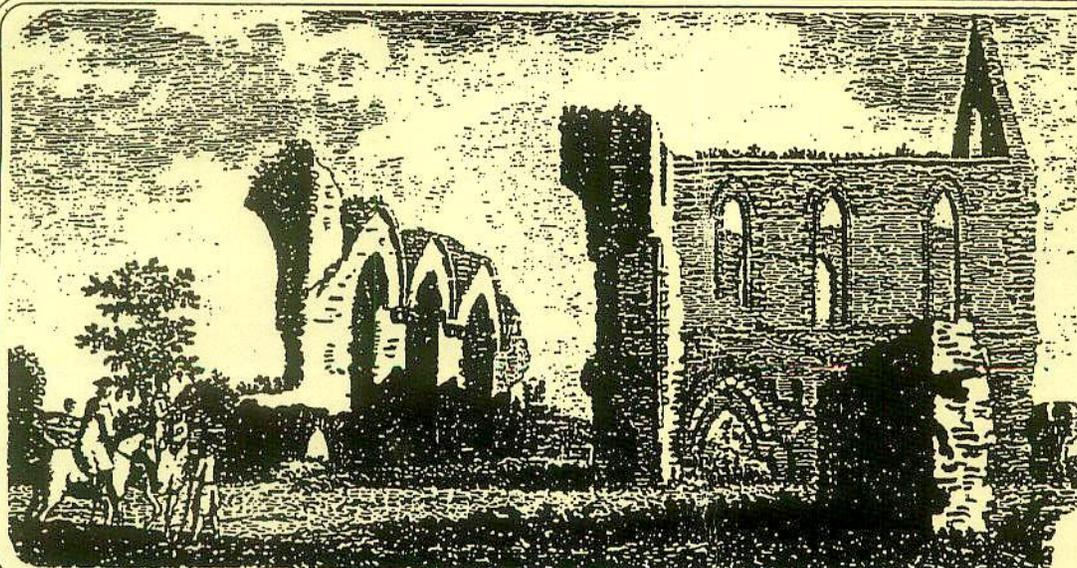


Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

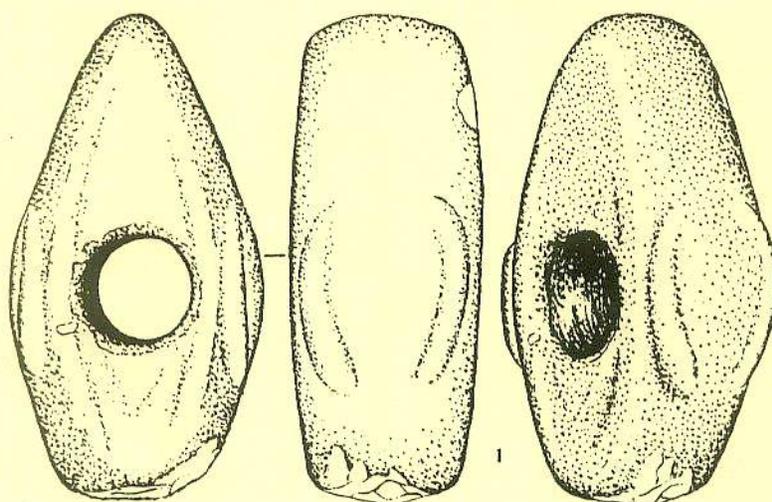
Registered Charity No. 296324



NEWARK PRIORY

Newsletter No.147

July/August 1999



CMS



INCHES



ANCIENT WEAPONS FROM RIPLEY.

T LANDSCAPE TREE SERVICES
Gosden

**LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION,
GROUNDWORK,
FENCING & TREE SERVICES**

3 Kingfield House, Elmbridge Lane,
Kingfield, Woking, Surrey GU22 9AE.
Tel/Fax: (01483) 765102/223318
Mobile: (0973) 248975



Anything but ordinary

TOWN & COUNTRY CARS

High Street, Ripley
Sales — Service — Spares
Your Local MOT Station
(01483) 224000
Established 1966
Suzuki Cars Main Agent — Surrey & Hants

BLAZES
FIREPLACE CENTRES

The UK's Largest Living Flame Specialists

**WE OFFER THE SOUTH'S LARGEST SELECTION OF
"HOLE IN THE WALL" FIREPLACES**

ALSO ON DISPLAY A SELECTION OF BEAUTIFUL FIRE SURROUNDS WITH
LIVING GAS FLAME FIRES. ALSO LARGE RANGE OF ELECTRIC FIRES
FREE SURVEYS

FULL INSTALLATION SERVICE

GUILDFORD (01483) 225800

VISIT OUR LUXURY SHOWROOM & FIND OUT WHY PEOPLE GO TO BLAZES AT
DUNCAN HOUSE, HIGH STREET, RIPLEY, GUILDFORD GU23 6AY.

OADES PLANT

Telephone : 01784 435555/6
Fax: 01784 434351

CRABTREE ROAD
THORPE
EGHAM, SURREY
TW20 8RW

Smart Movers

(GUILDFORD)

International household and office movers
Export packers - Shippers - Relocation consultants
Household and archive storage specialists
The Recommended Removal Company

(01483) 235543

37/43 Newark Lane, Ripley, Surrey GU23 6BS

GLM ELECTRICAL

NICEIC APPROVED ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
DIMPLEX HEATING SALES, SPARES & SERVICE
RETAIL SALES OF ACCESSORIES, LAMPS, ETC.
119 Send Road, Send, Woking, Surrey GU23 7HN.
Tel: 01483 211800/211888 Fax: 01483 211833

