

Send & Ripley History Society



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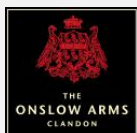
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Front elevation of
West Horsley Place
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EDITORIAL

CATHERINE DAVEY, EDITOR

We come to the end of a year of change and tension that we have not experienced since the uncertainties of the Cold War era and for many it feels that the world is moving back to the bad old days of dissent and danger. Historically 2017 will be a very interesting year, not only for the UK and Europe, as we trigger Article 50 to commence the Brexit negotiations, but also for the USA as they start the year with a very new kind of president. In the meantime the Middle East is feeling more chaotic than it has since the 1960s and 70s. Let us hope for a year of peace and tranquility and new understandings.

More locally villages will be pressing on with their neighbourhood plans as Guildford Borough Council moves to the third iteration of the new draft local plan which the Council will be consulting on later in the year. Waverley Borough Council's planning committee recently granted planning permission by a majority of two for the development of the new town at Dunsfold Aerodrome – perhaps a taste of things to come for Guildford?

It all puts me in mind of Shakespeare's King Henry V as 'the game's afoot' in so many ways as we enter 2017.

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VISIT TO WEST HORSLEY PLACE

LES BOWERMAN

This was not a Send & Ripley History Society visit as such. Members had been notified that a conducted tour of the property was to take place on the morning of Sunday 9th October. The number attending was restricted and members could reserve places on the tour through our Programme Secretary. Having read the intriguing comprehensive four-page history of the site by Pam Bowley, the Horsley historian, in the then current issue of *Around & About Horsley* (No. 234 Autumn 2016) reproduced below, Anne and I booked and felt honoured to have been accepted.

It was not the easiest of places to find, being invisible from the main road down a long cart-track between fields opposite West Horsley church. We lost our way in the farmyard at the end of the track but eventually came across a very wide building with an extremely impressive but rather faded 17th century brick façade with around a couple of dozen people standing on a slightly overgrown open space in front of it. There was no car park so we left our car at the side of one of the tracks and joined the group, among whom we were pleased, and somewhat relieved, to recognise among them members Paul Gossage and Eric & Eileen Barr.

Our guide was none other than Wasfi Kani, opera impresario, founder of the Grange Park Opera and overseer of the building of a complete new opera house for Grange Park in the grounds of West Horsley Place which had been inherited unexpectedly by Bamber Gasgoine after the death of his great-aunt, Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe who died a couple of years ago, aged 99. Bamber Gasgoigne, who was for some 25 years the quizmaster of the television programme, *University Challenge*, has donated the house and its estate to the Mary Roxburghe Trust which aims to restore the Grade 1 listed property and to use its listed outbuildings for the benefit and enjoyment of the public as a centre for education and arts. The house had been virtually unoccupied since the Duchess's death, and for years before that she (and a housekeeper) had used only a few rooms on the ground floor.

Wasfi Kani showed the party around the house and grounds with boundless energy and enthusiasm, having absorbed much of the history of the place, although she was unaware of Pam Bowley's article, which Pam and

her husband, Alan, Editor of the Horsley magazine, have kindly agreed may be re-printed with this report. Behind the brick façade is an almost complete Tudor mansion of nearly 50 rooms where, as members will read in Pam's article, Henry VIII was once treated by the then owner of the house, Henry Courtney, to a 34-course banquet before going on to have Courtney killed for singing defamatory songs about him in the garden. We saw among many interesting features 'the new kitchen' and 'the Geraldine Room' mentioned in Pam's report.

In the garden we saw the wavy 'crinkle-crankle' wall, a feature built, as Jim Oliver many years ago explained to the Society, to save on bricks while at the same time strengthening the wall and providing extra protection for beehives and tender trees or plants.

We were able to pick apples in the overgrown orchard. We saw the contrasting back wall of the house, and we saw the steel-girder framework of the new opera house for which well-known names have already been booked for events beginning next June.

Although there was no charge for the tour, members offered to contribute to the restoration and building fund. The offer was not taken up maybe because Wasfi Kani had hopes of considerably greater donations than we were likely have put in. SRHS members are extremely grateful to Wasfi Kani for sparing so much of her valuable time to give us such a lively and knowledgeable tour. It was a great privilege to be able to see this very interesting historic house before the necessary restoration work has been done on it. Lack of space precludes any more being written here about the place. Those with computers who are interested in learning more may like to Google West Horsley Place, the Mary Roxburghe Trust, Bamber Gasgoigne, and not least Wasfi Kani who has had a most remarkable life.

A more comprehensive book on the history of the house and the families who lived in it is available priced £6 from Pam Bowley (Tel. 01483 283934).

WEST HORSLEY PLACE

PAM BOWLEY

Reprinted by kind permission of the author and editor of Around & About Horsley

Not everyone knows where West Horsley Place is; I have been asked on numerous occasions and for those who still don't know, it lies back across a field opposite St. Mary's Church. It is not always visible in the summer months, because the band of trees along the roadside obscures it from view.

