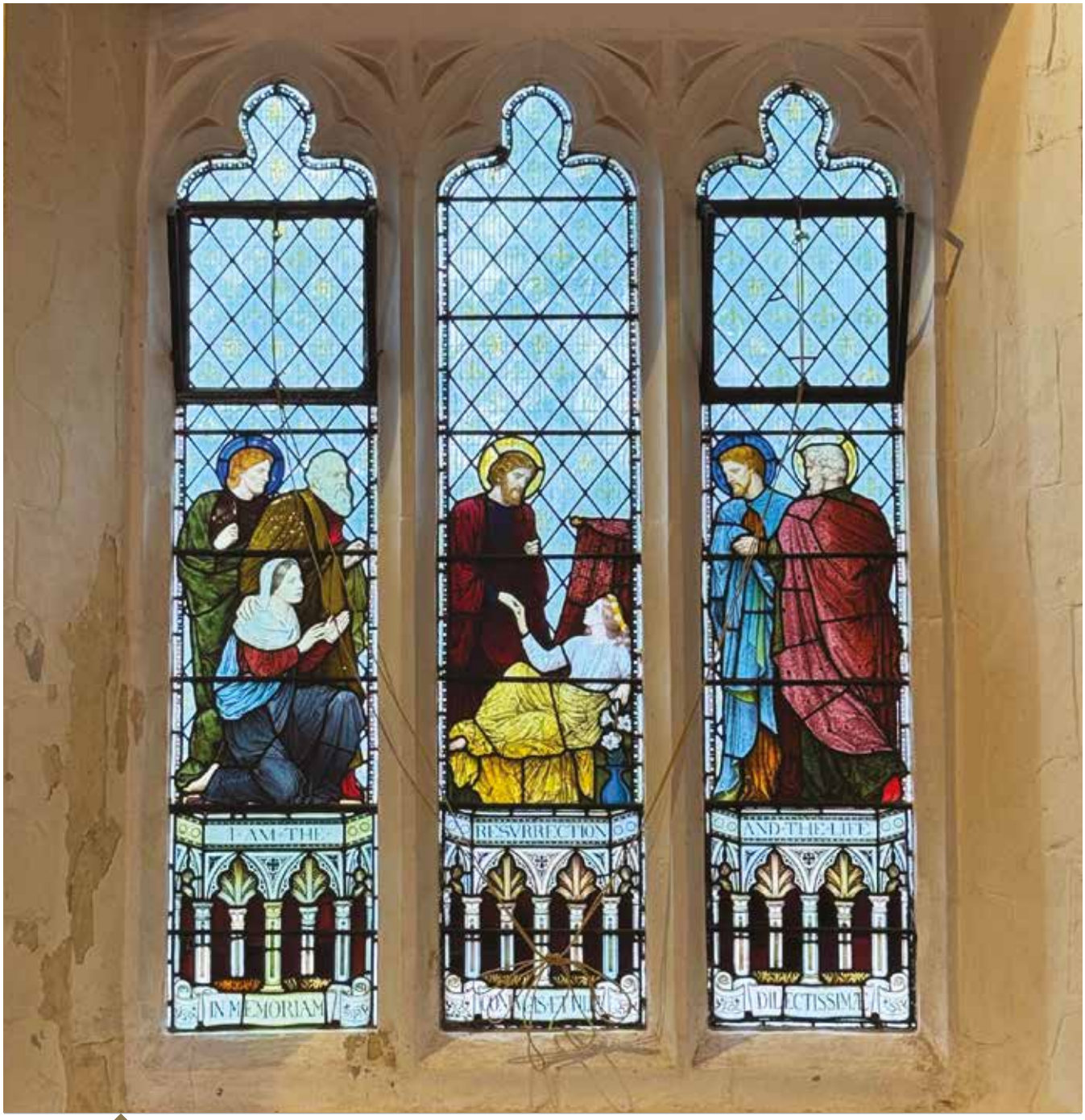
No. 311
November 2026

Send & Ripley History Society



THE MYSTERY OF THE HONOURABLE FRANCIS SCOTT
Page 3

A HINEMIHI WHARENUI IN CLANDON
Page 18

FROM OUR LIBRARY OCKHAM PARK
Page 24

RIPLEY AND THE PENICILLIN REVOLUTION
Page 28



TWO AA ROSETTES | MICHELIN GUIDE | THE GOOD FOOD GUIDE | HARDENS RATED

RIPLEY ANCHOR

RESTAURANT, COURTYARD & BAR

CASUAL LUNCHES | SPECIAL OCCASION DINNERS | PRIVATE EVENTS & MORE!



www.ripleyanchor.co.uk | 01483 211 866 | info@ripleyanchor.co.uk

thomasfordandsons

beautiful kitchens and
furniture for other rooms

high street, ripley, surrey, gu23 6af
t: 01483 211337

RIPLEY FARM SHOP

Fruit & Vegetables
Meat - Fish - Dairy - Eggs
and much more

Open 7 Days
a week

01483 225090

www.RIPLEYNURSERIES.co.uk

A.LUFF & SONS LTD
Est. 1895

CONTACTS

Send & Ripley History Society
Established 1975 as
Send History Society
Registered Charity
No. 1174161

Chairman: Cameron Brown
Church Farm House,
Wisley GU23 6QL
T: 07811 276386
E: cmb@aappl.com

Vice Chairman and Museum Curator: Clare McCann
T: 01483 728546
E: cricketshill@hotmail.com

Hon Secretary:
Post vacant

Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Journal Distribution: Christina Sheard
Old Manor Cottage,
Send Marsh Green, Ripley,
Woking GU23 6JP
T: 01483 224600
E: christina.sheard@btinternet.com

Journal Editor:
Cameron Brown
T: 07811 276386
E: cmb@aappl.com

Art director and copy editor:
Ditz Brown

Archaeology Specialist:
Andrew Jones
106 Georgelands, Ripley,
GU23 6DQ
T: 01483 479647
E: andrew738jones@bt.com

Book sales: Judith Pound
E: info@sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk

Museum Archivist:
Phil Davie
T: 01483 223955
E: phil.davie@jpsd.plus.com

Journal Advertising:
Jez Haines
T: 07747 145946
E: srhistorysocietyadvertising@gmail.com

Cover image:
Window in St Mary's depicting the raising of Jairus' daughter - see article *The Mystery of the Honorable Francis Scott* on page 3

CONTENTS | No. 311

Editorial *Cameron Brown* 2

The Mystery of the Honourable Francis Scott *Clare McCann and Janet Tice* 3

40 Years Ago *Cameron Brown* 8

Who Remembers? Pat Clack Did! *Ditz Brown* 10

Gordon Stewart: The 'Children's Safety Crusade' and the Morris Connection *Alan Cooper* 12

A Hinemihi Wharenui in Clandon *Cameron Brown* 18

Obituary – Fred Hookins, 1930-2026 21

Where Is It? *Alan Cooper* 22

What Is It? *Alan Cooper* 23

From Our Library – Ockham Park *Cameron Brown* 24

Letters to the Editor 27

Ripley and the Penicillin Revolution *Lesley Walsh* 28

Museum News and Forthcoming Events *Clare McCann* 30

SRHS Publications List 31

Seymours
Your Property Partner For Life

We are grateful to Seymours Estate Agents in Ripley for their generous contribution towards the production costs of the 2026 Journals

© Send & Ripley History Society and Contributors 2026
All rights reserved. No parts of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means or stored in any retrieval system of any nature without prior written permission except for permitted fair dealing under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 or in accordance with the terms of a licence issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency in respect of photocopying or/and reprographic reproduction. Applications for permission for other use of copyright material including permission to reproduce extracts in other published works should be made to the Editor. Full acknowledgement of author, publisher and source must be given.

www sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk

EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

I thought I'd start by looking back to the editorial of 20 years ago. We moved to Wisley in 2006, when Ken Bourne was the editor. Interestingly he comments that: 'the autumn colours in the hedgerows are aglow... caused, we are told, by the hot dry summer'. I do remember that summer. We planted a long new hedge of all sorts of appropriate local trees and thorny things and promptly got a hose-pipe ban. Sounds familiar?

This has been an interesting year both globally and locally and at a micro level, a mix of progress and challenge for our Society. I am pleased that we are getting on with adding to the content of our website, albeit very slowly, and that we have continued to be able to provide our members with half a dozen well-received journals as well as our usual full programme of exhibitions, talks and outings. I am less pleased that I am having to repeat in each journal that we continue to need help in running this tiny registered charity.

After the 2027 AGM we will be without a secretary and a membership secretary. However, since writing the above lament I think we have found a treasurer and a journals distributor. Details to follow...

As we still do have a treasurer I'd like to encourage you all to renew your memberships soon. We are not increasing the cost for 2027 so it's still £20 / £25 for single / double plus journals postage cost if you live outside the immediate area. Please renew on the enclosed form or via the Membership page on the website.

We welcome the following new members who have joined us during 2026: Kate Arnold, Chris Barber & Lynne Daniel, Diane Dean & Mark Fenner, Tara Devesa, Philip Dunn, Andrew Giles, Roy & Susanna Harrington, John & Trudi Harris, Hilary Head, Shirley & Bob Holmes, Robert & Janet Knighton, Susan Lewis, Ian McCarthey, Patrick McLaughlin, Jennifer Muir, Claire Nyland, Nigel Sturgess and Jackie & Jonathan Withers.

Lastly your committee would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th December 2026.

cmb@aappl.com

Free valuations Monday-Friday: 9.30am-5pm



Ewbank's

Surrey's Premier Antique and Specialist Auctioneers

Valuations for sale, probate and insurance Regular Antique, Collectables, Fine & Specialist Auctions

Specialists in Asian Art, Jewellery, Silver, Antique Furniture, Clocks, Memorabilia, 20th Century, Contemporary & Fine Art, Fine Wine, Toys & Collectables, Vintage Cars

01483 223 101
www.ewbankauctions.co.uk
antiques@ewbankauctions.co.uk

THE MYSTERY OF THE HONOURABLE FRANCIS SCOTT

CLARE McCANN AND JANET TICE

The Honourable Francis Scott was a gentleman of some importance and one-time owner of Sendhurst Grange, Woodhill. What brought him to Send and what was his connection to Australia? He was born on 31st January 1806 in Mertoun, Berwickshire, which had come into the Scott family around 1680. In the early 19th century Sir Walter Scott, distantly related to the family, had visited the house.

