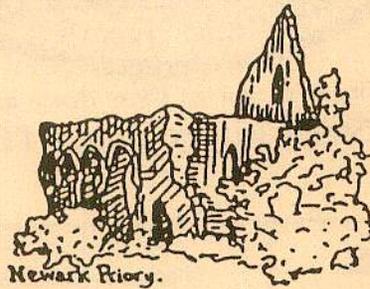
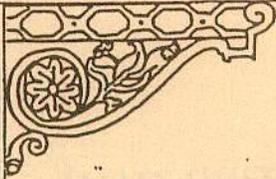
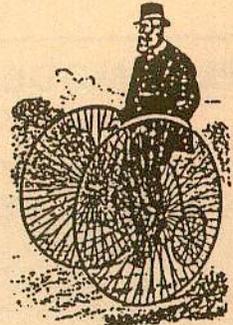
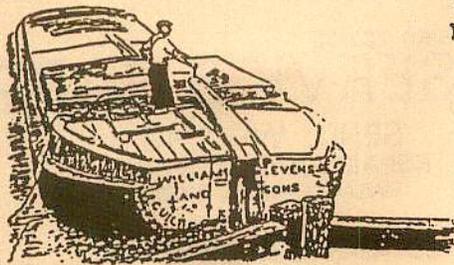


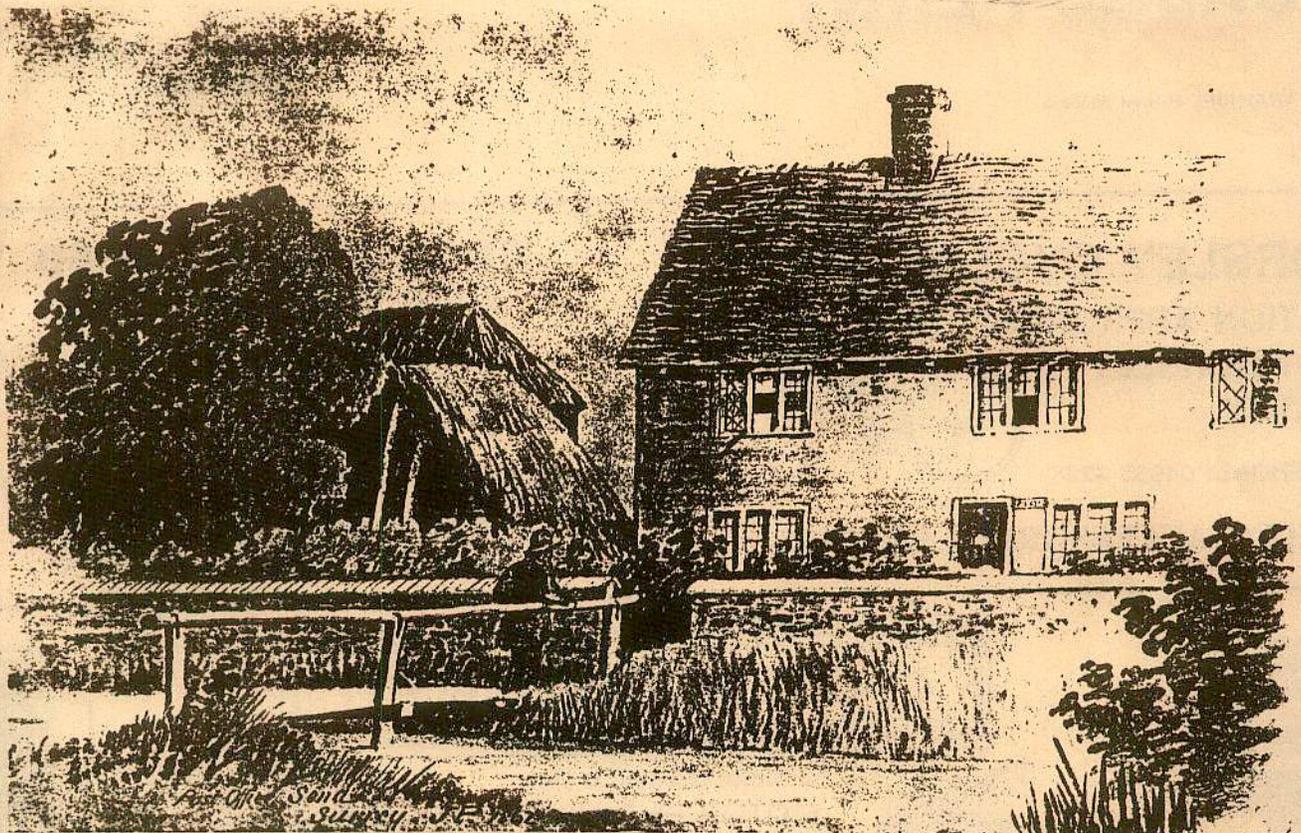
# Send & Ripley History Society



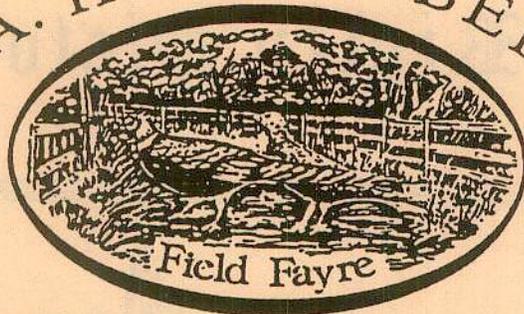
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Newsletter No.102 January/February 1992



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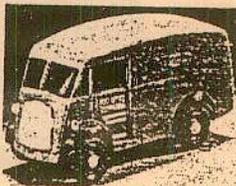


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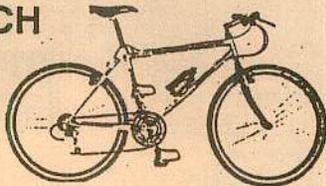
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# Send & Ripley History Society

Established 1975 as Send History Society

Registered Charity No 296324

**Chairman: Mr J M Slatford**

St George's Farmhouse, High St, Ripley, Woking GU23 6AF (Gfd 222107)

**Secretary: Mrs A Sykes**

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Typed by Mrs Chris Parker.

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Newsletter No 102

January/February 1992

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**Cover Illustration:** This depicts a painting of the old Send Post Office in Send Marsh Road, produced by John Porter and dated 1862 and reported fully on page 2.

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

As Bob Gale reported in the last Newsletter, he has regretfully stepped down as Editor. This edition, however, is a joint production, but subsequent Newsletters will be all my own work. This is a task which I am looking forward to, and I am conscious of the very high standard Bob has set and maintained throughout his Editorship. With the help of everyone who regularly contributes articles, and especially Chris and Geoff Parker, who now have the job of training me for the task of transcription from manuscript to tape, as they have done so well with Bob and our first Editor, Les Bowerman, I hope I shall make a good job of it.

Bob was responsible for creating the system of regular support from advertising, the revenue from which almost pays for the Newsletter production. He also introduced the idea of a new front cover design with the three sketches depicting the principal past activities with which Send and Ripley are associated, namely Newark Priory, the River Wey and cycling. Above all Bob's enthusiasm and good humour has always been appreciated by us all, and come rain or shine, he ensured that the Newsletter was produced up to standard and on time.

The good foundation which was laid by Les Bowerman and built upon by Bob Gale will assist me to develop the publication to meet the needs of our members and to recognise the need for, and introduce, change only when necessary.

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## SEND POST OFFICE IN THE 1800s

### Notes by John Slatford

The Society was recently presented with a painting depicting the old Send Post Office in Send Marsh Road.

Mrs Porter from Warlingham called to show me the painting, which she told me was by her husband's great grandfather, John Porter. It is a water colour, initialled J.P., with the date 1862, bearing the title "Post Office, Send, Surrey". It is a fine detail of the house which stood on the site of the present Keep House.