THE EARLY HISTORY

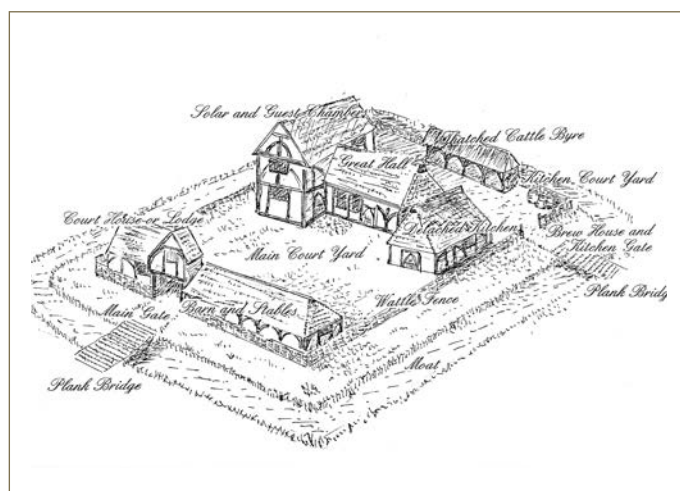
In Saxon days, West Horsley always had links with royalty. It may have belonged to the uncle of King Alfred once, and at the time of the Norman Conquest it belonged to a man who was married to King Harold's sister. William the Conqueror burnt down West Horsley and slaughtered all the peasants in December 1066 and all the other estates belonging to those who had been present at the Battle of Hastings and had not surrendered to him. I believe the Saxon village was in the field to the west of the house, where all the humps and bumps are.

William had the pick of all the estates in his new kingdom; then, he began giving away the remaining ones to his relations, friends and underlings who had served him well, except the ones that belonged to the church. East Horsley belonged to the Archbishop of Canterbury at the time. West Horsley was given to a Walter Fitz Otha, as well as Compton, on the other side of Guildford. He was made the constable of Windsor Castle and took the surname of 'de Windsor'. As there was nothing left of West Horsley, he chose to live at Compton, but he would have had a hall built at Horsley where he could stay when he came on estate business or for when he came for the hunting.

No one came to live here until about 1160 when it was recorded that "Sir Hugh de Horsleigh (alias de Windsor) held a knight's fee at Horsley" and was giving two-thirds of the tithes to Chertsey Abbey. The fourth Sir Hugh de Windsor had only one child, a girl, Christiana who married a Sir Ralph de Berners. She inherited the manor in 1271.

THE BERNERS FAMILY

The medieval manor house would have been timber-framed with a moat around it and a large gatehouse in



West Horsley Place

front, possibly with a large room above the entrance, used for meetings for the manor courts. The field in front of the house is called 'Court House Gate'. One of the Berners, Sir James de Berners, was orphaned at an early age and was brought up at court with the young prince who later became King Richard II; the two boys became friends. James was beheaded in 1388 for having too much influence over the young king. He was quite young but had married and had an heir, Richard de Berners. His father being so friendly with the king, I can imagine him giving large parties for courtiers down at West Horsley for the hunting. So that may have been when the large west wing was built; it was inordinately long for a guest wing, and certainly pre-Tudor.

THE BOURCHIER

The manor was in the Berners family for about 170 years until 1441 when the sole heir was another girl called Margery. She was married to Sir John Bouchier, a member of a wealthy family, so it was inevitable that he should want a more modern-looking house. These were more settled times so he got rid of the gatehouse and filled in the moat and built a more up-to-date Great Hall with the latest innovation, linen-fold panelling. Having got rid of the gatehouse, there was now nowhere to hold the manor court, and this was about the time when the church was getting concerned about the buying and selling of church

ales¹ that took place in the church, so a house was built to double-up for the two uses. It had open sides so that the buying and selling could still take place in inclement weather, and a long room upstairs where meetings could take place. Church House still stands there today and stands next to the church and has been dendro-dated to 1433/34.

By her marriage to John Bouchier, Margery had at least two sons, the eldest, Sir Humphrey, married quite early and had a son before being killed at the battle of Barnet “where died the flower of the English aristocracy”. The Bouchiers set up a chantry chapel on the south side of the church and paid a priest to say prayers for him. Their other son, Sir Thomas Bouchier was killed at the battle of Bosworth in 1485.

Margery’s grandson, another John Bouchier, was also orphaned when young, and was brought up in court with the king’s son, who later became Henry VIII. Once again the two young boys became friends, and when Henry became king, he made him chancellor for life, travelling everywhere with the royal entourage, and living an extravagant lifestyle - so much so, that permanently in debt, he had to mortgage a number of his manors, including the manors of “Westhorsselegh and Weke” (sic). [Weke was the former small manor of Weke, the present Wix Farm].

John Bouchier died relatively young, leaving his widow and remaining daughter penniless. On his death, Henry seized all his manors, including Ockham, part of Effingham and West Horsley. Then he gave them to his first cousin and childhood friend, Henry Courtney, Marquis of Exeter and Earl of Devonshire.

HENRY COURTNEY, A COUSIN TO THE KING

He lived here for only about three years but during that time he entertained the king to some lavish banquets, including one consisting of 35 courses! Henry Courtney was a man who enjoyed a merry life and was given to slight indiscretions which, in the end, was his undoing. He also entertained his friends to rather risqué songs accompanied on his lute. One day Thomas Cromwell just happened to

call and was shown out into the garden where he overheard Courtney entertaining his friends to one of these songs about the king and his ladies at court. He was immediately arrested. Another excuse for his arrest was that his wife was a Roman Catholic and had many ‘dangerous’ relatives. Both the Countess and their 12 year-old son were also arrested and imprisoned in the Tower, where they stayed until Queen Mary came to the throne.

