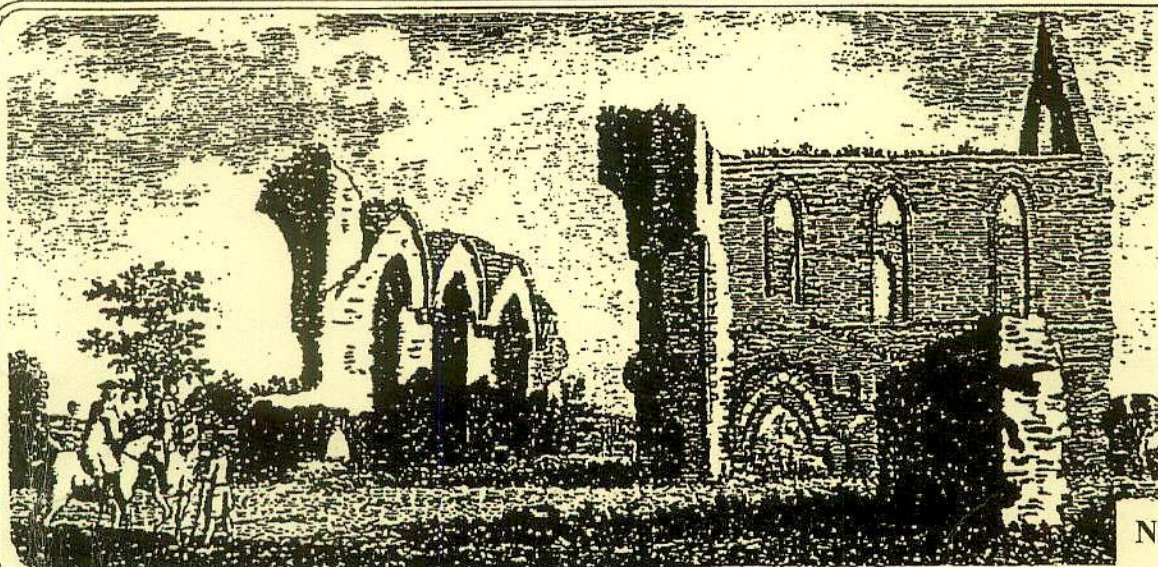


Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 296324



Newark Priory

Journal Volume 6 No. 182

May/June 2005



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Cover photo: A postcard of Ripley High Street c1920s, (kindly loaned by Les Bowerman). The K1 model telephone kiosk, opposite the charabanc, was introduced by the Post Office in 1921; see page 5.

Editor's Comment

The last six years journals are now bound as **Volume number 5** and are available in the society's museum for members to peruse. It is bound in blue cloth with a gilt title on the spine matching the previous volumes. Taken together they cover 30 years of local records of the two parishes.

Journal No.180 mentioned the **60th Anniversary of VE Day, May 8th** and Clare McCann suggested setting up an exhibition in the Society's Museum. Clare is busy with the arrangements and would welcome offers of help and/or suitable memorabilia (photos, etc.) including recollections of what happened locally in 1945. See also the appeal for information on WWII memorial names on page 15. Please contact **Clare McCann, Cricketshill House, Potters Lane, Send GU23 7JH. Tel. 01483 728546.**

This journal includes an article by Sheila Brown which gives an account of the evacuation of children to Send and Ripley at the beginning of the war, the friendships that often resulted and continued long after they had returned home.

This year is also the bicentenary of **The Battle of Trafalgar** and the death of **Lord Horatio Nelson**. Apart from the name 'Nelson's Bar' at The Talbot there appears to be no documentary evidence of Nelson having frequented The Talbot or any other place in Ripley. Does anyone have a story that provides a substantiated link with either Ripley or Send?

Children in Wartime England

By Sheila Brown

On May 8th this year (2005) the country will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Victory in Europe, (VE Day), the day when fighting ceased and the Second World War in Europe came to an end. A few months later the war in the east also ended with the dropping of the Atomic Bombs on Japan, followed by the capitulation of Japan on 8th August 1945 known as Victory over Japan, or (VJ Day).

However Europe being closer to home the nation started rejoicing on May 8th and families were looking forward to their men-folk returning home.

There was also another group who were now quietly packing up their suitcases and schoolbooks and preparing to return to their homes. These were the *children* who had been evacuated from their homes in London and the South Coast because they were regarded as being in danger from enemy attack. Some of them had been away from home for a long time. This is part of their story.

As soon as war was declared in September 1939 a government evacuation scheme, code word 'Pied Piper', which had made its plans well in advance, evacuated 1,473,000 children in three days away from London to previously arranged reception areas in the country. Both Send and Ripley received some of these children. The first children to come to Send, in September 1939 were accompanied by their teachers. They came from Riversdale School in Merton and they shared the Send School premises, each school having half-time education. Each school retained its separate identity but Mr Jimmy Rogers, the headmaster of Send School, was in overall charge. There were other evacuee children, too, from Beulah Road School in Croydon but they used only the Drill Hall and the Church Rooms as their classrooms. Small groups also came from Portsmouth and were integrated into Send School. All the children were billeted with families in the village.

However the part-time sharing of the school premises caused Mr Rogers to collapse under...the *strain of running such a full school with all the extra work added* (logbook entry) and he died on 18th March 1940. The death of Mr Rogers prompted the school managers to review the situation and a few weeks later the evacuees and their teachers took themselves and their school stock to the Drill Hall, and Send School returned to a full time curriculum.

More evacuees were still coming from Portsmouth and they had to be absorbed into Send School. Mr Penn who had been appointed as Acting Headmaster wrote in the logbook in November 1940 ... *this will be eight weeks that I have had to manage nearly 80 children this term*. The situation eased when a new school opened in Bush Lane, Send, in September 1941. All the senior children aged 11 years and over were to be transferred to this new school, which was at first called Send Central School, and was later changed to St Bede's Secondary School.

In September 1941 Miss Stella Perrin took over as headmistress of the newly named Send C of E Junior Mixed and Infants school. There were 151 children on the role. One of Miss Perrin's first entries in the logbook reads... *A senior group of Croydon and LCC officially evacuated children in charge of Mr Vivian and Miss P N Barber have from today the use of one classroom in the school. They are working as an entirely separate group*...According to several verbal reports this was not a happy arrangement and there were times of conflict when one group encroached on the other's space. But there was more to come. In the Autumn Term of 1942 all the junior evacuees from the Drill Hall were admitted to Send School. A third junior class had to be formed as the numbers rose to 181 and Miss Perrin recommended that her sister, Mrs Sybil Somerfield, should come as a Supply Teacher.