It is interesting to compare the painting with the old postcard of the spot reproduced on page 76 of "Then and Now". The footbridge over the stream at that point was much the same on the postcard, although the house cannot be seen. The house depicted in the painting, together with the thatched buildings on the left, correspond exactly with the detail for this spot shown on the 1871 25" Ordnance Survey. The building, which would have been two or three cottages, appears to have been mid to late 18th century construction, similar to the Boughton Hall Cottages opposite. The present Keep House was constructed on the same site around 1960 and has since been considerably extended by the present owners, Mr and Mrs Roberts.

One would assume from the painting that the Post Office was located in the house itself. It has been said, however, that it was in the Old Keep House, the small mediaeval timber-framed house still remaining at the rear (see Newsletter No 33, page 5). It would be interesting to know which is correct - if, in fact, it was not in both at one time or another. Send Post Office was established here around 1860. Before then, the nearest office was in Ripley. In the 1861 Census, William Tice is shown at the Keep House as carpenter and Postmaster. He died in 1870 and his widow, Sarah, continued for nearly 30 years as Post Mistress. After she died in 1899, her son, Charles, took over, but, it seems, for only a short time, as by 1907 Alfred Barrett was Postmaster.

Some time later, it appears that the Keep House Post Office closed and the business was transferred to the Surrey Trading Company, now the present Send Post Office. Built in 1907 by Thomas Lucas, who also built and lived at Sandmore in Send Hill, this business is shown in Kelly's Directories from 1915 as Grocers and Post Office.

When the original Send Post Office started, Send was, of course, still a scattered farming community with a small population. The Keep House Post Office, during its 50 years, saw the growth of the village, particularly with the building of several large houses, most of which have now gone. There was another sub-Post Office established at Cartbridge, at the end of Potters Lane, soon after the Keep House. The Sub-Postmaster here from 1899 until around 1930 was Walter Roake.

Special thanks are due to Mrs Porter for her generous presentation to the Society's collection.

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### SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE

Many members are probably aware that the National Westminster Bank in Ripley finally closed last year and that the building has been donated to Ripley Village Hall Management Committee. A condition of the donation is, however, that the building must be removed and the site left clear at the cost of the Village Hall.



As a Society, one of our long-standing aims has been to establish our own museum centre. Hitherto our searches for a suitable building or site have been unsuccessful.

The building has been offered to the History Society, together with a suitable site adjacent to the Village Hall, provided we undertake to pay for the cost of removal and resiting. After considerable discussion between the representatives of the Committees of the Society and the Village Hall, it has been agreed in principle that the History Society would be pleased to undertake this project, subject to obtaining planning consent, and also after evaluating the cost involved.

A number of methods of transporting the building from its present site to the new site near the Village Hall are at present being considered. A possible and albeit dramatic method would be to jack up the building and transport it in its entirety by a low-loader along the village street and reposition it on its new foundations. The alternative is to dismantle the building, transport it and rebuild it. The latter method would be easier, but overall may be more costly.

There are a number of obvious advantages for the History Society to have its own building. The main advantages would be to provide a centre as a focal point for the Society's activities, where exhibitions could be held, and it would become a permanent base for displaying some of the many artefacts that have been collected over the years for our members to view. This would be the museum aspect of the building's function. Just as important, however, is that we would be preserving what has become a landmark in recent Ripley history.

The old Westminster Bank purchased the present site in 1929 from the estate of James Tedder for the sum of £400. Thus the building would have been constructed as a bank soon after that time and functioned as a branch office and prominent landmark for some 62 years.

Once the building is in position on its new site, there will be quite a lot of work to do to refurbish it to suit our needs. This will certainly take many months to complete, but we hope that much of the work can be carried out within our available resources. This is undoubtedly likely to be the largest project that the History Society has undertaken, but such opportunities as this in a very popular village such as Ripley are likely to be very rare indeed, and the Society is grateful to Graham Jowett, the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, for creating this opportunity and for his subsequent support in offering the site and the building which will stand on it to the Society, rent free, in perpetuity.