THE MONTAGUES

Just before he died in 1547 King Henry awarded the West Horsley estate to Anthony Browne, one of the few men whom he could trust, who had been tutor to the royal children and those orphaned children who had been brought up at court, one of whom was Lady Elizabeth Fitzgerald, daughter and heiress of an Irish nobleman. The young Earl of Surrey, Henry Howard, had been madly in love with Lady Elizabeth, calling her “the fair Geraldine” in one of his poems, but was beheaded for aspiring to marry an heiress without the monarch’s permission.

Anthony Browne’s wife died after giving him ten children, the king gave him Lady Elizabeth. She was 15, he was 60. He put a room in for her above the Great Hall so she could entertain and dance. It was called the “Geraldine Room”. It had a coved ceiling with plaster medallions, bearing the crests of both families and their initials. Anthony Browne was a Roman Catholic and had at least two priest holes devised for him. When he died, his eldest son by his first marriage succeeded him but Lady Elizabeth was allowed to stay in the house for life. When the catholic Queen Mary came to the throne she created him (Anthony Browne’s son) Lord Montague.

The second Lord Montague had a footman called Guy Fawkes a young lad from York, who was also a Roman Catholic, and went everywhere with his master. After his death the third Lord Montague helped him to get into the army, fighting in the Spanish Netherlands; that is how he came to learn about explosives and led to him being involved in the gunpowder plot.

¹ Wikipaedia tells us ‘The Parish ale was a festival in an English parish at which ale made and donated for the event was the chief drink. The word “ale” was generally used as part of a compound term. Thus there was the leet-ale (the manorial court day); the lamb-ale (lamb-shearing); the Whitsun-ale (at Whitsun), the clerk-ale, the church-ale etc. These parish festivals were of much ecclesiastical and social importance in medieval England. The chief purpose of the church-ale (which was originally instituted to honour the church saint) and the clerk-ale, was to facilitate the collection of parish dues and to make a profit for the church from the sale of ale by the church wardens. These profits kept the parish church in repair, or were distributed as alms to the poor.’

CAREW RALEIGH

When the Civil War began in 1642, the third Lord Montague had West Horsley Place sequestered by the Parliamentarians, who sold it to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, brother-in-law to Sir Walter Raleigh. He in turn left it in his will to his nephew, Carew Raleigh, when he died in 1643.

THE NICHOLAS FAMILY

Raleigh was hoping to make it his family seat, but his two sons died in an epidemic along with a baby granddaughter, so he sold it to Sir Edward Nicholas, who was First Secretary to the King. He spent a lot of money on the house. He pulled down the stables which had formed one side of the courtyard at the back of the house and built a new stable block on the new drive he had made. He also built 'the new kitchen' (still called that after all this time), and shortened the west wing, so as to try and make it in balance with the new kitchen. He may have also put the false front on the house over the timber framing, although it is not certain.

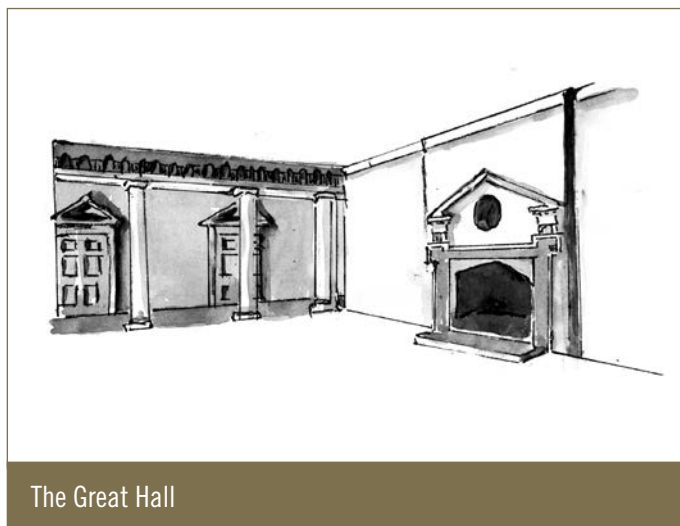
In 1742, the estate passed to a younger brother of the family, who was of a scientific turn of mind. He was responsible for piping one of the streams underground and feeding it into a well for a nearer source of water to the house and farm. He was also responsible for the serpentine wall in the garden known as the 'crinkle-crinkle' wall for the growing of peaches and nectarines. He never married, but had an illegitimate daughter, whom he made his heir and married her to a friend of his, Henry Weston.

THE WESTONS

Henry Weston was getting on in years when he inherited the estate, but he was all for pulling down the house and building a new one in the classical style, until one of his friends reminded him of his age, telling him that he might not see it finished. So he decided to concentrate on the inside of the house. The Great Hall was stripped of the linen-fold panelling. To make it conform to Robert Adam's new proportions for a classic room, a row of pillars were introduced at the end of the room and a classic pediment was placed over the Tudor fireplace. The linen-fold panelling was bought by a man from Colchester. Half was sold to Parnham House in Dorset and the other half he used in a new house he built in Kingston, now a language school called 'Cedar Court'.

THE WESTONS AND HENRY CURRIE

The Weston family, who were mostly military men, lived mainly abroad and during the time of their absence it was rented out, notably to Henry Currie, who fought the



The Great Hall

railway engineers to keep the railway away from his land. A contemporary description of the house says that there are "two kennels occupied by two noble deer hounds named Dersy and Dermid". They are the only two kennels that are listed Grade II in the country. While Henry Currie was still living there another Henry Weston came back to live, so he built 'Cranmore' in 1863 (now the boys' school of that name).

