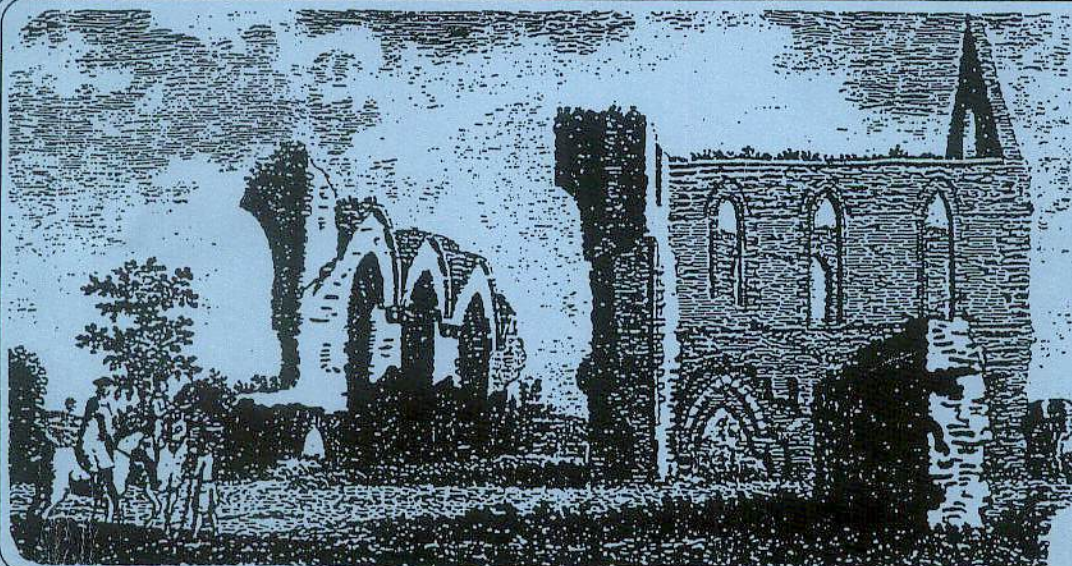


# Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 296324



NEWARK PRIORY

Newsletter No.143

November/December 1998

With the  
**COMPLIMENTS**  
of the SEASON.



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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 143

November/December 1998

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Cover illustration Copy of a greetings postcard, posted at 5.30 pm on December 24 1910.

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the Christmas season will be well upon us, so may I take this opportunity of wishing all our members a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Rather appropriately, we are able to announce a new book, which is, in essence, an armchair pub crawl, focusing on the history and changing fortunes of the pubs and inns in the villages of Send and Ripley.

As this year draws to a close, we are reminded that subscriptions are due for the forthcoming year, commencing January 1999. A subscription renewal form is enclosed with this Newsletter, and it will greatly help our Treasurer if this could be returned, with your remittance, to our Membership Secretary, George Bleach, as soon as possible.

This time next year, we will be commemorating the fact that the 20th century will be drawing to a close, and that the November/December issue of 1999 will be the last in this century. It would no doubt be very appropriate to publish a full list of our members, including those who were founders when the Society was created on 28 January 1975. Of course, in the year 2000, the Society will also be 25 years old, and preparations are under way for an appropriate event to celebrate the occasion - more about this in later issues of the Newsletter. It is perhaps appropriate to remind our advertisers, to whom we are most grateful for their continued support, that advertising space taken out for the next six issues will also be the last appearing in the 20th century. Please contact George Bleach on 01483 22 22 33 to confirm or reserve your space.

## NEW SURREY HISTORY CENTRE

Most members will now be aware that the Surrey Record Office at Kingston, the Guildford Muniment Room and the Surrey Local Studies Library at Guildford have closed and relocated to a new building at 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking GU21 1ND (01483 594 594, fax 01483 594 595). The building is about ten minutes' walk from Woking Station, and there is parking behind the Centre and in nearby roads. The new Centre opened on Tuesday, 3 November 1998. The opening hours are Tuesday and Wednesday - 9.30 am to 5 pm; Thursday - 9.30 am to 7 pm; Friday - 9.30 am to 5 pm, and Saturday - 9.30 am to 4 pm; closed Sunday and Monday.

## RIPLEY - "THE MECCA OF ALL GOOD CYCLISTS"

**Part 4 of a Talk Given to the Society by Les Bowerman  
on 26 February and 30 April 1998**

A North Road CC (North London) member, making a solo trip to Ripley, and writing in the usual euphoric vein, noted in *Bicycling News* for 13 November 1886 that there were already 7000 signatures in the cyclists' Visitors Book at the Anchor for that year.

