

Mrs S. Brown

SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

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Typed by Chris Parker, and duplicated by courtesy of the 1st Send Scout Group.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Just over a year ago on the 28th January, 1975, the first meeting was held at Heath Farm, Tannery Lane, Send, to form the Send History Society. From the records, the initial membership stood at approximately 38, which since then has grown to a current 105 members.

The success of the Society is undoubtedly due to the great interest and support by the many residents of Send, which has ensured that it is a Society very much by and for the people. Indeed the Chairman's duties have, on most occasions, been very pleasurable and easy, in that the reminiscences and discussions that have occurred have done so quite spontaneously, requiring little assistance from the chair, thus illustrating the tremendous amount of local and special knowledge that exists in the area waiting to be expressed. It would be very difficult to single out a particular event in a year of so many enjoyable meetings, but if asked, I would most probably recall the first meetings when contributions were made by the members themselves.

On behalf of our Committee, I would like to say how grateful we are for all the help given by the members in many ways, and to our guest speakers who came to our open evenings and gave freely of their time and knowledge.

I would like particularly to thank Pat Thurbin for his help as Treasurer during our first year and look forward to his reports on his research into the local Army Camp in the future.

Les Bowerman, the Society's Secretary, is also one of its principal assets. As is well known, Les is active in many other fields and yet he always exhibits a prodigious amount of enthusiasm for the Society's affairs. Indeed he is the prime mover and the success of Send History Society's first year can undoubtedly be attributed to his hard work and leadership.

The suggestion that the Society should nominate a President and that the President should be Jim Oliver of Send Court Farm comes as no surprise to anyone who knows Jim. His considerable knowledge of old buildings, farm implements, local history and sources of information have delighted his audiences whenever he has had occasion to speak either at open meetings or in Committee. Being a farmer, he is of course a practical man and it is this quality, coupled with his enthusiasm for his subject and the wellbeing of the Society, that led to Jim's unanimous election.

Writing now as re-elected Chairman, I would like to express my pleasure in being given the opportunity to officiate for another year, which I am sure will prove to be as eventful and interesting as the last.

K. H. Bourne

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW TREASURER

Subscriptions for 1976 are now due. There has been a slight alteration to the rates following a resolution passed at the A.G.M. Subscriptions are now as follows:- 50p for a single membership and 75p for a couple (from the same household).

Sheila Brown (address on p. 1)

SURNAMES

The use of surnames or family names can be said to go back to Roman times or before, but in England this did not begin to happen until after the Norman invasion. Some 300 years elapsed before the process was anything like complete. It is said that there are over 100,000 different names in this country today and the origins of most are obscure. Despite considerable research, it is probable that a proven meaning exists for only a quarter of them.

In Saxon times it was general for people to be known by only one name. There was such a wide variety of names, and the small population was so dispersed that confusion was not a problem. However, as the practice developed of naming sons after fathers, etc., the numbers of different names diminished. Thus, with communities growing in size, the need arose for other forms of identification and the use of bynames developed. These were descriptive names applied to individuals and were not hereditary. Inevitably this did become so, but certainly not until the Norman influence.

Generally the meanings of surnames can be shown to fall into four categories, but of course there are many which can be attributed to more than one of these. The effects of language, dialect, and the growth of literacy, etc., have brought many changes and introduced endless variations of some of the more common names.

The largest group of names comprises those associated with places. It may be an association with a geographical feature, such as Brook or Hill, or with specific places or even countries. Many place names are of Norman origin, having been brought over by the invaders.

The next largest group are those derived from personal names. Many are obvious, being the same as, or similar to, Christian names in common use today. Again the Norman influence is apparent since generally William, Richard, Robert and similar names were not known before then in England. Less obvious are the Saxon and Scandinavian names which have survived in great profusion and many different forms. With the commonest names even, there are the most unlikely variations, for example: Dix, Dixon, Hicks, Hickey, Higgs, Rich, Rickett, and many others are all variations of the name Richard.