Some of the Weston family lived at Cranmore in between letting the place out. In 1931 West Horsley Place was sold to the Marquis of Crew, whose daughter Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe, inherited it on her mother's death in 1967.

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LIVING HISTORY - PART 2

ALBERT PULLEN

INTERVIEWED BY ALAN COOPER

WORLD WAR II TO PRESENT DAY

“I pretty soon got fed up and joined the Air Training Corps (ATC). Then I started work and with a bit of money in my pocket got restless, lied about my age and joined the RAF - it was November 1944.”



Albert standing in the family home doorway, wearing his new RAF uniform – this picture was taken shortly before leaving to commence training in Canada.

“I trained as a flight engineer and for this I was sent to what is now Gander in Newfoundland, Canada. Air crew training was quite rigorous. First there was a lot of marching, then cross country running to bring you to a peak of physical fitness. As a flight engineer you were also trained to both fly and land the plane in the event the pilot was rendered incapable. I trained on and flew the Lancaster and have the obligatory scars to prove it. No matter how careful you were you eventually whacked your shins on the main spar (the structural backbone of the aircraft).” Training complete, Bert returned to England but the war had just finished. The truth about his age had been discovered and he spent further time in the RAF as a result. He took part in what became known as ‘Operation Manna’, dropping food supplies to the starving people of the Netherlands and also ‘Operation Vittles’, which later became known as the ‘Berlin Airlift’.

After World War II, the Allies partitioned the defeated Germany into a Soviet-occupied zone, an American-occupied zone, a British-occupied zone and a French-occupied zone. Berlin, the German capital city, was located deep in the Soviet zone, but it was also divided into four sectors. In June 1948, the Russians, who wanted Berlin all for themselves, closed all highways, railroads and canals from western-occupied Germany into western-occupied Berlin. This, they believed, would make it impossible for the people who lived there to get food or any other supplies and would eventually drive Britain, France and the US out of the city for good. Instead of retreating from West Berlin, however, the US and its allies decided to supply their sectors of the city from the air. This effort, known as the ‘Berlin Airlift,’ lasted for more than a year and carried more than 2.3 million tons of cargo into West Berlin. During this time, an Allied supply plane took off or landed in West Berlin every 30 seconds. The planes made nearly 300,000 flights in all.

It was here that Bert met some REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) officers in charge of rebuilding the Volkswagen factory. This was a life changing experience for him as, upon returning to England, they imported their Volkswagen Beetles and sold them on.

The Lookers² website explains ‘George La-Haye, born in Scotland, had joined the ‘Royal Scots Greys REME Core’ at an early age during WW2, and was stationed near Bremen, Germany, serving as the ‘Theatre and Music Officer’. George always had a passion for cars, and purchased a variety of models whilst he was serving in Germany. One of his proudest acquisitions was a Mercedes ‘Maybach’, which was eventually commandeered by Field Marshall Montgomery, and is now believed to be in a Military vehicle museum in the UK.

After the Maybach, George went on to purchase no less than three Volkswagen Beetles during his remaining years in Germany. His first Beetle was sadly stolen only days after he acquired it, however he was able to bring his last Beetle back to the UK with him, where he eventually set up home in Surrey.

² Lookers took over the Colbournes business

In George's early days living in Surrey, he visited Colborne Garages in Ripley (which was founded in 1949), and the proprietor, John Colborne-Baber, showed an immediate interest in the Volkswagen Beetle George had with him. He made George an offer on a part-exchange for a Wolseley 6/80, which he accepted.

John Colborne-Barber was so impressed with the Beetle he'd purchased, that he then approached Volkswagen in Germany and began importing Volkswagen vehicles into the UK – and the rest is history.

The original Beetle that George sold to Colborne Garages is still going strong - UK registration JLT420.'

Essentially, that is how Colborne garages started and provided him with work for 21 years. "I remember John Baber swapped an old Bentley for a Beetle and that got him going. A firm in Kingston, Fulford's, would re-upholster the seats, as in those days were only made of webbing and sacking. The first Colborne garage was at Sturry in Kent, very close to Manston air base, where pilots were bribed to bring back boxes of spares from Germany. I still have one of those old boxes!"

Bert's passion for cars started at an early age: "Dad worked as a gardener for, amongst others, Ginger Hamilton who had Fisher's garage. He lived in April Cottage, Lime Grove, West Clandon and ran a (pre-war) racing team of three 128 Alfa Romeos from Brooklands. He drove along with John Eden, who later ran the garage for a long time and lived in Boughton Hall Avenue, and Reg Stickley, who once perched me on his lap and drove me round Brooklands race-track. Dad also did gardening for the Gillet family, who owned the Three Frogs cafe. Behind this,



The corner of Send Marsh Green, with a pollarded elm tree in front of Bert's family home. When the tree was cut, nothing was wasted; the trimmings were used in the garden as pea sticks.

where the estate is now was nothing but boggy marshland where I would pick kingcups as a child for my mother."