On New Year's Eve 1886/7, the journey to Ripley was so cold that the oil froze in the riders' lamps, thus extinguishing them, according to the *Bath Road News* (the monthly magazine of the Bath Road Club, the members of which, it will be recalled, did their social riding, as opposed to racing, on the Ripley Road). On arrival, they found Alf Dibble still putting up Chinese lanterns. Amid the festivities, which continued until 6 am, the singing of *Old Lang Syne* in "the Shed" at the back of the Anchor, as the church bell rang in the New Year was the signal to begin a new Visitors Book, as to which there was always a competition to be first. Fuller details of these festivities were given 11 years ago in Newsletter No 77.

It is well known in cycling history circles that the first cyclist to cover 20 miles in one hour was Herbert Liddell Cortis ("the Long Wanderer", on account of his height, 6' 2", and the fact that his club was the Wanderers BC of Clapham), a feat he performed at the Crystal Palace track at Sydenham in 1882 on a 60" Surrey Machinists Co "Invincible" bicycle, which was a break-through akin to when Roger Bannister ran the first four minute mile. What is less well known is that after he died on December 28 1885, as a result of a horse-riding accident in New South Wales, his cycling admirers in the UK subscribed to a memorial, which was put in Ripley Church early in 1887. It is the rose window at the East end of the South Aisle, above the brass plaque bearing Cortis's name.

Much has been heard over the years of the "Cyclists' Mecca" at Ripley, but it has not been clear whether this refers to the village or the Anchor. In fact, the first use of the expression was by Lord Bury (later the Earl of Albemarle), who in February 1887 expressed the wish to visit "Ripley, the Mecca of all good cyclists, the sweetest village in Surrey". At the beginning of May, the Civil Service CC, of which he was President, duly escorted him there. They inspected the Cortis Memorial, called at the Anchor to sign the book and to see the name



VISCOUNT BURY, K.G.M.G.  
From a Photograph by the Hon. A. Keppel

of their club in the roof of the dining saloon ("the Shed", referred to above), and lunched at the Talbot, which was their club's HQ.

Mrs Harriet Dibble, landlady at the Anchor, sadly died on 5 March 1887, aged 61. The tribute in *Bicycling News* read "Kindly and ever attentive to the multifarious wants of the thousands of wheelmen who have visited Ripley within the past few years, Mrs. Dibble had earned their respect and esteem."

One Saturday afternoon in April 1887, the Ripley Road witnessed one of its most amazing cycling sights ever when the Singer Victoria War cycle was collected from the depot at Holborn Viaduct (this was George Singer & Co of Coventry, not to be confused with the American Singer Sewing Machine Co) by a ten man crew, including the inventor, S H Lea (later of Lea Francis) and ridden down to Ripley. It consisted of five tandem tricycles, minus their single rear trailing wheels, coupled together. On the journey through London, "cabmen and omnibus drivers almost fell from their seats with surprise". They signed in at the Angel at Ditton and made short work of the ten miles to Ripley, where they were "ministered to by Annie Dibble (as blooming as of yore)". Annie took them round to the church to see the memorial to Cortis, "one of the old brigade whose name is ever green", although his great 20 mph ride was only five years earlier.

They then tackled the 15 mile ride to Aldershot, where the following morning they demonstrated to Army bigwigs the capabilities of the "Sea-Serpent", or "Flying Spanner", as it was sometimes called, the latter name because it was to be used by the Sappers. Remember, there were no motor vehicles at this time, and this could have been a useful alternative to horse transport. On conclusion of their military evaluation, they had nothing better to do than to sling their rifles on their backs and ride back over to Guildford, with 300 pounds of luggage on board, and so on to Ripley, having climbed the cobbled Guildford High Street en route, where carters and other travellers "got out of the way very quickly indeed". The entire population of Ripley turned out to see them, thinking it better entertainment than the famed Ripley fair. At dusk they trundled back to Aldershot.

*The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* of May 21 1887 had a page of sketches of a cycle ramble to Ripley. *Bicycling News* the following week identified the tricycle bowling Ripleywards as a Royal Crescent, but said they had never known a lady ride alone beyond Ditton.