Francis Scott was the youngest son of Hugh Scott, 6th Lord Polwarth. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge and read for the bar at the Middle Temple. In 1835 he married the daughter of the Rev Charles Boultbee. From 1841 to 1847 he was MP for Roxburghshire when the Whigs won the seat and MP for Berwickshire from 1847 to 1859.

Between 1844 and 1851, Scott acted as the Parliamentary Agent for New South Wales, representing the interests of the New South Wales Legislative Council in the House of Commons.

Colonial parliamentary agents were the critical, long-distance diplomatic lifelines that bridged local colonial assemblies in places like New South Wales with the British Parliament in London.

In 1846 Australia did not yet have 'responsible self-government' (which came in 1856). The Governor, Sir Charles FitzRoy, was appointed by London to enforce the British Crown's will.

However, the local Legislative Council was largely composed of wealthy, independent-minded colonists and landowners. Because the Governor could veto local colonial laws, the Legislative Council felt it lacked a voice in London. To bypass the Governor, they hired their own champion: a Colonial Parliamentary Agent – in this case the Honourable Francis Scott.

His record of speaking (Hansard) indicates that he took his duties seriously as there are references to Australian



Mertoun House (public domain)



Lithograph of the Hon. Francis Scott, presented by G W Rusden, 1893. © State Library of Victoria (H5242)



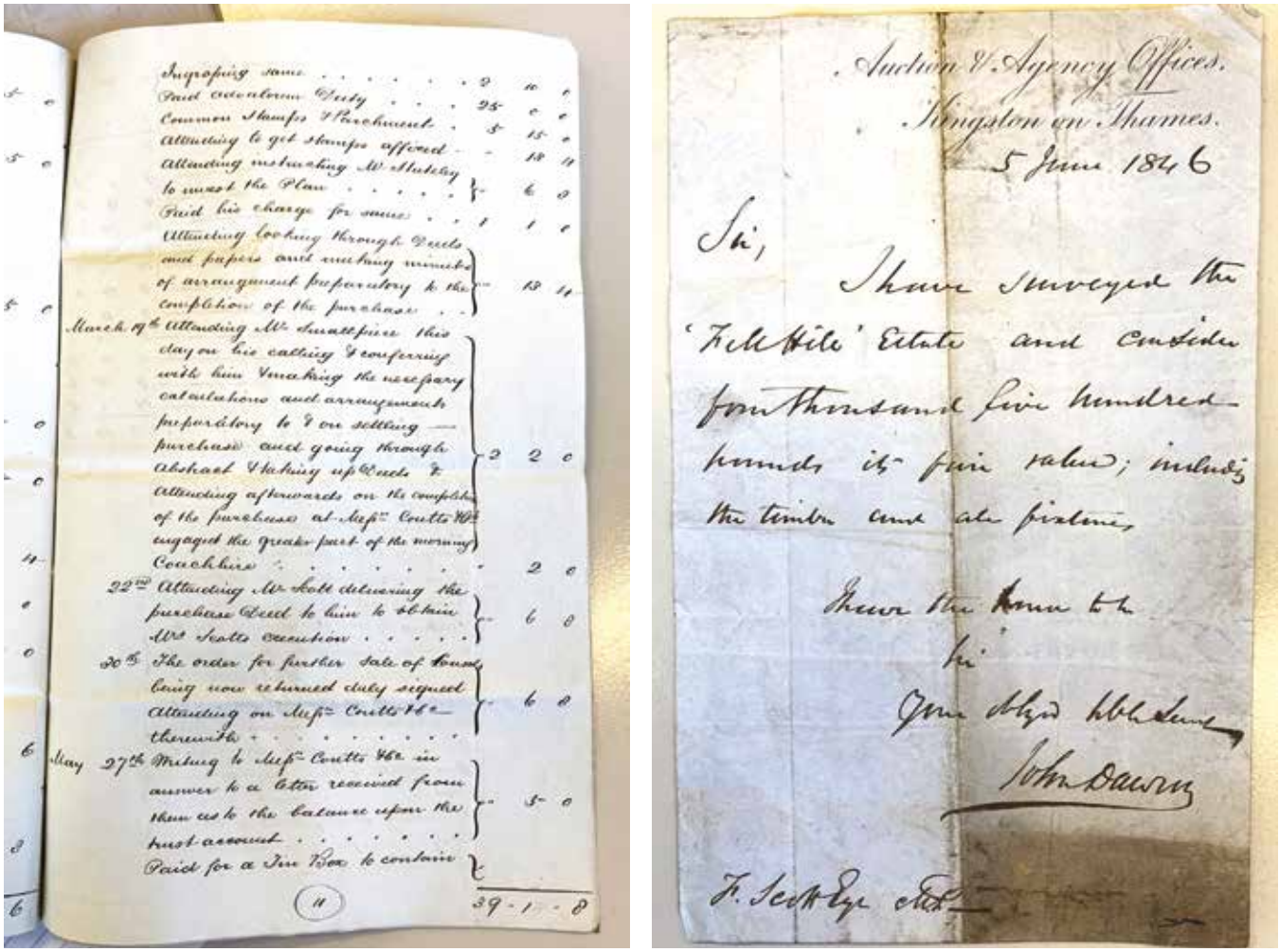
Fell Hill Farm

issues and in particular New South Wales. However, Wikipedia has links to two Australian publications which suggest that things did not run smoothly and Francis-Scott's annual salary of £500 was not paid for several years – eventually he resigned. There is mention at one point of paying three years' salary in a lump sum but it is not clear whether he received it – one can speculate that, if he did, this might have given him the money to build Sendhurst Grange – who knows? We have been in touch with the State Archives in New South Wales but they were not able to shed any light as to why he took up this role or, for that matter relinquished it.

One wonders what brought a Scottish MP to Send. Our Society's founder-member, the late John Slatford described him as the first of the new breed who presumably took advantage of the railway connection to Woking and built himself a country house, i e Sendhurst Grange, in Vicarage Lane (probably still called Woodhill at this point), and lived there from 1851-1883.

Janet Tice and I spent a morning at the Surrey History Centre trying to learn more.

We concluded that his purchase of the Fell Hill Estate was a triumph for the lawyers; mountains of paperwork, no maps and the most precise legal bills documenting every copied letter, plus the purchase of a tin box to put them all in.



Left: Lawyer's document regarding the purchase deed of the Fell Estate. Right: John Dawson's valuation of the Fell Hill Estate

It seems that his agent, John Dawson, a surveyor and valuer based in Kingston, assessed the value of the Fell Hill estate in 1846 on Scott's behalf. We think this estate had come (at least in part) to the Rev Arthur Onslow via his wife, Caroline Mangles, whose father had been the MP for Guildford. It seems to have been made up of lots of parcels of land and an incomplete (at least in the lawyers' eyes) chain of ownership. Even Scott's lawyers complain about the lack of any maps.

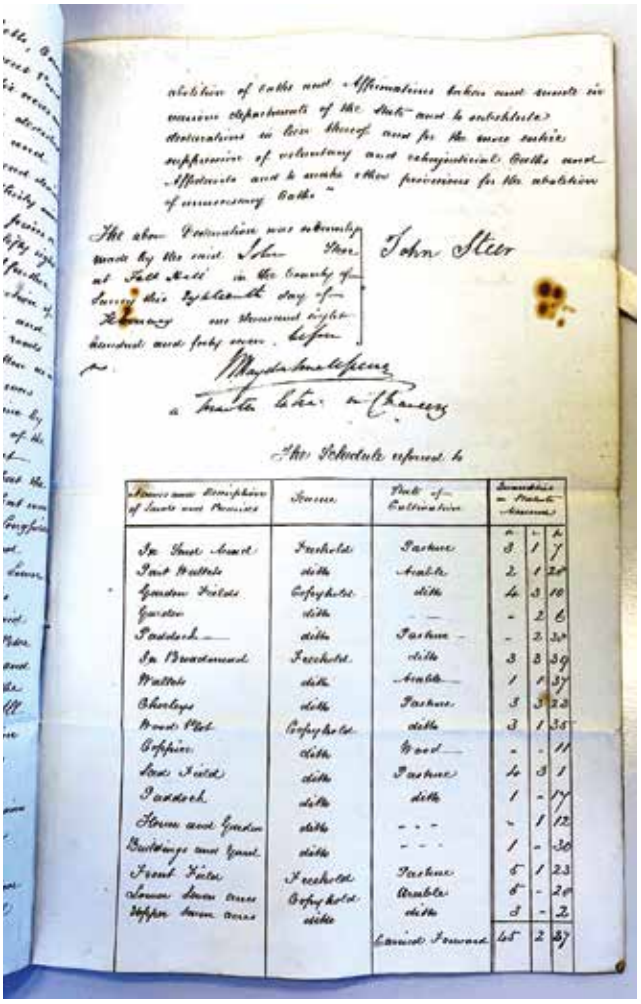
Fascinatingly they resorted at one point to a deposition by John Steer, the Fell Hill Farm manager, for a list of the properties which included an 'allotment' on the Broadmead.

Eventually the deal must have been concluded although the final conveyance was not amongst the deeds and it seems to have been around May 1847. Months of back and forth between the lawyers were followed with letters requesting payment of their bills.

Sadly the documents shed no light on the building of the house, Sendhurst Grange. The estate had included four cottages and the house (presumably the one still there today) but Scott wanted a country residence as befitted his status. Before the late 19th century we were told the local authorities were not required to give permission and there are no architect's plans or builders' invoices in the collection. However, Scott features in the censuses from 1851 until 1881 as living at Sendhurst Grange. He is listed as an MP (in 1851 only), magistrate, barrister and JP and had five servants in all the censuses, but in 1851 and 1861 he also employed a governess for his daughters.

He must have been a family friend of the Rickards (see journal 310) as Edward's brother Frederick was staying at Sendhurst Grange at the time of the 1861 census. Edward Rickards makes several mentions of visiting. They obviously had a love of hunting in common and it may be that hunting was one of the motivating forces that brought him to Send.

From 1866 to 1876 Francis was master of the Surrey Union hounds and actively promoted the Hunt Servants' Benefit Society. My guess is that, as a Scottish MP with a love of hunting, he decided a country house in Send made more sense than nipping back to Scotland to join a hunt in Berwickshire.