On the basis of these proposals, we feel it is in the interests of the Society to proceed, subject, of course, to working out the details, which will be known, we hope, by our next meeting in February, which is the Annual General Meeting.

John Slatford, Chairman

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### SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM: FOOD AND DRINK

The 26th Symposium was held at the University of Surrey on Saturday, 9 November 1991, and the Society exhibited its display on the theme of "Food and Drink", previously seen at the May Day Fair in Send.

Sadly not many members of the Society were present, but those who did attend were treated to a marvellous day. Dr Simon Thurley opened the lecture session with a talk entitled "The Restoration of the Kitchens at Hampton Court", and this lecture must be singled out as exceptional. The presentation content and delivery of the talk was outstanding. Dr Thurley, a very youthful and humorous speaker, had his audience spell-bound. After such a talk, there were questions unlimited, and the excellent speaker fielded them all with honesty, humour and knowledge.

The afternoon speakers included Dr Mark Sturley, who spoke on "Surrey Breweries". Dr Sturley is an old friend of the Send & Ripley History Society and members will recall his entertaining talk on the Temperance Movement in May 1990. Mr Peter Thompson, a farmer from Surrey, spoke on "Five Generations of Vegetable Growing on a Surrey Farm". The Thompsons have been market gardeners in the Esher area for five generations and Peter catalogued the progress or demise of the farm (depending on your viewpoint) over this period. Originally all of their produce was taken to London by horse and cart and sold at the Borough Market. Today, after many changes of direction, including growing tomatoes and producing and packing solely for supermarkets, the Thompson enterprise at Garston Farm is a "pick-your-own" garden centre produce shop (with even a Santa's Grotto at Christmas). This is an example of the changes to which farmers have had to adapt. Mr Thompson's talk was punctuated with excellent local slides of the old farm and of the River Mole in flood. Despite many problems with the University projector, or rather the slide mounts, Professor Crocker, acting projectionist, managed to show these fascinating slides, and Mr Thompson's sense of humour kept the audience's attention. There always seems to be one speaker who has trouble with his slides, but how many societies are in the fortunate position to have a professor able to sort out the trouble! Mr Thompson finished his talk with a marketing flourish by inviting everyone to take a copy of his company's newsletter, the Garston Farm Gazette.

The Symposium, attended by about 250 people, was drawn to a close by a witty and amusing speech from its distinguished Chairman, Mr Kenneth Gravett. There was then time for a final look at the exhibits, and afternoon tea was served.

Next year the topic will be "Crime and Punishment", and the Symposium will again be held in November, the date to be announced.

Tony Medlen

## CINE NIGHT

On Thursday, 9 January, almost 50 members and friends gathered at the Red Cross Centre, Send, on a cold evening to experience an evening of reminiscing of times past in Send. The programme featured a black and white sound/cine film of the Queen's Coronation almost 40 years ago, on June 2 1953. This was followed by a coloured cine film, loaned by Derek and Sonia Deere, produced in 1967, and showing some of the activities of the Women's Institute in Send. This was a very professional and informative film of the time. The third and last film was shown on video, in colour, with music and commentary by Stan Rudkin. This video, which was recorded from early cine film, depicted the River Wey from 1954 to 1968, the floods in Old Woking in 1968 and a recording of the dramatic fire which destroyed the old film studio behind Send Manor House. Another scene showed the demolition of the tannery chimney in Tannery Lane.

The evening was made all the more enjoyable by the refreshments, consisting of mince pies, sausages, wine and coffee or tea, arranged by Audrey Sykes and Anne Bowerman. We are also grateful to Surrey University for the loan of the TV equipment, arranged by Tony Medlen, and to Ken Bourne for the loan of the Queen's Coronation film and for the presentation of the film night.