One Sunday in June 1887, Dr E B Turner, FRCS, and his tandem companion, G T Langridge, were approaching the Hut, riding Ripleywards, when a pair-horse wagonette was driven straight at them by the youngish lady holding the reins. Luckily there was a grass verge onto which they were able to swerve. They thereupon turned, gave chase and rode alongside to demand an apology. The lady's male companion struck the doctor and knocked his cap off. Another party of cyclists, led by George Lacy Hillier (a famous racing cyclist and a cycling administrator) on a 58" Premier, gave assistance, Hillier calling to the driver to stop. The man called "Drive over them, Maud!". J S Smith (of the Surrey Machinist Co), coming in the opposite direction with his wife on their new Invincible tandem, boldly ran straight at the horses (Mrs J S Smith was perhaps the bolder of the two, as she would have been in front!). The lady driver momentarily hesitated, enabling Turner and Langridge to seize the horses' heads and bring them to a halt. The man, who turned out to be an ex-boxing champion, lashed at Langridge with his whip, and half pushed the doctor over. An exchange of blows ensued. We would, of course, now call this road rage. Later, the "road hog", as he was called in a surprisingly early use of the term, was, on three charges of assault, fined a total of £15 by the Guildford Magistrates.

1888 started with three good accounts. The first was by a rider who had heard glowing accounts of the prevailing end of the year customs. After paying his respects at the Angel, he found the moon shining brightly as he ascended Esher Hill, from which point he later wrote that he seemed to be riding through fairyland. Never before had the famous ten miles been so transcendently beautiful, he enthused. After arriving at the Anchor at 9 pm and disposing of

# "Bicycling News" Cartoon.

APRIL 23rd. 1887.



a substantial supper, he found people becoming excited as the witching hour approached. At the last stroke of twelve from the church clock, a "wheely" noise was heard and 20 cyclists appeared, each vying with the others to arrive first to record his name in premier position in the new book, a much coveted honour. Bowl after bowl of rum punch disappeared as boisterous toasts were drunk, particularly to the health of the Dibble sisters, Annie and Harriet, and their brother, Alf, occasionally enlivened by the arrival of another "scorcher" from distant parts.

The second account was by a rider who left home at Sutton, near Croydon, at 5.30 am on New Year's Day on his geared Facile. At Epsom, a couple of policemen advised him to ride on the path, as the road was so bad, due to loose stones. Arriving at the Anchor at 7.25 am, he found it crowded, with cyclists trying to sleep in the parlour, as they were "six in a bed upstairs". Twenty-nine had arrived since midnight.

The third account was by a rider who witnessed, in March, the "Ripley Road Scramble", which resulted in the National Cyclists Union prohibiting all road racing. At Esher Hill, there were some 200 machines leaning on the banks of the road. The 80 starters, including Mr and Mrs J S Smith, on their tandem, were sent off at intervals according to their handicap. The finish was two and a half miles beyond Ripley. Afterwards some 200 sat for lunch, at 1s 9d a head, at the Anchor.

A reference on 22 September to the "red brick vandalism at Wisley" being "carefully ignored" presumably refers to the building of the new Hut Hotel (which many still remember), which took the place of the little old Hut shown earlier, although the latter remained in use as a residence.

On 29 September 1888, *Bicycling News* solemnly announced that the jam-eating record at the Anchor had been smashed. Harriet reported that considerably more than half a ton of the "syrupy comestible" had been consumed so far that year, all by cyclists, as no such luxury was given to the bean feast parties (works outings, the participants in which were reputed to lunch mainly on beans). The same issue describes a bean feast party of Bryant & Mays' workers taking place at the Anchor. "They were a noisy crew, but match-making in its double sense is obviously a quiet sort of game, and after bottling up their exuberance for twelve months, it is not to be wondered at if they did dance a quadrille on the lawn to the musical (?) accompaniment of two German concertinas, one Jew's harp, and a banjo. They monopolised the little tin chapel in the garden," (the shed or saloon referred to earlier, which stood in part of what is now the car park), "so we perforce had to go indoors for our tea."

In 1889 a lengthy poem on "The Anchor in Winter", referring mainly to well known cyclists who attended, appeared in *Bicycling News* in January, and they must have been very pleased with it, as they repeated it again in December, but space requires that it be omitted from this account. Club cyclists were not the only ones on the road at this time, as the following confirms: "The young lances in billy-cock hats and trousers who flit down the Ripley Road each weekend are getting to be a scandalous nuisance. Mostly mounted on crocks of ordinaries (high bicycles), these gentry plunge and flounder about in a promiscuous and uncertain fashion that is irritating to the ordinary road user (ie middle-class cyclists like himself). 'Arry on the river is almost a god compared with the road Jugginses who swarm down the highway leading to Ripley.'