The names of all the evacuees are not known. They would have been recorded in the Admissions Register for Send School but alas that document has not been found. Two of the children are known, however, as they were billeted with Mr and Mrs Gibbons the parents of Pat Clack, who remembers them well. They were two sisters Christine and Doreen Scholes and they came from London in 1942. Doreen is pictured on the right with Pat Clack and Pat's mother Mrs Gibbons.

The girls stayed with Mr and Mrs Gibbons for a year or so and Christine won a scholarship to a school in Bracknell. She was then billeted with a family near to her new school and Doreen stayed on with the Gibbons, returning to her home as the war ended.

The departure of children from Riversdale School did not get a mention in the logbook but among the old and tattered books being thrown out in 1971 when Send School was closing, was one that was stamped Riversdale School, Merton, SW 18 - further evidence of that school's stay in Send.



The story from Ripley was similar but different. In September 1939 thirty-three children from London arrived in the village, followed by another thirty-six children in the months before Christmas. Early in 1940 another thirty children came, this time from Portsmouth. All these evacuees had to be found places in Ripley School and all were billeted with families in the village. Children continued to come to Ripley throughout the war years, the last one arriving in August 1944. Many of these children did not stay very long and some returned home within a few days of their arrival but some children stayed for the duration of the war and finished their education. When the new secondary school (St Bede's) opened in Send in September 1941 all the children over the age of 11 were transferred there, and Ripley School became a Junior and Infants School, like Send. Unlike Send, Ripley School still has its Admittance Registers from 1919 onwards, and the names of all the evacuee children were recorded with all their details. Mr Fred Dixon, the headmaster, also indicated whether the children were Government Evacuees (GE) or Independent Evacuees (IE). What memories did those evacuees take back home with them of their wartime stay in Send and Ripley? Did they keep in touch with their host families or visit them again? I would like to know, if there is any information about them.

I can tell you about one such person. One Saturday a few years ago, a middle-aged lady came into the museum with her daughter and granddaughter when I was on steward duty there. She told me she was on a nostalgic visit to Ripley and was looking for the old school as she had been evacuated to Ripley in January 1941 from London and had attended Ripley School. She was sad to hear that the old school had been demolished but she left her address and I was able to send her a colour photo of the school taken in 1980. She told me that she was billeted with a kindly family in Georgelands and that the father of the house told her that he had yellow hands because he worked in a custard factory! In hindsight we think he was possibly working secretly in munitions! She was already twelve years old in September 1941 and was transferred to the new secondary school at Send, so she was among the first pupils there. At the school she learned shorthand and typing and had brought along her shorthand notebook with Send Central School clearly marked on the cover.

At the age of 15, she was recalled home, as she was now old enough to go to work. As she said herself, 'one day she was a child in need of a safe haven from the war and the next day she was not!' She returned home to the bombing and was found an office job, and then that firm was evacuated to a safer area in the Midlands so once again she had to leave her home. I found her name, Agnes Liddiard, on the Admissions Register (below) and sent her a photocopy. She was delighted to know her name was recorded there.

ADMISSION No.	DATE OF ADMISSION (OR RE-ADMISSION)			FULL NAME OF CHILD.	NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN.	ADDRESS.
	Day	Month	Year.			
366 I.E.	8	1	41	Grinlock, Bertha Maria	Edward Charles	Sumney Lodge High
367 G.E.	6	1	41	Denny, Dorothy Jane	Mr. York	Ryde House.
368 G.E.	13	1	41	READ, Bernard Gaspay	Jane Read	2, Greenacre, High
369 G.E.	15	1	41	MORRIS, Sally Jane	Leslie Morris	Wesley Lodge, Grove St.
370 G.E.	24	1	41	Liddiard, Elsie	Lynea	16, Elm Street, Ripley
371 G.E.	28	1	41	Widdel, Joyce May	William Edward	3, Georgelands Cottages, Georgelands, Ripley
372 G.E.	29	1	41	(Dorothy) Elsie B. B. B.	"	1, The Priory, "Ripley"
373 G.E.	28	1	41	Louise, Pamela	John	10, The Priory, "Ripley"
374 G.E.	10	2	41	Widdel, Janet	Gilbert	1, The Priory, "Ripley"
375 G.E.	12	2	41	Morris, Grace Margaret	John	1, The Priory, "Ripley"
376 G.E.	17	2	41	Conway, Iris	Mr. York	Ryde House

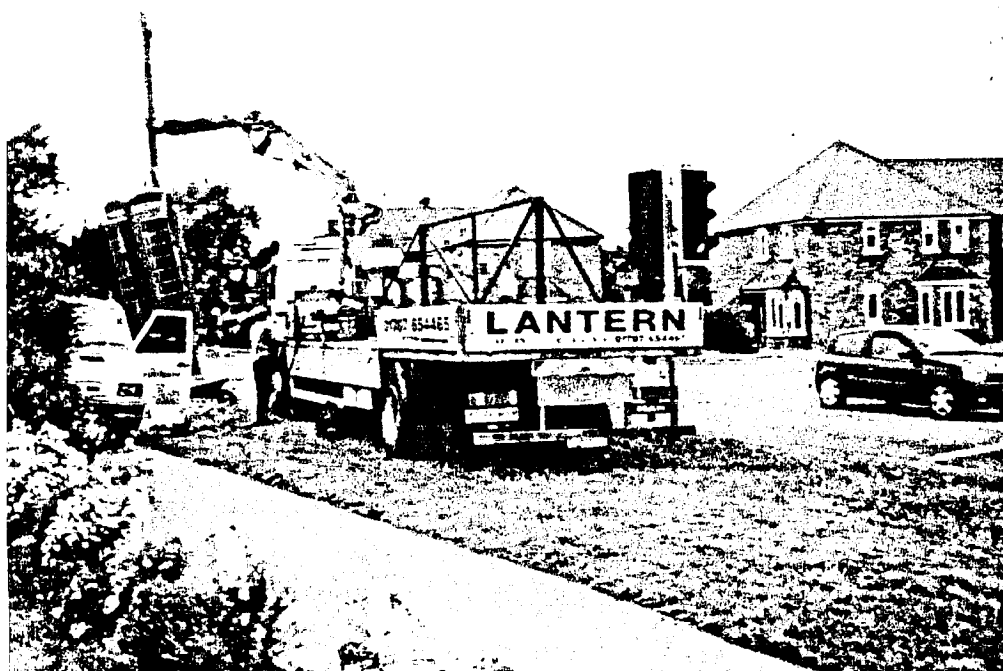
There was news of another evacuee from Pat Clack. One day in the 1980s she had an unexpected visitor who turned out to be Doreen Scholes, one of the two sisters whom her mother had looked after during the war years. Mrs Gibbons had often thought about the girls and always hoped for a reunion visit, so it was sad that she had passed away only a few years previously. However Doreen has kept in touch with Pat and they still exchange Christmas cards. Christine had died some years prior to Doreen's visit. I wonder if there were others who returned for a brief visit? Do write and tell me if you know of any.