*Williams &
Wright Ltd* The Jewellers

Antique & Modern Jewellery & Silver
Bought & Sold

VALUATIONS • REPAIRS • PEARL RESTRINGING

High Street, Ripley, Surrey GU23 6AN. 01483 211112

PRISTINE PROFESSIONAL DRY CLEANING

7 High Street, Ripley, Surrey GU23 6AA
Tel: 01483 223851

ALL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS DUVETS CURTAINS ETC.
FREE AND FRIENDLY ADVICE GIVEN
CLEANING TOKENS WELCOME
WHY NOT GIVE US A TRY FOR A BETTER
CHOICE OF DRY CLEANING
CARPET CLEANING MACHINE HIRE ALSO
AVAILABLE

Send & Ripley History Society

Established 1975 as Send History Society

Registered Charity No 296324

President: Mr K H Bourne MSc

Brunel House, 30 Brunel Way, Frome BA11 2XU. Tel: 01373 455641

Chairman: Mr L G Bowerman

The Manor House, Send Marsh Green, Ripley, Woking GU23 6JL. Tel: 01483 224876

Secretary: Mrs A Sykes

Kevan Cottage, Clandon Road, Send, Woking GU23 7LA. Tel: 01483 222060

Treasurer: Mrs C Sheard

Willow Cottage, 20 Papercourt Lane, Ripley, Woking GU23 6DS. Tel: 01483 224165

Newsletter Editor: Mr K H Bourne MSc

Brunel House, 30 Brunel Way, Frome BA11 2XU. Tel: 01373 455641

Newsletter Distribution: Mr G Bleach

2 Church Row, High Street, Ripley, Woking GU23 6BG. Tel: 01483 222233

Typed by Mrs Chris Parker

Copyright Send & Ripley History Society 1999

Newsletter No 147

July/August 1999

Contents	Page Number
Editor's Comments	2
Domesday Send, by Les Bowerman	2
Prehistoric Implements from Papercourt, by Les Bowerman	4
"The Mecca of All Good Cyclists" - a Postscript by Les Bowerman	5
Pat Gibbons' Second World War Experience Interview Notes by Rachel Clack	8
May & Hardy's Second World War Factory Clarification of photograph details	12
Forthcoming Events	13
Cricket Exhibition at Museum	13

Cover illustration Ancient weapons from Ripley.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

As we get nearer to the year 2000 and are, inevitably, conscious of various organisations' arrangements to commemorate this occasion in the Christian Calendar, there is at first an impulse to do something appropriate in the History Society. Of course, the very nature of the Society is to record events from the past, particularly those that are of interest to Send and Ripley. This is what we attempt to do, and it is not so easy to find items of interest which occur on specific dates. At the beginning of this Millennium, the earliest recorded account we have is, of course, the Domesday Survey of 1086. Les Bowerman, our Chairman, has produced a copy of this entry, with comments, and has, unwittingly, or wittingly, started the ball rolling, as it were, and it is unlikely that there will be any earlier references nearer to the year 1000 than this.

If anyone has any snippets of information that are clearly associated with either village, especially in that rather lean period, from a documentary point of view, between 1000 and, say, 1200, it would be greatly appreciated and enthusiastically received by the Editor.

Of course, we already have, as a society, various publications underway - hopefully, these will be ready early next year - and we also have the 25th Anniversary of the Society, which occurs early in the year 2000, and is to be commemorated by a dinner at the Hautboy Hotel, to look forward to. If a thousand years is too far back, it is just as interesting a hundred or two hundred years ago, and sources of reference such as the local newspapers are more readily available to scan. Well, good luck! I look forward to receiving my next post when the Newsletter is due to be compiled, at the end of August/early September.

DOMESDAY SEND

In the early days of the Society, we speculated from time to time about details of the substantial Send entry in the Domesday Survey of 1086.

For the benefit of newer members, and to refresh the memories of older ones, the entry translates (in the Phillimore version, published in 1975) as follows:

Land of Alfred of Marlborough

In WOKING Hundred

Alfred holds SEND from the King, and Reginald from him.

Karl held it before 1066. Then and now it answered for 20 hides.

Land for 10 ploughs. In Lordship 2 ploughs and 8 slaves;

14 villagers and 10 smallholders with 6 ploughs.

A mill which pays 21s 6d. A church; 5 fisheries which pay 54d;

Meadow, 100 acres less 16; woodland and 160 pigs.

Of this land Walter holds 1 ½ hides, and Herbert 9, of villagers' land.

In lordship 2 ploughs, and 7 slaves;

1 villager and 16 smallholders.

A mill which pays 2s.

Total value before 1066 £20; now, the lordship £10, the rest 110s.

Send included both the Ripley and the Newark areas. As I commented at Newsletter 3/2, Send then appeared to be at least as valuable as Woking (now Old Woking, of course).

We speculated at the time (bear in mind that the Society was very new then) whether the fisheries could have been at Hillside Farm, as the farmer there, one of our early members, Joe Baigent, told us that a particular area had always been known as "the fishponds", and Harold Giles recalled that a deep rotovator during the last war turned up some very ancient wooden sluice gates there. A later article on the Domesday Fisheries was promised, but it was not anticipated that it would be 24 years before it appeared.



Mid Saxon Fish Traps, Chelsea (top) and Isleworth (bottom). Photos: N. Cohen

Fisheries are recorded in connection with only nine named places and one unnamed holding in Surrey. Most entries state the number of fisheries and their render in money or kind, although two of the fisheries are said to be without a render. The kind of fish is mentioned only three times. At Byfleet and at an unnamed holding in Kingston Hundred, there were fisheries rendering eels, and at Petersham a rent in eels and lampreys was paid. With five, Send had by far the greatest number of fisheries in Surrey, the next highest being the two of Kingston and of Ockham. The Kingston ones were worth 10s, those at Ockham 10d, that at Walton 5s, that at Wisley 5d, but the Send ones amounted, as seen above, to 54d. Send was thus an important area for fish. Most of these Surrey fisheries are at places where the Thames and the Wey flow. It is likely, therefore, that they were either in areas set apart in the rivers themselves, or in water diverted from the rivers. I have not extracted all of the facts included above myself. Much of it comes from *The Domesday Geography of South East England*, Cambridge UP, 1962, by H C Darby & Eila M J Campbell. Most of the commentary is mine.