Another group of names, which is smaller in variety, but probably far greater in quantity, is that associated with trades, occupations and official positions. Again many of these are obvious, but many more are from occupations which have long since disappeared.

The last and smallest group is derived from nicknames. Usually they describe physical characteristics, e.g. Long and Short, Broad and Slim, Black and White, and so on. Many others were cruel descriptions of physical deformities or other handicaps. However, few of these have survived, at least in a form where we would recognise them as such.

In order to quote examples I have borrowed the names of some of our members. I hope they will not mind. I can't be sure, of course, that the interpretations are correct.

Ballard A nickname for a bald-headed man.

Bayliss An occupational name - the son of the Baillie.

Bowerman	An occupational name - the servant in the Bower.
Bourne	A local or place name, in the South of England for a stream which flows at long intervals only.
Bottomley	A place name near Halifax, Yorkshire.
Bartlett	A personal name, being a diminutive of Bartholomew.
Dear	A nickname with several possible meanings: a wild animal or a beloved person.
Challen	A place name from Chalons-sur-Marne (France). Also associated with blanket making.
Cox	A nickname commonly used for a bright boy, but could also be an Old English word meaning hillock or Welsh Coch meaning red.
Harvey	A personal name - old French form Herve.
Milner	Occupational - a miller.
Munro	A place name, somebody who lived near the river Roe in Co. Derry.
Oades	A personal name from Odo - a form of Otto. Possibly also from an Old English word Ode meaning a pile or a heap.
Russell	A nickname - someone with red hair or complexion.
Thurbin	A personal name from Old Danish Thorbiorn.
Turle	A personal name from Old Danish Thorald, or from Normandy Torald.
Tice	Possibly an Old English personal name Tica or Ticcea.
Toghill	Another Old Danish personal name Thorkill.

My own name I am not sure of. I believe it to be from a Wiltshire place name - a village called Slaughterford, just outside Chippenham. Certainly Wiltshire was one of the few places where the name occurred at the beginning of the last century.

Many books and dictionaries have been published about surnames, so it is obviously difficult to write briefly on the subject. Many of the derivations are open to question, but it is a fascinating subject and there are many avenues yet to be explored.

John Slatford

PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD SEND

The Society is greatly indebted to Ron and Marjorie Sex, Mr. & Mrs. Groves, Joe Baigent and Margaret Bayliss for the loan of photographs depicting places and people of Send, many such photographs dating from the turn of the century.

Through the help and hard work of Geoff Parker, a display board has been constructed which, as was evident at the A.G.M., now provides a useful area for exhibiting all kinds of miscellaneous items of local and general interest.

Also a focal point was the 25" map of Send excellently mounted by John Slatford.

The display of some 20 horseshoes, on loan from Jim Oliver, dating from the mediaeval period (1300 to 1600 approx.), and found in fields locally, illustrated admirably what abundant evidence of our past exists around us and is there if we look for it. It will be remembered that Jim gave a very absorbing talk on the 17 Sept. 1975 on this subject, which merits further study. A book, which has been found useful, classifying horseshoes is by Gerden Ward, "Hull Museum Publications" No. 205 1939.

Returning to the photographs, when setting up the display it became obvious that many specific subject groups emerged which, if sufficient material could be collected, would increase their interest and eventually might merit individual displays. The groups which emerged were: Send Church, Send Football and Cricket Clubs, the River Wey and boathouse, Sendholme Send Horsedrawn Bus Service, Send Fire Brigade, and, of course, C. H. Sex & Sons' blacksmith and ornamental ironwork business. Anyone who has old photographs and would like to lend them to the Society, particularly relating to transport and the Fire Brigade, please contact the Chairman or Secretary.

K. H. BOURNE

THE BIG TURN AROUND

February filldyke has come and gone, although this year our rainfall has been pretty well nil; apart from a few showers we've had nothing. March comes in with the promise of winds and mad hares, soon to be seen prancing around like boxers in the ring. The wild calls of redshank echo on the still night air as they wing their way across the skies, followed by a plaintive cry of a coot as he decides to change his pond. These are sounds of March when vast armies of birds begin to get restless, the urge to be up and away; obeying the age old laws imprinted on their delicate forms, the exodus begins.