With his RAF service behind him Bert proceeded to work in numerous jobs within and allied to the motor industry, many having connections with motor-racing, culminating in 21 years service for Colborne garage, Ripley. "I remember Ken Tyrrell getting started in motorsport. He had a logging business at Bachelors Farm in Ockham and I remember they used huge French lorries made by Latil. If you had a week's holiday you would go and see Ken and do a bit of work for him. For a very short time I was Jackie Stewart's Mechanic. I worked for Leslie Hawthorn at Tourist Trophy garage in Farnham, where Swain and Jones is now. When Leslie died his son Mike inherited the business. Mike was Formula 1 world champion in 1958 but was killed in a car accident shortly afterwards on the Guildford bypass on 22nd January 1959. I worked for a while at Connaught's garage at Burnt Common in the days when Roy Salvadori and Archie Scott-Brown drove for them. Archie was killed at Spa in 1958 and when he retired Roy opened a garage on the Kingston bypass near Mollarts, the universal joint manufacturers. In the late 50s / early 60s, the bypass was used totally illegally to test cars, generally in the early hours of the morning. I remember the Taylor Brothers testing the ALTA, Roy the Connaught and Duncan Hamilton his E-type Jaguars. Motor-racing was everywhere in Surrey in those days. Louis Chiron, the French driver for Sunbeam had a little workshop at the back of the garage in Baker Street in Weybridge and Tony Brooks started a business in Woking - to name just a few.

I worked at another garage, but only for 3 hours! I was given a badly running vehicle to sort out and was instructed to remove a carburettor from another, swap them and see if this was where the problem lay. My response was "I don't do that sort of job" - and I walked out. I was mainly noted as a VW mechanic - and a proper one at that!

I also worked for Wincanton garages making fibreglass lorry cabs and the British Trolley Track Company making up-and-over garage doors. They were in Godalming and I would cycle there. I also worked in Chertsey and cycled there as well, manufacturing fibre-glass containers used by Birds-Eye and Mac Fisheries for the boat-building family Whittingham and Mitchell.

In these formative years at Colbornes, local blacksmiths Charlie Gear in Ockham and Ron & Arthur Sex in Send would set up the leaf springs for us. A comical memory was when one day, in a bit of a fluster, I flew into the office and shouted at the little girl there "get me Sex on the phone please" - a few minutes later she came out into the workshop and said "your call is ready" - I picked up the receiver and a voice on the other end asked "which service do you require?"

Bert and wife Gladys moved to Ripley on August 8th 1958. "I remember at that time there was only one car on the estate and what was once Gibbs the agricultural repairers being agents for the Austin Car Company. My first car was a left-hand-drive Beetle that Colbornes had scrapped. I completely rebuilt the engine and converted it to right-hand-drive; I had that car for nine years!

As a young man I remember going drinking with friends in Cobham. Alf Chandler came to collect us in his taxi, a Ford Pilot V8. I had had a few too many resulting in me being tied to the roof rack for the journey home!

I also remember drinking in the Seven Stars in Ripley with 'Nuffy' Smithers, an old regular who had 'his own' seat which outsiders were discouraged from sitting on. He lived on the green at the back of the Half Moon and one evening I walked back to the village with him. Halfway, an enormous American car pulled up. "Where's Pyrford?" the driver rudely enquired. Without stopping or looking at him Nuffy gestured with his thumb across the fields and muttered "over there". "I'm in a car you old fool" came the furious response from the Yank. Nuffy had a very dry sense of humour and as he continued walking, without turning shouted back "old fool I might be but I'm not lost".

In the latter half of the 1970s Bert blueprinted and built a 1300cc racing engine to be used in Formula V - and the 'Pullen Scarab' was born! The car was financed by John Flux who lived in Fetcham, where all the construction work was done and raced by his son Ian Flux, who won the championship two years in succession. In its first season of competitive racing in 1976 it won 15 out of 17 races and the following year, 1977, all 17.



The 'Pullen Scarab' in action at Brands Hatch in 1974 - Driven by Ian Flux



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The almost lifelong career in the motor industry came to an abrupt halt when, complaining of hearing difficulties, a specialist advised Bert to change jobs or become permanently deaf within 18 - 24 months.

Many years of tuning engines had taken their toll and many years within the close proximity of the four Merlin engines of a Lancaster had not helped matters either and so, after 21 years, working for Colbornes came to an end.

Refusing to go on the dole, Bert fell back upon his gardening skills and soon built up a number of regular clients. One of these, who lived in Yew Tree Cottage next to Ripley Cricket Club soon provided more familiar work. "Mr. Smith owned three vintage cars: a Rolls Royce, a Morgan and a Wolseley Hornet and during the winter months I would maintain them. Next, he got me to convert his cellar into a kids' playroom. He worked in the City of London and all the oak panelling from the boardroom was taken out when the offices were modernised and relocated to Ripley. The cellar was fully waterproofed, battening fixed to the walls and the recycled panelling applied.

I then built and fitted a staircase into the cellar and an oriel window in the end of the workshop. Around this time the owners of Elm Tree House, over the road had discovered the coaching pit under the floorboards, from the days when it was an inn. I was asked to do some work there and the owner hired a lorry and went somewhere in Wiltshire to buy a load of railway sleepers to line it out. These were pitch pine and would not rot. The floor was made to hinge up and it was converted into a dining room with a wine cellar at the end. I left before it was finished and a carpenter from Pyrford who lived in Lock Lane finished the job."



Bert's Lancaster - which took nearly a year to complete

After a long and varied career, Bert now spends most of his time indulging in his passion for model making and keeping his garden in immaculate condition.

All photographs in Part 2 from & © Bert Pullen collection and grateful thanks to Audrey Smithers for her assistance.

SEND MUSTANGS J251/6 – FURTHER DETAILS

LES BOWERMAN

Further to my notes about the Send Mustangs Cycle Speedway Club in the last issue of the Journal, Malcolm Isted has written in with some further details.