What has brought the subject of the Domesday Fisheries back to mind is an item in issue No 325 of the Surrey Archaeological Society Bulletin, where Bruce Watson, of the Museum of London Archaeology Service, discusses the archaeology and the ecology of the tidal Thames. It appears that since 1995 the Thames Archaeological Survey has discovered several Saxon fish traps dated to the seventh and ninth centuries. I quote: "Two types have been identified. One consists of vertical stakes linked by wattles arranged in a large V, as found at Chelsea, Isleworth and other locations. Those facing upstream are thought to be for catching salmon. The second type, as found at Barn Elms in Richmond, consists of a line of stakes set diagonal to the line of the river. The spacing of the stakes suggests that this type of trap consisted of wattle fencing containing several wicker traps or baskets." Photographs of the remains of the stakes at Chelsea and Isleworth appear in the Bulletin and are also reproduced here. It has to be likely that Send, with the original course of the Wey meandering through the meadows, would have had fisheries something like this, although those shown were some two to three centuries earlier. Needless to say, ours were presumably not for catching salmon. At least some eels are likely to have been the objective here, the eel trap at Newark (Newsletter 51/3 and Surrey Archaeological Collections LXXII, by Jim Oliver and myself) being of much more sophisticated brick-built construction, and thus, perhaps, the ultimate successor to the Domesday Fisheries.

Les Bowerman

PREHISTORIC IMPLEMENTS FROM PAPER COURT

Way back at Newsletter 26/6, I noted for the information of members that a unique (for this country) well-made axe-hammer, probably of the late Bronze Age (1000-650 BC), and a Saxon iron spearhead (see front cover), had been found by member Fred Hookins and his father whilst working in Hall's gravel pit opposite Papercourt Farmhouse, and that they had been recorded in Surrey Archaeological Collections No LII for 1950-51.

The Archaeological Society Bulletin No 325 gives details of two more prehistoric implements found in this area. I feel it worth reproducing the relevant paragraphs in full.

"A Palstave and a Palaelolith from Ripley - Jon Cotton and David Williams

"The Newlanders Club is a new metal detecting and social club based in the Guildford area. The new club is a split-off from the Serendipity Detecting Club and has been formed with co-operation in mind. Whilst manning a stall at Merrow in June, at the Bushy Hill School's summer fair, a complete Middle Bronze Age side-looped palstave axe was brought along to their stand by a visitor, Mr Paul Richens. As a result of this fortuitous meeting, contact was made with Mr Richens and this has enabled the axe to be drawn and recorded.

"The palstave was found by Mr Richens' father in about 1959/1960 in the garden of a house in Brook Lane, Ripley (between Ripley and Send) just after the house was built and while

he was clearing out rubbish from what is believed to have been a bomb crater in the garden - can any members confirm bombs falling at this spot? Thus the findspot is known to within about 2 metres. The axe is in fine condition and measures 156mm long by 65mm across the blade. At the same time as the axe was passed for recording Mr Richens lent a further object of potentially greater interest. This is a fine example of a distinctive flat-butteted cordate or '*bout coupe*' type biface hand axe. It had been found by Mr Richens himself as a boy about 1967 whilst playing in a quarry opposite Papercourt Farm, Ripley and had been picked up from a stone pile beneath a conveyor belt. The axe measures 112mm long by 80mm wide and has a thickness of 24mm. It is of lustrous grey-brown mottled flint with cherty inclusions, is slightly plano-convex in section and is in a fresh, though not mint condition. Such pieces are described as belonging to the British 'Mousterian of Acheulian tradition' (MAT) industry and are ascribed to the latest glacial (Devensian) period. On the continent similar pieces are associated with Neanderthals. The reported findspot of this biface places it in an area of first terrace gravels a few hundred metres distant from the modern course of the River Wey. This is not a locality which has produced material of this type hitherto, as John Wymer's recent Southern Rivers survey has demonstrated: the nearest Palaeolithic finds lie in the Weybridge-Cobham districts some kilometres to the northeast.

"The axes have been returned to the finder who has been urged to place them on permanent deposit in the future. Thanks are due to Paul Richens and also to Ian Medhurst and members of the Newlanders Club for their interest and prompt action which have ensured the recording of these finds."

A palstave is an implement shaped so as to fit into a split handle, instead of having a socket into which the handle fits (Oxford English Dictionary) like the hammer found by Fred and his father. Member Rob Donn, who has always lived near Brook Lane, tells us that an incendiary bomb fell close to where the Richens' house was later built, although that would presumably have made only a small crater. David Williams, one of the joint authors of the piece in the Bulletin, has been informed of this. Where the report says that material of this type has not been produced from this locality before, they are referring specifically to the Palaeolithic period (12,000-590,000 years ago). The latest glacial period was 25,000-72,000 years ago, according to Collins Field Guide to Archaeology. The Middle Bronze Age, to which the palstave axe is attributed, covers the period from 1500-1000 BC.

Les Bowerman

THE "MECCA OF ALL GOOD CYCLISTS" - A POSTSCRIPT

Subsequent to giving the two instalments of my talk on this subject and the six instalments of it printed in the Newsletter, three events have occurred which seem to be worth recording as a postscript.