John Steer's document



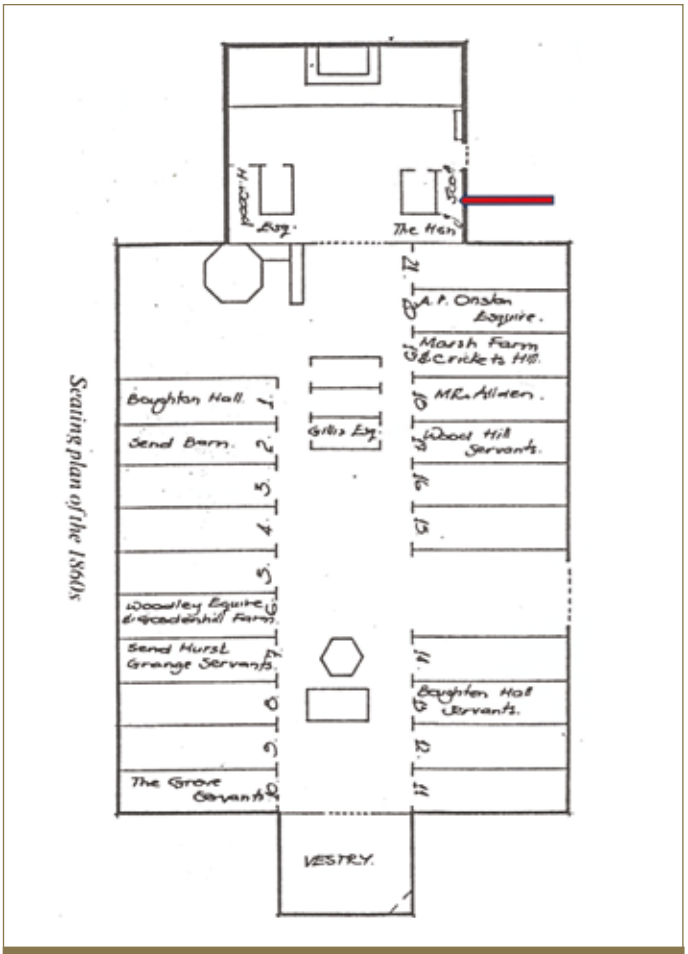
Riding to hounds (public domain)



Window in St Mary's depicting the raising of Jairus' daughter © Ditz



Window in St Mary's depicting the Parable of the Good Samaritan © Ditz



1860s St Mary's seating plan ©Ditz

Locally we know that Francis Scott attended St Mary's. As an important local man he was allocated his own pew close to the altar.

When visiting Send Church to photograph the windows donated by the Rickards family we realised that there were other windows in the church donated by local families. Two of the three trefoil-headed lights in the nave were given by the Scott family.

The window, entitled 'The Raising of Jairus' Daughter' was made by Messrs Powell of Whitefriars. It has the inscription: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life. In Memoriam' and was donated by Francis Scott in memory of his eldest daughter, Georgina Laura, who had died on 14th June 1856 aged only 18, and his wife, Julia Frances Laura, who died on 14th February 1867.

When Francis Scott died, his younger daughter, Frances Margaret Julia Baxendale, gave the window depicting the parable of the Good Samaritan, also made by James Powell and Sons of Whitefriars. The inscription reads 'To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Francis Scott who died 9th March 1884 aged 78'.

Frances Baxendale was a wealthy woman in her own right, having married Joseph William Baxendale of Worplesdon Place. Their marriage took place in Send Church. William Baxendale was a partner in the firm of Pickfords, the carriers.

By the 1901 census they were living with their family at Hursley Park mansion near Winchester with sixteen indoor servants and five cottages in the grounds housing the coachman, gardener, land steward, shepherd and gamekeeper, each with their families, as well as four grooms living in the stables.

Francis Scott, his wife Julia and their daughter Laura are buried in graves by the tower of Send Church.

Finally we are including his entry in Debretts:

SCOTT, Hon Francis, son of the 4th Baron Polwarth; b. 1806; ed at Trin Coll, Camb (B A 1827, M A 1832); called to the Bar at the Middle Temple 1832; was MP for Roxburgh-shire 1841-7 and for Berwickshire (C) 1847-63; is a J P for Counties Berwick, Roxburgh and Surrey; is a Knight of the Order of Leopold in Belgium and of the Oaken Crown in Luxembourg: m 1835 Julia Frances Laura (who d. 1868) da [daughter] of the Rev Charles Boultbee and Lady Laura Wyndham, sister of the late Earl of Egremont (title extinct). Sendhurst Grange, Ripley, Surrey; Carlton Club

This throws up yet another mystery which is how come he was awarded the Knight of the Order of Leopold in Belgium, and of the Oaken Crown in Luxembourg?

For once I seem to agree with AI which says he never received these honours, suggesting that either the



The grave in St Mary's churchyard © Clare McCann

Debretts editor had a bad day or Scott was a fantasist.

Postscript: Janet has discovered a lot more of Scott's roles in various community organisations so we hope that a follow up article will be forthcoming in due course.

Photographs c/o SRHS unless stated otherwise

Swimming Snorkelling Scuba Diving

Surrey Dive Centre

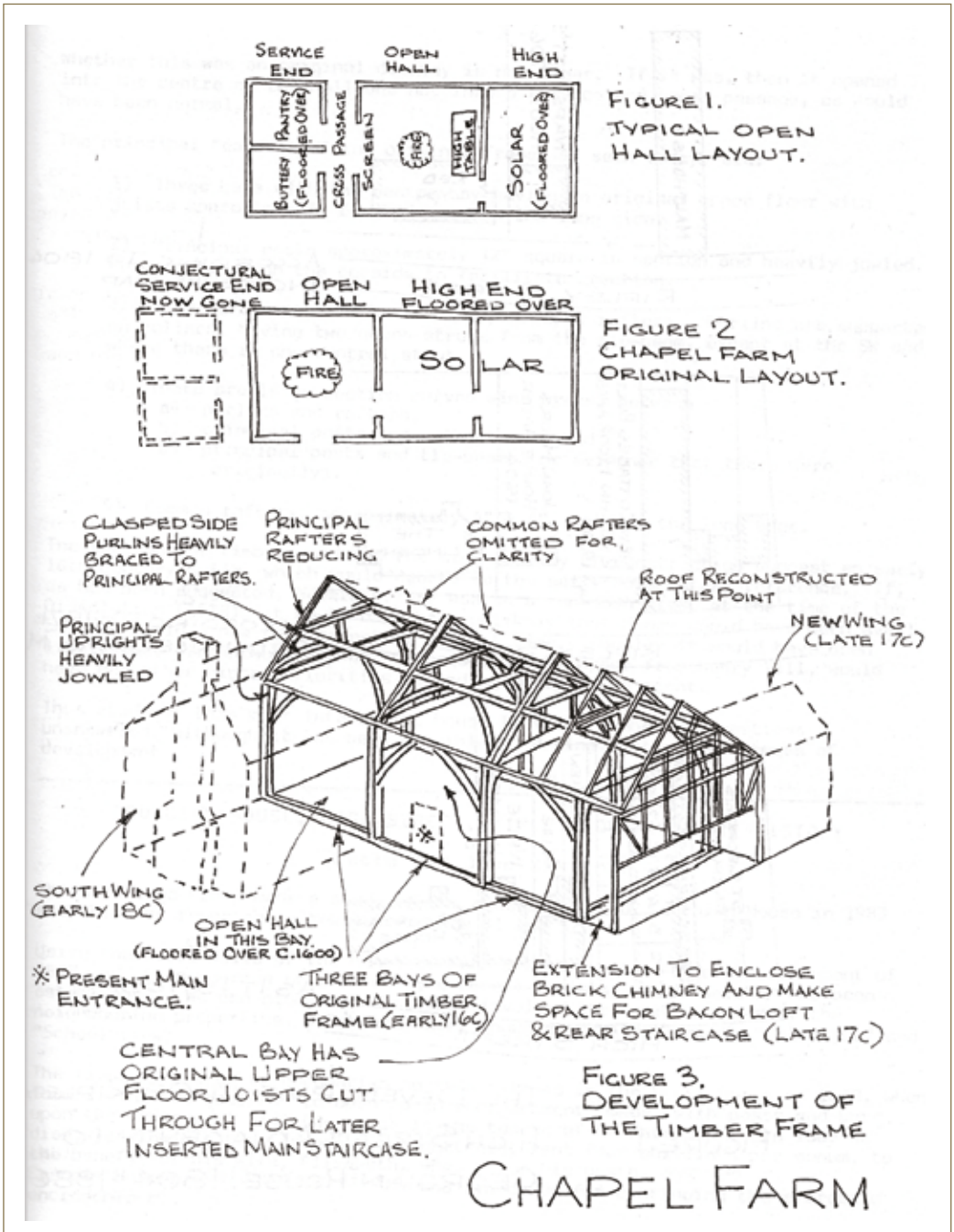
PADI 5* IDC Centre
Retail Shop
Escorted Holidays
Equipment Servicing
Friendly Advice

"We don't run courses....
We teach you to dive!"

67 High Street Ripley Surrey GU23 6AN
01483 22 56 99
www.surreydivecentre.co.uk

40 YEARS AGO
CAMERON BROWN

We look back to John Slatford and Les Bowerman's article from Newsletter 68 of June 1986 entitled *The Construction and Architecture of Chapel Farm*. They had covered the documentary history in Newsletter 67, which is available, along with all of the other ones, from our website.



John Slatford's drawings of the construction of Chapel Farm

In Newsletter No 67, the earliest known documentary reference to Chapel Farm was stated to be 1510, when it was the property of Newark Priory. How long a farm had existed here before that time we may never know, but it is fairly certain that the house today is basically contemporary with the 1510 date.

A combination of several builds, the present Chapel Farm started as a substantial timber-framed structure of at least three bays aligned approximately NE/SW. The NE end was partly rebuilt and extended (again timber-framed), probably towards the end of the 17th century. In the early 18th century a wing to the South was added, but built in brick.

From study of the original timber frame, it is clear that the house was a late 'open hall' [ie without chimneys]. What is not entirely clear is whether the hall [where the fire would be] was central, as one would expect, or at the SW end, as is the case today. Although it is suspected that there was originally a service bay at this end, it has not so far been possible to confirm this. Normally a hall house would have been constructed as in fig l. This house was

slightly different, as in fig 2. Fig 3 shows the development of the timber frame.