Apart from the presentation to the Cyclists' Vicar, Rev Henry Hooper, already mentioned, when visitors were accommodated all over the village, and the Dibbles taking over the Manor House opposite, to increase the accommodation for cyclists at the Anchor, little more of note happened in 1889. Another "Ripley Re-visited" article appeared, this time in *Scientific Wheeling* on December 4. As the early riders were getting older, nostalgia was creeping in and energy was oozing away, for on this occasion the writer took his New Rapid safety by rail to Woking and then over the frozen surface of the sandy roads to the Dibbles' perennial welcome at the Anchor. "Never did it (*Ripley*) look so lovely .... At New Woking, or Woking Station, many picturesque houses had been built on the high land, with a lovely view of the distant Surrey hills .... The winding lanes and scenery between Woking and Ripley are essentially English - quite English.

The flat meadows, quaint old village and church (*presumably Old Woking, or could it have been Pyrford?*), and the winding willow-fringed stream, a tributary of the Wey (*presumably at Harts or Broadmeads Bridge*), with a distant view of the hills at Newlands Corner ..." As the writer, with a companion, returned past the new Boldermere Hotel "the whole world seemed to glow under an electric light from heaven" as they "pedalled over the old road whose beauties never fade", but not all was light and grace, as the frozen ruts were little better than the summer dust. They observed Jimmy Moscrop (previously said to have been at the White Lion at Cobham) putting bay windows into both storeys of the old original Hut.

1890 was notable only for the fact that Edmund Dangerfield and PC Wilson carved six minutes off the "Between the Houses" record on a Linley & Biggs Whippet tandem tricycle in June, bringing it down to 30 mins 24  $\frac{1}{2}$  secs. George Moore sketched the scenes for *Bicycling News*.

Les Bowerman (to be continued)

### OBITUARY - MR BERNARD PARDOE

We record with deep regret the death of Bernard Pardoe on 19 September 1998 at the age of 73.

Bernard will be remembered by many of our members for the excellent talk he gave in January 1981 on the history of Chertsey, and this was then followed up by a visit to that town.

Born in Worcestershire, Bernard attended Dudley Grammar School, and after war service, during which he was commissioned in the Indian Army, he read History at Sidney Sussex, Cambridge. He became an accountant by profession and achieved a partnership in Touche Ross. His main interest was history, and having married and settled in the Chertsey area, he became in due course the Chairman of the Chertsey Society when it was founded in 1960. Later in the 1960s, Bernard became a trustee, and then the Chairman for many years, of the Olive Matthews Trust. He also joined the Walton & Weybridge Historical Society (as the local History Society then was) when it was founded in 1964, and became its first Treasurer, a post he held for the next 20 years. Bernard also served on the Councils of both the Surrey Archaeological Society and the Surrey Records Society. Among his many activities, he produced, in 1969 (W&WHS paper No 3), a pioneering article on the Locke King family, one of whose members, Dame Ethel Locke King, he had met in the mid 1950s.

He will be greatly missed by the many organisations with which he has been involved, and our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Patsy, their children and grandchildren.

(With acknowledgements to Walton & Weybridge Local History Society.)

Ken Bourne

### ALDERSHOT & DISTRICT TRACTION COMPANY'S FODEN WAGONS

On checking up with the Records Officer of the Road Locomotive Society on details of a Foden wagon on a photograph I recently saw, I asked if he had any details of the "trio of Fodens", as described in Newsletter No 135.

I received a reply providing details of six wagons owned by A&DT Co, which are as overleaf:

All these M registrations were issued by Cheshire County Councils, presumably ex Foden's Elworth works at Sandbach.

While 315 and 319 have their correct numbers, 306 (3866) has the number given to 4508 instead of M.5317. It could have been that 3866 was not licensed at that time, and if 4508 was not available, under repair or maintenance, the number and tax disc were temporarily transferred to keep the fleet up to strength.

I think that these cases were not unknown in the past, as I have a photograph of Burrell

Road Locomotive 3489 carrying the registration plate off 2701 of the same class.

| Works No | Year | Reg No | Fleet No  |
|----------|------|--------|-----------|
| 3846     | 1913 | M.5248 | 309       |
| 3866     | 1913 | M.5317 | 306       |
| 4508     | 1914 | M.6328 | Not known |
| 5118     | 1914 | M.7112 | 14        |
| 5168     | 1915 | M.7214 | 315       |
| 5276     | 1915 | M.7345 | 319       |

Lyn Mileham

### STEAMING THROUGH SEND

With reference to the report in Newsletter No 140, page 10, the subject of which was a letter from Mrs Kathleen "Walls" (née Day), Lyn Mileham has received a letter from Mrs "Walls", an extract of which is as follows:

"In gratitude for your kindness I enclose a cheque for £5 for the Society's funds which I hope can be put to good use.

"Kathleen Mills née Day".