The first concerns **The Anchor**. With a change of managers, it had been closed for some five weeks for a £200,000 refurbishment (figure from the *Surrey Advertiser*). It reopened on Easter Saturday and a number of mostly local people were invited to a private dinner the evening before as a trial run to test the equipment and the operating system. Among the guests were Audrey Sykes, our Secretary, and Anne and myself, because of our interest in the history of the premises. We were made very welcome and enjoyed an excellent meal from the menu. From the historical point of view, we were pleased to find that the layers of stain and paint on the original ceiling joists have been removed, so that one can see what they are really like, and the cycling history angle of this, formerly the most famous cycling hostelry in the world, has been emphasised with a good selection of drawings by the cycling artist, Frank Patterson, and early cycling photographs. Although we only saw the 19th century Cyclists' Visitors' Book displayed in a corner display cabinet, we believe that the remainder are in safe keeping at the Anchor. Generally, the premises have been upgraded from being a somewhat rundown jukebox pub to an

attractive restaurant inn. The old world atmosphere which so appealed to the early cycling visitors, as related in my talks, has been retained and enhanced.

On Easter Saturday, the Ripley Section of the Veteran-Cycle Club was invited to the **Anchor reopening ceremony**. Some half dozen of us duly arrived from Send Marsh, in appropriate costume, on 1880s/1890s cycles, and yours truly was accorded the considerable honour of being invited to perform the ceremony of snipping the tape to declare the Anchor open once again. A report appeared in the *Surrey Advertiser* on April 30 1999, with a photograph of David Jackson and Octavia Gleedwood, the new managers, on an 1884 Humber tandem tricycle. Yours truly looks on.

The Tricycle Association, which it will be recalled had been thwarted in its intention to lunch at **the Anchor** on its inaugural run in 1929, celebrated its 70th Anniversary on Sunday, 18 April 1999. Forty members accordingly met at Send Manor for coffee, before trundling some 20 miles up, along and down the North Downs to arrive in Ripley



Turning the wheel: Cycling historian Les Bowerman celebrates the re-opening of The Anchor in Ripley with new managers Octavia Gleedwood and David Jackson. Photo: Cliff Bolton.



Tricyclists at the Anchor in 1929

for lunch. In contrast to 1929, they received a fine welcome and a good lunch at the Anchor. To sit out in the courtyard by the pump and to look at the cycling pictures were added pleasures. In the afternoon, they paid a courtesy visit to the New Inn at Cartridge (where they eventually lunched in 1929), before returning to Send Marsh Green for tea. The warm spring sunshine was also a contrast to the dismal weather of the 1929 run, the difference between 1929 and 1999, as shown in the photographs, being due as much to the weather as to better modern photographic materials and brighter modern clothing.

The third event was the centenary of the Viscountess Harberton case against the Hautboy, for which the management invited the Veteran-Cycle Club to arrive for a buffet lunch in clothing and on cycles appropriate to 1898/9. This was the same day as the tricycle event, so coffee was served at Send Manor to a further 30 persons before they set off for Ockham. For the occasion the order of arrival was

firstly ladies in Rational dress, secondly ladies in long skirts, thirdly gentlemen on the old high Ordinary bicycle, of which there were five, and finally gentlemen on tricycles and Safety bicycles. I had arranged for a party of ten members of the Harberton/Pomeroy family to join us, and it was interesting to reflect that this was the first time for 101 years that anyone from the family had visited the Hautboy. On this occasion they were, of course, made very welcome as honoured guests. Their party consisted of the Hon Miss Rosamund Pomeroy (granddaughter of the Viscountess), the Hon Mrs Anne Pomeroy (widow of Miss Rosamund's twin brother), Mrs Anne's sons, Henry and Richard (being great-grandsons of the Viscountess), and their wives and young children (being great-great-grandchildren).

Good-natured fun was derived from the fact that in spite of the titles and posh names, the party still didn't get to eat in the restaurant part of the Hautboy, as some ladies were "inappropriately dressed" in divided garments. Further banter arose from the suggestion that the occasion was to celebrate the fact that they had got their then landlady off on the charge of refusing to serve a customer.

After a truly wonderful buffet lunch, Clare Howard, Marketing & Events Manager of the Hautboy, warmly welcomed the 40-strong party. It fell to me to set the historical context and to say what I had learned about the Viscountess from research. Without going into too much detail, I pointed out that the 1899 hearing of the case of R v Sprague at Kingston Quarter Sessions had provided some satisfaction for all concerned. Landlady Martha Sprague and the Hautboy had the satisfaction of being vindicated by dismissal of the charge. The Cyclists Touring Club, which brought the prosecution on behalf of the Queen, gained valuable publicity as the defender of



Miss Helen Pomeroy at the Hautboy

cyclists' rights. Bona fide travellers generally, and cyclists in particular, had their right to be provided with refreshment at wayside inns confirmed. Above all, the fact that the Hautboy did not seek to defend refusal of service because of the wearing of Rational dress established for ever the right of women to be considered respectably dressed when wearing divided garments in public.

It would be irrelevant to these pages to repeat the biographical sketch I gave of Lady Harberton's life, but I concluded with the thought that if the Viscountess were looking down on the proceedings, she would surely have derived great pleasure from seeing her descendants welcomed back to the Hautboy after all this time, and from knowing that the reforms she had so strongly advocated had all been accepted, as witnessed by the fact that not only were several lady cyclists there in Rational dress, but most of the female members of her family present were in trousers, as indeed was the charming Marketing & Events Manager of the Hautboy herself!

Perhaps it was presumptuous of me to address a party which included the Pomeroy about their ancestor, but they assured me afterwards that they had learned much from what was said. In turn I was delighted to hear things I had previously been unaware of from them. The very friendly Miss Rosamund, who was born some years after the death of her grandmother in 1911, did not thus know her personally, but was able to say that Florence Harberton, who died aged 67 (surprisingly young for one who had been so vigorous), did so as a result of a broken arm which turned septic. The family had thereafter not mentioned the Viscountess's campaigning activities, presumably being embarrassed by having a revolutionary as a relative. The present-day family is, however, avid for all the information they can obtain. I also learned that as a Suffragist herself, the Viscountess, who, of course, had automatic right of entry to Parliament, was able to arrange entry by Suffragettes, but that is a matter for others to confirm.

