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SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

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COURT ROLLS OF THE MANOR OF SEND & RIPLEY

PART 3 - THE COURT BARON

Having attempted in Part 2 to clarify the proceedings of the View of Frankpledge, I propose now to give similar treatment to the Court Baron. This was invariably held at the same time as the View to deal with all matters relating to the transfer and occupation of land and property within the manor. Generally, it was not concerned with freehold property, but with the copyhold tenancies owned by the lord of the Manor. It was a requirement for all the lord's tenants to attend the Court, and unless they were excused for a particular reason, they were liable to be fined for non-attendance.

It is perhaps worth repeating here the basic principles of the copyhold system. The holder, although a tenant of the lord, had a perpetual right to the property. If he died without heirs the property would revert to the lord. If he committed a felony or otherwise misbehaved himself, he was liable to surrender the same to the lord. Normally upon his death it would pass to his widow and thence on her death to the eldest son. The tenant had the right to sublet his property or part of it. In every case, however, it was first necessary to seek the permission of the lord of the manor. The principal function of the Court Baron was to formalise and record all such transactions. The following is a transcript of the court held in 1616. It covers most of the common events that were recorded. Some of the court proceedings were extremely protracted and the resultant roll very long and repetitive. Much of the legal jargon has been abbreviated for clarity:

- RIPLEY & SEND Court for the noble Anthony Viscount Mountague (a) and lady Jane his wife, of the said manor, held Thursday 12 April in the 14th and 49th year (b) aforesaid by the aforesaid steward (c).
- Essoins (d) John Tickner and Henry Punter by George Smyth, Walter Smyth by Thomas Butler, John Bagford by Daniel Mabbanck, Agnes Cathringham and George Stanton by Robert Peter, Robert Tapping by John Child, Thomas Bates by Robert Lea, John Stephens by John Dawe and Thomas Boughton by Edward Beldam.
- Homage (e)
- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| William Fraunces | Richard Mabbanck | Edward Clement |
| Thomas Butler | Ralph Withiwell | Nicholas Hunt |
| John Style | Walter Warren | John Child and |
| Nicholas Fraunces | Thomas Hitches | John Fraunces |
| Daniel Mabbanck | Henry Hamond | |
- Default Who said on oath that John Boughton (4d), Michael Haydon Esq. (4d), the heir of Thomas Sutton (4d), the heir of John Didlesdon (4d), the heir of Thomas Boughton (4d), Richard Forbench (appeared), John Stevens (excused), Richard Weston Esq. (appeared), Henry Boughton, Walter Smyth (excused), John Tickner (excused), Henry Punter (excused), John Weale (4d), Nicholas Burley, gentleman (4d), the heir of John Bedford (4d), George Stanton (excused), Sir Francis Armiger (in the king's service), John Child (4d), Thomas Stephens (excused), John Bagford (excused), Agnes Cathringham (excused), Robert Symondes, John Wells, Robert Tappyn (excused), and Thomas Bates (excused) are tenants of the lord of this manor and owe suit of court and make default on this day, therefore each in mercy as shown above his name (f).