Sheila Brown. 12 Winds Ridge, Send, Woking GU23 7HU

May's Corner Telephone Box

More notes by Ken Bourne

Adding to the article by David Porter on page 11 and my notes on 'The development of the K series telephone boxes' on page 12 in Journal 181. I have put a postcard view of Ripley High Street (from the Les Bowerman collection) on the front cover of this Journal, which clearly shows the K1 model designed by The Post Office, the predecessor to the K2 kiosk designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, RA in 1923. The former, which appeared in 1921, replaced the many variants on the wooden sentry box design. It was cast in concrete and had glazed windows. The roof was pyramidal, supporting telephone nameplates surmounted with an iron finial. Although they were not popular particularly in the cities, they were used extensively in rural areas and over 6000 of these were in use by 1934, co-existing, and gradually being replaced by the cast-iron K2.



Doris Pullen has supplied the above photograph showing the K6 telephone box (developed from the K2), being removed in 2004 by a lorry-based hoist. In our previous journal, David Porter referred to its loss to the village and described his recollection of its original installation when he was a boy in 1958. 50 years on there is a marked contrast between the five vehicles and possibly 8 men used in 1954 and the two vehicles and 4 men required in 2004. Redundant telephone boxes can be purchased at prices between a few hundred to over £1000.00 each and are much sort-after as additions to private garden design schemes. Perhaps the society should acquire one, to place in front of our museum and possibly use it as a source for information when the museum is closed.

Send Service Garage

By David Porter

May I add my warmest congratulations to Mrs Dorothy Challen upon reaching her 100th birthday, reported in Journal 181 by our indefatigable Society member, Jane Bartlett. I have known 'Dorrie' all of my life, some 55 years, and the following are just a few of my recollections of the Challens and their garage.

Dorrie's son Raymond (Ray), left St Bede's school in 1947, and, with his father William (Billy) Challen signed a five-year apprenticeship contract with 'Holloways Garage' in North Street, Guildford, (now 'Multiyork' the furniture shop). My father, a veteran of 'Operation Overlord', had joined Holloways in August 1946 following his 'demob.' from the Army at Stoughton Barracks.

After a few weeks Ray's father, perhaps sensing all was not right, visited Ray at work and witnessed him sweeping the garage floor. Billy immediately cancelled Ray's contract, informing Mr Holloway that his son was there to learn the motor trade! A new five-year apprenticeship contract was signed with The Haslemere Motor Co. in Woodbridge Road, Guildford, and Ray remained there until his conscription into the RAF for his 2-year period of National Service in the early 1950s.

My parents moved to 59, Send Barns Lane, Send, in September 1949 and I arrived there on my father's 29th birthday, 6th November. I was born at St. Lukes Hospital Guildford (Hillier ward). Soon after moving to Send our friendship with the Challens began. My father Max Porter, had been one of the first mechanics Ray Challen had met after leaving school and had told his father Billy about my father's background*. I clearly remember my father being offered a job by 'Uncle Bill' as I knew him. However, as a house (No. 63 Send Road), was part of the offer and my father always refused to tie his home with the job, nothing came of it. Although my father never worked for Billy full time, a very respectful friendship always existed between them. My father continued to give Ray his support throughout his working life and helped out occasionally at weekends during the time Ray was away in the RAF in the 1950s.

Billy Challen told my father that he had submitted plans to Guildford RDC to build a small showroom on the corner of Tannery Lane but this had been refused, although a Lubrication Bay was approved. I clearly recall the construction of the Lubrication Bay in the 1950s. A new green Ingersoll-Rand air compressor was installed in the front part (retail sales) side of garage to supply air to various equipment including the lubricating equipment and tyre pressure air-line. I could hear it running from outside Hester's butchers shop on the opposite side of the road, sitting on my 'Tri-ang' tricycle while my mother was buying meat. Traffic on Send Road in those days was very light! In the 1960s the air compressor was relocated into the rear workshop when a sweet kiosk was erected inside the garage sales area.

In the 1950s the six electric petrol pumps on the forecourt 'island' delivered (left to right facing the garage): Shellmex, Shell, Super Shell, Mobilgas, Mobilgas Special and National Benzole Mixture.

Billy Challen was very conservative regarding the sale of petrol, telling my father that he would never sell just one brand of fuel. Later he replaced Shell with a new brand 'Jet'. Time passed and Ray took over the garage following his father's death in 1974. By then the oil companies were becoming more and more insistent on single-brand retailing of their products from both large and small garages, thus Ray had little option but to conform and subsequently he chose Shell. What a pity the customer has been denied a range of fuel choices from their favourite garage. The current arrangement of course is to exercise a choice between single brand garages or supermarkets!

Max Porter*by David Porter

My father Albert Maxwell Mansfield Porter (known as Max), died on 21st Oct. 1998. He was born in Parkstone, Dorset, and after leaving school was trained by Edwards & Co. Oxford Road, Bournemouth. They were agents for Rolls Royce, Wolesley, and McLaughlan Buick.

Following redundancy in September 1939 due to the outbreak of WW2, he joined Sparshatts in Southampton who were agents for Albion, Dennis, Scammell and Thorneycroft.

He enlisted in the R.O.A.C. (later R.E.M.E.) in 1940, receiving further training for the next four years and gaining the rank of Staff Sergeant attached to the Guards Armoured Division of the Coldstream Guards.

After the war, at Holloways Garage (agents for Alvis, Daimler and Austin), he received further training at Daimler's, both at Coventry and Willesden.

On 21st March 1960 he joined Connaught Cars, Send, and soon became part of the small band of mechanics responsible for the Connaught Conversions of the Citroen ID and DS19 models. Former St Bede's boys trained by him included Henry Hamblin, Clive Carter, and Michael Beauchamp.

Other Centenarians by Les Bowerman:

Dorrie Challen is the third Send resident to reach 100 years since the History Society was started in 1975. The other two were Eveline Lancaster of Sendholme in 1976 (see Newsletter No. 10) and Ethel Tice in 1981 (Newsletter No.41). It is possible that there are others. During this thirty-year period no centenarians have been reported from Ripley, which is surprising since Ripley was celebrated for its healthfulness as far back as the 1700s. On 25th January 1879 the *Surrey Advertiser* reported that for the previous two years there had been only 4 adult deaths out of a population of 1000, two of those being from 'old age' and the other two 'in confinement'.

Ripley Boy (Ashley Giles) joins Wisden Hall of Fame

By Clare McCann

Ashley Giles, born in Ripley, was one of five English cricketers to be chosen by Wisden as its players of the year – only twice since the war has England achieved a clean sweep.