The Pomeroy family were pleased to try some of the historic cycles afterwards in the garden of the Hautboy, and it seemed entirely fitting that the younger Pomeroy ladies (Caroline, wife of great-grandson Henry, and Helena, wife of great-grandson Richard) were able to ride there in tucked-in skirt and trousers respectively one of the old high Ordinary bicycles, something which was totally *verboten*, if not impossible, a hundred or so years ago.

Les Bowerman

PAT GIBBONS' SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE

Interview Notes by Granddaughter Rachel Clack

Pat Gibbons (now Pat Clack) was a part of World War 2. The start of the war could not be forgotten, as she says "I was 14½. Twice a year, we as a family would visit my grandma in Dorset, and we hired a car to do this as we didn't have one of our own. We set off in the early morning of 3 September 1939, and when we arrived, my grandma said Mr Chamberlain was going to speak on the radio, or wireless, as it was called, at 11 am. We all gathered around the little wireless and we heard him say he had had no response from Adolf Hitler, and that consequently we were at war with Germany. We had brought a small boy with us for the day, and just at that moment there was a yell from outside, and he had been stung by a wasp. Peter always remembered this and on the 50th Anniversary he rang my Aunty Bessie to remind her." Aunty Bessie was Pat's great-aunt.

Some wars are expected, but sometimes what might seem a minor occurrence can start a war. This was not the case for World War 2. "I don't think it was much of a shock - we had been expecting it and preparations were being made, such as air-raid shelters, sand-bags being filled and men called up, so it wasn't much of a surprise. The sirens actually sounded on the first day, but it was a false alarm. The siren was a sort of wailing sound (undulating) and the 'all clear' was a long mournful note."

War can affect people in different ways, either from the memory of the war experience or from the loss of a member of the family. Pat Gibbons was no exception. "I think it has in



MARY. BAA BAKA. SELF. JEAN.



Pat Gibbons

a way changed my life. It enabled me to get jobs after the war, using skills learned in the forces. I went to Cable & Wireless and British Airways, which was then BEA (British European Airways), and this was all using skills which I had been taught in the forces. I also met my husband on demob (demobilisation) leave. We went to Cornwall on holiday and he had been in the Royal Armoured Corps (the Tank Corps), and he was on leave as well and we met then. We probably wouldn't have met otherwise."



Christine and Doreen

Young men and women were called up to fight. Everyone did something to help the war effort. "I was in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). My husband, as I say,

was in the Royal Armoured Corps. He had two brothers in the Air Force, one of whom was shot down over France and killed. I had an uncle in the Royal Signals Corps, an aunt in the WRENS (Women's Royal Naval Service), a cousin in the Fleet Air Arm and a cousin in the RAF, and various uncles and aunts working in factories."

To make sure that the forces had good discipline, they needed punishments. "Punishments in the forces were called 'jankers'. These consisted of peeling enormous quantities of potatoes in the cookhouse, or scrubbing floors or painting the barrack square, and so forth. I had a couple of lots of potato peeling, one for being back at camp after midnight and being caught crawling through the barbed wire, and one for not having a properly polished bed-space. We each had to polish the bit beside our bed; there were about 20 girls in each Nissen hut with a big horrible monstrosity of a stove in the centre, and we took it in turns to blacklead that. The girls sleeping near the stove roasted and the ones at the other end of the hut froze."

Friends were made in the forces and Pat, being a very good letter-writer, has kept in touch with some of them. "I still correspond with a friend in Australia who joined on the same day as I did. I'm Godmother to one of her daughters. She was also a wireless operator and I had for my bridesmaid the daughter of another friend. I also meet up once a month for lunch with Jean, who lives 20 miles from me and served with me in London."

All the children during the war were evacuated out of big towns like London, Newcastle and other large cities that were threatened by bombing. "We had two little girls from Thornton Heath, near Croydon. About 40 children from that area were brought to our local Drill Hall and stood up on the stage to be selected by local people. I was very sorry for them, being brought

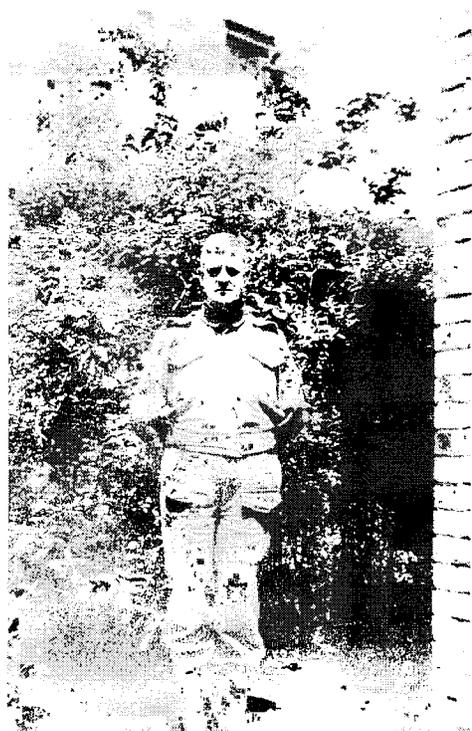
away from their parents to a strange place and then being chosen by strangers. My mother said she would take two girls, and we got Christine and Doreen Scholes, two very timid little girls, particularly the younger one. They had been frightened by the bombing they had already experienced. They were very poorly dressed and my mum sacrificed her clothing coupons to buy them new vests and stockings, etc. Their mother was in the NAAFI (Navy, Army & Air Force Institution), Their father was in the RAF, their brother was billeted at Kingfield, two miles away, and he would cycle over to visit. We had Christine for two years, then she moved away to another school, and Doreen for six months longer, when her mother decided to go back to Thornton Heath. They were bombed out after that and lost everything. It was a mistake to go back. We lost touch, but about ten years ago Doreen called on me. She was sorry that both my parents were then dead, but we are now back in touch. She is now married, with seven children. Although I did see Christine again, she has now died from a kidney disease."