- Death of Roger Johnson They presented the death of Roger Johnson, tenant for life of cottage near the common park in Ripley, held for 6d rent p.a. suit of court and other services, and given in name of heriot 6d (g). Which cottage now remains to Agnes Johnson, widow of the said Roger for her lifetime and after her death, to George Johnson, her son, for his lifetime, as shown by copy of the court held here 22nd April, 11 James, 46 Scotland. And the same Agnes paid in the name of heriot 6d and did fealty (h), etc.
- Death of Thomas Sutton They presented the death of Thomas Sutton, who held freely from the lord a messuage called the Angell, situated at Hungerhill, a close at Hungerhill, a close at Bardes Comon, rent 18d p.a. and a croft of land called Deane Croft, lately of John Stephens, a parcel of land of John Stephens, held for rent 12d p.a., whence as heriot 2 bullocks, price £7. They remain in the custody of Robert Sutton of Biflett and that by his last will and testament he bequeathed the said premises to William Sutton, so it is alleged. He was ordered to be distrained for 18d Relief for the aforesaid lands at Hungerhill, and 12d for the said croft called Deane Croft and for fealty of the said William, etc.
- Distrainment
- Death of And that John Didlesdon, free tenant of a cottage with garden and a parcel of land in Ripley, rent 16d p.a., and a parcel of land containing by estimation an acre next a cottage called Le Farme, rent 8d p.a. has died since the last court and by his death the lord ought to have a heriot, but nothing came to him as he had no animal (g), and he sought a day at the next court for him to whome those holdings pertained after the death of the same John, to be present, etc.
- Death of And they presented the death of Henry Styles, who held freely from the lord of this manor a certain parcel of land with appurtenances called Horrides (j), rent 8s 8d p.a., heriot and other services, and that as heriot happened a cow, price 40s (g) seized and then sold by John Styles. And that John Stiles is his elder brother and next heir, who, present here in court, did fealty to the lord, etc.
- Recognition of John Weekes To this court came John Weekes and recognised that he held from the lord a cottage with appurtenances adjacent to the tenement of John Farleigh, rent 12d p.a. and by agreement between himself and John Farleigh the said rent of 12d was shared at this court. Henceforward each of them ought to pay 6d and the same John Weekes did fealty, etc.
- Surrender of John Edes To this court came Thomas Stanton and Ralph Withiwell, customary tenants of this manor, and presented here in court a surrender made through them into the hands of the lord, outside and since the last court, according to the custom of this manor, made by a certain John Edes, by which he, the same John, tenant of a cottage with garden lying in Ripley, near Le Talbott, rent 4s p.a., suit of court, heriot and other services, surrendered the aforesaid cottage with its appurtenances into the hands of the lord to the benefit and use of William Easted and his heirs, whence as heriot a cow, price 40s. Whereupon to the same court came the said William Easted and sought admission to the said cottage with garden, to whom seisin was granted for himself and his heirs by copy of the Court Rolls, at the will of the lord, according to the custom of the manor, rent 4s, suit of court and
- Admission of William Easted

other services. The same William gave as fine 30s and thus was admitted as tenant, has seisin per virgam and did fealty to the lord, etc.

Stray Also they presented that there arrived as a stray within this manor near Christmas a bullock, price 16s and it remains in the custody of John Inwood, the bailiff, to make a proclamation according to the form of the statute, etc.

Stray Also they presented that there arrived as a stray within this manor on the feast of St Mathew the Apostle (k) last past a cow, price and it remains in the custody of Richard Forbenche, the park keeper, and a proclamation was made according to the statute, etc.

Tenements in Decay They presented that the tenements of John Farley and Daniel Mabbanck are in decay and want of repairs and the same John and Daniel seek timber to be allocated to them and the supervisors of the woods to look over their tenements and to allocate timber to the customary holdings (1), etc.

He seeks timber Also to this court came William Easted and sought timber to be allocated to him for the repair of his cottage. Therefore it was ordered as above, etc.

Surrender of Richard Flote To this court came Richard Flote and in full court here surrendered into the lord's hands 2 acres of land called Froggemarshe, which he held for a term of years by a surrender of John Redford, otherwise Bedford, made here 26th day of July 2 James I, 38 James VI, to the benefit and use of Henry Hamond and his assigns as heriot nothing, for which the lord pardoned him. Whereupon to this same court came the said Henry and sought admission to the premises for the remaining 8 years of the said term, from the feast of St Michael the Archangel (m) next. To whom the lord granted the said 2 acres of land, for the said term, rent and services as before. He gave as fine 10s, was admitted and did fealty to the lord, etc.

Assessors Thomas Stanton)
William Fraunces) sworn.

Explanatory Notes:

(a) Viscount Mountague was the son of Sir Anthony Browne, to whom the manor of Send, etc., was awarded by Henry VIII in 1544 after the dissolution.

(b) The reference here to two regnal years of James I is first to his years on the English throne (14) and second to that of Scotland (49).

(c) The steward was George Duncombe.

(d) Essoin: These people offered excuses for non-attendance.

(e) Homage: Usually consisted of people with a long memory of events within the manor. There were no maps as such and little clear written definition of property limits and boundaries.

(f) Many tenants could probably ill afford to lose a day's work to attend the court and it would have been cheaper to pay the 4d fine if they could offer no valid excuse.

(g) Heriot: Originally a gift by the heir to the lord of the dead man's best beast as a fee to take over the estate. Later it was simply a money payment.

(h) Fealty: An expression by the new tenant of allegiance to the lord.