Soon the incoming migrants will be with us, fluttering down out of the night sky, for most of our birds travel by night, taking a bearing on the stars. Among the earliest to arrive will be the swallow, and the chiff-chaff coming a close second, although in recent years he has been the first to arrive in the village. At times birds which spend the Summer in the northern parts of England come down for a breather, a drink and a short rest and away they go again. Large movements of birds at this time of the year can produce many surprises, our local lakes are a good enticement for a travel weary feathered aviator, so keep a look out.

Spring flowers are beginning to brighten up the countryside now, with bright splashes of yellow peeping out from last year's herbage, the primrose, the sweet violet, the coltsfoot and the flowers of the blackthorn, all doing their best to brighten up our lives. The large sticky buds of the horse-chestnut are very prominent now, as also are the hazel catkins bedecked out along the hedgerows. Badger cubs born in February are safely tucked away down in their setts, eyes tightly shut for the first ten days of their lives. During March fox cubs are born, both the vixen and the dog bring in food to fill the cavernous bellies of their offspring which are ever demanding. Development is rapid and by April the chocolate brown cubs can be seen playing outside the entrance to the earth. At this time young rabbits are plentiful, coinciding with the fox cubs' demand for food, as nature intended.

Towards the end of the month leverets are born, crouching low in the well concealed nests or "forms". As they are born on the surface and not underground, the eyes are open shortly after birth, so providing a safeguard against predators. Mother hare splits the family up, taking one of her young to one part of the field, and then one more to another part until they are all separated. This is a further precaution against predators.

And so the new cycle of life starts again, it's happening all around us, it's there for us to see if we take the trouble to look.

E. J. Bartlett

SEND NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

The first ramble took place on 21 December from the car park at Old Woking corner. Although the weather was not ideal for our purpose, there was a very good turn out of members. Our route was along the river towards Newark Abbey, although we only walked to the Papercourt meadows. Bearing in mind the time of year, we had sightings of a number of interesting things, such as a dispute over territory between two families of Mute Swans. The wet water meadows supported a large number of redwings and fieldfares with a wisp of snipe in attendance. I was particularly pleased to see some very young faces there, and one young lady was trying out a brand new telescope. On the whole a very encouraging start to a new venture.

Leader... E. J. Bartlett.

On 4 January the group met at Hillside Farm, Sandy Lane, and we set off down between the ponds and across Potters Lane. The footpath across the meadow was very pleasant and produced many unexpected surprises, and on reaching the river we were delighted to see a pair of dabchicks, perhaps better known as Little Grebe. We returned by way of the tow-path and rejoined the road near the Cartbridge Laundry. Below is a list of birds, etc., seen, and a further list of birds heard:

BIRDS SEEN

Skylark	Herring Gull
Carrion Crow	Mistle Thrush
Little Grebe	Canada Geese
Wren	Mute Swan
Chaffinch	Black Headed Gull
Lapwing	Coot & Moorhen
Song Thrush	Great Crested Grebe

BIRDSONG

Magpie	Hedge Sparrow
Wren	Blue Tit
Blackbird	Song Thrush
Great Tit	Starling
Chaffinch	Canada Geese

Leader... E. J. Bartlett.

On January 18 members met at Sendholm and spent a pleasant time around the secluded lake. Here in more or less undisturbed conditions were various forms of wild life, the resident swans were eyeing us as we walked along the bank, and last year's nest could be seen. Sadly many of the bream were lying on the top of the water, victims of last year's very hot Summer. A badger sett was visited and members were interested to see the footprints in the sand outside the entrance. Perhaps the most interesting sighting of the walk was the pure white blackbird which flew across the entrance as we arrived.

BIRDS SEEN

Blackbirds (one albino). Robin.
Pigeons. Goldcrest.
Canada Geese. Starlings.
Swans. Long-Tailed Tits.