The United Kingdom, being an island, had problems because the Nazis destroyed many cargo ships arriving with supplies, so most things were rationed. "Some of the food was different and there was very little of it. We had ration books with our names on, which had to be stamped every time we used them. Things on ration were butter, sugar, tea, meat, cheese, sweets, cigarettes and also clothes, there being special clothing coupons for those. Some things were scarce, but not on ration: onions, oranges, bananas - bananas were practically non-existent. Lots of little children never saw a banana until the end of the war. Coffee was scarce. All these things had to be queued for, and when it was heard a consignment had arrived, long queues formed and people would wait for hours. People kept allotments to grow their own vegetables, and they kept chickens to get eggs. Also men would go shooting to get rabbits and pigeons to supplement the meat ration. Bread was very dark and tasted like cardboard. If there was a birthday due, or when Christmas was approaching, mothers would save up their sugar allowance, and go without for months, to make a cake."

Bombing was a problem for large cities. Most houses had Anderson shelters in their gardens or Morrison shelters indoors, which they went into when there was an air raid. "We had several bombs near us and at one time the largest land-mine in Surrey fell just at the back of us. It completely destroyed two houses, but there were no fatalities. It brought down one of our ceilings and split our lavatory pan, however, thus flooding the room below. We did get war damage money for that, but we had to wait a long time for it. That would have been the blast which caused that. Vickers' factory, which was not far away at Weybridge, where they made aircraft, was bombed one lunchtime and lots of people were killed. We were told at the time that there were only a few injuries and no fatalities, but that was propaganda and we knew the truth because I had two uncles and an aunt working there, and one of the uncles was on first aid duty and helped to get the people out of the rubble. There weren't gas bombs, but it had been expected that they would use gas, although there weren't gas bombs here. The 'doodle-bugs', the V1s, were scary, and I remember walking down a long road one night and hearing this thing coming behind me. When the sound stopped, you knew it was about to crash, and that one wasn't very far away. A family of four was killed one lunchtime and the son was cycling home to his dinner. On arrival, his mother, father, baby sister and older sister were all dead. The V2s, the rockets, gave no warning. They just came in and blew up, causing much destruction. I once came home on a weekend leave and returned to the aerodrome at Nutfield, Redhill, to creep into my bed during the blackout. I thought it was a bit chilly and the next morning I discovered much of the roof had gone from the bungalow where we were billeted. It was expected that there would be gas bombs, so we were all issued with gas masks. These had to be carried everywhere. After a while, people didn't bother so much, and although we carried them, even in the WAAF, the cases very often didn't contain the gas mask, but held our makeup or other personal things. In the forces we had to run into a gas-filled room to test them and then run back without them, holding our breath. On one occasion a girl tripped and upset a lot of us, and by the time we got out we had to be treated because we had inhaled fumes."

Nobody's life could possibly remain the same with a world war going on. This is how Pat's life changed. "There was the queuing. You wasted an awful lot of time queuing up for

different things. You were always ready for an air raid warning, when you either had to go to the public shelter, or take cover wherever you could, as you knew the planes would be coming overhead. The blackout, of course, was quite restrictive. We had to put up two or three pairs of curtains, or special blackout material, so that there wasn't any light showing through at all. My dad got very cross one day with an Air Raid Warden who came round to see to the blackouts. He knocked on the door, Dad opened it, and the warden said 'You've got a light showing.' Dad said 'Well, we can't have, the blackout's perfect.' He said 'Where can you see a light?' He said 'Well, under the door.' My dad said 'Well, we didn't know that the so-and-sos were coming on their hands and knees.' He was a very officious warden, that one. We also joined things before we joined up, before we went into the actual forces. I joined the Women's Junior Air Corps, the WJAC, which was a girls' equivalent to the ATC, the Air Training Corps, and my dad joined the



Mr Gibbons in Home Guard Uniform

Home Guard. He was First Aid Corporal because he was too corpulent to do many manoeuvres. I don't know what good they could have done really, as they had one rifle, but no ammunition, so I don't really know what they would have done if they had been invaded. They used to walk the streets at night and thought they were keeping an eye on everybody and looking after the local people. So we used to meet once a week, doing that, and we all did first aid. So, yes, life was quite considerably changed really. As we were both doing first aid, Dad and I used to practise on Mum, and one night Dad had bandaged her head for a head wound and I had put a sling on her, and somebody knocked at the door. She had forgotten that she had all these bandages on and went and answered the door.

"The women had taken over the men's jobs while they were in the forces and when they were demobbed, it took quite a long time to get men back to work in their old jobs. The women weren't very happy really to go back to just being housewives and give their jobs back to the men, so a lot of men were out of work for some time, and there was quite a bit of argument and discussion about that. Rationing went on for quite a time afterwards. Gradually things were taken off, but a lot of items were still on ration because things still could not get through from abroad due to shipping problems. I guess that bananas were about the last thing to come back and I think they must have taken nearly a year to filter through. There was also a housing shortage, due to the large amount of bombing, and the houses took a long time to rebuild, to get materials and to be rebuilt, and with all the men coming back from the war, so there was quite a housing shortage for a number of years. I joined the WAAF in March 1944 when I was 18. I volunteered because it was either that, the factory or the Land Army, and I didn't think I fancied either of those. I was a shorthand typist, but they didn't want any of them, so I was tested as a wireless operator and did a six months' course to become one. When I first joined, I had 2s 6d per week, rising to 5s when training was completed, eventually, as I became more senior, finishing up with 15s. Two and sixpence is equivalent to 12½p now, but of course, we were fed and housed and had ration allowances when we came on leave. Our mothers were always very pleased to see us, as their rations were not very much."