Lyn asks that a correction appear in the Newsletter relative to the correct surname of Kathleen Mills, not Walls.

### ARCHIVE ACQUISITIONS

Among items recently acquired for the Society's archives are the following:

1) Photocopies of certificates gained by Evelyn Dibble when at Ryde House School in 1917. One, nicely illustrated and issued by the school itself, is for swimming 220 yards in the River Wey. The other three are Diplomas of Accuracy issued by the Sloan-Duployan Shorthand College. They are for preliminary knowledge, learners' knowledge and reporting. They were given by her son, Mr D Dorey, who visited the Museum last March. They are with me.

2) Two metal drawers, mostly of photographs taken in Surrey by our late member, Ray Davies, but some are postcards. He filed them as aids to the beautiful paintings he produced in his retirement. The collection was donated by Avril Davies, his widow, to whom we are exceedingly grateful. The drawers are kept at the Museum, where they are accessible to all members.

3) A couple of dozen or so photographs of Ripley area, taken in the 1950s. They were deposited anonymously at the Museum and are the subject by Jane Bartlett in Newsletter 142 of a plea to the donor to make him/herself known. They are with Jane, who is custodian of our photographic archive.

4) Photocopies of various planning documents and plans, bought from the Borough Council. They relate to current applications to convert barns at Send Court Farm and Tudor Barns Farm to residential accommodation. The applications have either been granted, or are about to be, subject to fulfilment of conditions. They are with me.

5) Various items kindly donated by Audrey Wilkinson, formerly of Gardners Paper Shop in Send, now owned by Mr and Mrs Patel. They include a St Bedes School cap and tie, Ryde House School reports of 1927 and Send C of E School exercise books of 1930, among which are two books of pressed wild flowers. Some of these items are with me and the remainder are at the Museum, in connection with the current schools display.

Les Bowerman (Hon Archivist)

## THE 33RD SYMPOSIUM ON LOCAL HISTORY HELD AT CHERTSEY ON NOVEMBER 7 1998

### Theme: Water

Send & Ripley History Society was represented at the Symposium by Norman Carpenter, Tony Medlen and myself, Clare McCann. Our stand reproduced, as far as space allowed, the Wey Navigation exhibit that was on display at the Museum a few months ago. With such a general theme, other societies chose a great variety of ways in which to interpret it - for example, the Kingston Society had an interesting exhibit on how Cardinal Wolsey transported clean water four miles (including a stretch under the Thames) to supply Hampton Court. The Epsom Society had a display about the well which supplied Epsom Salts and which developed into a spa in the town. There were lovely old photos of the Tillingbourne and, from Reigate, the history of the Bonnys drink company, which used water from an artesian well for its beverages. Every stand had something different and interesting to offer.

The lectures got off to a fascinating start with a talk from Dr Ron Cox on the typhoid epidemic in Croydon in 1937. The story was all too familiar from our contemporary experience of the BSE crisis - he told a tale of officials ignoring or underestimating the problem, of failing to communicate with one another and of trying to keep the populace from realising the scale of the problem, lest local trade be damaged. The tragedy claimed 43 lives and around 300 people actually contracted typhoid, all due to an infected carrier working on a well in Addington. This would not have resulted in contamination of the water had it not been that the work entailed by-passing the filtration plant and the chlorination plant. (It turns out that my mother-in-law, who grew up in South Croydon, remembers the outbreak well and knew people who got the disease, and even one who died.)

The next speaker was Dave Connor, who is a Community Liaison Officer with Thames Water, and his brief was "Water Supply and Sewage Disposal". He tried to give a more positive slant to the work of the modern privatised utility. Whilst some of the audience were frustrated that his talk did not really have an historical slant, he did have some interesting things to say and some excellent slides. It may be worth a thought next time you're in a traffic jam on the M25 that underneath you is London's new ring main, longer than the Channel Tunnel and wide enough to drive a London taxi through (presumably scuba equipment would be needed!). Mr Connor was accompanied by a retired colleague who now runs the Steam Museum at Kew, and he was able to answer more historical inquiries. Clearly the museum at Kew would provide the Society with a very detailed and, I think, interesting outing in due course. Thames Water also had a big display at the Symposium and this included many historical artefacts, including a wooden water pipe.