The roof space over the present SW end is heavily smoke-blackened, as also is much of the remainder of the original roof. However, it is clear that the upper floor of the SW end was a later insertion (probably around 1600), whereas that in the central bay (adjacent to the present front door) is original. It is also clear that the massive chimney on the churchyard side was a later addition, perhaps around 1600, and probably when the hall was floored over. Until that time, the fireplace would have been in the centre of the hall with the smoke, of course, rising straight to the roof. If a further service bay had existed at the SW end, one would have expected to find evidence in the form of mortices and peg holes in the present end frame. None have been found so far, but most of the frame is concealed by brickwork and plaster. Similarly, if there had not been a further bay, one would have expected to see evidence of weathering on the outer sides of the frame (as is the case elsewhere in the house). However, the only place where an outside edge can be seen is part of the end truss in the roof space – this appears to be unweathered. Thus a further bay probably stood towards the spot where a well existed until recently. This being so, this bay could have fallen into disrepair and been demolished at the time when the NW end was repaired and extended.

The NW end acquired its chimney during these repairs, when much of the roof was replaced and the lean-to wing was added adjacent to the churchyard. The chimney was enclosed within an extension on the end of the house, which also provided space for a rear staircase on one side and a bacon loft on the other. It is believed that the original upper floor to this part was replaced with a new floor at the same time.

The house went through a further period of expansion when the South wing was added. It was built of brick with a chimney on the end wall. Being of early 18th century date, this part could be attributed to the Onslows, who became Lords of the Manor of Send & Ripley in 1712. Where this wing joins the old house at the ground floor, the original timber frame is exposed and extensive weathering is evident, except, that is, for an apparent doorway in the centre where the posts are only partly weathered, indicating, perhaps, the position of a porch.

Whether this was an original doorway is not clear. If it was, then it opened into the centre of the hall and not into the service end cross passage, as would have been normal.

The principal features of the original frame which can still be seen today, are:



The main three-bay structure with the late 17th chimney and staircase extension to the right; photographed from the south

1) Three bays with the centre bay having an original upper floor with joists approximately 6" x 8" laid on the long side.

2) Principal posts approximately l2" square in section and heavily jowled. Posts notched on the outside to facilitate erection.

3) Side purlin roof with reducing principal rafters. Purlins are supported on collars, having two queen struts from the tie-beam, except at the SW end, where there is one central strut.

4) There are large section, curved wind braces between

   a) purlins and rafters

   b) principal posts and wall plates and

   c) principal posts and tie-beams (or evidence that there were originally)

5) Common rafters, approximately 4" x 6", laid on the long edge.

The sections of timber used and the high quality of construction suggest an early 16th century build, which would equate to the early documentary reference. If, as has been suggested, Newark Priory was in a run-down state at the time of the Dissolution (1538), it would have been unlikely that money would have been available to build a new farm homestead at that time. Equally it would have been likely that Sir Anthony Browne, on acquiring the manor from Henry VIII, would have had other, higher priorities demanding money to be spent.

Thus study of this most interesting house leaves a number of questions unanswered, although it has been possible to define most of its stages of development.

Illustration and photograph c/o SRHS

WHO REMEMBERS? PAT CLACK DID!

DITZ BROWN

As a follow-on to Chris Finden-Browne's latest video which is based on an audio recording of Marjorie Sex (watch it on our youtube channel at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUxtzFCn49I&t=14s), I asked our members in Journal 310 if anybody could remember any of the topics Marjorie Sex touched on and was delighted when Valerie, Pat Clack's daughter, wrote to add Pat's and some of her own memories to almost all of Marjorie's. Pat said that of course Marjorie's memories go back further as she was ten years' her senior! We also had a welcome contribution from Janet Tice and I would like to invite our members once again to add local memories from their childhood. Please send your bits and pieces to info@aappl.com.

I ASKED IF YOU COULD REMEMBER...

...when you could buy a pennyworth of broken biscuits at the Post Office Stores, a ha'pennyworth of sweets at what is now the Victoria Wine shop and farthing buns at Mr Webb's baker's shop opposite the New Inn?

Valerie tells us that Pat remembered that Mr Webb used to deliver to the house, stand his big wicker basket on the table and have a cup of tea with Pat's mother (even Valerie vaguely remembers him delivering bread). Pat was an only child and used to go down and play with his five children, but also because it was nice and warm in the bakery! Their names were: John, Mary, Derek (who came to one of Pat's birthday parties and sang a song!), Roy and Tony.

...when wild flowers were picked on the unmade road which is now Send Hill?

Pat can't remember the wild flowers on Send Hill, but does remember illegally picking cornflowers from a farm that grew them commercially on the site that became St Bede's school! She claims she was coerced by her auntie Emma and that her mum was furious.

...when the striking clock on the stables at Send Grove, known as Old Wet Neck, could be heard in the village when the wind was in the West?

This isn't something that Pat can remember, but apparently member Audrey Smithers told her that she did.

...when the recreation ground was grazing land for Hillside Farm, larks nested there and the rather rare 'totter grass' could be found?

The cows grazing at the top end of the rec, close to Baigents Farm, stayed in Pat's memory. The tennis courts were on 'her' side of the road, near where the new flats are now. Her dad taught people to play tennis there, hiring the court for a shilling an hour.

...when the Broadmead flooded regularly and people had to be carried by horse and cart along Old Woking Street?

Pat definitely remembers the Broadmead flooding and the horse and cart. The worst one Valerie remembers was autumn in 1968 when everything flooded in Wood Hill and all across the Broadmead, Unwins was inundated and Old Woking High Street impassable to most traffic. And Guildford of course.

She couldn't go to school for several days as hers was in Farnham Road and Debenhams, the theatre, the old bus station and the bridges were all flooded. However Mike, Pat's son, had to go to school as his was in upper North Street!

...when the muffin man, ringing his bell, called on Sunday afternoons?

Of course Pat remembered the muffin man ringing his bell! Children used to run out and buy from him.

...when adult carol singers tramped to the 'big houses' to sing for charity? This usually took three evenings, sometimes through deep snow.

Valery tells us that she does not remember the adult carol singers, but that Miss Perrin used to take children (carefully selected!) – including her and her brother.

After she'd left primary school, Pat and Valerie's mother-in-law Joan Harris would accompany groups when they were school secretaries – and Pat took over from Joan in January 1968. Mrs McCance, the policeman's wife, apparently went too. Valerie said that they must have walked miles and that she and her husband (who was also one of the chosen few) once tried to work it out. She remembers visiting Send Grove, Send Holme, Michael May's house (full of hideously fascinating stuffed animals), Willingham Cottage. where the Sangers lived and a house in Wood Hill, the home of Miss Perrin's sister, Mrs Somerfield.

...when the ringing of the anvil at the village smithy could be heard throughout the village and children would stand at the smithy half-door to watch the horses being shod?

The smithy was only a couple of doors away from Pat and she was one of those who stood by the door to watch - from about age five or six. Again, it was warm!

It is also the reason why Pat is so proud of the blacksmith statue. It was of course Ron Sex, Marjorie's husband, who owned the smithy and Pat's front gate is an example of Ron's handiwork.

...when the scarlet horse-drawn Post Office cart went the rounds through the streets with the driver stopping at houses and blowing a horn to call people to collect their letters?

The Post Office cart was not remembered by Pat, but she recalls a Mrs Deacon, who drove a horse-drawn cart and again used to come in for a cup of tea with her mum. She delivered parcels and people to and from Woking.

...when the present angling lakes were the village allotments?

Pat remembers how the angling lakes were formed as a result of digging all the sand out, like the wood in Bush Lane and the land between Send Hill and Cricket Hill.

...when cars were just coming in and it was a regular Sunday evening walk up to the A3 – then known as the Turnpike – to watch the rare cars pass by?

It wasn't the cars on the Turnpike that Pat remembers, but a small plane where Waitrose is, at Burnt Common. Apparently it used to take two or three people up for short flights.

Pat's parents wanted to go, but Pat protested as she didn't want them to do anything as dangerous as flying, so they never did get to try. Later, of course, Pat joined the WAAF...

At the end of the article 'Who Remembers' in Journal 310 I also asked our members please to send reminiscences from their own childhood.

JANET TICE'S CONTRIBUTION IS:

… do you remember when we woke up to patterns of ice on our bedroom windows in the winter?

I, for one, certainly can. We used to call them 'ice flowers' when I was a child. Central heating and double glazing did away with them and, although we are now warmer and more comfortable, I still miss their magic!

Cameron (my husband) remembers them too. He was a child in Lancashire and recalls that nowhere upstairs had central heating and ice inside the windows first thing in the morning was the norm. Somehow enough heat made its way up the stairs for the ice to disappear during the day. Didn't have that luxury in his grandparents' loo as that was out in the yard and never ever warmed up!



GORDON STEWART: THE 'CHILDREN'S SAFETY CRUSADE' AND THE MORRIS CONNECTION

ALAN COOPER

The name William Gordon Stewart will probably be unfamiliar to many readers of this article. However, associate him with the name of his company – Stewart and Arden Ltd – and many Morris enthusiasts will immediately realise that this is the man who owned and ran the largest dealership for Morris vehicles covering London and the Southeast of England. For those that do recognise the name, Great Danes and poultry will spring to mind, along with memories of our late Chairman Les Bowerman living in the property that Stewart ran his empire from – Send Manor. Fewer still will know about his achievements in children's road safety and the films he created in Send to promote this.



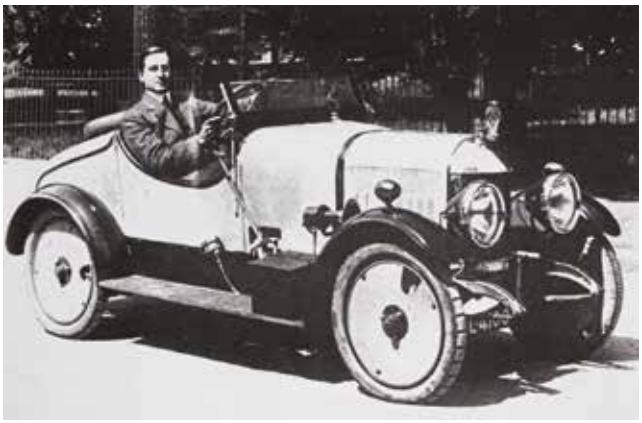
Emblem of the Children's Safety Crusade

Here we concentrate on his rise to fame as an entrepreneur and his desire to further road safety throughout the country.