From the left Strauss, Key, Ashley Giles and Harmison (absent Marcus Trescothick)

Ashley grew up in Ripley and played colts cricket there before moving on to play for Guildford. He made his first team debut for the club as fourteen year old in 1987 and converted from a left-arm 'seamer' to a spinner and signed for Warwickshire in 1992.

He had a great summer in 2004, which included 22 wickets in four tests against the West Indies in England. His achievements have not just been recognised by Wisden; there have apparently been increased sales of merchandise bearing his name, from the shop at Edgbaston. Several years ago the shop ordered mugs, which should have said 'Ashley Giles – King of Spin' but were printed in error – King of Spain! These have proved so popular that they have been reproduced and now show King Juan Carlos on one side and Ashley on the other. A mug has been added to the Society's collection and our congratulations go to Ashley and the Giles/Shoosmith family. Fingers are crossed for this summer's Ashes Series.

The Girls Friendly Society.

By Jane Bartlett.

The Girls Friendly Society was formed in 1875, in the Winchester Diocese by Mrs Townsend in conjunction with the Bishop of Winchester. Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers Union, joined as an Associate. Its first patron was the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Its purpose was to give friendship, support and Christian values to girls who left home to work alone, such as those in service, factory girls, and workhouse girls with no home backing at all. This was later expanded to include all girls whatever their occupations. The normal age for starting work was 12, but they later allowed children as young as 8 to join as candidates. The branches, each with a president, were attached to a diocese. 'Ladies', as associates, and branch leaders ran each branch. By the end of 1875 there were 25 branches in 15 dioceses.

The Ripley and Byfleet branch was established in 1878, although its members did not necessarily come into the original categories. In fact at the annual outing to Boldermere in 1889, provided with a giant marquee and tea given by Mrs Deane of Ripley Court, the guest speaker praised the girls for working well and honestly in other people's houses. This statement was corrected by a Ripley Associate - *although, given to young servants, it had much in it for profit for maidens of any circumstances. Many of our Ripley members are helping their parents in their own homes.* I am not sure why this Associate was being so touchy as many of the girls were 'in service', because there were few other occupations for them at that time.

In the early years, Miss Onslow was the chairman. Some of the activities she organised were reported in the Parish magazine. For example in March 1891, the Misses Dibble acted as hostesses at the Manor House, Ripley, having games and music for some of the 32 members. In June of the same year the Byfleet and Ripley branch took boats on the river and had tea in the gardens of West Hall, Byfleet. In July, Mrs Neild of Newark House gave them tea after being out on the river again.

Newark House and the river continued to be a popular venue. In the 1930s, Rose Parfitt, about to be married, was rowing somewhat erratically from river bank to river bank, accompanied by shrieks from the other girls that she should get back or they would all be drowned before the wedding day.

The pattern continued much the same at the start of the 20th century. The membership was 33 in November 1914 when they had tea and games at Sheerwater Court, Byfleet.

They were encouraged to put on concerts and plays as this would help give them confidence, and in January 1915 they put on an entertainment in Ripley school. This included a sketch. *Under Distinguished Patronage*, for which, Mrs Burroughs and the headmaster's wife Mrs Blaxland sold tickets. Three pounds (£3.00) of the takings were given for the Belgian refugees. On another occasion they put on a play called *My Turn Next* at the Talbot.



Girls in the play - 'My Turn Next' at The Talbot c1920s. (Photo.SRHS Archives)

After Mr and Mrs Pearce came to Ripley in 1893 to start Ripley Court School, Mrs Pearce became chairman of the local branch.(I have been told that the Misses Egerton were the presidents of the area , based in Church House , Quarry Street, Guildford). The branch entered for area competitions for sewing and embroidery. The older girls taught the younger ones. They went to choir festivals. They were taught dances with Mrs Anscombe playing the piano. They had outings to the seaside in a coach hired from Bland's Garage*. On summer evenings they played cricket at Ripley Court. The highlight of the season was a dinner dance given by Mrs Pearce, to which they were allowed to take a friend.



Girls Friendly Society coach outing c1920s. (Photo. SRHS Archives)

From the original formation of the society, 'Lodges', had always been acquired to act as centres for meetings, home-like lodgings for working girls, and holiday and convalescent homes. The first lodge to open was St Jude's Servants Home in Brixton. Two Ripley girls spent holidays in the lodge in Brighton (Lodge 1027), for a small charge. Alice Charman, née Peters, told me that one of the joys for her was the enormous dressing up box when they put on charades in the evening. The acquisition of lodges became most important in the 1914-18 war when girls were sent to munitions factories and had nowhere to stay.

We have had a request from Ann Harrington of Horsell asking if anyone knows of the Speedwell Club, once in the Broadway, Woking. It was given and affiliated to the G.F.S. as a meetinghouse by her great grandmother Mrs Mitchell of Speedwell House, Byfleet.

Another aspect of G.F.S. work was to help vet suitable employment, a sort of registry office to ensure that girls were going somewhere safe. The mother of one present Ripley inhabitant wanted to employ a nursery maid for her new child. The girl came with a letter from her previous G.F.S. branch requesting that she should have an afternoon off and should attend church on Sunday.

After the Guildford diocese was formed in 1927, Ripley was attached there instead of to Winchester. However, by 1961 when Guildford cathedral was consecrated, our branch had closed, so it was too late to join in the annual diocesan rally there. I wonder whether the earlier rallies took place in the Holy Trinity church. We were at that time proud owners of a crochet-work banner made by the branch helper Mrs Sink, the dairywoman from Chapel Farm. A picture of the banner was shown in the G.F.S. magazine. Sadly no one seems to know what has happened to the banner.

The Ripley branch closed in the 1940s. Domestic service was not a reserved occupation, but the reason for its demise here was probably because Ripley Court School was evacuated and there was no one else prepared to take on the chairmanship.

However, the movement is still active with its new name of 'G.F.S. Platform' with 107 branches in 29 dioceses. It is still facing the problems for young and vulnerable women, such as homelessness, lack of qualifications, or having to cope alone with a child. It is good to know that it is still very active in the Winchester diocese where it first started.

* Blands Garage stood where Hurst Park Automobiles and Miura petrol station was, next to Hurst House. See page 18, in *Looking Back S&RHS* 1987 and page 26 in *Then and Now S&RHS* 1985. Editor.

Letters

Letter from Dreda Todd:

Once again an interesting journal.

Since these Journals form part of our historical records, I feel I must correct a few details in the David Jarman obituary on page 12 of Journal 181.

David and Sylvia had two children, Paul and Carol, ie. Carol is NOT their daughter-in-law, she is married to Simon Hill and they have two sons, Thomas & Peter who have, incidentally, appeared in the Journal in the past.