(j) Very few of the property names of this period can be identified today, although work is continuing to attempt to do this.

(k) St Mathew the Apostle - 21st September.

(l) It was usually the responsibility of the lord to provide materials for the repair and upkeep of his tenants' properties.

(m) St Michael the Archangel - Michaelmas - 29th September.
John Slatford

BUILDINGS GROUP SURVEY

WHITE HATCH, POTTERS LANE, SEND, TQ 019 554

White Hatch is a brick built cottage in Potters Lane on the lefthand side going towards Guildford. It stands at the end of a long driveway which appears to coincide with the edge of the enclosed land bordering on the common as indicated on Rocque's map of 1768. The name 'White Hatch' has long been associated with this spot, being mentioned on numerous occasions in the Court Rolls of the 16th and 17th centuries and shown on the Tithe Apportionment map of 1843 as a field on the other side of Potters Lane. Hatch is an early word for a gate, particularly one leading to a forest. It is probable here that a gate was positioned across what is now Potters Lane to prevent stock wandering from Send Heath on to the enclosed land. It was not unusual for a highway to be closed in this way.

On 21 March, the Buildings Group, consisting on this occasion of Mavis Lake, Barbara Tinkler, Bill Titcombe and John Slatford, were invited by the owners, our members Mr & Mrs James Turner, to survey this house. Ken Bourne also attended to make a photographic record.

The property was occupied from the late 1800's until the mid 1950's by the Strudwick family. Until 1926 it was held by copyhold from the Earl of Onslow as Lord of the Manor. The freehold was then secured for £170. Our member, Marjorie Sex, is a Strudwick. The present owner has a photograph of Marjorie's sister, mother and aunt taken outside the cottage about sixty years ago. This has been very useful in determining earlier features now obscured.

The property has been considerably altered in recent years with lean-to out-buildings to the NE end being converted into a kitchen area. The original cottage was of brick construction with a tiled roof gabled at the SW end and hipped at the other. There were three rooms upstairs and three downstairs with the main entrance through a brick porch on the NW side into the central room. Today this porch and entrance have both gone. There is another porch and door on the other side, but the main entrance is on the NW side through the kitchen in the lean-to section. The whole of

the outside is now rendered smooth and finished in white. All of the original wooden casement windows have been replaced with metal-framed windows.

Apart, possibly, from the chimneys, the only part of the original brick-work still to be seen is the top course of the longitudinal walls beneath the fascia boards. This is arranged in the form known as dentilation, the bricks being arranged as headers with alternates projecting by about three inches. The feature was introduced into building practice in England around 1750 and its use continued into the 19th century. Dentilation has its origins, however, in classical Greek architecture. The roof construction is based on three tie beams which are positioned only 66 inches above the upstairs floor level. Since two of these form room dividers, the doorways are correspondingly very low, the ceiling heights, however, are all 90 inches. So far as could be judged, this was an original feature. In the principal bedroom the tie beam is positioned some 18 inches in from the end wall to clear the main chimney, which projects into the room. The roof timbers are all soft wood. The rafters are of constant section, meeting at a ridge piece. The purlins are supported by a total of four collars.

Dating the house within fairly close limits is possible for several reasons. Firstly one should consider the brick size. Unfortunately, because of the present rendered finish, this can only be studied from the previously mentioned photograph. It would seem that the bricks are of the present day standard thickness, which would date the house after 1784. This was the year when the first brick tax was imposed. Prior to this, bricks, although varying slightly, were not normally thicker than $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The tax was initially half a crown per thousand, and this was increased in subsequent acts of 1794, 1803 and later. The acts were not repealed until 1850. The immediate effect was that brick makers increased the thickness of their bricks to about $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, so that a thousand bricks produced more wall, thus offsetting the effect of the tax. Generally this thickness has remained constant to the present day. In the North of England, however, the brick thickness became much greater (up to $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches) with resultant deterioration in the appearance of houses of that period in parts of the North.

Secondly, a study of the maps of the period shows that in Send there were so few buildings that most if not all were shown despite the small scale. This house can be seen on Greenwood's map of 1823 and on the old series Ordnance Survey of 1811. It does not appear on Lindley & Crossleys map of 1793, nor on Rocque's map. It is fairly certain, therefore, that the house was built between 1793 and 1811.