He writes 'I read with interest your article on Send Mustangs in the magazine. I remember watching them in action as a 10-11 year-old and being excited by the races... and, it must be admitted, being a little envious of the adulation of the girls for some of the more attractive riders.'

He recalls that, not only did the Mustangs (so to speak) grow out of the disused sand pit at the junction of Send Hill with Bush Lane, but they also continued to use the 'Sandies' as

a practice track once they were up and running, or rather, riding. He remembers riding round it countless times and it was still visible as a worn track for many years. The races on the track opposite the Drill Hall were started by the riders lining up behind a wire that was then released upwards, probably by a spring arrangement. This actual racetrack was about 20-30 yards back from the road. The years he watched them were in the period 1953 to 1955.

Malcolm definitely remembers seeing the Mustangs on at least one occasion being transported in Normans' (based in Potters Lane) furniture removal van.

RESEARCHING YOUR HOUSE DAY

CLARE McCANN

The Society's House Day on Saturday 12th November 2016 was well received by attendees and we had two excellent speakers who complemented each other. In the morning Brigid Fice gave us an excellent illustrated talk on architectural styles and clues to dating houses and in the afternoon Isabel Sullivan from the Surrey History Centre talked on the topic of documentary evidence. There were displays around the hall which will form part of a museum exhibition later in the year.

As part of our house day we used Avon House on Ripley Green as an example of how one might start on compiling a house history.

PERSONAL MEMORIES

JENNIE CLIFF

Jennie Cliff (mother of the current owner) has provided us with the following personal memories:-

My Grandparents, Vera and Percy Chandler, lived at Avon House, renting it in the mid-1930s, and eventually purchasing it in the 1950s. When my parents married, they lived (like many post-war newly-weds) with Audrey's parents Vera and Percy, at Avon House. It was my home for the first six months of my life too. I was born at the nursing home in Woking; the family doctor,



Avon House

Dr Winslow-Smith, attended the birth, and on his way home put a note through the door of Avon House, which read "A girl for Avon Ho, what ho!". The house, for many years was known as Avon Ho, as the letters 'use' had fallen from the house name on the gate, and the full name of the property disappeared until the house was purchased in the mid 50s. I can remember



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several adult conversations between my dad and grandparents about this purchase, and then one day a small brown leather case was filled with banknotes, and off went my father and Percy to the solicitor in Woking.

The house that they lived in was quite different from the Avon House of today. There was a small room with table and chairs where we sat when visiting, and a 'front room' which was used on Sundays; there was a lovely rather large 'posh' radio gramophone, which played 78s. The stairs were in a different position, and there were four bedrooms, though not conveniently arranged, since you had to go through one room to another. The bathroom had a lovely old washstand with two shelves and china bowls of different sizes, and a big roll-top bath. The toilet was outside, though attached to the scullery, and next to the coal-shed.



Avon House

I can picture my grandmother with a large metal tub on an upturned crate in the garden, scrubbing away at the washing. The garden seemed to me to be always sunny, had a productive plum tree, and Percy grew quite a few vegetables there, though he had an allotment in the area which is now the primary school field. There was a big shed near the house where there were all manner of gardening tools, and a huge bin with corn for the chickens. The chicken run was where the garage is now; I'm not sure how they survived since they were rather close to the foxes on the Green!

I thought as a child that it was quite amazing that the house itself survived through the war. The stories I overheard seemed to suggest that bombs were often off-loaded as the German pilots flew home after raids on the nearby aircraft factory, Vickers. Percy used to show me dips in the Green near the woods which he said were craters, and I remember hearing that the ceilings in the house came down as a result of the explosions. Several workers from Vickers lodged at the house both during and post-war. I recall being shown petrol ration vouchers which I think were issued during the Suez crisis, but never used. I also heard about my Uncle, who lived at the house, and joined up to serve in the air force early in the 1940s. It was said that when he initially went off to war, "he walked up the back of the Green without a backward glance," but the family saw him take his clean white handkerchief from his pocket and dab his eyes. He loved the house and life in Ripley too.

The house has a really friendly feel to it, and in my childhood days seemed to be always full of family members and laughter. Percy was one of the very large Chandler family and his brothers and sisters frequently came to visit. Vera was a good cook, and enjoyed company; often, playing cards were a focus, and there were always tales from Percy's brothers about their first world war experiences.

In 1977 my parents moved to Avon House. Vera had died, and Percy needed to be looked after. The house was completely remodelled. The stairs were moved, the bedrooms were reconfigured (though one was lost and the house became a 'three bed'). A fully fitted bathroom was installed, along with an up to date kitchen, central heating and general sprucing up. The garden was changed; now there was a patio. The chickens had disappeared long ago, but vegetables were still grown, and the plum tree remained. Avon house continued to be a place where the family congregated; our little family and my brother

with his wife and children were expected for tea almost every Sunday, and if we had friends in tow they came along too. Now the next generation is installed in the house. Vera and Percy's great grandson, our son Steven, moved to the house some 10 years ago with his wife and daughter. They are now a family with three girls, and of course are putting their stamp on the house, bringing it into the 21st century. What was my Gran's house I now visit as a Grandma!