Gordon Stewart met William Morris at the 1912 London Motor Show. Morris had announced his forthcoming new car, the Morris Oxford, in an October issue of *The Autocar* just before the show opened, but as some components were not ready, including the engine from White and Poope Ltd, he was unable to show his car. Instead, he decided to take along the engineering drawings and a specification to display them on his empty stand. Whether or not Stewart knew Morris before the show is unclear, but it is recorded that the two men discussed the new car using the documents that Morris had brought with him, and that based on this encounter, Stewart decided to place an extraordinary order for 400 of the first production cars – probably through the main agents working with Morris at the time, W H M Burgess and H W Cranham.

He then lost no time in advertising the Morris Oxford in *The Autocar,* claiming 45 to 50 miles per gallon, even though no car had been completed let alone road tested!

Stewart eventually took delivery of the first of his ordered Morris Oxfords after the car's public debut in February 1913 at the North of England Motor Show in Manchester, where the continued absence of a complete engine led Morris to have a mainly wooden mock-up fitted. Failed cast iron universal joints halted his first and second attempts to drive the car from the factory to his London showroom, but after Morris had the replacement joints made from phosphor bronze, the next journey was completed successfully. Stewart's faith in Morris and his Oxford paid off: Morris appointed



Stewart and Arden made special bodies for Morris Cars. Here we see Gordon Stewart posing in a Morris Oxford with a 'sports-body' on a 'de-luxe chassis'



Four of the first Morris Oxfords ever produced, pictured outside the premises of Stewart and Arden Ltd, 18, Woodstock Road, Central London, in 1913

Stewart and Arden Ltd. as the sole London distributors for Morris vehicles and the company became the largest car distributors in Britain. In 1914 Morris and Stewart drove two of the five Morris Oxfords entered in the Motor Cycling Club's 800-mile London-Edinburgh-London trial. They each won 'special gold medals' for completing the double journey and Morris won the MCC Cup for the best performance in a car. They became lifelong friends and business associates, and both were to enjoy fabulous wealth.

Gordon Stewart was born on 13th May 1885 near Epsom, Surrey. His father, Raynham, was a cold-hearted unloving tea merchant and his marriage to Gordon's mother Eleanor faltered and came to an end in about 1900. Edwin Smith, Gordon's maternal grandfather, played an important role in his early life and paid for his private schooling at Eastbourne. Edwin tried to persuade Gordon to join the navy, but he refused as he had a clear vision of what he wanted to do – go to London and become a businessman – preferably involved with motor cars.

Stuart took up a position with the Wolseley Tool and Motor Car Company where he worked on the design and manufacture of Wolseley cars and aeroplanes under Herbert Austin, who was the general manager. While representing his employers at the first Aero Show held in London at Olympia in 1910, Stuart met Malcolm Campbell and kept in contact with the man who was to become a famous racing driver and speed record holder – feats for which he was knighted.

In 1911, at the age of 26, Stewart became a motor trader and formed his company, and the fateful meeting with Morris followed a few months later. The deal with Morris to purchase the first Morris Oxfords was financed from the trust fund his grandfather Edwin had established for him.

Stuart married Irene Russell in 1919, but the marriage became distant and cold and was childless. They never divorced but generally lived apart after 10 years and he maintained her generously. She partnered him when he entertained special guests, although he had relationships with other women. The marital home from 1921 was Send Manor at Send Marsh, Ripley, in Surrey, which consisted of a fine house and outbuildings with origins dating back to the seventeenth century, set in 50 acres.

This was an ideal place for Stuart to set about realising an ambition to breed Great Danes, which he had held since the age of 10 when his father gave him one of these dogs. He was passionate about this venture and sought out the best advice and employees he could find to create what was to become one of the finest kennel facilities in the world. At its peak in the early 1930s, there were 500 Great Danes there, looked after by over 90 staff including veterinary surgeons. It had a fully equipped dog hospital, a cold storage plant and modern kitchens to cook or prepare all the dog food to special recipes devised by experts in canine dietary needs. To support the kennels, Stewart created two companies at Send Manor – British Poultry Development and Send Grist Mill. These proved to be successful ventures in their own right.

The Great Danes and the kennel facilities attracted a lot of rich and famous people to Send Manor and some became Stewart's friends, including the actresses Gracie Fields, Vivienne Leigh and Jesse Matthews. The patron of the Great Dane Club of Great Britain was Prince George, the Duke of Kent, who had a Great Dane called 'Midas of Send'.

This was not the only close link that Stewart had with the royal family though… In 1923 he was instrumental in the creation of The National Safety-First Association which was formed with both the London Safety-First Council and British Industrial Safety-First Association, affiliated to it and with powerful support from industrial and political leaders. Prince Albert, the Duke of York, was also involved and in 1926 he became its patron, continuing in this role after he became King George VI in 1937. In 1933, Stewart produced and paid for a safety-first film called *Alert Today - Alive Tomorrow*, in which the Duke of Kent's dog played a starring role. The Duke of York also appeared in the film. Although in 1934 the government provided £5,000 funding to the NSFA for special road safety campaigns, no grant was forthcoming in 1935 and Stewart, now the President of the Association, made a personal donation of £2,000 to enable safety work to continue. The NSFA addressed issues about protection and accident prevention against all hazards including those on the roads, but its integrity was sometimes questioned because of its close links with and dependence on motoring interests. Stewart evidently realised that a special campaign was needed to educate children about the particular risks posed by motor vehicles.

He had done important work within the association specifically aimed at improving road safety, but with



Gordon Stewart 'on air' at the BBC radio studios to promote his Children's Safety Crusade

growing frustration at his lack of overall control and the increasing bureaucracy. Possibly because of his relationship with influential people, including two princes, one of whom would soon be crowned king, he decided to put a great deal of energy, money and time into a special, nationwide road safety promotion for children and called it *The Children's Safety Crusade*. He intended to have close cooperation with all existing organisations and take it to "every city, town, village and hamlet in the country". It was planned to take place throughout the coronation year, 1937, (although reports in *The Autocar* indicate that it was carried on into 1938) and it devised its agenda from the report by a committee appointed by the President of the Board of Trade and published on 13th January 1936, entitled *Road Safety Among Children*. The report's keynote findings were that the difficult problem was grave and a solution needed to be sought urgently. Certainly, there can be nothing as devastating to parents as the violent sudden death or serious injury of a child caused by preventable circumstances.

Road accident figures were alarming at the time: in 1934 when there were 2,415,946 motor vehicles in use, 7,313 people were killed and 231,603 injured in traffic accidents. Approximately 20% of the fatalities were children aged less than 15 years and half of these were in the age group 5-10 years, the period when they generally became free to roam unaccompanied. These figures had been consistent, though getting slightly worse, for the previous five years. The government's initiatives included the publication of the first *Highway Code* on 1st January 1931; the introduction of improved signs and traffic controls and, in the Road Traffic Act of 1934, the introduction of a compulsory driving test which took effect on 1st June 1935 – although those holding a licence before 1st April 1934 were exempted.

It is interesting that between January 1931, when the widely-ignored 20 mph speed limit was abolished (for cars) and March 1935, when the 30 mph speed limit in built-up areas came into force, there was no speed limit on Britain's roads; and yet the total number of road deaths in 1934 was almost identical to that in 1930, although the number of people injured increased by 30% over this period.

The Rt Hon Leslie Hore-Belisha was the first Minister of Transport to tackle seriously the problem with what The Times called 'unresting energy' and in this he was evidently successful, as by the end of 1935 and his first



Some of the Crusade's public address vans shown posed in the driveway of Send Manor on a dull and wet winter's day in early 1937



2nd December 1936, Savoy Hotel, l-r: The Rt Hon Leslie Hore-Belisha (the Minister of Transport responsible for introducing pedestrian crossings flanked by flashing spherical orange beacons), Gordon Stewart, William Morris



A line-up of public address vans. Altogether, ten of the larger vans were based on the Morris Commercial 'C' type chassis and 30 on the Morris Series 2 semi-forward control 10cwt van



A Morris Series 2 semi-forward control 10cwt van painted a primrose colour by Cunard Ltd, a subsidiary of Stewart and Ardern Ltd. The side panels showed the Pied Piper holding a green torch and leading children to 'Safety Land'

full year in office he saw casualty rates on roads fall significantly, despite increasing numbers of vehicles: 6,502 deaths and 221,726 injuries.

The inauguration of the Children's Safety Crusade took place on 2nd December 1936 at a luncheon in the Savoy Hotel where Stewart, the founder and governor, was supported by his good friend William Morris (Lord Nuffield), Leslie Hore-Belisha, and among many other notable people, Sir Malcolm Campbell. A grant of £5000 was made by the government to the trustees and Lord Nuffield, who was one of the supporting speakers, made a typically generous offer to double any contribution received during the first week of the effort, including of course that made by the government.

Stewart was clearly a natural showman, as well as being a successful and highly motivated entrepreneur and he also enjoyed socialising with rich and famous people. He used these attributes and his influential contacts to the full and evidently had personal control over the 'propaganda' material and methods that the crusade would use to go around the country to educate children.

He decided to concentrate on accidents which arose out of the natural characteristics of childhood: impulsiveness, thoughtlessness, lack of self-control and inexperience – for example, running into the road without looking for traffic, a failing which, according to the crusade documents, accounted for 45% of child fatalities.



A cartoon of children singing a safety-first song to the tune of 'Pack up Your Troubles'

A large building to serve as the Crusade's headquarters was erected at Send Manor with almost uncanny speed and staff were appointed and trained. An existing building was transformed into a modern film studio and an adjacent one converted into a studio to make cartoon films. Provision was made for the storage, dispatch and reception of apparatus and propaganda material of all kinds. A garage large enough to hold 50 vehicles was constructed. Morris public-address vans were acquired and painted in striking fashion and Morris saloon cars were obtained and equipped to take film shows to village halls and schools. Films, lantern slides, banners, posters, painting books and games were prepared and songs composed and recorded onto discs for playing on gramophones – all in various forms to suit children of different ages.



The Pied Piper of Hamelin, resplendent in his bright red and yellow costume leads the children to 'Safety Land'

Stewart resigned his presidency of the NSFA so that he could involve himself in all aspects of the work but unfortunately one of his artistic and promotional initiatives was to prove disastrous to his beloved Great Danes…

He decided to have at the Crusade's centre a 'hero figure' that children could respect and follow, The Pied Piper of Hamelin – and he proclaimed: "Give him a torch, that ancient symbol of inspiration and continued endeavour and enlightenment – make it green, the universal colour for safety!". He then had the idea of making a propaganda film based on the Pied Piper story to educate children about road safety. The key character would lead the children to 'Safety-Land'. He arranged with the local pest-controller Jack Townsend to catch a few hundred live rats and bring them to Send Manor where he was to work with Reg Giles, the foreman/carpenter at the Manor, who would build cages and with the proposed rat-trainer, Albert Hepburn. Of course, Townsend and others thought that Stewart had gone mad – and perhaps he had got carried away with his fantasy and lost control of his normal senses. Giles was also tasked with building a film set depicting a village street representing Hamelin at the back of the Send Manor property.