BIRDSONG

Song Thrush.
Kingfisher.
Woodpecker (drumming).

VARIOUS

Nitches Broom.

Leader... E. J. Bartlett.

The 1st February saw the ever growing natural history group at Send Church. On this morning a larger variety of bird life was seen, as I was not present on this walk, I can only relate here what very enthusiastic members have told me. The way led across the fields by Mr. J. Oliver's farm and down to the river; here the towpath was joined and followed along. The following species of birds were seen, including three ducks which were not conclusively identified, but were thought to be scaup.

BIRDS SEEN

Teal	Kestrel	Canada Geese	Redpolls
Siskin	Snipe	Partridge	Tree Creeper
Blue Tit	Bullfinch	Fieldfares	Wren
Accentor	Scaup?		

Leader... John Bartlett.

On 15th February members met at the site of the old Pyrford Mill. From here we set off along the river bank, walking slowly and quietly, hoping to see signs of the water voles, but we were unlucky. Various plants were pointed out as we made our way along, early signs of coltsfoot could be seen keeping company with the sweet violet. A grey wagtail flitted along on the far bank just ahead of us. Farther on a female stonechat displayed a great interest in our party, and I was beginning to wonder who was supposed to be watching whom.

BIRDS SEEN

Moorhen	Grey Wagtail	Reed Bunting	Long-Tailed Tit
Stonechat	Blue Tit		

Leader... E. J. Bartlett.

Our most recent walk, and in my opinion the most successful, was on 29th February. About 30 members turned up for this walk, which took us through the lovely area known as the "CHANTRIES" at Guildford. Here at this early hour the woodland was very peaceful, and as we started on the long climb up through the wood, a tiny tree creeper hunted for insects on the large wych elms. A squirrel's territory marking post was in evidence on the first of the trees, and lying just below on the ground was a dead redwing which gave members a chance to see the rusty red patches which gives the bird its name. At the top of the long slope, we all had a grand view of a pair of roe-deer, and nearby the grubbing holes made by badgers only a couple of hours beforehand.

BIRDS SEEN

VARIOUS

Tree Creeper	Magpie	Roe-Deer	Badger Paths
Siskin	Great Tit	Dung Beetles	Badger Dung Pits
Redwing	Bullfinch	Larch	Sitka Spruce
Greater Spotted Woodpecker		Wych Elm	

Leader... E. J. Bartlett.

THE WEY NAVIGATION

One of the most prominent features of Send for the past 323 years has been the Wey Navigation. Strictly speaking, only two of its 15½ miles lie within the parish, but most of the Sutton Place section is all but in Send, and many of our members live in the parish of Ripley, so we can be excused for taking an almost proprietary interest in about a third of the total length.

Inevitably, the Navigation has had an impact on the life of the area and equally inevitably, it will occupy the interest of our Society a great deal.

There are so many original records relating to the Navigation (mostly in the Guildford Muniment Room), and so much has been written about it already, that hitherto we have not dared to open the floodgates on the subject in the pages of the Newsletter. However, it is hoped that the Society will be walking along parts of the towpath one Summer evening later this year, so it is necessary to give a brief outline of its history now in order that members will be better able to appreciate what they see. In later editions, different aspects of the Navigation will doubtless be gone into in more detail.

When Sir Richard Weston, grandson of the builder of Sutton Place, inherited the estate in 1613, he devised a scheme to make the barren parts more fertile by cutting a "new Ryver" from Stoke Mill to Sutton Place whereby he could flood the land at will and make the grass grow more luxuriantly. This work appears to have been completed by 1619. Weston was one of the first to try such a scheme as this. It is not known whether this cut was ever intended to be more than an irrigation channel.

In 1621 Guildford Corporation tried unsuccessfully, by Act of Parliament, to obtain authority to make the whole of the River Wey navigable from "Guildeford Bridge to waybridge".