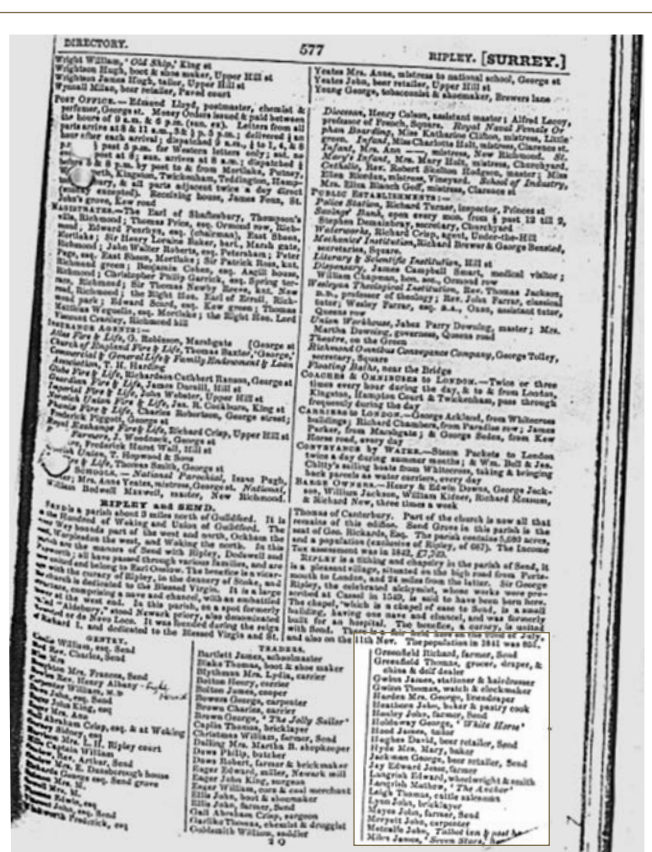
What next for Avon House I wonder?

MAPS AND CENSUS RETURNS



John Slatford and Clare McCann (SRHS) Annie Cross and Isabel Sullivan from Surrey History Centre
© courtesy Surrey Advertiser

John Slatford looked at both maps and census returns - Avon House appears on all the Ordnance Survey maps and on the Tithe. The Tithe apportionment gives the owner and occupier of a house (no 139) as John Lyner. However, the name Lyner does not appear on the Census but the name John Lynn does so it is likely to be the same person and there has been a spelling error on the Tithe (not uncommon). The 1841 Census records: 'John Lynn aged 70, a builder and John Lynn aged 40, a bricklayer' (bear in mind that ages on the 1841 are only to the nearest five years). The 1851 census records: 'John Lynn, a widower aged 43, a bricklayer & master of three men'. He also had two young children, Catherine and George, living with him. By 1861, he had gone from Ripley with only Catherine Lynn living in Homewood Farm. So Avon House is pre-1841 though probably by not much. It is likely that John Lynn senior was the builder.



11th Nov. The population in 1841 was 851.
Greenfield Richard, farmer, Send
Greenfield Thomas, grocer, draper, & china & delf dealer
Gwinn James, stationer & hairdresser
Gwinn Thomas, watch & clockmaker
Harden Mrs. George, linendraper
Heathorn John, baker & pastry cook
Henley John, farmer, Send
Holdaway George, 'White Horse'
Hood James, tailor
Hughes David, beer retailer, Send
Hyde Mrs. Mary, baker
Jackinan George, beer retailer, Send
Jay Edward Jesse, farmer
Langrish Edward, wheelwright & smith
Langrish Mathew, 'The Anchor'
Leigh Thomas, cattle salesman
Lynn John, bricklayer
Mayes John, farmer, Send
Meryett John, carpenter
Metcalf John, Talbot inn & post ho
Miles James, 'Seven Stars,' Send

Look at other documentary sources such Kelly's directories. 847 Directory - John Lynn, Bricklayer from Avon House?

A structural survey, particularly of the roof structure might be revealing but while we did not have a professional survey we had some observations from the current owner Steven Cliff.

Thanks to Jenny and Steven Cliff and to John Slatford.

BOUGHTON HALL FARM

CAMERON BROWN



Boughton Hall

Our thanks to Mr Keith Mitchell of Addlestone who contacted us recently via the website. His ancestors lived at Boughton Hall Farm (now Andertons) from 1880 until around 1920 and he sent us a number of photographs he has come across during his research into the family history.

Mr Mitchell writes: “Judging by their clothing I would estimate the date of both these first photos to be around 1900-1905 or possibly a little earlier. I have no idea who took the pictures as there is no info on the photos themselves nor on the card mounts but they appear to be professional.

The photo with the group of three I believe to be Agnes (b1857) and Alexander Mitchell (b1833) a dog and one of their children, probably Maud (b1895) or Margaret (b1899).”

“The photo of the two men, one with a gun is clearly taken after the other photo due to the removal of the

tree on the right of the picture. I believe them to be two of the brothers, James (b1880) John (b1882) or Robert Mitchell (b1883), who were the oldest sons of Agnes and Alexander Mitchell.



Boughton Hall



Send Church graveyard

Agnes and Alexander had a total of 12 children between 1880 and 1899, 11 of which survived to adulthood. Agnes and Alexander are buried in Send Church graveyard along with some of their children. I include a photo (above) of their gravestones. The inscriptions are now eroded but I remember reading them in the 1980s when they were still legible.”



Mrs Poulton?

I also enclose a photo of a very well dressed lady who may be Mrs Poulton, the owner at the time of Boughton Hall to which the farm was attached, but I could be wrong about the attribution.