Stewart personally directed the film and apparently enjoyed the whole process including the special effects like the one which made several dozen rats appear like hundreds. It was reported to be a great success.

The disaster occurred when – as was surely inevitable – some rats escaped and urinated on the Great Danes' food and water, causing a serious outbreak of leptospirosis which killed many dogs. This was a poignant and cruel side effect of Stewart's generous efforts to save children's lives. The disaster and the growing doubts about the objectives of Hitler and fears of a war, led Stewart gradually to dismantle his kennels. He looked for other interests and had a brief flirtation with the theatre

involving a production at the Strand Theatre in London, but this was stalled suddenly by the announcement of war. During the conflict his motor companies provided essential manufacturing and maintenance services for vehicles, aircraft parts and armaments. His poultry and grist mill companies supplied food and his estate buildings were used by the government for food storage.

Gordon Stewart appeared to crave public recognition but he was not knighted and his biographer Robert Heal speculates after discussions with a former kennel maid, that this may have been due to his affair with 'certain young ladies' and his close association with the 'black sheep' of the royal family, Prince George, the Duke of Kent, who was widely known to have had an addiction to cocaine and morphine and to have had infamous affairs with both men and women before and after marriage.



Gordon Stewart's sadly neglected grave

Heal concludes however, that Stewart was offered a knighthood but that he turned it down during a personal meeting with his friend King George VI, saying that he wished to stay as he was and that just receiving the offer was honour enough. In 1946 Stewart's Send Manor Trust bought the Strand Theatre lease and it was active, healthy and profitable in his tenure. He died of a massive heart attack on 21st January 1952 whilst entertaining friends at his home, despite a doctor being present.

Gordon Stewart's ashes are buried at St Mary's Church in Send, at the foot of his mother's grave. Considering his staggering wealth and friends too numerous to mention, many of whom gained financially from his will, his headstone was about as cheap as you could possibly get. When photographed by Les Bowerman in 1998 it had fallen flat and the whole site was totally neglected.

I am indebted to Chris Powis of *The Morris Register* for allowing me to partially plagiarize the article in the Spring 2008 Vol 19 Nos 1 and 2 and to use their photographs as noted below.

All photographs c/o *The Morris Register* except:

Gordon Stewart's grave c/o Les Bowerman collection

REFERENCES:

The Child Made Safe by The Children's Safety Crusade; Send Manor, Send Marsh, Ripley, Surrey circa 1937

The Danes of Send Manor: The Life, Loves and Mystery of Gordon Stewart by Robert Heal

The Morris Motor Car by Harry Edwards

The Bullnose Morris by Lytton Jarman and Robin Barraclough

Morris Cars 1913 to 1930 by Philip Garnons-Williams

The development of 8cwt and 10cwt Morris Light Vans 1924 – 1934 by Peter J Seymour

British Trial Drivers, Their Cars and Awards 1902 – 1914 by Donald Cowbourne

The Motoring Age – The Automobile and Britain by Peter Thorold

Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents – www.rospa.com/roadsafety

Brake (A national road safety charity) – www.brake.org.uk

A HINEMIHI WHARENUI IN CLANDON

CAMERON BROWN



Hinemihi wharenui in 1863 after the eruption of Mount Tarawera

I wonder how many of our readers know what a Hinemihi wharenui is or that there is one in Clandon. Wharenui are traditional Māori meeting houses, often named after one of a community's respected ancestors, and featuring carvings both inside and out. The words are from the Māori language and at Clandon we have a meeting house dedicated to the memory of a prominent member of the Māori sub-tribe Ngāti Hinemihi, who lived in 16th century Arotearoa (the islands now known as New Zealand).

In 1892 William Hillier, 4th Earl of Onslow and outgoing Governor of New Zealand, purchased the building together with its associated carvings and shipped them back with him to his home in England, Clandon Park. Onslow had travelled around the country and met many Māori tribes. He valued these friendships and stayed in contact with many of the people he met. One of his sons, who was born in New Zealand, was given the Māori name Huia.

As well as serving practical purposes such as hosting meetings, ceremonies and guest visits, wharenui provided the community with a spiritual focal point and, through the carvings and the stories they told, connections to one another and the past. The National Trust, owner of Clandon Park, has agreed to return the 19th century carvings to their original home in New Zealand. In exchange Clandon will receive a new collection of Māori carvings which visitors will be able to see in the newly-restored original meeting house once it opens to the public. The new carvings for Clandon will be created by descendants of one of Hinemihi's original master-carvers and the chief who commissioned them. They will follow the traditional style similar to Hinemihi's, will tell stories and represent people, values and ideas inspired by Hinemihi and the many lives she has touched in her original homeland and later the UK.

In 1863, six years after Hinemihi wharenui was built at a village called Te Wairoa, the nearby volcano, Mount Tarawera, erupted. Around 50 people survived by taking shelter inside Hinemihi wharenui during the eruption, but many lost their lives and the village had to be abandoned. For the decendants of the survivors the meeting house and its carvings, now in Clandon, have always held particularly strong cultural and spiritual significance.

The building itself is timber-framed with a thatched roof but it is the integral carvings which are perhaps of

greater cultural significance. At Clandon the ancestor venerated in the carvings, Hinemihi, is represented on top of the porch roof, looking down to welcome visitors to the meeting house.

The carvings apparently represent a mix of male and female ancestors (with the occasional animal too). The facial tattoos on Hinemihi's head indicate a male face – perhaps a reference to her own male relatives?

The following potted history of the travails of Hinemihi over its first century or so at Clandon is provided by the National Library of New Zealand:

'In 1917 restoration was undertaken by soldiers of the Māori National Expeditionary Force (Māori Pioneer Battalion), who had been fighting in World War I. They cleaned Hinemihi's carvings and rebuilt her structure in a form closer to the original.



Details from the body of the main carving of Hinemihi



The Hinemihi head, featuring facial tattoos

At some time between 1919 and 1945 she was rebuilt again, without a front wall, and with her interior carvings placed on the outside of the house.

In 1956 Clandon Park and its gardens, along with Hinemihi, were donated to the National Trust in England by the Onslow family. After an inspection of Hinemihi's rafters around 1958, she was left without a roof covering for two years. An attempt at restoration then left her again with incorrectly placed carvings and without a front wall.



A carving of a lizard

In 1986 Emily Schuster, Eveline Poumako and others of Ngāti Hinemihi visited Hinemihi and established ongoing contact with the National Trust. Replacements for missing carvings were created by Robert Rika, a descendant of Tene Waitere (one of the original carvers) and Colin Tihi, a descendant of Aporo Te Wharekaniwha, tribal leader in the 1880s.

From 1995, three Māori groups have maintained direct contact with the National Trust with regard to the care of Hinemihi. These are Ngāti Hinemihi, Ngāti Ranana (London Maori Club) and Te Kohanga Reo o Ranana (a London Māori language school). Since 2004 further groups involved have included Maramara Totara (London Māori weaponry school), Matariki (Māori cultural group) and Beats of Polynesia. In 2012, a union of people from these groups was formed, and was named Te Maru O Hinemihi.'

We can see that, over the past 120-odd years, Hinemihi has become part of the lives of Māori communities in the UK and the newly-restored meeting room is expected to continue to be 'a place of gathering, learning, ceremony, exchange and relationship'.

Wharenui are usually created by Māori communities for their own people. They tell the stories, history and values of the community that built them. This will be the first one made by a Māori community as a gift for a different one, celebrating the stories and connections they share. All concerned with the project hope that it will be a sacred place for Māoris whilst also helping to share Māori culture with people across the UK; deeply rooted in Māoritanga (Māori culture, values and traditions) while being welcoming to everyone. This idea is reflected in possible names for the new house, including He Whare mō te Katoa (A House for Everyone) and Te Hono (The Connection).



The Clandon building in about 2015

This, like much in Clandon's recent history, is a very long-term project. It was already recognised in 2016 that, after 120 years of Surrey weather, the carvings were in a fragile condition. They were therefore removed from their exposed location and are currently in appropriate, environmentally-controlled storage. Only this year has the National Trust applied for planning consent for the project, with a possibly somewhat optimistic completion target of 2028.

All photographs public domain

WHY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE SEYMOURS?

Independent & Partner-Run
Because we're Partner run, the owners of the business will be personally involved in your sale.

20-Office Cooperative Network
You'll benefit from the vast selling power of our network and our exclusive Guild membership giving you access to national buyers.

Proven Local Leaders
We're proud to help more people in Ripley and the surrounding villages than any other agent.

Knowledgeable Local Staff
Our team is made of locals to offer you unrivalled local knowledge and expertise.

Our Clients Agree
We have more 5 star Google reviews than our competition!





Thinking of moving? Give us a call on 01483 211644

Ben Conquer
Director

Joe Leonard
Director

Seymours

Seymours Ripley | sales@seymours-ripley.co.uk | seymours-estates.co.uk

OBITUARY – FRED HOOKINS, 1930-2026

Fred was born in Mitcham on 8th January 1930. When he was nine, at the beginning of the war, his family moved to Kingfield as his father was transferred to work at the gravel pit in Send Marsh, working for Hall & Co.

He left school in his early teens to work in a garage and was called up for national service when he turned 18. Fred served in the Navy from March 1948 - January 1950 and was stationed mainly on aircraft carriers. When he was discharged he went to work for Hall and Co with his father, making him the fourth generation of Hookins to do so.

On 6th March 1954 Fred married Sheila and they had two children, Peter and Rosemary.

Working for Hall & Co gave Fred the chance to buy their first house, No. 4, Highlands Cottages in Send Marsh Road, from the company in 1959. In 1969 they moved to Tuckey Grove where Fred did a lot of work to the house over the years including rewiring, plumbing and adding extensions.

In the early 60s Fred went to night school to study mechanical engineering – this was under instructions from Sheila who realised that he could do better for himself.

Fred had various jobs over the years, the last one for Schlumberger, designing simulators for anti-tank missiles. He was made redundant in his early 60s but carried on working, doing odd maintenance jobs around the local area.