David and Sylvia's Mobile Shop, selling greengrocery and flowers, was in Sendmarsh in the morning and Ripley in the afternoon on Fridays ONLY, except possibly at times such as Christmas when it may, very occasionally, have been on another day. The Farm Shop at Weyside, Polesden Lane was open on other days of the week.

With best wishes Dreda Todd.

Edward Ryde's Diary

By Les Bowerman

Edward Ryde was born at Woking in 1822. He became a surveyor with offices in Parliament Street in London and homes in Belgrave Place and subsequently in Warwick Square, Pimlico. He kept diaries in which he recorded both professional and private matters from 1839 until his death, although the volumes before 1844 have not survived. In 1855 he was appointed surveyor to the South-Eastern Railway Co., a position he held for the rest of his career, although he was able to undertake freelance work as well. He lived in Poundfield House, Old Woking, from 1865 until 1892 the year he died. He was engaged in many activities connected with Woking parish and beyond. There are some mentions of Send and Ripley. In 1977 the diaries were deposited on long loan at the then Guildford Muniment Room and are now at the Surrey History Centre. Shirley Corke at the Muniment Room summarised/indexed the diaries under various headings in 1980 and Send & Ripley History Society acquired a copy of the summary two years later. They were circulated to the most involved members of the Society at the time, but have been in my custody as archivist ever since. Now that there is long since a reference library at the Museum, they should perhaps be kept there to be more publicly available.

The subject of the diaries came to mind recently when I had occasion to visit the History Centre to look up something in the "History of Woking" which Ryde wrote in 1883, a copy of which (in 26 photocopied manuscript pages) is filed with the diaries at the history Centre under reference 1262/50/1-26. The following paragraphs relating to Ripley may be of interest. After relating the opening of the London & Southampton Railway from Nine Elms to Woking Common in 1838 Ryde comments as follows:

Earlier attempts had been unsuccessfully made to obtain an Act of Parliament, the line being laid out parallel to the old Turnpike Road, passing through Esher, Cobham, Ripley, Guildford, Farnham and Alton; but the landowners' opposition at all those places was so great that the application to Parliament was unsuccessful and the present line was resorted to in sheer desperation by the promoters.

A few pages later Ryde writes:

The subsequent opening of the railway throughout from London to Southampton (only two years later in 1840) effected a still greater change upon the old turnpike roads, and so great was that change that it is difficult for a person not acquainted with it to conceive the extent of it. Dealing with places nearest to Woking as an illustration, the village of Ripley, which, in coaching days was a thriving, prosperous place, soon partook of a totally opposite character. The "Talbot Hotel" at which a very large number of post horses were kept for years, giving employment to a great number of post boys, fly drivers and stable men, and having moreover a considerable business as a hotel, became suddenly transformed into a mere roadside public house the less prosperous by reason of its size and pretensions. Less trade was done there than at many a smaller house in the same kind of situation owing to the fear entertained by would-be customers that they would be charged a greater price than they would be subject to in a smaller house.

One shudders to think what Ripley would be like now if it had a station on the line to Portsmouth.

30th AGM Wednesday 16th February 2005

This auspicious meeting was held in the annex of Ripley Village and was attended by 40 members approximately. As there were several previous appraisals of the society's progress both in the journal and at the 30th Anniversary dinner in January the reviews by the President and Chairman were kept brief.

President

Ken Bourne thanked the Chairman for his valuable and indefatigable contribution not only in his official post, but also as Archivist, Journal Proof Reader and his temporary office as Membership Secretary plus many other ways, thus ensuring the continuing success of the society. He also drew attention to the journal contributors and thanked them in his capacity as Journal Editor for their support over the year and in particular the last 13 years. He thanked Alan Baker for stepping into the breach this year as acting Advertising Manager for the Journal standing in for Alan Tinkler following his recent operation. In reply to member John Revell who complimented the President on his illustrated 'Report on the Stained Glass in St Mary The Virgin Church at Send'; Ken Bourne gave a brief report on his research advising that a copy is available in the museum, and that the report would be featured in a forthcoming issue of the Journal. Appreciation was expressed to Les and Anne Bowerman for hosting the regular committee meetings at The Manor House and to Anne for providing refreshments.

Chairman.

Les Bowerman noted that membership has remained steady around the 300 mark. The Committee, unchanged from the previous year, had had a busy 12 months. Ken Bourne had continued to do a magnificent job in making the Journal both interesting and attractive, with the support of the contributors. Les Brown and Norman Carpenter had also supported Ken in ensuring the Journal's distribution. The Committee continues to rely on Marilyn's professional experience and on Christina for her proficiency as Treasurer. This year Christina had also efficiently undertaken the extra workload of organising the 30th anniversary dinner.

The Museum had 48 new acquisitions, notably local mineral water bottles, a 1939 diary kept by the manager of the Ripley sewage pumping station, and the locally made concrete air-raid shelter. Stewards were thanked, their duty being a little more civilised now that the toilets in the Village Hall annexe can be used.

The Society's eleven publications continue to sell steadily, sales being master-minded by John Slatford.

Jane Bartlett was especially congratulated for her 20 years of work in recording and now making available in written form the memories of some 100 local residents covering a period of 100 years.

All who have helped the Society were thanked, including those whose names had not been mentioned individually.

The Secretary

Marilyn Scrace observed that the Society continues to fulfil its functions. A modest extension to the museum is being investigated if funding can be obtained. She referred specifically to the work done during the year by Clare McCann with exhibitions, with schools and with the Scouts photographic project. The Society should soon be having storage accommodation at the former Methodist church. Anne Bowerman has worked hard and imaginatively to produce a varied programme. But more volunteers are needed as museum stewards, for Committee and as membership secretary.

SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

(Established in 1975 as Send History Society)
Registered Charity No: 296324

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 2004

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The accounts are stated on an accrual basis as include income and expenditure as they are earned.

2. Fixed Assets

Since its formation the Society has had in its possession various items, most of which have been donated, on which it is not possible to put a value. These are held in trust and are not included in the Assets. A list is available for inspection by members.

3. Current Assets

Stock of Publications (Note 6)

	2004	2003
Cash at Bank	£ 4,228	£ 4,872
Cash at Building Society	2,628	5,146
Cash in Hand	6,717	3,151
Debtors	44	44
	<u>500</u>	<u>30</u>
	<u>£ 14,117</u>	<u>£ 13,243</u>

4. Current Liabilities

Sundry Accruals
Subscriptions Prepaid
Advertising Revenue Prepaid

	2004	2003
Sundry Accruals	115	132
Subscriptions Prepaid	1,184	884
Advertising Revenue Prepaid	0	751
	<u>£ 1,299</u>	<u>£ 1,767</u>

5. Ripley Museum

The ownership of the building is vested in the Ripley Hall Management Committee. The Society has the exclusive right to use the building free of rent in perpetuity. The costs of refurbishing and equipment are charged to income & expenditure in the year.