---

## 100 YEARS AGO

### An Extract from "Cycling", 6th February 1892

"A Joyous Gathering at the Anchor"

"For some weeks past we have been inviting contributions towards the fund for providing the usual yearly dinner for the road-menders employed on the old Ripley Road. As this means a somewhat lengthy stretch of highway, the ceremony is divided into three sections, the first feed being held at the "Anchor," Ripley, the others at Ditton and Ham Common following within a few weeks. Saturday last being the date for the first of this series, we journeyed to the rendezvous. Some twenty-six sons of toil were seated at table, looking the picture of enjoyment, whilst W. P. Napier, C. A. Smith, Kaufman, A. E. Jewesbury, J. M. James, Harry North, (believed all members of the Bath Road Club - L G B) and others did fast laps up and down the room, generally engineering, and taking care that nobody wanted anything. It is a sight which would do anyone's eyes good, to see these rugged old fellows at this their yearly treat. Old, did we say? Ay; there were many white-headed old veterans who will never see three score and ten again; one in particular, a sturdy old fellow, had reached the wonderful record of eighty-two years, and is apparently in the full enjoyment of health and spirits. As we looked on we wondered if, in the event of our knowing this great age, it would be our lot to work long hours daily under such severe conditions. It seemed to us that something must be wrong . . . .".

"Dinner cleared away, long pipes and a first class musical program (sic) followed. The pipes, we believe, were supplied by the good people of the 'Anchor', the tobacco by one Goldberg, and the musical talent by our friends Annie Dibble, 'Trissie', little Alf. Dibble - becoming daily more circular - Messrs. J. E. Thompson, Johnny Price, E. Lane, W. J. Creswick and his banjo, Pat Lynch and others. The surprise of the evening was to see the ever-smiling ever-green 'Surrey' Oxx (member of the Surrey Bicycle Club - LGB) deliberately mount the platform and indulge in a series of wild, Scotch-like reels, to the unbounded delight of all present. The visitors themselves furnished a few songs also. None took greater pleasure in the event than the Dibble family themselves. Harriet beamed upon everybody, and repeatedly assured us all 'that the poor old fellows won't leave off talking about it until next year;' whilst Annie was trying to look as if she'd cooked the whole dinner herself, and everybody seemed to be running about in the most enthused manner. We believe that there was nobody present who didn't thoroughly enjoy the evening - and feel all the better for it."

## CENSUS RETURNS 1891

In the Ripley Parochial Magazine, "Homewards", dated April 1991, the following paragraph appeared:

**"The Census** On Monday, April 6th, will be taken the National Census. The Registrar General has written to all parochial incumbents requesting them to point out the importance of careful accuracy in filling up the forms of returns, the information thus obtained being of great public utility. They are also asked to call attention to the notice printed on each schedule, that strict care shall be taken that such information shall not be used for any other purpose.

"It will be interesting to note what, if any, has been the increase in the population of our ecclesiastical parish since it was returned at 1,046 in 1881."

Now, nearly 101 years later, the details of the 1891 Census have been released by the Public Records Office. For the first time the Census has been reproduced on microfiche and is available for anyone to buy. The Documentary Group of the Society has purchased the fiche for Send and Ripley parishes, and we are now busy indexing the names and other information.

The cost for a given parish is quite small, in general just over £9. It is possible to purchase the Census for the whole country at a cost of £40,000! The Local Studies Library in Guildford have ordered the microfiche for Surrey and expect this to be available in March.

The return is proving very interesting so far; many more of the names are of families that are familiar from our local memories research. There are a number of farming families, including Sinclairs of Tythe Barns, who moved here from Scotland. Although the Ripley Census, taken by Henry Pledger, is not very helpful, having virtually no house names, the Send Census, taken by John Spooner, has nearly every house named. The population of Ripley on that day was 1069, and for Send it was 980.