Thirdly, one might be able to obtain a precise date from a study of the Court Rolls of the period. Being copyhold, it is possible that the construction would have been recorded. It is to be hoped that this might be established at some future date.

The present owner possesses a cupboard door from the house before the alterations were carried out. This would be unremarkable but for the fact that the door had previously been an 18th century wooden grave board. It still carries the name, albeit very indistinctly, of the deceased, John Marrner, and the date of his burial in 1760. Unfortunately there is no entry to be found with this name in the Send burial register. It is possible that the date was actually 1766, for which year the Send burial register is missing. Otherwise one can only assume that the board came from some other churchyard. How it came to be at WhiteHatch is not known. Wooden monuments, popularly known as "leaping boards" or "bed heads", were

a common feature in many churchyards in the 18th and 19th centuries. Many can be seen in Cracklow's "Views of Surrey Churches".

Also in the house is a framed copy of an early version of part of the 6" Ordnance Survey map showing the Potters Lane area. It was left by the previous owner and carries manuscript notes on a number of historical associations of the house and the area. However, considerable research into the authenticity of some of these notes would be necessary before they could be accepted.

The Buildings Group wish to express its appreciation of Mr Turner's co-operation and help in making this survey.

John Slatford 28/4/81

EARLY 19th CENTURY ADMIRALTY TELEGRAPH RELAY STATIONS

On 10th April at the Church Room, Mr T. W. Holmes, himself a Naval telegraphist in both World Wars, gave an illustrated talk on the systems and chain of stations built and used between 1796 and 1847 to communicate between the Admiralty in London and various Naval bases.

Mr Holmes said details were taken from a French prisoner of war in 1794 of the Claude Chappe system in use between Paris and Lille. The Chappe "telegraphic" used a 15 ft beam pivoted at its middle on a 16 ft high mast. This beam, controlled by ropes from a signalling room below it, could assume horizontal, vertical or 45 degree sloping left or right positions. At each end of the beam was a 6 ft arm rotatable into seven distinct positions in 45 degree steps (the two positions when the arm was in line with the beam were not distinguishable from a distance - hence only seven distinct positions). The two arms could therefore form $7 \times 7 = 49$ combinations and the four positions of the beam extended this to $4 \times 49 = 196$ combinations or separate signals. By the code books used in the period, 1795-1830, some 25,000 meanings could be conveyed by the signals - and intelligible only to the possessors of the code books at each end of the relay chain. A telegraphic machine was placed within telescope range of the ones on either side of it and mounted on a purpose made tower, church tower or other high building, so that it could be viewed with the sky as background, the signals noted and copied to be viewed by the next in the line. Routes over forest, marshes, water and smoky town suburbs were minimised to avoid variations in visibility.

Looking for similar results but with cheaper and simpler operators, the British Admiralty first favoured a system devised by the Rev John Gamble, Chaplain-General to the Forces, comprising an upright framework containing five shutters in a vertical line, each shutter pivoted along its mid line so that individually they could be open (horizontal) or shut (vertical) (i.e. a two-state or binary system - shades of our modern computers!) giving 32 combinations.

Rev Gamble conducted successful trials between Portsdown Hill and Portsmouth Dockyard in August 1795, but the Admiralty preferred a proposal of Lord George Murray's, later Bishop of St David's, for a six shutter system in two vertical lines of three, which would give 64 combinations, e.g. the alphabet, ten numerals, and 28 other signs.

Under George Roebuck, routes were surveyed, sites purchased, stations - usually two-roomed wooden huts with a fuel store alongside and the 20 ft frame of the shutter telegraph mounted above on timbers stout enough to

withstand the wind's effect on the 3 ft square shutters in exposed high positions - were built and in working order between the Admiralty and Deal, Sheerness and Portsmouth before the end of 1796. Roebuck received £215 per station on the Deal route, but managed an increase to £230 on the Portsmouth, this covered the cost of building two 12 guinea Dollond telescopes, a 6 guinea clock and a stove with iron flue pipe.

One room was a living room/kitchen, the other was the operations room, usually manned by three "disabled" seamen on half-pay, one "glass man" watching the station's signals on either side, one recording the observed signals and one operating the ropes which opened the shutters which were closed by counter-weights. All shutters open meant "Not at work or End of message". All shutters closed meant "Ready or About to work". The "Ready" signal could be sent from London to Deal or Portsmouth and back again in two minutes!