Fred was always active. When he worked for Vokes he was in their tug of war team, and played squash into his eighties. He was out most weekends in the winter beating for the local shoot and also enjoyed clay pigeon shooting at the weekends.

For many years Fred was heavily involved in the life of the village through the Send Marsh Residents Association, together with Sheila as committee members. They loved to help organise and to participate in numerous events such as the children's Christmas party, trips to the pantomime, ice skating, the village fete and bonfire night.

Fred was on Send's parish council, serving as chairman for several years. and was also an active member of the Send and Ripley Horticultural Society and the Send and Ripley History Society. He worked in the garden with Sheila, but also had two allotments where he grew copious amounts of vegetables and flowers as well as lots of soft fruit. He would return from the allotment with his wheelbarrow filled with vegetables and leave some of them out by the side of the road for neighbours to help themselves.



In the 70s the Saddlers Arms in Send held a pumpkin competition where they sold the seeds and subsequently weighed the pumpkins in at the pub. This inspired Fred to carry on growing pumpkins for his grandchildren every year and they were huge, requiring more than one person to carry them.

Fred and Sheila loved holidays. When the children were small, they would hire a basic caravan with no electricity or water and spend two weeks during the summer holidays in the middle of a field near St Austell, Cornwall. They would drive through the night on A-roads with Peter and Rosemary sleeping on the back seat. In later years they went with the children for beach holidays in Wales. They loved to make sandcastles and go crabbing and surfing. Some things don't change from one generation to the next.

He was good at making things and at DIY, enjoying making toys for both his children and then his grandchildren. Fred also liked to sing 'Puff the Magic Dragon' to both generations.

After the children had flown the nest – albeit not too far away – Sheila and Fred embraced the joys of international travel, with different types of holidays from cruises in the Caribbean to safaris in Kenya and Christmases in Thailand. Nearer to home, they visited Cyprus, Spain and Gibraltar and also went on numerous coach holidays all over England.

Fred died on 10th July 2026. He and Sheila are survived by their two children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

WHERE IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

A DESERTED ROAD AND A BUS, BUT WHERE WAS THE PHOTO TAKEN?





WE ASKED IN JOURNAL 310 WHERE THE AREAL PHOTO WAS TAKEN.

This was Elm Tree House, Ripley, in the centre with The Cricket Club behind it and the cricket pitch beyond.

Correctly identified by: Michael Clack, Jez Haines, Chris Lee, Guy Marshall, Trevor & Judith Pound, Audrey Smithers, Peter Smithers and Vernon Wood

WHAT IS IT?

ALAN COOPER

ANOTHER FIND FROM THE SHED OF OUR MEMBER VERNON WOOD. WHAT IS IT AND WHO WOULD HAVE USED IT?



IN JOURNAL 310 WE ASKED WHAT THIS STRANGE OBJECT, WHICH REQUIRES LIGHT RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION WAS.

This is known as a steelyard balance and was used (not exclusively) by retailers for weighing goods. This one has recently been gifted to the Society and came from a long since closed butchers' shop in Send.

Correctly identified by: Ditz Brown, Ian Mason, Carol Morris, Audrey Smithers, Peter Smithers and Vernon Wood

'Brucie Bonus' for Ian Mason who stated 'a butchers steelyard balance'!



FROM OUR LIBRARY
OCKHAM PARK
CAMERON BROWN



The East front of Ockham Park in 1827 soon after a series of improvements had been undertaken by the 7th Lord King. This shows some of the Hawksmoor alterations but still reveals the basic Jacobean structure (courtesy Morris family)

A new addition to our library is *A Short Architectural History of Ockham Park*, published privately in 2024 to an elegantly designed and produced format by SHS Morris RIBA, himself a distinguished architect but also – with his mother-in-law, wife and three sons – the present occupier of this notable local estate.

Our Journal pieces over the years have ranged over many related subjects, from the Lovelaces and Hawksmoor, All Saints' Church and Guileshill Farm – both on the Ockham Park estate – to items as tangential as the memories of the local mole catcher.

This attractive booklet provides an engaging, personal introduction to this important local house. The current buildings date substantially from around 1727, before which there was a grand, timber-framed, H-plan hall built by the Weston family in the 1630s. Much is written about the work done at Ockham by Wren's contemporary, Nicholas Hawksmoor, but, as Morris explains, although between 1727 and 1729 he produced detailed plans for a major rebuild, this never actually came to pass. The King (later Lovelace) family had bought Ockham Park from the Westons in 1706 and by the time of Hawksmoor's involvement Peter King had risen to the rank of Lord Chancellor – but, it seems, could still not quite rise to the costs of a Hawksmoor new-build.

King's original instructions to Hawksmoor were to envelop and enlarge the Jacobean property but, as Morris explains, the plans soon evolved into the creation of a palace in the then popular 'Venetian' style, which was substantially larger than the existing house, which remained at its core.

What did result from Hawksmoor's ideas included a fresh façade, new bay windows in the wings, a large portico to the entrance hall and various internal improvements and modernisation. Also, importantly, a new kitchen block and stables adjacent to the main house were built by Hawksmoor, which still survive and form the current house that we see today.

William King, 8th Earl of Lovelace, inherited in 1833 and lived at Ockham Park with his wife, Ada Lovelace, from 1835-1846 until they moved up the road to Horsley Towers. The Lovelaces were now extremely wealthy and the Earl was able to carry out considerable work at Ockham Park and, as Morris writes:

'By 1844 Ockham had become a vast Italianate pile with deep, overhanging eaves. Fortunately, William did not touch the Orangery…restored in the 1980s…it measures 20 feet wide by 40 feet long…it was used for growing oranges and lemons. It was also where Ada kept her pet parrots.'

After the mid 1840s Ockham Park was let for some 20 years to Dr. Stephen Lushington who was a successful barrister, judge and member of Parliament. It then stood empty for another 20 odd years until Ralph, 2nd Earl of Lovelace, invited the noted Arts and Crafts architect, Charles F A Voysey to make his mark, now seen in the 'arcade' and the mausoleum in the gardens.



This engraving from 1849 seems to be the most popular amongst the few available from public sources. Engraved by TA Prior after a painting by T Allom, it was used as an illustration in EW Brayley's *A Topographical History of Surrey* (1850), which is also available in our library



This fairly recent photo by Colin Smith shows the view from Ockham churchyard

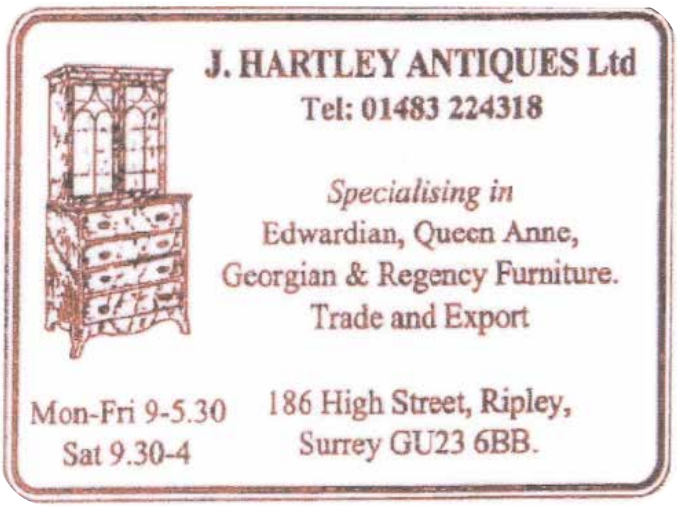
This booklet should be of particular interest to our members as it will bring most of us up to date with the ownership of the estate since the mid-20th century. Some will know that the next owner was Ralph's niece who married the third Earl of Lytton, who also had the site which became the airfield and is now on its way to becoming the new town.

The Ockham Park estate was requisitioned for Canadian troops in 1941 and the main body of the house was subsequently destroyed by a fire in 1948. Fortunately, the Orangery (designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor) was left unscathed by the fire.

Also, and most importantly, the Hawksmoor designed kitchen block and coach house survived the fire and are now connected by a link to form the main house which is now the home of Mr Morris and his family.

In 1958 the park was acquired by Felix Fenston, whose history is quite fascinating: wartime amputee who almost literally came back from the dead, gifted pianist, hugely successful property developer, philanthropist… Shortly before his unexpected death in 1970 he had begun reconstruction work at Ockham Park and this continues to this day under the supervision of his widow and her daughter and son-in-law.

The Fenstons' daughter Felicia married Houston Morris at All Saints' Church in 2001 and they moved into Ockham Park shortly thereafter. They and their three sons live there today together with Felicia's mother, now Lady Griffiths.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JEAN TURNER WRITES:

I enjoyed Alan Cooper's article in Journal 307 about the bomb disposal unit in Send, as it brought back some memories of Heath House. My uncle, William Faithful, was gardener there when the Thorpe family owned it. I remember it as a lovely garden with a large round flower bed full of poppies at the front. When the house was commandeered by the army bomb disposal unit, Miss Violet (Thorpe) moved to Wood Street Village and my uncle and family moved to a bungalow close by. Miss Violet and he started a nursery together.

> Rather than let Heath House's garden go to rack and ruin, my granddad Faithful and his friend Walt Charman carried on gardening there but I don't think they were paid. They grew vegetables and fruit and no doubt some of it came to the family.

My father worked for the water company, which was a reserved occupation, so he was living at home. Sometimes he would go to the New Inn and he met some of the occupants of Heath House. He brought a young man called Vic Stanyer home for tea and we got to know him.

> Vic came from the Midlands and, before the war, had worked for Brooke Bond Tea. He survived the war but died young and I remember my mother sending his widow some Lily of the Valley, her favourite flower.

CAROLE MORRIS WRITES:

As I was looking through Michael's files [see Michael Morris's obituary in Journal 310] I came across a wallet with a note that said 'GLEN HALE WHO DROWNED'. I think that this is the wallet of a





schoolfriend of Michael's who fell through the ice and struggled to get out, but sadly didn't make it. Michael was always haunted by the memory of the boy's face under the ice, so close to the surface. In the wallet is a message: 'To Michael From Brian April 14/47'. This must have been given by the boy's parents to Brian Norman, a neighbour in Cartbridge Lane, who then passed it on to Michael. Above are the photos of the wallet and, if Glen's family would like to claim it, the History Society, to which I gave the wallet, would be very happy to return it.