6. Stocks of Publications

The stocks are valued at cost, less due allowance for slow moving items.

SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

(Established in 1975 as Send History Society)

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DEC 2004

	2004	2003
	£	£
Income		
Subscriptions	1,804	1,987
Publication Sales	1,150	2,115
Newsletter - advertising revenue	829	650
Gift Aid	792	0
Sundry Income	304	343
Donations & Funds raised for Museum	119	117
Income from Investments	75	23
	<u>6,073</u>	<u>5,235</u>

Expenditure		
Museum Expenditure	86	1,245
Publications - Cost	838	1,510
Journal - Cost	1,755	1,589
Exhibitions Expenses	15	79
Insurance	544	413
Miscellaneous Expenses	494	909
	<u>3,732</u>	<u>5,754</u>

Excess of Income over Expenditure

1,341

-519

Reserves Brought Forward

11,477

11,996

Reserves Carried Forward

12,818

11,477

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004

	Note	2004	2003
Fixed Assets	2		1
Current Assets	3		
Stock of Publications		4,228	4,872
Cash at Bank		2,628	5,146
Cash at Building Society		6,717	3,151
Cash in Hand		44	44
Debtors		500	30
prepayments		<u>14,117</u>	<u>13,243</u>
Current Liabilities	4		
Creditors		-1,299	-1,767
		<u>12,818</u>	<u>11,477</u>

Approved by the Committee on 16 February 2005 and signed on their behalf by:

Treasures Report

Copies of the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2004 having been distributed were adopted by all present with thanks by the chairman to Christina Sheard Hon Treasurer, and the Hon Auditor D B McCann FCA.

The committee having agreed not to propose an increase in the membership subscription rates and there being no alternative proposals they remain at £8.00 single, £10.00 double.

The President K H Bourne was re-elected unanimously.

The Chairman L G Bowerman was re-elected unanimously.

The Committee, which remained unchanged, were re-elected unanimously. They are: Anne Bowerman, Alan Baker, Tony Medlen (Vice Chairman), Clare McCann, Patricia Medlen, David Porter, Andy Jones and Bob Stonard.

The AGM was concluded at 8.45pm, and after a break for refreshments, John Theobald gave an excellent illustrated talk on the 'Trade Tokens in Surrey'. A summary of this talk will appear in a future edition of this journal.

A World War II Concrete Air Raid Shelter **(Made by the Norcon Pipe Company)** **Report by John Slatford**

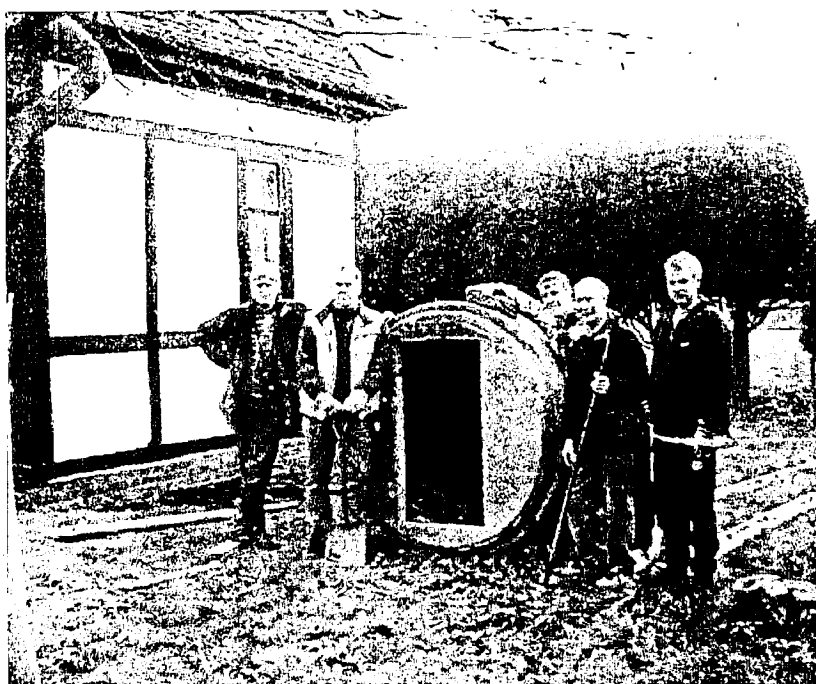
The latest artefact acquired by the society is now in position adjacent to the museum building. It has come from the garden of 36, Newark Lane, formerly the home of Mrs Alice Charman, adjacent to where Graham Rudkin is engaged with modernising the former home of the Baker family in Vine Cottages.

The shelter was constructed from concrete sewer pipe sections, which were produced by the Norcon Pipe Company in Papercourt Lane. This company operated in Send from before the war through until the early 1960s. The site was well known to the children growing up in the area and was, it seems, something of an adventure playground, particularly with regard to the narrow gauge railway, which ran through the yard area. The company's production was especially concerned with the manufacture of large diameter concrete pipe sections for use in underground sewer construction.

It is not clear how the production of air raid shelters came about but it may have been a result of a lack of sewer construction contracts in the early years of the war and a surplus of pipe sections stored in the yards. Since we first heard about our acquisition, we have seen one other shelter in the garden of our member Ron Hill at 48, Newark Lane and we have been told of two others in the area.

The shelter consists of two pipe sections each of which is 62 inches (1575mm) outside diameter x 36 inches (914mm) long, the wall thickness being 4 inches (102mm). One section has a blank end cast in-situ and the other has a cast end with a rectangular access opening. The two sections are cemented together to provide a complete shelter, which internally is 54 inches (1372mm) diameter x 69 inches (1753mm) long. The total weight is just over two tonnes. No doubt some form of slatted wooden flooring would have been provided but how the 'shelterers' would have seated themselves is open to question. It would surely have been very cramped and uncomfortable.

Local memories recorded by Jane Bartlett suggest that Tom Gunner was involved with the installation of these shelters but we don't know what the commercial arrangements were. Was this something that Norcon Pipes started as a venture or was it an idea that someone independently undertook using surplus pipe sections from the pipe yard?



We carried out the move from Ripley Green on Saturday 5th February. The photo on the right shows our gang of helpers (from left) besides myself, were Bob Stonard, Fred Hookins, his son Edward and friend Alan Baker, also

Les Bowerman (not shown). Using the services of a driver with a waste skip lorry, we were able to transport the shelter from the Green and place it on the museum grass area without difficulty but getting it into the desired position was another matter. We found it possible to roll but turning it by hand was impossible. Fortunately, Bob remembered that he had a 'Tirfor' or pull-lift at home so we had a delay whilst he went to fetch it. Once we were able to apply some mechanical forces, the move to the final position was accomplished without further difficulty.

