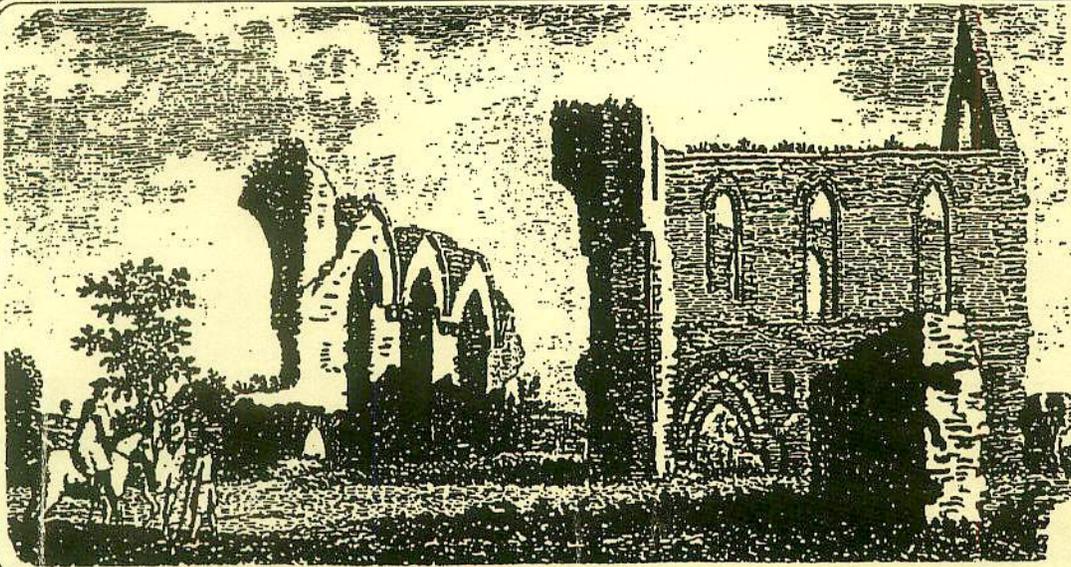


# Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY  
Registered Charity No. 296324



NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 5 No. 158

May/June 2001



BOY SCOUTS

RIPLEY

**T** LANDSCAPE TREE SERVICES  
**Gosden**

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

Unit 103a, The Mayford Centre,  
Mayford Green, Mayford,  
Woking, Surrey GU22 0PP  
Tel/Fax: 01483 765102  
Mobile: 07973 248975

**SUZUKI**

*Anything but ordinary*

TOWN & COUNTRY CARS

High Street, Ripley

Sales — Service — Spares

Your Local MOT Station

(01483) 224000

Established 1966  
Suzuki Cars Main Agent — Surrey & Hants

**BLAZES**  
FIREPLACE CENTRES

*The UK's Largest Living Flame Specialists*

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

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

FREE SURVEYS

FULL INSTALLATION SERVICE

**GUILDFORD (01483) 225800**

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

**OADES PLANT**

Telephone : 01784 435555/6

Fax: 01784 434351

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT  
MINI : EXCAVATOR

CRABTREE ROAD  
THORPE  
EGHAM, SURREY  
TW20 8RW

*Smart Movers*

(GUILDFORD)