After lunch, Roger Turner, a landscape architect, spoke on "The History of Water in the Landscape Garden". The subject was of great personal interest to me, but the room was warm and dark, I had just had lunch and he did have a very soft, gentle, slow delivery zzzzzz! Seriously, he had some excellent slides and he made the point that water has featured in gardens for as long as there have been gardens. He started his story in the 16th century, when water features tended to be small and geometric, and illustrated how gradually a more naturalistic tradition came to the fore. He showed us a before and after drawing of Claremont, where William Kent transformed a formal round pond into the amorphous doughnut-shaped lake we know today. He had slides of Stourhead showing the classical temples which influenced the British landscape tradition, largely due to the upper classes trying to reproduce sights seen on the Grand Tour. He mentioned Charles Hamilton's Romantic Garden, closer to home, at Painshill, and his slide was of the Gothic Temple. He told us an amusing anecdote: apparently Painshill

was visited by the writer, Horace Walpole, whose comment on the Gothic Temple was that it was absolutely meaningless as the Goths never built summer houses!

The main thrust of Mr Turner's talk was on the influence of his hero, Capability Brown, and how he made the house the centre of his design - the view from the house and the view of the house from the park. Water was a key part of his thinking and it gradually refined his designs from his early days at Stowe, until he produced lakes and simulated stretches of water which seemed to disappear into the distance, cleverly obscured by landscaping, such as artificial islands. He was so dominant in his day that George III was supposed to have said to his new Head Gardener, after Brown's death, "Now we can do what we like." Mr Turner attributed the growing interest in scenery and travel to places such as the Lakes and Scotland, to the change from seeing the land as purely utilitarian to this new, more decorative function. He went on to talk of the post-Brown era when plants became more important - Brown's landscapes were predominantly grass, water and trees - and how the middle classes, with smaller plots to landscape, saw a return to smaller water features, and even to the return of geometric pools, especially close to the house.

Our final speaker was the Chairman of the Symposium, Kenneth Gravett, and he gave us a survey of "Water in the Home". He began by pointing out that water is so important that initially spring lines determined where we could live. He went on to look at how water was lifted from wells using animals, such as the famous Donkey Well at Carisbrooke in the Isle of Wight, and different types of pumps. He divided water use into four categories: drinking, cooking, washing and flushing. The lack of clean drinking water was not as critical as one might have thought as very few people actually drank water. They drank ale and, later, tea, both of which entailed boiling the water during their preparation. Cooking in the early days would have consisted of a lot of roasted meat and stews and very few green vegetables, so again water quality was not so vital. In the 18th century, the wealthy built icehouses for storing ice, and the following century ice was actually imported from Boston and Norway that was pure enough to drink.

Mr Gravett went on to talk about the growth of the spas at Epsom, Tunbridge Wells and Bath. The latter had warm water, which encouraged visitors to immerse themselves, as well as drink the water. Plunge baths in the great houses became fashionable; Clive had one installed at Claremont in 1770. Sea bathing also became popular, first at Scarborough and then at Margate, where the bathing machine was developed. Brighton was also a fashionable resort, patronised by Royalty, but with no natural spa. However, this defect was remedied by an astute German in 1825, when he opened an artificial spa with his own brewed range of spa waters. Adding carbonation to mineral waters acted as a preservative, and this was effective as long as the cork was kept wet and no air got in, hence the development of the rounded design of the bottle bottom, which meant that the bottle had to be stored on its side.

We saw interesting slides of various designs of bath, and heard the tragic tale of a shepherd who required an operation on a hernia in 1948, and who had never bathed in his life. The hospital insisted on his bathing before the operation, even though he said it would kill him, and sadly it did! It is apparently due to slick marketing by Lux and their competitors since the war that we are all now convinced that we need to wash so often, although the first shower bath dates back to 1830.

Time condensed the latter part of the lecture, and we quickly splashed through the 20th century development of washing machines and dish-washers, pausing only for an incredible story that Chinese laundries owed their superior finish to the fact that the workers held water in their mouths and spat it out with such control onto the garments that they were just right for ironing. I must admit I found that claim a little hard to swallow! We concluded with a brief look at the garderobe, the privy and Harrington's water closet of 1596, which required a water supply. It

seems that it was the Victorians who had the good sense to separate soil pipes from water pipes and build London's sewage system. Sadly, we had to conclude at this point and we barely had time to appreciate the huge contribution to modern plumbing made by that great Victorian, Thomas Crapper. It was a very interesting day.

Clare McCann

### SNIPPETS OF MEMORIES OF SEND AND RIPLEY SCHOOLS 1905-20

As there is the new exhibition in the Museum relating to the schools of Send and Ripley, I thought we would look up some of the memories we had recorded.

