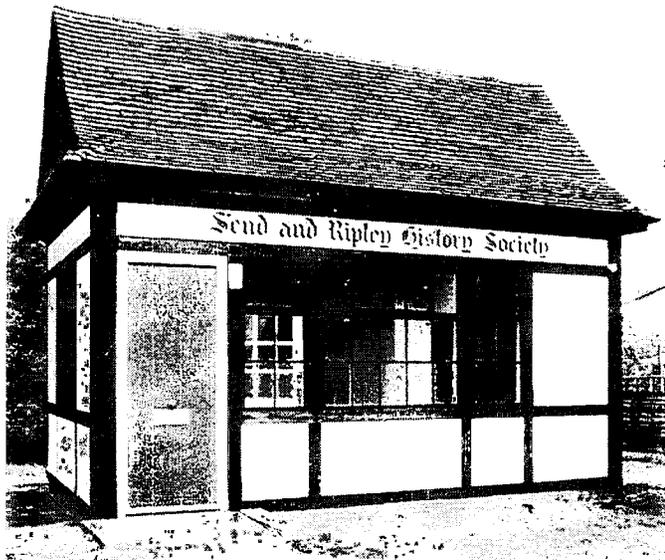
**Tuesday, 14 November - 8 pm, Ripley Village Hall**

A talk by Morag Barton, Curator of Brooklands Museum, about her experiences, hopes and aspirations, as well as setbacks, in developing this very important museum. Her talk is entitled "Reawakening the Spirit of Brooklands".

**STOP PRESS - Saturday, 29 July, HOLIDAYS AT HOME, A World War Two Garden Fete at the Museum of Farnham, 38 West Street, Farnham, 12.30 - 4.30 pm. Admission 50p (25p children) includes sweet coupons.**

**Newsletter Contributions**

The closing date for material for the next edition of the Newsletter is Friday, 7 July.



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*Please contact George or Irene Bleach on 01483 222233 if  
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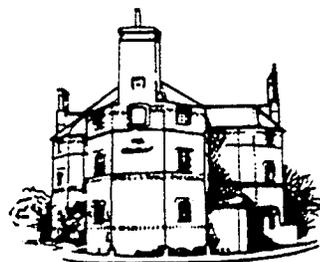
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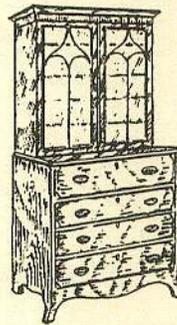
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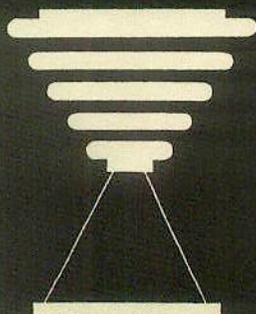


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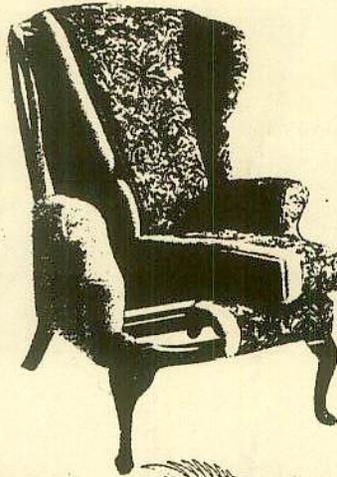
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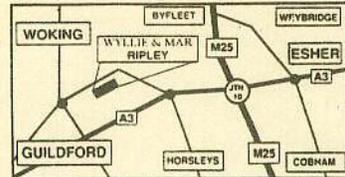
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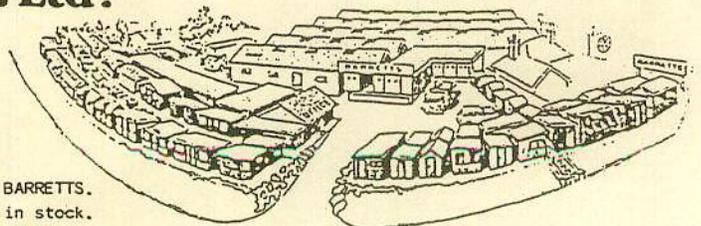
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