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

**(01483) 223550**

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

**Alan Greenwood & Sons**

*Independent Funeral Directors*

**GINA MCKINLEY**

Manager/Funeral Director

*The Gentle Touch*

*24 Hour Service*

66 Send Road  
Send, Woking  
Surrey GU23 7EU

Tel: 01483 210222  
Mobile: 0468 741328

*Williams &  
Wright Ltd* *The Jewellers*

Antique & Modern Jewellery & Silver  
Bought & Sold

VALUATIONS • REPAIRS • PEARL RESTRINGING

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

*Peter Croucher TV,  
Video, & Audio Repairs*

Free Estimates \* Work Guaranteed  
Discount for OAP's \* Free Parking

Unit G1b, The Mayford Centre, Smarts Heath Road,  
WOKING, 01483 772203

# Send & Ripley History Society

*Established 1975 as Send History Society*  
Registered Charity No 296324

**President: Mr K H Bourne MSc**  
Brunel House, 30 Brunel Way, Frome, BA11 2XU. Tel: 01373 455641

**Chairman: Mr L G Bowerman**  
The Manor House, Send Marsh Green, Ripley, Woking, GU23 6JL. Tel: 01483 224876

**Secretary: Mrs A Sykes**  
Lime Tree Cottage, Lime Grove, West Clandon, Guildford, GU4 7UT. Tel: 01483 222060

**Treasurer: Mrs C Sheard**  
Old Manor Cottage, Send Marsh Green, Ripley, Woking, GU23 6JP. Tel: 01483 224600

**Newsletter Editor: Mr K H Bourne MSc**  
Brunel House, 30 Brunel Way, Frome, BA11 2XU. Tel: 01373 455641

**Journal Distribution: Mr G Bleach**  
2 Church Row, High Street, Ripley, Woking, GU23 6BG. Tel: 01483 222233

Typed by Mrs Chris Parker

Copyright Send & Ripley History Society 2001

---

Journal Volume 5 No 158

May/June 2001

---

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
Editor's Comments	2
Society's 26th Annual General Meeting	2
Ripley Scouts, by Clare McCann	5
Letters to the Editor	7
Stuart Mathis, with response from David Porter	
Long River Church, Prince Edward Island, Canada	9
by Jean Carpenter	
Bells and Bell-Ringing, by Les Bowerman	10
Sunday, 8 July - Visit to Wealden Village	11
of Woodchurch, by Ken Bourne	
Forthcoming Events	12

---

Cover illustration Ripley Scout Group c1911. see article by Clare McCann on page 5 and members' names on page 12.

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Since the last Journal was distributed, the weather has slowly improved, and apart from the occasional flood warning and the distinction of having experienced the wettest spring on record, and the wettest period of 12 months since 1766, we can perhaps look forward to better weather. The country has, however, as everyone knows, suffered a serious outbreak of foot and mouth disease, the first since 1967, and having been with us for at least a couple of months, it is perhaps showing signs of abating. There have been just one or two cases in Somerset, where I now live, none, as far as I know, in Surrey, and just one or two in North Kent. The worst hit counties are Devon, Gloucestershire and Cumbria. Our Vice-Chairman, Tony Medlen, pointed out to me that there had been some proposals to close the Institute of Animal Health at Pirbright, but fortunately, this did not happen, and as one of the foremost scientific establishments in the field of animal research in Europe, it no doubt has a very important role to play at present.

On 5 March, all farms, farmland and country footpaths became out of bounds to the public. This included Ripley Green. However, many of the footpaths which do not lead to land used by livestock are now open, including Ripley Green, apart from the paths leading to and running alongside the River Wey.

To end this Editorial on a more positive note, a visit to a Wealden village in Kent is planned for early July - see elsewhere in the Journal for full details. It is certainly hoped that by that time, the foot and mouth outbreak will be firmly under control, although the venue is not thought to be an area of high risk, in any event.

## SOCIETY'S 26TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at Ripley Village Hall on February 22. The President welcomed all those present, approximately 30 in number, and paid tribute to the Chairman and Committee for their continued hard work, resulting in another satisfactory year. He also paid tribute to Tony and Patricia Medlen, who would be moving to a new home in the West Country later in the year. Both had been very active members, almost as long as the Society had been in being. Tony, our Vice-Chairman, and Patricia, our one time Treasurer, had both been active at the May Day Fête and most of the Society's other activities. They agreed to remain on the Committee, if elected, until they move away. There is no doubt that they will both be greatly missed.

Our Secretary, Audrey Sykes, having given notice of wishing to retire from office over a year ago, but agreeing to continue until a successor had been found, was again willing to continue in office - this, however, on the understanding that Marilyn Scrace, who was unable to be at the meeting, had indicated her willingness to take over this important office. Marilyn could not do so at present, but hoped to be free to take on the Secretary's job later in the year.

Audrey Sykes had been Secretary for over 12 years, and had maintained a standard which would be hard to emulate - thank you, Audrey.

Lastly, the President paid tribute to George and Irene Bleach, who were retiring from the Committee this year. Again, both would be very hard to replace, as they had been very active members in the Society for a good number of years. Since they had both expressed their desire to retire from the Committee at the last AGM, there had been several occasions on which the various vacancies that had been created had been advertised. These, in George's case, were for the Journal Distributor, Advertising Co-ordinator, Membership Secretary, and opening and closing the Museum. Norman Carpenter had agreed to take over the function of Journal Distributor. There was still, however, the need to fill the vacancies for Advertising Co-ordinator and Membership Secretary, which would become urgent by the end of this year.

**SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY**  
(Established in 1957 as Send History Society)

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPEDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2000**

	2000	1999
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	1,284	1,298
Publications sales	1,046	1,652
Newsletter - advertising revenue	70	680
Sundry Income	465	174
Donations & Funds raised for Museum	134	104
Income from Investments	128	190
	<u>3,127</u>	<u>4,098</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Museum expenditure	308	111
Publication - costs	863	1,354
Newsletter - costs	1,187	1,452
Exhibition expenses	219	84
Sundry Expenses	798	638
	<u>3,375</u>	<u>3,639</u>
<b>Excess of expenditure over income</b>	(248)	459
<b>Funds brought forward at 1 January 2000</b>	9,358	9,399
<b>Funds carried forward at 31 December 2000</b>	<u>9,610</u>	<u>9,858</u>

**SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2000**

	2000	1999
	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
	2	1
<b>Current Assets</b>	3	11,814
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	4	(1,957)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>9,610</u>	<u>9,858</u>

Approved by the committee on 22 February 2001

 Chairwoman

 Treasurer

**SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY**  
(Established in 1975 as Send History Society)

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 2000**

**1 Accounting Policies**

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The accounts are stated on an accrual basis as include income and expenditure as they are earned and incurred.

The Advertising Revenue for the year has been adjusted to reflect the correct prepayment at the year end.

**2 Fixed Assets**

Cost

At 1/1/00 and 31/12/00

Depreciation

At 1/1/00 and 31/12/00

Net Book Value at 31/12/00

	£
Cost	487
Depreciation	(486)
Net Book Value at 31/12/00	<u>1</u>

Since its formation of the Society has had in its possession various items, most of which have been donated, on which it is not possible to put a value. These are held in trust and are not included in the Assets. A list is available for inspection by members.

	2000	1999
	£	£

**3 Currents Assets**

Stock of Publications (Note 6)

Cash at Bank

Cash at Building Society

Cash in Hand

Debtors

	3,090	2,484
	3,275	5,103
	6,077	4,005
	91	87
	135	135
	<u>12,533</u>	<u>11,814</u>

**4 Current Liabilities**

Millennium Dinner

Publications

Sundry accruals

Subscriptions prepaid

Advertising Revenue prepaid

	1,469	1,253
	182	-
	808	704
	465	-
	<u>2,924</u>	<u>1,957</u>

**5 Ripley Museum**

The ownership of the building is vested in the Ripley Hall Management Committee. The Society has the exclusive right to use the building free of rent in perpetuity. The costs of refurbishing and equipment are charged to income & expenditure in the year of expenditure.

**6 Stocks of Publications**

The stocks are valued at cost, less due allowance for slow moving items.

### Chairman's Report

Our Chairman, Les Bowerman, stated that the report was similar to last year's, and in that respect the year had been a good, steady one.

The Museum had continued to be looked after by John Slatford and George Bleach, and was open regularly, thanks to the stewards. Although it had only moderate attendance, it was usually by interesting visitors. We were there to provide a service to visitors, to receive information and artefacts. Improved access had been made for disabled visitors by rearranging the entrance lobby. Another very interesting exhibition had been arranged, on the subjects of Ripley and Send Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies, almost entirely due to the drive and industry of Clare McCann. The exhibition was still there and members were urged to go along to see it.

Eight of our nine published books were still in stock and selling steadily, under the direction of John Slatford, who had arranged yet another reprint of *Then and Now*. Two further books, forecast last year, should definitely be published this year. Ken's comprehensive book on Ripley Church, containing new and previously unpublished material, was at an advanced proof-reading stage. *The History of Send and Ripley Schools*, by Sheila Brown and David Porter, was near the end of the writing stage, and should follow a few months after the church book.

There had been the usual programme of open meetings. As noted last year, these were sparsely attended, the average attendance being around 22/25 people. The Christmas social, with appropriate quotations, readings and reminiscences, and excellent Christmas fair, was well attended and especially enjoyable. The visit to Wells Cathedral, organised by Ken, was as good as any we had had. Unfortunately, the usual evening and half-day visits did not happen last year.

Les said that material continues to appear for the Journal, produced under the Editorship of Ken. The standard of material and presentation was as good as ever. The presentation (barring a slight problem with the last issue) continues to outclass the other local history societies' periodicals which we see. We continued to be indebted for the typing of the Journal to Chris Parker, assisted by her husband, Geoff, whose combined efforts not only result in the high standard of presentation, but also in producing the Journal regularly and on time.

Les said that the inventory of artefacts had been totally re-typed for the meeting. Two dozen new items were now included. There was also an interim new Journal index available, if anyone wanted one, as we were amazingly already one-third of the way into the next volume.

Les concluded by thanking his committee and all office holders, stewards and other helpers, and went on to emphasise that we had a serious problem with the administration of the Society, as half the present committee were retiring, either that night or during the coming year. He went on to say that if replacements were not forthcoming, the Society would be unable to continue functioning as it had done for the past 26 years.