D-Day was very near the end of the war. This was the day planned for the invasion of German occupied Europe by the British and their allies. "D-Day had been whispered about for a long time. I was stationed in Blackpool at the time and there was a leave ban on, so my mum said she would come up and visit me, and she travelled on an overnight train. When she got there in the morning she said she'd been coming up with troops and they had all been whispering

about it. No one was quite sure, but D-Day, in the event, was on June 6 1944."

Propaganda was a way of making everybody's spirits high and it was used to try and convince you that things were going well. "I don't think it entirely convinced us, but there was propaganda. War news filtered through, but it was sometimes delayed and not always the complete truth was told about the casualties - for instance, the Vickers bombing, and when the Ark Royal was sunk, or other big ships, we weren't told how many men had been killed. The Dunkirk landings and the Arnhem disaster - we didn't know until after the war how many people had been killed. There were a lot of men - they were fiascos. But everyone kept in good spirits. There was a chap called Lord Haw-Haw. He was an Englishman and a traitor, and he used to broadcast from Germany. Some people listened to him, but after a while they treated him as a joke and didn't take any notice. He broadcast all sorts of lies to try and demoralise people.

"I enjoyed being in the WAAF, I think mainly because I visited places I would never have gone to otherwise, and met lots of new people. Also, I was an only child, and joining up at 18 got me away from home and gave me independence. I probably wouldn't have left home as early as that otherwise. I will never forget my first leave I got in the WAAF, because when I joined there was a leave ban and I didn't get home again for seven months, so I enjoyed my first leave, and also I enjoyed VE Day (Victory in Europe Day, May 8 1945) because we really enjoyed ourselves on that day. I was stationed at Compton Bassett at the time when peace came, and several lorry loads of air crew arrived and dragged all the WAAFs out of their huts and we all went onto the 'dromes' (aerodromes) and lit bonfires and drank the rest of the night."

MAY & HARDY'S SECOND WORLD WAR FACTORY

Audrey Gardner, who is shown in photograph 1 of the above-mentioned article in Newsletter 146/5, and who took photograph 2, has provided the following clarification:

Photograph 1 - Mrs Chalmer should read Mrs Whapshott.

Photograph 2 - The gentleman in the back row, extreme right, is Reginald Corps, who was an engineer from London. He lived at the Three Frogs Café nearby, and later at Sandfields. In the middle row, Oliver Hatcher should read Olive Hatcher.

Audrey ran the savings scheme at May & Hardy's. Mr May obtained permission for her to also collect at the Triangle Café across the road.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, July 27 - 6.40 pm, the Manor House, Send Marsh

Please note the meeting time has been brought forward to 6.40 pm and it is not 7 pm as stated in a previous Newsletter.

This is a visit to Whiteley Village, created by William Whiteley in 1907 for the aged poor. It is a unique village set in 230 acres of beautiful Surrey woodland near Walton-on-Thames, and is noted for its imaginative architecture and landscape design. There will be a conducted tour of Whiteley Village, finishing with a drink at the Whiteley Village pub. Weather permitting, this promises to be an interesting evening tour. Contact Tony Medlen on 01483 760021.

Thursday, September 23 - 8 pm, Send Church Room

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

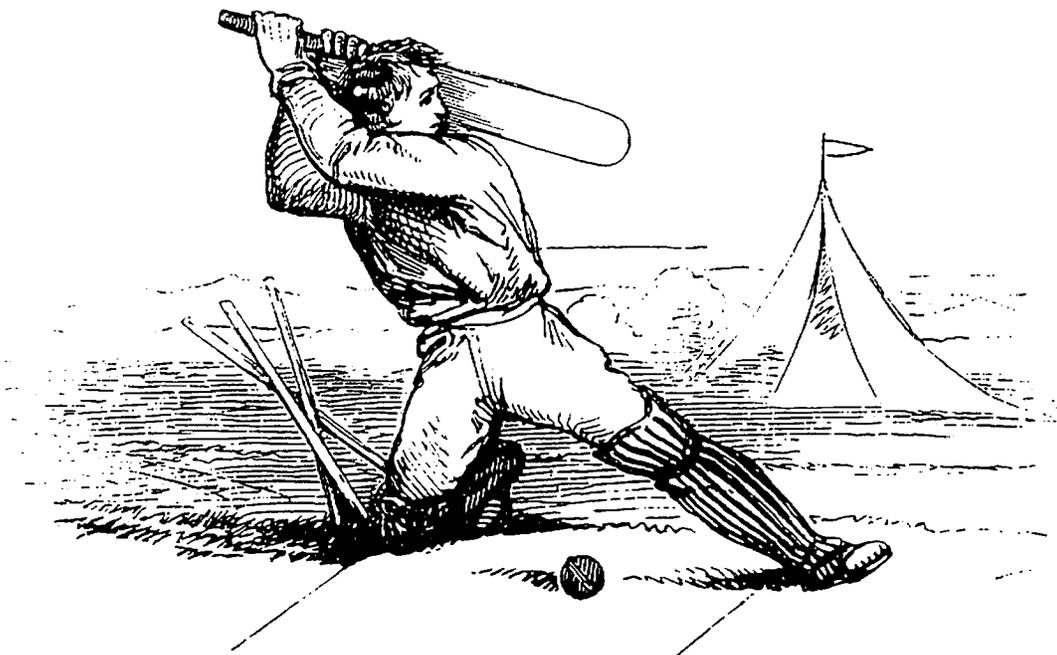
Wednesday, November 17 - 8 pm, Ripley Annex

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

Monday, January 24 2000 - the Hautboy Hotel, Ockham

Advance notice of the Society's Millennium and 25th Anniversary Dinner - details to follow in a later Newsletter. Please reserve this date in your diary.