Sir Richard Weston, with the experience he had gained from his own canal, and from his exile in the Low Countries during the Civil war (1642-6), was one of the undertakers and the civil engineer of the scheme which was eventually successfully completed over the remarkably short period 1651-3, although he himself died in May 1652. This was the first river navigation in the country involving a considerable length of canal. Sir Richard Weston, James Pitson and Richard Scotcher were the three principally responsible for the completion of the Navigation, although only Pitson seems to have done well out of it financially - at the expense of almost everybody else.

Of the 15½ miles, nine were dug for the purpose and the remainder were parts of the river course. There were ten locks, four tumbling bays and 12 bridges. It was originally planned to cost £6,000, but as is the habit with undertakings of this sort, as we know only too well nowadays, it cost considerably more. The total, including wharves, amounted to about £16,000.

The Navigation was dogged by debts and lawsuits, but in spite of this, it did manage to make a profit, the peak of which seems to have been during the early years of the 19th Century when profits were running at about £4,000 per annum.

Barges going downstream carried mostly timber, flour, and oak bark (for tanning at Send among other places). Other principal commodities were coal, groceries, and even gunpowder from the powder mills at Chilworth.

Three generations of Stevenses acted as managers of the canal until the third William Stevens became sole owner in about 1902. His son gave it in 1963 to the National Trust, which still is the owner. It was in frequent use up to and during the 1930's, and the last commercial barge was taken out of service in 1969.

Sources of information for this summary have been "Early Seventeenth-Century Schemes to Make the Wey Navigable", published in Surrey Archaeological Collections LXVI, "West Surrey Waterways", published by Guildford Corporation, and articles in Mayford History Society Newsletters Nos. 25 & 26.

Les Bowerman

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership

The following have become members of the Society since the last edition of the Newsletter was published:

Mrs. M. Tice, 54 Send Barns Lane Mr. & Mrs. Head, 166 Send Road
Mr. & Mrs. E. Goldup, 44 Send Barns Lane Mr. & Mrs. A. Foster, 17 Send Close
Mrs. P. Howe, 25 Wentworth Close, Ripley Mrs. C. Wood, 11 Send Barns Lane
Mrs. C. Garside, Sunnymead, Potters Lane Mrs. C. Stocker, 3 Bramble Way Ripley
Mr. J. Magson, Sunnymead, Potters Lane
Mr. & Mrs. Mees, Hazel Copse, Oak Grange Road, West Clandon
Mrs. S. Anderson, Franches, Clandon Road, Burnt Common
Mr. & Mrs. T. C. Walker, Sendhurst Farm Cottage, London Road
Miss S. Lagden, 22 Kingfield Gardens, Kingfield, Woking.

We are pleased to welcome them to membership, the total of which now stands at 105 subscriptions.

The Open Meeting of 14th February, 1976 - the Parish Churches of Surrey

Nearly 70 people were present for our first meeting at the Church Room to hear Mr. Mervyn Blatch give an illustrated talk on the development of the parish church in Surrey. An extract is given below of some of the general points he made.

In the Middle Ages, Surrey was an unfashionable county due to the poor-ness of much of its soil. The Weald was dangerous. Settlements were in river valleys and on higher ground where people felt safe. The population in 1700 was only 150,000, and in 1800 it was 250,000. At this time the county extended up to the Thames at Rotherhithe. Cobbett talks of "rascally commons". The opening of the railway line to Woking in 1838 changed all this; the Londoners who came down by rail found the Surrey pines pleasant. By 1892 the population had leapt to 1,750,000, and it is now 2,500,000 in a much smaller area. Surrey is the eighth smallest county, but it is now the eighth most populated. It has had an uneventful history with no great battles fought since Anglo-Saxon times. It is short of martyrs - there were no burnings at the stake. The greatest event was the signing of Magna Carta.

The result of all this is reflected in the churches. There were no large estates and no prosperous wool areas. Therefore there were no rich people adding chapels, etc., consequently there are many lovely and practically unaltered village churches such as at Pyrford. Surrey was too poor in the Middle Ages for big churches, and there was also a lack of good building materials. However there is an enormous amount of interest in Surrey churches. Many of the churches grew up near the manor houses.