We are grateful to Graham Rudkin for telling us about the shelter and offering it to the society. I suspect that this may have been an easier option for him since he admitted that he had tried to break it up for disposal but without success!!

Do you remember the fallen heroes of Send and Ripley in WW II?

Appeal by Clare McCann

Freddie Wheeler and I are researching the names on the war memorials in Send and Ripley with a view to producing a booklet. Initially we are concentrating on World War II because of the 60th anniversary this year of the end of the war. If you know more of the history of those who lost their lives, or relatives or friends who may be able to help could you write to Freddie at Hot Wells, Tuckey Grove, Send Marsh Send or ring me, Clare McCann on G.728546. Freddie and I would welcome the loan of photographs, which would be returned after copying. The Ripley names are: Bdr J Beasleigh, Sgt R Carter, Sgt H Parrot RAF and Sgt L J Stansfield. The Send names are: Robert Dixon, Bradford Dockerty, Frank Hack, Robin Giles, Rupert James, Ian Matheson, Herbert Murrell, Brian Opperman, William Pratt, Donald Price, William Smith, Edward Winton, Edward Wood and Leslie Woolley.

Visit to Glastonbury, Somerset on Sunday 17th July 2005.

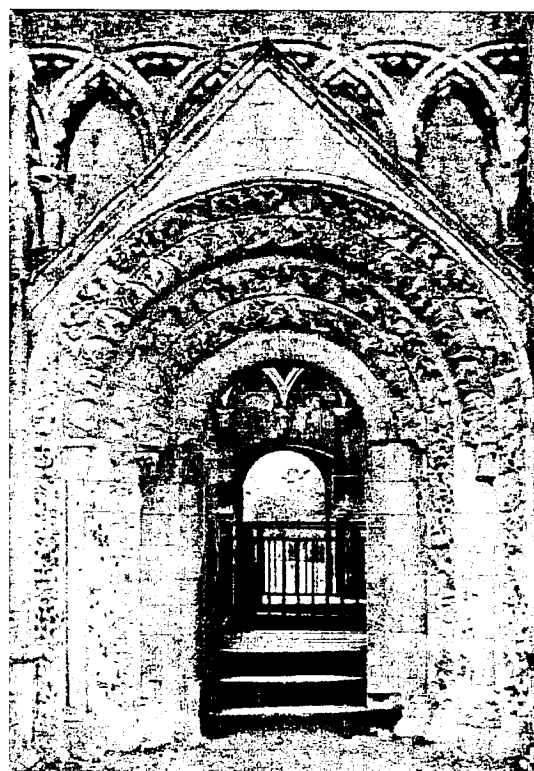
By Ken Bourne

Over two thousand years ago the sea washed the foot of **Glastonbury Tor** and was gradually succeeded by a vast lake. In the 3rd century BC the Celts founded a **lake village** nearby calling the area Avalon. A great pagan sanctuary is thought to have developed here. It was already a focus of mythology and a place of pilgrimage when legend has it, that Joseph of Arimathea visited Glastonbury with the boy Jesus and established a church there, where the great Abbey was later built. After the Crucifixion of Jesus, Joseph returned with the chalice or cup from which Jesus drank at the last supper, and buried it near the Tor on **Challis Hill**. Joseph stuck his thorn staff in the ground, which took root and its descendant the **Glastonbury Thorn**, according to tradition, blossoms at Easter and in the winter on or near Christmas Day.

Glastonbury is also associated with King Arthur, whose remains and those of Queen Guinevere, are thought to be buried within the choir of the abbey; the location was lost after the dissolution, but re-discovered in 1934.

During the middle ages the great **Benedictine Abbey** was second only to Westminster Abbey in wealth.

It is clear from the above brief notes that there is much to be seen in this town. The party will **depart from The Manor House, promptly at 8.15 am, arriving in Glastonbury at 11 am. Following a short refreshment break the tour will commence at 11.30 am at the abbey gateway.** We will explore the impressive abbey ruins with our guide Neil Bonham, Chairman of Glastonbury Historical Society (approx one hour) There will then be approximately a two-hour lunch-break, which should allow time to have lunch and visit the Tor, (a shuttle bus leaves every 5 minutes from the abbey car park) or the Lakeland Village Museum, which is a short walk from the abbey. Weather permitting the Tor is a good place for a picnic. In the afternoon, guided by Neil, we will take a leisurely walk around the town to view the medieval buildings associated with the town and abbey. The tour will end at the 15th century church of St John, where after a talk on its history, a 'Somerset Tea' will be served (pre-booking essential). The tour should end at about 4.30 pm, which will allow time for last minute shopping.



Romanesque North door of the Lady Chapel

The town is compact and on level ground so sensible walking shoes and comfortable clothing appropriate to the time of year should be satisfactory. Most places are accessible by wheelchair. There is a fairly steep climb from the bus drop-off point to the top of the Tor. A limited number of wheelchairs are available by prior arrangement for visitors to the museum. There are several car parks, the most convenient is the Abbey car park in Magdalene Street, where there are also toilets. Opposite is The Abbey Tea Rooms, which is highly recommended although there are many places to choose from for lunch or refreshment. Please make your own arrangements for lunch.

As it is important to advise our guide on the numbers attending, please complete the enclosed form as soon as possible and send to Les and Anne Bowerman, The Manor House, Send Marsh Green, Ripley, Woking GU23 6JP, with your cheque for £10.00 made payable to Send and Ripley History Society, to arrive (**not later than Friday 1st July**).

This covers the cost of the guide and tea in the church. The abbey is privately owned but group concessions based on a minimum of 20 persons brings the entrance fee down to £4.50 per person. As in the past we try to fill a car, so please advise Les Bowerman if you require a lift or have spare seats in your own car that you can offer.

Norcon's Industrial Railway At Papercourt By David Porter

Following my visit to the 'Amberley Chalk Pits Museum', near Arundel, Sussex, in 2004 and my article on 'Railway Relics' in Newsletter No. 133 p9 for March/April 1997; I am pleased to provide the additional information that completes my report on our local industrial railway. The railway was initially operated by the **Norcon** Company, which was subsequently acquired by Redland.

As a member of SRHS I was warmly welcomed, by members of the Brockham Railway Group who operate the tourist railway at Amberley. Surprisingly they had not heard of the Norcon Company, however, the name Redland was instantly recognised and I soon found myself being re-acquainted with a diesel locomotive I had not seen since its 'Papercourt' days in the 1960s!