Bette and John Slatford

---

## BRIAN CHRISTMAS

Although not a member of our Society, Brian Christmas is well known to us as one of our foremost genealogists. He is a "local lad", now living in Maidstone, but with ancestors who were builders in Ripley.

We have been shocked to hear that just before Christmas he was seriously hurt in a street accident in London, and, since then, has been in St Bartholomew's Hospital.

He has many times helped us with our documentary and family history research, and has regularly sent us snippets about Send and Ripley documents that he has found during his researches.

We send Brian our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

John Slatford

---

## ARCHITECTURAL IMPLICATIONS OF SHOPPING

An Illustrated Talk by Ken Gravett

Notes by Bob Gale

At the Red Cross Hall, Send, on Wednesday, 30 October 1991, Ken Gravett, President of the Surrey Local History Council, and well-known expert on old timber-framed houses, gave an excellent and very well illustrated talk on the connection between architecture and the development through the ages of shops and shopping. As Ken amply demonstrated, this vital and basic human activity has an intriguing history, which has expressed itself in the multifarious architectural styles it created.

Wealth created the need to dispose of surpluses and fuelled the slow but steady rise of economic activity. The "market place", primitive at first, gradually assumed a central importance in the development of human society, a place to buy and sell not only the essentials, such as foodstuffs, but also non-essentials - luxuries which improved the quality of life.

Ken's talk began with the early chartered mediaeval fairs (fayres), with temporary stalls, open to the elements, on village greens, which he showed, using Haslemere as an example, and eventually evolved into more permanent constructions. He then showed how, in the ensuing centuries, this concept developed slowly from rural life, with homes (inns) with window-shutters which served as shelves on which to display products, to purpose-built shops in urban areas with windows for display, and customers actually able to enter and view a larger stock in the interior. As time passed, the pace of life has quickened very rapidly in the last hundred years, and particularly after the Second World War. A retailing boom has taken place, witnessed by the development of large departmental stores, and, more recently, the supermarket and atrium-centred shopping malls. Shops may come and go, but retailing, in one form or another, will go on for ever.

An interesting point revealed by Ken was that much of the impetus in the development of shopping in the early stages was attributable to the monastic orders, who raised much-needed money by selling produce to fund their building programmes and other activities. It would seem to suggest a sound business sense and a healthy spiritual life are not so far removed from one another. Ken referred to Battle Abbey as a prime example of monastic enterprise, the town developing by the abbey gates, in front of which was reserved a very large area for a market place.

His talk covered a wide geographic area, to illustrate many architectural curiosities, and referred to buildings with modern shop fronts in well-known market towns, such as Kingston-on-Thames and Dorking, where, with a little careful inspection, could be discovered features of previous structures built for retailing purposes, dating back to the 15th century and earlier.

This was indeed an intriguing and stimulating talk, which resulted in a very entertaining evening, for which the Society is indebted, and showed its appreciation in the usual way.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Letter from Mary Dawson of The Gables, Send Hill

Dear Dr Bob

The enclosed is an extract from a letter I received from Mrs Pudduck, following (unfortunately) a family funeral. I had not met her before then, but hope to visit her some time in the near future to glean more information about the Lancasters and village life while they owned Sendholm.

She also sent me some photographs of the pupils at Send C of E School, which include herself, her sister and Mr and Mrs Rawes. These I would like to keep in the interest of my own family history, but will willingly get copies if the History Society would like to have them.

**For Newsletter from Mrs Vera Pudduck (Nee Charman), Who now lives in Winchester**

". . . I was very interested in the Newsletters, having fond memories of my early life, which was very happily spent in Send. We lived in a cottage owned by the Lancasters, next door but one to the Drill Hall. They were very good to us after my father died when I was nine years old (1923). I faintly remember Mr Lancaster, a tall bearded man, who visited our school occasionally. The two daughters, Miss Elsie and Miss Evelyn, took part in village life, singing and playing violin at the various social evenings. Miss Elsie used to visit us at Christmas with parcels of goodies, arriving on her bicycle. There was also a yearly village fete held at Sendholm, with exhibitions of fruit and vegetables and various crafts, and dancing on the lawn in the evening. Most of the villagers turned out and it was very good fun.