“Finally there is a photo of (from l to r) Agnes Mitchell, Mrs Poulton (?) and (perhaps) Mrs Poulton’s daughter, (listed in 1901 census as ‘imbecile’ - very non PC nowadays). Again I am not sure of the Poulton attributions but Agnes Mitchell is correct.”



l to r: Agnes Mitchell, Mrs Poulton (?) and (perhaps) Mrs Poulton's daughter

I wonder if any of our members can shed any further light?

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100 YEARS AGO IN SEND AND RIPLEY

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THE HOME FRONT

In early 1917 there was much discussion within the country about improving the supply of food, which was being reduced by Germany U-Boat submarine attacks. Shortage of labour on the land was thought to be hindering the home-grown food supply. One solution, proposed by Mr Chamberlain - then Prime Minister, was to create a Voluntary National Service Scheme. This would comprise children and adults aged 16 to 65 to aid food production by working on the land.

During January and February Send and Ripley Parish Council appointed a committee to oversee implementation of the scheme in Send (if required) while Ripley was to do the same. School managers and the County Council were to be approached to give authority for leave of part-time absence to children capable of performing agricultural work.

However, the scheme was later reported to be a failure.

ON A MORE LIGHT-HEARTED NOTE:

A successful entertainment was held at Ripley School by members of the Girls Friendly Society. It was supervised by Mrs EM Pearce, Mrs Burrough (vicar's wife) and Mrs Blaxland. Much credit was reflected on the performers and Mrs Pearce (organiser) assisted by Mrs Blaxland and Mrs Jeram. Several of the sketches performed evoked roars of laughter.

Girls Friendly Society members were single girls (eg domestic servants, teachers, clerks) isolated from friends and family through moving to a different area.

A New Year Social event was held at the Cartridge Congregational Church. The Rev JF Seymour gave an address which was followed by entertainment and refreshments.

At the Anchor Hotel a whist drive was held on behalf of the Red Cross which raised £8.9.3½ (or £8.46).

A lecture was given in Send by Rev Politegan about the customs of Palestine in relation to the bible.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RIPLEY'S BONFIRE QUEEN – J 251

I was puzzled by the article about Ripley's bonfire queen in the November journal. I was told by Betty Baker of School View, High Street about an earlier bonfire. In 1927 the bonfire built by the children had been prematurely set alight, and her father Ernest Cox, the carrier, organised a group of men to rebuild it. We have a picture of him half way up the stack, with his lorry piled with gorse on the right, and the lorry of Mr Jarman, the market gardener, on the left. After this a committee was formed to organise the event. (See Newsletter No113)

In 1938, the year Betty's father died, the committee asked Betty to be the queen in memory of her father's work. She led the procession in the coach following a ragtime band, dressed in

pink silk and accompanied by four maids of honour. There were no bonfires during the war years, so may I assume that in 1949, 'Pip' Roberts was the first post-war Queen?

Jane Bartlett



Ripley Bonfire Builders 1927 © SRHS Collection

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SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All evening talks except AGM doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start Ripley Village Hall. Tea/coffee available.

DATES	EVENTS
Tuesday 17th January	Illustrated talk by Tim Morris - History of Brooklands - race track and airfield.
Tuesday 21st February	AGM - NB. 7.30 sharp for AGM. (Non-members 8pm for 8.15 start for film). Cheese and Wine plus Circle 8 film on the History of Guildford cinemas.
Tuesday 7th March	Guildford - The Rock 'n Roll Years. Illustrated talk by David Rose.
Tuesday 18th April	The History of the Wey Navigation talk by Sue Jones.
Wednesday 17th May	Day visit to Brooklands – detail TBC.
Tuesday 20th June	Early evening visit to Wisley Church and Pyrford Church with optional supper at The Anchor in Pyrford.
Monday 17th July	Afternoon visit to Worplesdon Church and The Sidney Sime Gallery with afternoon tea.
Tuesday 19th September	Liz Taylor talk on History of RHS Wisley.
Tuesday 17th October	TBA
Tuesday 21st November	TBA
Tuesday 12th December or 19th December	The Christmas Social - Members only

Further details can be obtained from Margaret Field 01483 223387

NEW RESEARCHERS AND AUTHORS REQUIRED

As editor I am grateful to those regular contributors who keep the pages of the journal filled with articles. However, the majority are original members of the Society and we need to find a new generation of researchers and authors.

I am keen to hear from anyone who would like to start getting involved in researching the history of the two villages whether it be documentary evidence at the Surrey History Centre or maybe the history of your own house.

I will then organise a meeting so that we can discuss sources and how to get going.

We are also seeking a new editor to replace me from March 2017.

Cate Davey – Editor
editorsrhjournal@gmail.com

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HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life	Reprinted 1998/2006	£10.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.25
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£4.00
The Straight Furrow, by Fred Dixon		£1.50
Ripley and Send – Looking Back	Reprinted 2007	£9.00
A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£2.00
Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2012	£4.00
The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£4.00
Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures		£6.00
Two Surrey Village Schools – The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools		£10.00
The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey		£5.00
Memories of War		£8.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£10.00
Send and Ripley Walks		£5.00
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£8.00
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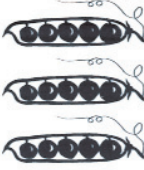
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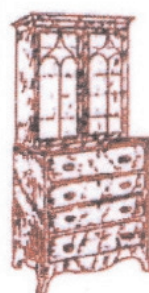
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