Known at Amberley as the 'Redland of Ripley' engine, the locomotive was built by Orenstein & Kopple and is powered by a single-cylinder diesel engine. It has no gearbox, power being transmitted via two separate clutches, one high-speed and one low. The driver sits astride the engine on a metal seat similar to that of a farm tractor.

Still bearing the name Redland on a red plaque above the radiator, and in its fine blue livery it bears witness to the care and attention it had received. I discovered that a second locomotive had also been purchased from Papercourt but only suitable as a source of spare parts for the former engine.

The two-foot (600mm) gauge track system at Papercourt was on two endless loops one running inside the other interconnected by two crossover points. The outer loop ran parallel with the footpath running between Polesdon Lane and Papercourt Lane, following the boundary between Norcon and Hall & Co. (later to become Redland, and Hall Aggregates). The locomotives hauled a 'rake' of four-wheeled flat trucks. The trucks and track system was in a very poor state and of little use to the Brockham railway enthusiasts particularly as the track was set in concrete but at least the engines had been saved!

The 'Redland' diesel engine is still a willing workhorse and is used to help extend the Amberley tourist railway, which is, in the main, reserved for steam locomotives.

My thanks to the Brockham Railway Group for providing this additional piece of history.

After 25 years at the helm, Bill Heath has retired from the residential Estate Agency side of Goodrick-Meech in Ripley. Wills and Smerdon of East Horsley is delighted to announce the purchase of the traditional Ripley firm to add to the Horsley office in order to provide an unrivalled and bespoke property service in and around the two villages. Whilst Bill will remain as a consultant to the firm and continue with his professional and management work, Justin Acheson will now take over as the managing partner. Justin brings with him seventeen years experience having spent his career to date working for some of the best known and most successful estate agents in the area.

The focus of the firm will continue to be traditional estate agency values whilst now embracing 21st Century technology and an ongoing commitment to delivering exceptional levels of service.

See revised advertisement on the back page, Editor.

Some very recently acquired artefacts:
Les Bowerman

An etched glass panel probably c1900 from the front door of the Rio House or Café.

A red and yellow plastic "Post Office" sign, from Send.

4 sea-urchin type fossils donated anonymously but described as "found locally".

A peculiar solid wooden "shoe" from the roof of 14 Potters Lane (formerly part of Sedgeleys Cottages) probably placed as a "good luck" token.

A logbook for the 1st Ripley Guides for various periods between 1938 and 1960.

Two - electricity meter cards for (1946/52) from Ripley church issued by the Woking Electric Supply Co.

Various modern items such as a 2004 Ripley Cricket Club fixture list

The concrete air-raid shelter from 36 Newark Lane made in Send by the Norcon Company.

Send Through our Lens

As reported in Journal 181, this Society has recently had a very successful collaboration with Send Scouts and professional photographer, Anne-Katrin Purkiss. The many resulting photos are currently on show at the Museum. The project was the initiative of Julie Ellis, the Youth Development Officer for Surrey Museums and was funded by the Young Roots Fund, part of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The six boys who took part had some professional instruction and then took photos of the area, their friends and families. They were then helped to mount, caption and present their work, culminating in an exhibition at the Lancaster Hall in February. In recognition of their contribution to the Society's future archive, we have given them honorary membership for 6 months and will be reproducing at least one photo from each participant in the Journal. We also hope the photos will be on show at the Surrey History Centre from 5th to the 30th July.

One of David Daneils photos was shown in Journal 181 and we hope to show more photos by the other participants in subsequent issues of the Journal - Editor.

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Send and Ripley History Society.

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday. May 25th: An afternoon outing to **explore Medieval Guildford**. Meet at Send Manor at 1.15 pm* or at Tunsgate, Guildford at 2.0 pm. (Note earlier time at Send Manor)*

Wednesday. 22nd June. A walk around Ripley led by John Slatford and Les Bowerman. Meet at S&RHS Museum at 2.0 pm.

Sunday 17th July. An all day visit to **Glastonbury**. See page for details.

Saturday 23rd July. Ripley Event.

Wednesday 21st September at 8.0 pm. A talk by John Slatford on **The Development of Houses in Send and Ripley**.

Wednesday 19th October 8.0 pm. An illustrated talk by Helen Davies on **The Guildford Workhouse**.

Wednesday 16th November 8.0 pm. An illustrated talk by John Janaway on **Surrey Privies**.

Wednesday 21st December 7.30 for 8.0 pm. Christmas Social.

All the above indoor meetings are in the **Ripley Hall Annexe**.

If you have any enquiries about the programme, please telephone me Anne Bowerman on 01483 224876.

Journal Contributions: Closing date for the next edition is **Friday 1st July 2005**.



SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

OPEN: Saturday mornings: 10.0-12.30
Throughout the year
(Check bank holiday opening times).

**Also open on 3rd Sunday of each month,
To coincide with Ripley Antiques Fair in the
Village Hall**

Other times for school groups and small parties
by arrangement

Contact Les Bowerman on 01483-224876 if you require
further information or wish to help in the museum

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

'Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life' (Reprinted 1998)	£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)	£3.50
'The Straight Furrow', by Fred Dixon	£1.50
'Ripley and Send – Looking Back'	£5.00
'A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey'	£2.00
'Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey'	£3.00
'The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey'	£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

All the publications are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of 'Ripley & Send Then and Now' and 'Two Surrey Village Schools' can also be obtained from Send Post Office.



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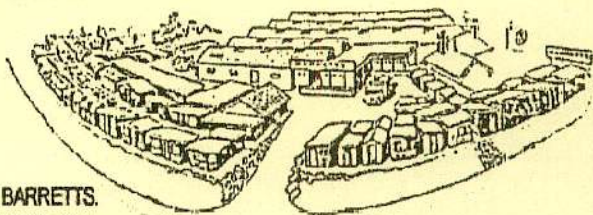


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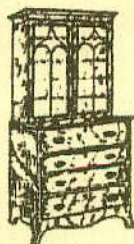
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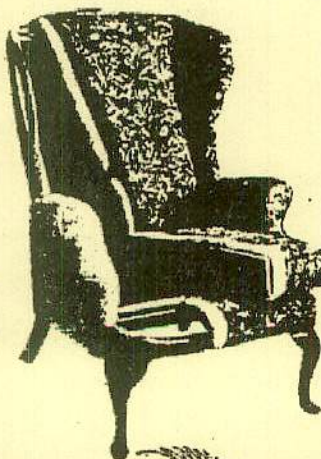
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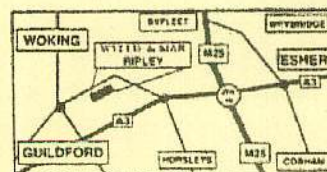
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