The earliest pagan site in Surrey was the Romano-British temple at Farley Heath - first to fourth centuries. The Anglo-Saxons did not like Surrey much, so there are few churches of this period.

Availability of building materials is important. There is good Bargate stone around Godalming - warm, brown and yellow tints. Reigate stone, in between limestone and sandstone, does not weather so well. There is some good chalkstone and flint, and plenty of wood and some brick; also "pudding stone" - lumps held together in natural cement which needs covering. Pyrford Church has stood 800 years made of pudding stone, but has had to be buttressed.

Heath stone is found on the heaths and is very durable. Carstone, or "gingerbread" stone, is a form of sandstone. Horsham slabs were used for roof covering (Send is one of the most northerly churches to have Horsham slabs).

Many examples were given of churches of all periods and all materials, plus furnishings and decorations. Space prevents any further details being given, but if anybody is interested, I have copies of Mr. Elatch's "In & Out of Churches" (mostly Surrey ones) for sale at 15p each.

The Guildhall & Abbots Hospital - Saturday, 14th February

It was worrying to have 43 members gathered outside the Guildhall in Guildford High Street and still no sign of anybody opening the premises ten minutes after we were due to enter. However, a telephone call revealed a breakdown in communications in the Council offices, and brought the arrival of the custodian within five minutes.

The rear of the Guildhall is older than the front, which was built in 1683, which is also the date of the famous clock. The Court Room, which is still very much in use, has a Tudor roof and late 17th Century panelling. A 16th Century German sword, which is carried before the Mayor on ceremonial occasions, hangs above the bench. A very fine set of ancient standard measures is displayed behind the bench.

The Justices' retiring room contains some interesting mementoes, including a magnificent gold casket presented to Baden-Powell in 1903 by the Mayor & Corporation, presumably as part of the general hero worship after the Relief of Mafeking in 1900.

The panelled Council Chamber upstairs contains a finely carved chalk fireplace believed to have come from Stoughton Manor when it was demolished in the 17th Century. It also contains, securely locked in a glass-panelled safe, the Corporation Plate, the splendour of which needs to be seen to be believed. Included among many glittering objects is a silver gilt mace of 1489 said to be the number one mace in England. There is the Mayor's chain of office presented by Arthur Onslow in 1673, and the Mayor's Staff of campeachy wood dressed with silver and given by Elizabeth I.

Abbot's Hospital, built in 1619-1622 by George Abbot, fourth son of a modest Guildford family, who became Archbishop of Canterbury, is very much a contrast to the Guildhall. It was built in a Tudor brick style to house twelve men and eight women in their own apartments. There are rather more than twice that number now. They are selected after applying for a place. The qualifications are that they are single, above 60 years, of good character, and have been born locally or lived there for 20 years.

The resident who conducted us around was a little man in the uniform of large floppy hat and cloak - very much a character. The Hospital is remarkable for the amount of original equipment - furniture, fittings, Jacobean doors and panelling. The chapel windows have outstanding painted glass. The dining room contains a large German wooden chest of 1594 and original furniture among other fascinating objects.

The Hospital is open to visitors from 11 a.m. to 12 noon and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. daily except Sundays. The Guildhall is open by arrangement with the Town Clerk or the custodian.

The A.G.M., Wednesday, 25th February

Our first A.G.M. was held at the Church Room and was attended by about 50 people. The draft constitution as circulated to members was adopted without alteration. With his enthusiasm for the Society, his 40 years of residence in the village, and his expertise in so many aspects of local history, Jim Oliver was unanimously elected as President of the Society. The accounts prepared by Pat Thurbin, showing a balance of £29 in hand, were adopted. The subscription for the next twelve months was fixed at 50p per individual member or 75p per couple. Ken Bourne and Les Bowerman were re-elected as Chairman and Secretary respectively. With Pat Thurbin not wishing to stand for re-election, Sheila Brown takes his place as Treasurer. The following were elected as Committee members: Marjorie & Ron Sex, John Slatford, Ron & Irene Carter, Pat Thurbin, Chris & Geoff Parker, Ted Bartlett, Ted Goldup, Christine Wood, Iris Watts, Harry Harvey and Ken Dawson.