When Ivy Sopp went to Ripley School in 1908, the first entrance led into the boys' classroom - a big room divided in two by a glass partition. The second entrance led to the girls' section. The new girls, aged 5, were taught in the tiered gallery, their lessons consisting mainly of the A B C and tables, which they chanted aloud. Later on, when they learnt to read, one of Ivy's first words was "committee", because the cover of her exercise book had the words, "Surrey Education Committee". At first they wrote on slates, not in exercise books, and sat two to a small table on individual small chairs.

Ivy enjoyed the books they had, particularly the illustrated *Merchant of Venice*. In 1914, she won the school prize as top scholar - a book called *Meg's Children*.

Most children walked home for dinnertime (12 to 1.30 pm), although those who had walked from Grove Heath brought sandwiches. Some had nothing to eat and Mr Blaxland, the Headmaster, sent out for food for them.



*Ripley School. Seniors "Big Room at End" c 1923.  
Mr Blaxland, Headmaster on right, Dorothy Challen standing on left*

Mrs Alice Charman, at the school 1914-20 period, said that those who took sandwiches had to watch them, as they were sometimes stolen. There were many very poor families, and some children were without shoes. At one time they could buy baked potatoes for ½d each from Gibbons' Café, next door to the church, but this was stopped as sometimes the children ran home and did not come back for afternoon school. She enjoyed school, and enjoyed the stove that kept them nice and warm.

However, Bill Gadd (93) was not so happy at school. He was asthmatic and was away a lot of the time, so found himself out of his depth in the lessons. The weaker scholars sat at the back of the class and the better ones had the honour of moving to the front. At the stove was at the front, he was frozen, he said. He left school aged 10.

Nan Hoare (née Jackman), who went to Send School about 1900, remembers the gypsy children coming to school each summer when their parents came to work on the farms. The same families came each year and she became friendly with them.

Mrs Rawes, the girls' teacher and wife of the Headmaster, Lance Rawes, used to feed some of the children who didn't go home for lunch. There was a small ventilation hatch between the schoolroom and the school house, and she used to control the class at the same time as cooking the meal.

Many of the children were tired (as well as hungry) and fell asleep in class. They had had to work in the fields for several hours before school on jobs such as picking strawberries in the strawberry fields.

Mrs Marjorie Sex, at Send School 1915-24, has vivid memories of cooking, dressmaking and exams when she was 12. Mrs Rawes' daughter was to be married. The girls had to make her trousseau by hand in their sewing lessons. Mrs Rawes also brought her darning to be done in these lessons. The best work was put on display at the Annual Fête and Flower Show held in Sendholme grounds. Cookery lessons were held in a separate shed in the boys' playground. As it doubled for the boys' woodwork room, scrubbed table tops had to be put over the woodwork tables.



*Send School Group 1905: Lance Rawes, Headmaster*

There were no exams while Mr and Mrs Rawes were there. When the new Head, Mr Rogers, came, Marjorie was in the top class, so he set them exams (presumably by this time, there was secondary education for those who passed). She remembers clearly that none of them knew what to do.

There was punishment at school and Bob Whapshott was caned by Mr Blaxland in the 1920s for trying to hit the school bell with pebbles from his catapult. They were also given "six of the best" if they were found smoking "Woodbines" in the boiler room.

There were periodic inspections by the School Inspector, but as Church Schools, they were much the concern of the parish. The Inspector's report was printed in the Parish Magazine, and the vicar, so Ivy Sopp told us, took School Prayers every morning. The School Governors were local people, who often visited the school, and once a week one of them would come with the teacher's salary. Many pupils particularly remembered Miss Pirie from Ripley House, always with hat and gloves, and always wearing a black velvet ribbon round her neck with a brooch at the front.

Mrs Dorothy Challen (at Send School 1910-16) remembers the School Inspectors for a different reason. After the strain of answering questions, they were allowed the rest of the day as a holiday. She also recalled that in 1914 the school was encouraged to do its bit for the War Effort. Mr Lancaster sent crates of khaki and grey wool. Instead of lessons, the boys held the hanks and the girls wound the wool into balls. Then the girls were taught to knit socks and helmets, and allowed to knit during lessons, even during the Scripture Lesson, the first lesson of the day. As for lessons, she does remember always hoping to do her dictation without a single spelling mistake, but never quite made it.

Mrs Dorothy Challen later trained to become a teacher and spent her first year as a student teacher at Ripley School. She is shown to the far left of the photograph of the pupils at Ripley School in 1923, with Mr Blaxland on the right.

There were at least two "Dame Schools" at this period. Marjorie Sex held one in her house on Send Hill before teaching at Send School with Mr Rogers, and for a few years, Miss Minnie Allwork held a class at the Rio Café, at the London end of Ripley High Street.