The Portsmouth chain comprised:-

The Roof of the Admiralty.

1.75 miles - the Roof of E wing of Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

4 miles - Putney Heath in triangle of Kingston Road, Wildcroft Road and Telegraph Road (Telegraph Inn signboard depicts the shutter telegraph).

8 miles - Cabbage Hill, one mile South of Chessington Zoo.

8.4 miles - Netley Heath on N Downs above Gomshall.

8.4 miles - Hascombe, E of Loxhill.

7.8 miles - Blackdown near Blackdown Cottage (Tally Knob).

10 miles - Beacon Hill above South Harting, S of Casey's Farm.

11.5 miles - Portsdown Hill, S of Crossroads, "Cliffdene" now on site.

5 miles - Southsea.

In 1798 Roebuck was listed as Inspector of Telegraphs at £300 p.a. In October 1805, he started the survey and purchase of sites for a branch line from Beacon Hill to Chalton, Wickham, Town Hill (2 miles ESE of Stoneham Church), Tool Hill (SE of Romsey), Bramshaw (New Forest) and on to Plymouth. Opened 1806, Roebuck said he received a reply from Plymouth 20 minutes after ending a message at Portsmouth.

After the Peace of Paris, signed on 30/5/1814, the Admiralty deemed the telegraph unnecessary and the shutter telegraph lines were closed. Some buildings were sold and quickly demolished for reuse of the timbers. The Admiralty allowed ex-operators to continue to live in others. These telegraphs were not therefore available during Napoleon's "Hundred Days" or the Battle of Waterloo.

Within days of Waterloo, the Admiralty enacted that signal chains should be re-established on a permanent basis using a semaphore system devised by Sir Home Riggs Popham for use on ships. His land stations used a 30 ft high mast with an 8 ft arm pivotted at the top and a second 16½ ft from the top. At rest the arms fitted inside the slotted mast, and by means of winch handles in the operations room working bevel gears and rods, could be positioned sloping downwards at 45 degrees, horizontally or upwards at 45 degrees, on either side of the mast, giving six positions for each arm or 48 combinations. The masts were rotatable about their bases, so could be turned full face towards the receiving station for best readability. In tests along part of the older system, the semaphore was read with the naked eye, whilst the corresponding shutter telegraph needed a telescope. In 1816 a chain of semaphore stations was built between the Admiralty and Chatham, and later extended via semaphores mounted on moored ships to Sheerness.

In 1818 Thomas Goddard was instructed to survey a route to Portsmouth with a branch to Plymouth. The stations were to be of three types dependent on terrain: bungalows, three-floor house or multi-floor tower. The line began working to Portsmouth regularly in 1824, using some equipment from the Chatham experimental line. The route was from the Admiralty to Duke of York's School Chelsea, Putney Heath (reused), Kingston Hill (Coombe), Cooper Hill (Claygate), Pointers (Chatley Heath), Pewley Hill (Guildford), Bannicle Hill (near Witley), Haste Hill (Haslemere), Older Hill (NW of Midhurst), Beacon Hill (about 1,000 ft S of shutter station), Compton (or Hobbes Down), Camp Down (E slope of Portsdown Hill), Lumps Fort (Southsea), Victualling Magazine (Portsmouth High Street).

Each station had an acre of ground, at Older Hill and Beacon Hill costing £20, but Pewley cost £120. On the highest ground the stations were usually bungalows, the operations room being alongside the living quarters. At medium heights houses were the norm with three sub-basement rooms, three more rooms just above ground level, with a single operations room above them, topped by a further single room with a flat roof reached by ladder. Towers varied in height, but the operations room, like the house, was on the first storey with a floor reinforced diagonally to support the mast. Chatley Heath is reputed to be higher than first planned because Lord King of Ockham forbade a tenant to lop a tree that obscured the agreed line of sight!

Chatley Heath is soon to be visited by the Society. Pewley Hill station still exists as Semaphore House about 350 ft above sea level at the top of Semaphore Road, Guildford, although additions, including a cupola, have been made to its height.

Stations were manned between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily by a lieutenant receiving 3/- a day plus half pay, and a seaman at 2/4 a day plus half pay. Telescope watch had not to stop for more than two minutes at a time.