C. F. Hall & Co. Ltd.
We are your local Euronics electrical retailer, established for more than 60 years.
EURONICS
Sony, Panasonic, Bosch, Samsung, Miele, Roberts, Sebo, Toshiba, Dyson, Pure, Zanussi, Blomberg & many more top brands
2 Station Approach | East Horsley | 01483 282945
www.cfhall.com

RIPLEY AND THE PENICILLIN REVOLUTION

LESLEY WALSH

Lesley took part in one of our recent guided walks and sent us this story.

As my grandmother, Mabel Lilian Day, was born in Send in 1909, I was eager to attend the Ripley village walk, which was one of the recent Heritage Week events. During the walk I happened to notice the blue plaque commemorating an achievement of national significance: the production of the first penicillin for civilian use during the Second World War by chemist Kenneth White. This struck a chord with me as I knew that my aunt had been one of the first civilians to receive treatment from this drug.

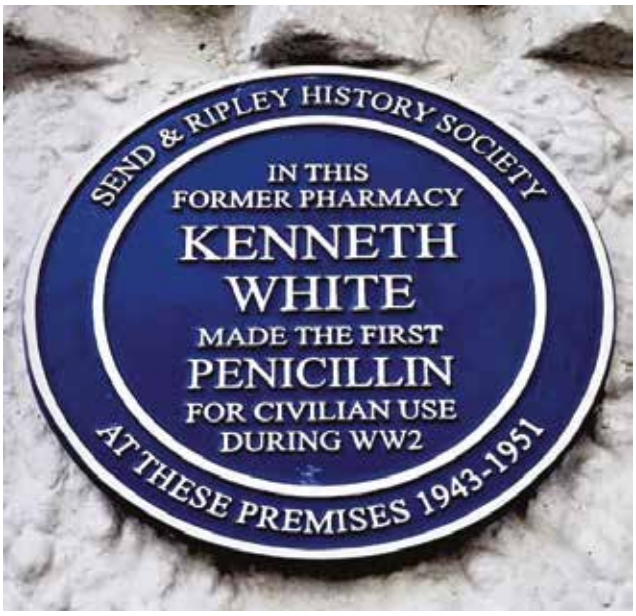
While Sir Alexander Fleming's discovery of penicillin is widely celebrated, far less well known is the crucial work undertaken to manufacture the drug in quantities sufficient to help ordinary people.

During and immediately after the war, penicillin remained scarce and precious. Before its widespread availability, infections, which today would be considered readily treatable, could result in prolonged illness, disability, or death.

The pioneering work carried out in Ripley helped bring this remarkable antibiotic beyond the military sphere and into civilian medicine, transforming countless lives in the process.

One such life belonged to my aunt, a young girl from nearby Stoke-next-Guildford.

Her childhood was shaped by infection. In 1941, when Maureen Goddard was just three years old, she suffered a severe accident, cutting her lip on a tin. The wound was deep, passing right through the lip to her teeth. Around the same time, she sustained another injury when two boys accidentally struck her foot with a homemade trolley.



The plaque outside the former White's Chemists (currently Lolapalooza) celebrating Kenneth White's unique achievement ©Lesley Walsh

What began as childhood mishaps developed into a serious medical problem. Infection took hold within the foot and ankle, resulting in sepsis and recurring abscesses. In an era when effective antibiotics were not yet widely available, doctors had limited options for treatment.

For Maureen, the years that followed involved repeated visits to hospital, where abscesses were regularly lanced in an attempt to control the infection. These procedures left permanent scarring and, despite the best efforts of medical staff, the infection persisted.

The consequences affected every aspect of her young life. From 1941 until 1949 her leg was kept in plaster, apart from a brief period during the summer months of 1947 when hope arrived as a revolutionary new medicine was becoming available to civilian patients. Maureen was prescribed a course of penicillin, starting a treatment that continued over a period of two years. The ongoing infection had meant she had missed much of her early schooling and spent many of her formative years coping with pain, treatment and restricted mobility.

The treatment she received in 1947 had brought, for the first time, a real chance that the infection, which had dominated so much of her childhood, might be defeated. It brought significant improvement and allowed doctors to begin controlling the condition that had resisted other forms of intervention.

Although the first course did not completely eradicate the infection, it represented a turning point. In 1949, a second course of penicillin was prescribed and this finally succeeded in clearing the infection altogether.

After eight years of illness, hospital visits and uncertainty, Maureen was able to begin a more normal life.

Today, antibiotics are so familiar that it can be difficult to appreciate just how revolutionary penicillin was.

My aunt's story reminds us that before its arrival, even comparatively ordinary childhood injuries could lead to years of suffering and disability.



Part of the SRHS' collection of paraphernalia from Kenneth White's laboratory, including a phial containing penicillin culture ©Ditz

The blue plaque in Ripley commemorates an important scientific and industrial achievement, but its real significance lies in the lives transformed by the medicine produced there.

Alan Greenwood & Sons

Independent Family Funeral Directors

National Association of Funeral Directors

We offer a Caring and Compassionate Service
24 hours a day 365 days a year
The latest Jaguar or Mercedes Funeral Vehicles
Golden Charter Pre-paid Funeral Plans
Home Visit Arrangements
We will not be beaten on price
Direct Cremation £950

Please Visit Our Website for Full Details of Our Branches and Services and also to View All Our Local Obituaries

www.alangreenwoodfunerals.com





66 Send Road
Send
GU23 7EU

01483 210 222

send@alangreenwoodfunerals.com

MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE PRIORS



A thousand years and more of worship in and around Send and Ripley.

We are delighted with the response from visitors to our current exhibition and hope you too will come and admire our model of Newark Priory (which is rarely on show due to its size). Listen to some atmospheric plain song and, thanks to Guildford Museum, see some of the original finds from the site as well as learning more about other places of worship in the area.





Hard to credit but we are thinking about 2027… We hope to tempt you with FROM OPEN FIRES TO AIR FRYERS. The history of cooking.

If you are interested in getting involved please let me know. Clare, Museum Curator 01483 728546 info@sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Ripley Village Hall. Doors open for all evening talks at 7.30pm for an 8.00 start. Tea/coffee and wine available. NB – payment by cash only.

2026 DATES	EVENTS
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas Party. Members only. 7.00 for a 7.30 START
2027 DATES	**EVENTS**
Wednesday 13th January	Alice Naylor talk: *Kenwood Appliances*
Wednesday 10th February	Illustrated talk TBA
Wednesday 10th March	AGM. Members only. Cheese and wine followed by a talk (TBC) 7.00 for a 7.30 START
Wednesday 14th April	Desmond McCann talk: *George Abbot's gift to Guildford*
May (TBC)	Visit to Royal Holloway College
Tuesday 15th June	Visit to to Cobham Mill
July/August (TBC)	Members only BBQ
Wednesday 8th September	Dr David Cottis talk: *RC Sherriff Stage and Screen Legacy*
Wednesday 13th October	TBA
Wednesday 10th November	TBA
Wednesday 8th December	Christmas Party. Members Only. 7.00 for a 7.30 START

Further details can be obtained from Helena Finden-Browne helena_findenbrowne@compuserve.com

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS



THE MUSEUM IS BEHIND VICTORY HOUSE AND TO THE RIGHT OF THE NEW VILLAGE HALL

OPEN: SATURDAY MORNINGS 10.00 – 12.00

We can arrange to open at other times by appointment

Please contact Clare McCann on 01483 728546 or info@sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk for further information or if you wish to help in the museum

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS		
Ghosts Along The Wey, a Rural Childhood in Send		£10.00
Bygone Days, Send and Ripley Remembered		£10.00
A Walk About Ripley Village	New, extended edition 2025	£5.00
Frank Brown, Ripley to Rothesay – Journeyman Painter		£4.00
History Colouring Book (price includes felt tips and a carrier bag)		£5.00
Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life	Reprinted 1998/2006	£5.00
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£2.50
Ripley and Send – Looking Back	Reprinted 2007	£5.00
Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2026	£5.00
The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£4.00
Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures	New Edition 2017	£5.00
Two Surrey Village Schools – The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools		£5.00
Memories of War		£5.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£6.50
Heroes All		£20.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.00
The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey		£1.00
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£4.00
Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£4.50

All the publications are available from the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk, the museum on Saturday mornings or email srhistorysociety@gmail.com. A selection is available from Pinnock's Coffee House, Ripley

Anna Arthur & Associates Solicitors

4, Rio House
High Street
Ripley
GU23 6AE

tel: 01483 222499 fax: 01483 222766
www.annaarthur.com hlewis@arthurlegal.co.uk

Probate - Contentious Probate - Court of Protection
Lasting Powers of Attorney (Health & Welfare and Property & Finances)
Co-Habitation Agreements - Post-Nuptial Agreement - Pre-Nuptial Agreements
Residential Conveyancing - Commercial Conveyancing
Wills - Trusts

ripley
osteopaths

We treat all conditions including lower back pain, shoulder pain, arthritis and knee conditions.
Don't live with pain – give us a call today to see how we can help you.



£20 OFF A NEW PATIENT APPOINTMENT

Please quote this ad when booking your appointment.
Based in Victory House at Ripley Village Hall

info@ripleyosteopaths.co.uk www.ripleyosteopaths.co.uk 07586 702925


Retirement Villages is part of AXA IM Alts
RETIREMENT
VILLAGES
Cranleigh, Surrey
For the fun takers, friendship makers and part-time bakers. Stay connected to what matters in our active and independent community at Elmbridge. Welcome Home.
Feel at home in
Elmbridge
01483 945 295
elmbridgevillage.co.uk
Discover more Retirement Villages in Surrey with nearby Mayford Grange


Ripley
Farmers'
Market
Visit us on Ripley Green
on the second Saturday of every month from 9am to 1pm
Buy a wide range of fresh produce and special treats for your weekend from small local traders.
@ripleyfarmersmarket
@ripleyfarmersmarket
@RipleyFarmersM
www.ripleyfarmersmarket.co.uk



Miss Bush

Bridal Boutique

Luxury wedding dresses in Ripley since 1988. Visit our unique Victorian chapel on Ripley High Street.

www.missbush.co.uk

OPEN ALL DAY, EVERY DAY FOR GREAT FOOD



Kid's Play area & Menu

THE JOVIAL SAILOR

Portsmouth Rd, Ripley, Surrey GU23 6EZ
www.baronspubs.com | 01483 224360 | jovialsailor@baronspubs.com

follow us *or* *download the BaronsApp from your app store*