STOP PRESS - new exhibition - "250 not out"



There is a new exhibition at the Museum that looks at the history of cricket in Send and Ripley. This exhibition has been put on to mark the 250th Anniversary of the founding of Ripley Cricket Club. This exhibit is intended to be up for a relatively short time, so please come to see it soon.

Newsletter Contributions

The closing date for contributions to the next Newsletter is Friday, September 3 1999.



SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

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

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

Other times for school groups and small parties
by arrangement.

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

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

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

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

GOODRICK-MEECH

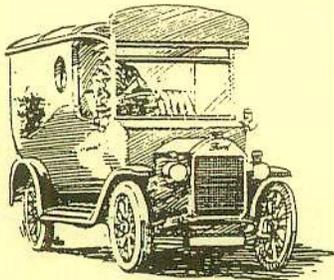
*Chartered Surveyors & Valuers
Auctioneers & Estate Agents*

WILLIAM HEATH, F.R.I.C.S.

*High Street, Ripley
Surrey GU23 6AQ*

TEL: GUILDFORD (01483) 224343

RIPLEY MODELS & TOYS



DAYS • GONE
BRITAINS

HIGH STREET
RIPLEY
WOKING GU23 6AA

TEL: 01483 224688



SEYMOURS

ESTATE AGENTS

188 HIGH STREET, RIPLEY, SURREY GU23 6BD.
TELEPHONE: 01483 211644 FAX: 01483 211356

- Property in Ripley & Villages
- Letting & Management Office
- Open 7 Days a Week
- Also in Guildford, West Byfleet, East Horsley & Woking,



*The Complete Property Service
Associated Offices in Bookham & Leatherhead*

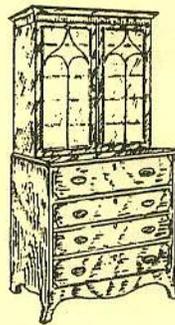
Watsons Bakeries
Quality

Bakers & Confectioners

East Horsley
01483 285219

Also at
Bookham • Cobham
Effingham • Fetcham
The Friary, Guildford
Old Woking • Ripley

Ripley Tea Rooms



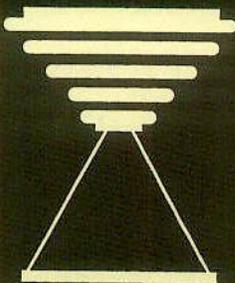
J. HARTLEY ANTIQUES Ltd

Tel: 01483 224318

Specialising in
Edwardian, Queen Anne,
Georgian & Regency Furniture.
Trade and Export

Mon-Fri 9-5.30
Sat 9.30-4

186 High Street, Ripley,
Surrey GU23 6BB.



KEN BOURNE MSc

PHOTOGRAPHER

Telephone 01373 455641

SPECIALIST IN ARCHIVAL COPYING

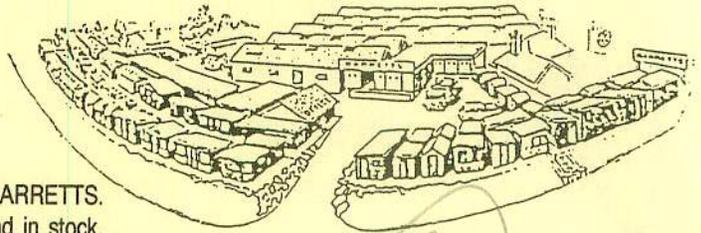
YOUR ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHS COPIED
IN BLACK AND WHITE OR SEPIA TONED
PRINTS NEGATIVES OR TRANSPARENCIES

Barretts Garden Buildings Ltd.

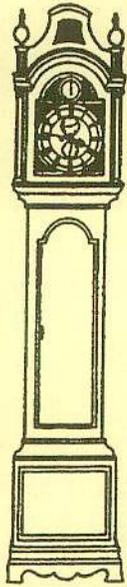
PORTSMOUTH ROAD
RIPLEY,
SURREY GU23 6EW



(01483)
224186



Buildings are made here at Ripley, ERECTED & GUARANTEED by BARRETTS.
We have an extensive range of GARDEN FURNITURE on show and in stock.
We show about 50 varied buildings of all types. Showground always open.



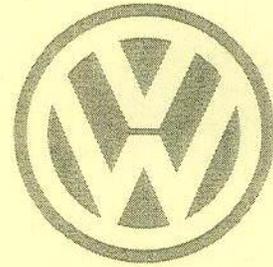
Keith Blake-Roberts

EXPERT CLOCK
REPAIRS &
RESTORATION

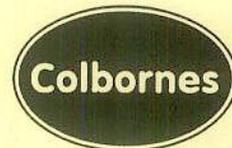
Fine Clocks
For Sale

(01483) 771123

45, 48, 15, 8, 23, 42



- ◆ New and used car sales
- ◆ Used Audi specialists
- ◆ Service and repairs
- ◆ Parts sales
- ◆ Accident repair centre
- ◆ Commercial vehicles



RIPLEY
Portsmouth Road,
Ripley, Surrey.

(01483) 224361

WOKING
74 / 76 Maybury Road,
Woking, Surrey.

(01483) 722415

RICHARDSONS

High Street, Ripley.

Gifts and Soft Toys
Fresh, Dried and Silk Flowers



InterfloraTM

Order your flowers for Local or Worldwide Delivery
Telephone: 01483 225322

2, 15, 23, 42, 45, 48, 97

via media

- Office Stationery
- Commercial Printing
- Business Gifts
- Computer Supplies
- Office Equipment
- Office Furniture

Tel: 01483 223935/224080

Fax: 01483 222878

Aston House, Portsmouth Road, Ripley, GU23 6EW