"There was no transport around when I was a child, except for a horse-bus, owned by Mr Brown, which went to Woking twice a day. It was quite a luxury to have a trip to town now and then, as (we) usually walked both ways to do our weekly shopping. I remember names mentioned in your article. The Groves, who were lock keepers, and old Mr Groves was the Chief Fire Officer. Of course the fire engine was horse-drawn in those days, causing a great deal of excitement when the fire bell sounded at the Drill Hall. We locals had a grandstand view of the proceedings. It was mostly hayricks which burnt down, and you can imagine how long it took for the Fire Brigade to arrive. I also remember the blacksmiths owned by the Sex family, I often used to stand and watch. Then there was the Webbs, who ran the village bakery down near the New Inn, wonderful home made bread."

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#### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

For some reason this report did not appear in the last issue. There is therefore a backlog of new members to report, all of whom are welcomed (or in some cases welcomed back) to the Society. They are follows:

Mr R Colborne (rejoined), 2 Broad Street, Pershore, Worcestershire.  
Mr & Mrs Jim and Pauline Wilson, Witchentree, Hook Heath Avenue, Woking.  
Mr Brian & Mrs Anita Weller, 61 Send Road, Send.  
Mr Gerard Duve, Evergreen Cottage, The Green, Ripley.  
Mrs Joyce Mills, 105 Linden Way, Send Marsh.  
Mr & Mrs N Roberts (rejoined), Chapel Farm, Ripley.  
Mrs Jenny Milligan, Romer Cottage, Long Reach, Ockham, Woking GU23 6PF.  
Mr Bill Titcombe (rejoined), Kathryn House, Farnham Road, Guildford.  
Mrs S R Stothopoulos, 19 Hill View Court, Guildford Road, Woking.  
Mr & Mrs A W Roberts, The Keep House, Send Marsh Road.

Paid-up membership stands at 106 double subscriptions and 76 singles, making a total of 288 members.

Les Bowerman

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#### ERRATA

Peggy Aldridge has kindly pointed out a number of errors contained in the article in Newsletter No 101 which recorded Peggy's talk on "Memories of a Home - Ockham Park".

In the list of portraits given on page 2, the third one in the original text was omitted, viz "Thomas, 5th Baron Wentworth".

The fourth in the original, shown as the third in the text, was "Lady Philadelphia Cary (wife of the above)".

There were two references on page 3 to a "beige door". These should have read "baize door".

Apologies, Peggy - Editor.

### **Correction regarding the photo report, Newsletter 101**

We wish to acknowledge the origin of the photographs held at Ripley School by the Headmistress. These originally belonged to Ripley Parish Council.

Apologies - Ken Bourne.

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## **RECOLLECTIONS OF CHILDHOOD IN OCKHAM**

### **A Talk by Peggyanne Aldridge**

Notes by Tony Medlen

On 27 November 1991, Mrs Peggy Aldridge, archivist and historian of the Lovelace papers, gave a fascinating and amusing talk on some of her researches into the history of the Lovelace family. Peggy is a long-established member of our Society and gave her first talk on the Lovelace papers to our members on 22 September 1977. Since that time, there have been several Newsletter articles on the Lovelaces and the Ockham estate, illustrating the fascinating and complex personal history of the family. The Lovelace history and details of their work in the area are familiar to several of our members, who have been inspired by Peggy's enthusiastic help and knowledge. She has also given much help to Stephen Tudsbury Turner, who has spoken to the Society on several memorable occasions. Stephen is the author of "William, Earl of Lovelace. 1805-1893", Surrey Archaeological Collections, volume LXX, 1974, which was reprinted in booklet form. Anyone wishing to embark on a study of the family would do well to start by reading this learned article.