Chatley Heath was also to be the junction with the Plymouth line, whose survey was completed by Goddard in 1826, and went via Worplesdon (a six-floor tower in St Mary's Churchyard), Poyle Hill, River Hill (Binstead - still standing), Farringdon Common (a surviving bungalow on Telegraph Lane near Four Marks), Merifield (between Ropley and West Tisted), Chestford (Cheesefoot Head, three miles ESE of Winchester near A272), Farley Chamberlayne (bungalow near church), Sherfield English (surviving house at Mount Pleasant), and Woodfield Green. Because of rising costs, this branch was abandoned in 1831.

On December 31st 1847, after two years of trials, the London-Portsmouth Semaphore chain was replaced by the electric telegraph, using wires alongside the London & South Western Railway from its terminal at Nine Elms to Gosport, and thence by underwater cable to King Stairs, Portsmouth.

Eric Bottomley

Notes made in the half-light of the slide show were subsequently checked with other listeners and with details given in "Bygone Haslemere" by E. W. Swanton & P. Woods (1914) and "The Old Telegraphs" by G. Wilson, published Phillimore (1976), both kindly lent by Jim Oliver.

ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT - MARCH/APRIL

March was very quiet at Papercourt. Fieldfare and redwings were still present, as were four goosander on the 21st. On the 28th two chiffchaffs were singing at Send Heath Ponds. There were a few early nesters about,

song thrushes and blackbirds were on eggs and bluetits were building.

On 2nd April a willow warbler was singing at Send Heath Ponds, and on the 5th sand martins and a little ringed plover arrived at Papercourt. The last (?) of the wintering goosander flew North over Ripley Sewage Farm on that day, and a green sandpiper was also about.

Swallows and house martins arrived about the 10th, the first ones merely passing through. Little grebes and swans were on nest and great crested grebes were building at Send Heath Ponds on the 16th, when a blackcap arrived and began singing.

By the very end of the month whitethroat, lesser whitethroat and sedge warbler had arrived at Papercourt.

David Nurney

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP - WILD FLOWERS PROJECT

During discussions between Dorothy Challen and our Secretary, Les Bowerman, regarding the history of Challen's Garage, the Society learnt that Dorothy Challen had carried out a survey of the wild flowers along the River Wey as part of a Senior School Project. Her first survey was July/August 1921, which was not confined to the river, but the second survey in 1925 for the same two months was specifically concerned with specimens growing along the River Wey between Triggs and Papercourt Locks.

The Society is greatly indebted to Dorothy Challen for the privilege of allowing the writer and members of the Natural History Group to look at these collections of pressed wild flowers, the majority of which are in excellent condition considering they were collected between 55 and 60 years ago.

This early record of wild flowers stimulated a buoyant interest in the subject among the members of the Group, and following a meeting at Heath Farm on 18th April 1981, it was agreed that a survey would be made of all the wild flowers that could be observed by the Group in the available time throughout a 12 month period. The survey is to cover the river between St Mary's Church and Papercourt Lock, plus hedgerows and other areas in Send and the neighbouring parish of Ripley.

This meeting was attended by Ken Dawson, Ken Bourne, Pauline Marshall and Mavis Lake. Miriam Truphet was unable to attend but expressed her interest in the project, while Anne Bowerman, who is studying at Surrey University at present, is extremely interested and will support the project whenever time permits. Subsequently Bob and Freda Claydon have joined and are very active members of the Group.

Briefly, the project involves a study over a 12 month period of a particular place or places in Send and recording, photographically, the appearance of mature wild flowers, noting their location and the date when found. If possible, the specimens should be identified with their common and Latin names. Samples should only be picked where they are very common, such as dead nettles, cow parsley, horse tail, stitchwort, etc., although the landowner's permission should first be sought, but it is an offence for anyone to remove, pick any part of or damage a protected species.

Send, of course, is a very large area and anyone wishing to take part in the project, beginner or expert, would be most welcome. Please contact Ken Bourne, Guildford 223028.