Jane Bartlett

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## RIPLEY AND SEND - AN HISTORICAL PUB CRAWL IN WORDS AND PICTURES

As you will see from the "advertisement" elsewhere in this Newsletter, the Society has launched a major new publication.

The idea for the book came out of the pubs and inns exhibition at the Museum, and has been developed by Jane Bartlett and Clare McCann, who staged the original exhibition. Little did they know when they agreed to this undertaking quite what was involved - trips to Allied Domecq, local libraries, a photographic library in London, letters and visits to publishers, learning the ins and outs of a word processor, not to mention the need to check out the local brew - in some cases more than once!

However, we anticipate that this will be a really useful companion volume to "Then and Now" and "Looking Back", as it not only looks at the existing pubs, but also at those that have now vanished and reflects on the reasons for their demise. It is full of lovely old photographs, as well as a few contemporary ones, and adds interesting and amusing anecdotes, which give the book a human dimension. We hope that many local people will enjoy this book, and that it will add to their pleasure and knowledge of the area.

# **PUBS**



## **AN HISTORICAL LOOK AT THE PUBS OF SEND AND RIPLEY**

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### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Thursday, January 28 1999 - 8 pm, Send Church Room**

An illustrated talk by Ron Croucher, of the West Surrey Natural History Society, on "Winged Wonders".

**Wednesday, February 17 1999 - 8 pm, Ripley Annex**

Society AGM, followed by a talk on a subject of local interest.

**Thursday, April 8 1999 - 8 pm, Ripley Annex**

"Graphology", by Sue Biddle: your character from your handwriting.

**May 1999 - date to be announced**

Send Fête and Dog Show.

**June 1999 - date to be announced**

**July 1999 - date to be announced**

**August 1999 - no meeting**

**Thursday, September 23 1999 - 8 pm, Send Church Room**

A talk on Guildford House, its history and current use, illustrated by Iris Hawkins, ex-Curator.

**Wednesday, November 17 1999 - 8 pm, Ripley Annex**

"Festive Food", by Mrs Ann Jones of Farnham Museum.

### **Newsletter Contributions**

The closing date for contributions to the next Newsletter is Friday, 8 January 1999.



## SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

OPEN: May-September, Saturdays 10-12.30 & 2-4.00.  
October-April, Saturdays 10-12.30

ALSO: 3rd Sunday of each month, so as to coincide  
with Ripley Antique Fair, in the Village Hall.

Other times for school groups and small parties  
by arrangement.

*Please contact George or Irene Bleach on 01483 222233 if  
you require information or wish to help in the museum.*

### HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

|                                                                            |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| "Ripley & Send Then and Now, the Changing Scene of<br>Surrey Village Life" | £10 Reprint 1998    |
| "Guide to Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Send"                       | £1.25               |
| "Then and Now, a Victorian Walk around Ripley"                             | Reference copy only |
| "The Straight Furrow", by Fred Dixon                                       | £1.50               |
| "Ripley and Send - Looking Back"                                           | £4.95               |
| "A Walk about Ripley Village in Surrey"                                    | £2.00               |
| "Newark Mill, Ripley, Surrey"                                              | £2.85               |
| "The Hamlet of Grove Heath, Ripley, Surrey"                                | £4.00               |
| "Ripley and Send - an Historical Pub Crawl in Words and<br>Pictures"       | £6.00               |

The reference copy is available at the Museum. All the others are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of "Ripley & Send Then and Now" is additionally available at Send Post Office.

# GOODRICK-MEECH

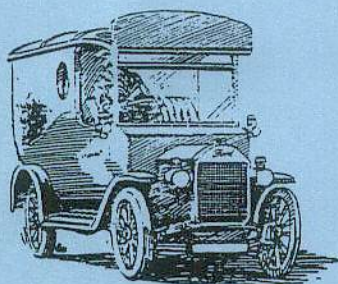
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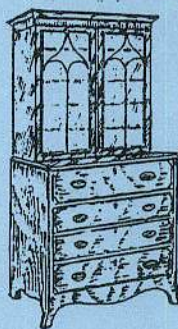
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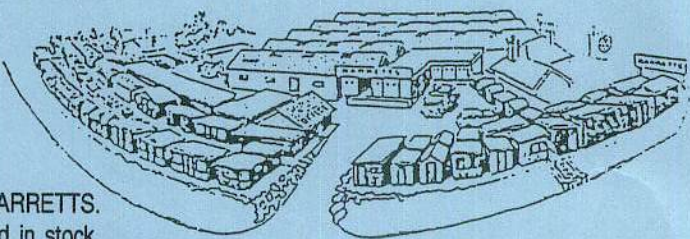
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