Peggy was kind enough to provide members with a photocopied booklet. This contained an excellent potted history of the family, which will be reproduced in the next issue of the Newsletter. There were also pictures of the family members and their staff. After a detailed history of all the Lovelace family and their glittering connections, Peggy changed to a lighter vein and recalled several amusing anecdotes from her time at Ockham Park.

Up to around 1933, there was only one flush toilet in the great house and that was in the servants' quarters. There were earth closets in the three bedrooms of the main occupants, and one closet was used by the "higher servants". These had to be changed at intervals during the night by a servant, "old Lyndsay", whom Peggy described as a dear old man. He used to put the buckets on a wheelbarrow and empty them down at the end of the large walled garden during the night. He would then plait dried grass, line each bucket and bring them back to the house. These buckets would then have to go through the wine cellars to the one and only hoist, where poor Lyndsay would hoist them up one at a time. He would then have to go up to the appropriate floor by the back staircase, find the bucket and silently replace it in the occupied bedroom. This he had to do with each closet "as necessary" during the night. One can imagine how busy he must have been after a party or dinner. The same hoist was then used an hour or so later by the footman to hoist Lady Lovelace's breakfast up to her room. Even though Peggy was very young at the time, she thought that this was very strange and not good.

We heard of what Peggy used to know as the "Horses' Hotel". This is a gazebo in the grounds of Ockham Park, where the floor is laid in the form of a mosaic. The mosaic is made up of horses' teeth which William and Ada Lovelace collected from their many horses. Apparently this is still there, Stephen Tudsbery Turner having seen it a few years ago.

In our last Newsletter Peggy wrote an interesting article on some of her memories of Ockham Park itself. We are privileged to have such a source of knowledge within the membership and we thank her warmly for sharing her memories so openly with us all.

**Note by Editor** The family trees and brief biographies of various members of the King and Blunt families will be produced in the next Newsletter.

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesbury, 26 February - Ripley Village Hall, at 8 pm, the Society's AGM, followed by a talk by Geoff Paine, Treasurer of Three Rivers Museum Society, on setting up the Local History Centre at Rickmansworth.

Thursday, 26 March - At the Red Cross Centre (Sandy Lane, Send), at 8 pm, a talk to be given by Ken Major, entitled "Water Mills and Windmills". Ken, who is an architect by profession, is a member of the Surrey Industrial History Group and a member of the Wind and Water Mill Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Ken is also a leading member of the Pains Hill Trust.

Thursday, 30 April - At Ripley Village Hall, at 8 pm, a talk by Mary Alexander, entitled "Patchwork and Quilts".

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### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that the annual subscriptions are now due. The amount this year is £6 for couples and £4 for individual members. Please pay as soon as possible. Cheques, please, payable to Send & Ripley History Society, and sent to the Treasurer, Patricia Medlen, Muir House, Brooklyn Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 7TJ, or to our Membership Secretary, Les Bowerman, The Manor House, Send Marsh Green, Ripley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6JS.

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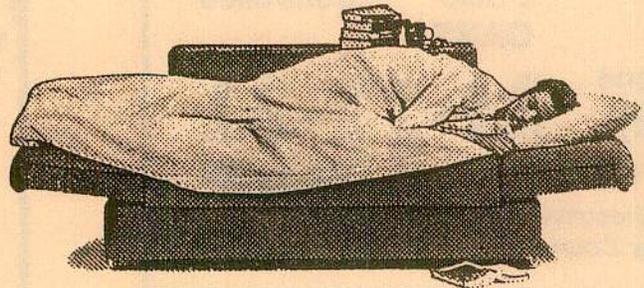
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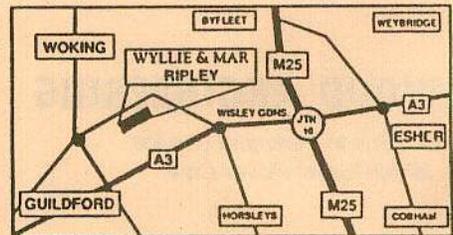
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