Following the blackthorn, the berries of which are used for making sloe gin, the May blossom is in its full glory, come rain or shine, creating a mass of white in the hedgerows. At their base is stitchwort, first noticed in early March, and still going strong. There is jack-in-the-hedge, or garlic mustard, looking like a large nettle, but with white flowers having four petals supported on short stalks at the top of the plant and occasionally at leaf junctions. This plant was used with lettuce in salads and in sauces. The herb has a strong garlic taste and is said to strengthen the digestive faculties, although if eaten by cows it gives a disagreeable flavour to the milk. Ground ivy, whose pale blue flowers appeared in March, is still much in evidence, together with the ivy leaf and Persian speedwells. Most evident of all, of course, are the white umbellifers, particularly the cow and hedge parsley. There are enough varieties of this carrot family to be considered a subject on its own. The same can be said for the crucifers, members of the cabbage family, much in evidence now in more open situations, particularly along motorways. Indeed, with a slow step, a good pair of eyes and a camera a whole new world awaits you.

K. H. Bourne

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership

The recent death of Ray Turner is noted with sadness. We offer our condolences to his widow, Jean, and the family.

Congratulations are offered to Nan Hawkins (nee Cox) on her recent marriage. Her new address is 103 Westfield Road, Mayford. Coincidentally, Colin and Jean Raisey recently moved to 105 Westfield Road.

The following new members are welcomed to the Society:
Mr & Mrs P. Barrett, 27 Linden Way, Send Marsh.

Total paid up membership stands at 60 double subscriptions and 45 singles.

Archaeological Group

The Archaeological Group has been more or less dormant for some time, but I would be pleased to hear from all members interested in the speciality so that I may update my records. As the Surrey Archaeological Society's local Secretary for Send, I receive from time to time requests for volunteers to dig in excavations in other parts of the county. For instance, volunteers have recently been sought for sites at Farnham, Guildford and Dorking. I should accordingly be pleased if members interested in activity of this kind would give me their names so that I may contact them when I receive such a request. Usually no previous experience is necessary.

Census Returns and Court Rolls

Not all members may be aware that with a view to furthering knowledge of the history of the locality, Society money has been spent on acquiring copies of the Census Returns for Send & Ripley for 1851 and 1861, and on having the Court Rolls of the Manor of Send & Ripley transcribed from 1533 onwards. Access to this information is available to all members via the President, Jim Oliver, Chairman. Ken Bourne, leader of the Genealogical Group John Slatford, or myself as Secretary.

Les Bowerman

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 6th June ... All day outing to the mediaeval market town of Steyning, the early wall paintings in the churches of St Botolphs and at Coombes, the imposing Lancing College Chapel, the Anglo-Saxon church at Sompting with its unique Rhenish helm tower, and to look at Buncton Chapel, all in West Sussex. Leave Send Marsh Green at 9.30 a.m., or meet at the car park in Steyning High Street at 10.45 a.m.

Thursday, 25th June ... By special arrangement, evening visit to Horsley Towers. Originally a plain Tudor style house, 1820-29, by Barry, it was added to not long after, in an extraordinary style, by Lord Lovelace. Leave Send Marsh Green at 7 p.m.

Sunday, 5th July ... All day visit to Hampshire to see Ladle Hill Iron Age Fort, near Watership Down, and the Oratory of All Souls, Burghclere with its paintings by Sir Stanley Spencer, RA. Leave Send Marsh 9.30 a.m. for Kingsclere via M3, leaving M3 at junction 6 (Basingstoke) for Kingsclere (A339 trunk road to Newbury). There will be a short stop by the church in the centre of Kingsclere at about 10.15-10.30 a.m. for toilets, etc., before taking the secondary road for Sydmonton and Old Burghclere. Turn left at the crossroads (2 1/2 miles) just before Sydmonton, into the side road leading to the Downs (3/4 mile). Park by the line of prominent beeches on the right at the top of the hill. Here we will walk to Ladle Hill Camp (1/2 mile). Also in the vicinity can be seen Celtic Fields, Beacon Hill Camp, Dewponds, Strip Lynchets and Sunken Ways. Lunch at Watership Down, afternoon visit to Burghclere Oratory and perhaps Crux Easton, if time permits.

Saturday, 18th July ... Ripley Summer Event during the afternoon on Ripley Green. The theme is agricultural country craft and there will be horses, steam engines, flour milling, walking stick making, etc. Send History Society will have a stall.

Thursday, 17th September ... Open evening at the Church Room, Send Road. Ken Bourne will give an illustrated talk on herbs.

Thursday, 12th November ... Open evening at the Church Room, Send Road.

Wednesday, 9th December ... Annual Social evening to be held in the Red Cross Hall, Sandy Lane.