After the official business and refreshments, Ted Goldup demonstrated a knotting machine, the invention of which, by McCormick in about the 1860's in America, enabled sheaves of corn to be knotted by machine. This revolutionised farming by allowing harvesting to be done by machine rather than by hand.

Some very evocative music was played by Ron Sex on an Edison Bell phonograph of about 1906. This is the device which was the forerunner of the gramophone and all present-day record players. The sounds were recorded by a needle scratching a continuous groove on a revolving wax cylinder. To play the recording back, the reverse occurs with the resulting sound being amplified through a large trumpet-shaped attachment. The machine has been in the village for very many years, having previously belonged to "Tammy" Dance the village postman.

Joe Baigent had kindly loaned the Broadmead branding iron, which was also available for inspection. The display boards made by Geoff Parker were in use for the first time - Ken Bourne gives details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Also on display was a hitcher, a heavy iron foot in the shape of a fish-tail with which the end of a bargepole is shod. Everybody knows the expression about not touching something with a bargepole, but not everybody will be aware that it was about 12 ft. long as used on the Wey Navigation, and its principal purpose was to fend the barge off the canal bank as the barge was towed round bends. Three of these lashed together could be used as a tripod for lifting heavy lock gates, etc. This particular hitcher, which had lain in the canal for many years, is heavily corroded, but it is still possible to make out where more than one owner had stamped his initials on it.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday, 27th March.... "The Wey & Its Canals". An exhibition at Woking Public Library from noon to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, 28th April.... Open Meeting at 8.00 for 8.15 at the Church Room, Send Road. Talks by members.

Wednesday, 23rd June.... Open Meeting at 8.00 for 8.15 at the Church Room. Lyn Mileham, of our Society and of Mayford History Society, will give an illustrated talk on "Industrial Archaeology".

It is hoped that the second conducted tour of the Church, the old hall house and Send Court will take place some time in April. The list has now closed with 30 names on it. Those who have given their names will be notified of the precise date as soon as possible.

Further events such as outings, meetings or local tours may be arranged at comparatively short notice. Notification will be given to all members by circular.

There is a new course to be run by the University of Surrey Adult Education Department, starting on Thursday, 29th April, for five weeks. It is called "Documentary Sources for Local Historians & Archaeologists". The fee is £1.50 (£1.00 only for Senior Citizens or Surrey Archaeological Society members). It will include a visit to Surrey Record Office. If members interested care to hand their fees to me by the end of March, I will reserve places.

Natural History

John Bartlett has had a number of observation recording slips printed, with which it is hoped to build up as comprehensive a record as possible of flora and fauna in the parish. The greater the number of people to fill up slips the better the record will be. Slips may be obtained from John or Ted Bartlett, Ron Carter or myself.

Les Bowerman

SLANK - FACT OR FICTION?

It may have come as a surprise to our members to learn (in N/L 5) that the fine rural-sounding word "farren" is still in use locally in relation to the Broadmead, but there is also another word of local dialect which not many will now be aware of. "Slank" is or was used in some half a dozen counties, including Surrey, and means a slope or declivity, or a depression in the ground. On the Broadmead there are at least two low-lying damp areas referred to as slanks. In Kent and Surrey it also means a low place at the side of a river, bay or cove, filled with water at freshet (flood or overflowing of river caused by heavy rain or melted snow). In Scotland and Ireland a similar word "slonk" is used to mean a depression in the ground: a ditch, slough, or a deep wet hollow in a road.

In South Nottingham "slank" is used only in the midwife's proverb "A slank before a bank", meaning that before a woman puts on weight in pregnancy there is a brief period when she loses weight.

This edition of the Newsletter should be appearing shortly before April 1st. Readers are therefore invited to say whether the above is true or false.

Les Bowerman