### Secretary's Report

Audrey Sykes covered some of the items already mentioned in the two previous reports, and these are therefore omitted. However, Audrey went on to say that in the absence of Christina Sheard, our Treasurer, the Chairman would go through the accounts, which had been verified by Mr A H Finn, the auditor. We remained financially sound. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Jane Bartlett, seconded by Alan Baker. There were no proposals this year for the subscriptions to be altered, so they would remain at the same level.

### Election of Officers

- President: Ken Bourne, proposed by John Slatford, seconded by Jane Bartlett.
- Chairman: Les Bowerman, proposed by David Porter, seconded by Lyn Mileham.
- Vice-Chairman: Tony Medlen, proposed by Jean Carpenter, seconded by Jane Bartlett.
- Secretary: Audrey Sykes, proposed by Joyce Mills, seconded by David Porter.

Treasurer: Christina Sheard, proposed by Alan Baker, seconded by Jane Bartlett.

Members of the committee were elected en bloc and comprise Alan Baker, Anne Bowerman, Clare McCann, Marilyn Scrace and Patricia Medlen. The Election of the committee was proposed by Lyn Mileham and seconded by Jean Carpenter. David Porter was proposed by Anne Bowerman and seconded by John Bartlett. David was welcomed back by the Chairman after an absence of approximately two years.

After refreshments, members were treated to a delightful talk by Jane Bartlett on, among other things, Christmas food and presents in the local area, plus some rather disturbing anecdotes from the pulpit in years gone by, culled from the parish magazine. Les Bowerman followed with a reading, prepared by Clare McCann, detailing snow storms and the consequent flooding in 1927 - very appropriate, bearing in mind the recent weather.

## RIPLEY SCOUTS

This is not a comprehensive history of Ripley Scouts, but a collection of memories from local people who have been involved in Scouting. I hope that this article will promote more interest in the history of the Scouts, and I also hope to follow it up with articles on the Cubs and Beavers, and Guiding in Ripley. The current exhibition covers Send as well, and in due course I trust that we will have similar articles to log their history.

I will begin with John Hutson, who was kind enough to recall his Scouting days, and remembered many of the Scouts he admired, including Peter and Dennis Shoesmith, Charlie and Richard Wanbon, Bob and Dennis Foster, and the Jelly brothers, Reg, Percy and Fred, Wally and Peter Woods, Philip Mayne, Arthur Warner, and Frank and Robert Blakeman. The latter were sons of Alf Blakeman, who was a Scout Leader.

John told me that the Ripley Scouts were one of the earliest troops in Surrey, but his memories only go back to 1935, when Jack Colborne was Scoutmaster. Miss Margaret Nash was Akela of the Cubs. After Jack Colborne, Alf Blakeman took over. He was Head Cowman at Dunsborough and the Cleverlys, who owned Dunsborough, allowed the Scouts to meet either in part of the dairy or above the stables. When the estate was sold to Oliver Simmonds, just before the war, the Scouts had to move. Alf Blakeman ran Ockham Scouts as well and shared meetings were a great success, as there was a certain amount of friendly rivalry. They had joint camps at the Ockham brick fields, and two of his friends there were the Gregory brothers, Bob and Joe.

A replacement headquarters was found when the Lovelace estate offered them a semi-derelict building behind the Church Hall (where Clifford James now is). The building had been the old Headmaster's study for the Ryde House Boys' School (and possibly also a rent collection office), and the Scouts had to use the church hall till repairs were made. Arthur and Ted Barrett, who was a Rover, helped repair the floor. The Scouts only paid a peppercorn rent and they stayed there until they moved to the old fire station in Rose Lane.

During the war, Peter Conisbee was Troop Leader, but he left to join the ATC, and John Hutson was promoted. Stuart Paice, who lived at Maybury, had been Rover Leader, but the Rovers had been disbanded, as many of the young men had gone off to war training. Stuart Paice, although busy with war work, was Scoutmaster, and John Hutson became Acting Assistant Scoutmaster at the age of about 16. There were about 24-30 boys in the troop at the time. John Hutson remembers riding his bike and blowing a whistle when there was an air raid, and acting as a practice casualty for the St John Ambulance. There was an ARP Centre on the edge of the Green. John and some of the other Scouts were awarded a National Service Badge in recognition of their work. More routine Scout activities continued despite the war. John recalled one camp in Worthing, and his recollection is that the boys walked over several days, taking their equipment in a black handcart. On another occasion, they were at Millwater Farm, Wisley, when

a bomb fell on the other side of the river. At the end of the war, they held a Victory Concert, a tradition that carried on for some years.

After the war, Doug Pullen, known as Yobbo, became Rover Leader, and John Hutson became Scout Leader in 1949, with Stuart Paice as Group Scoutmaster. John stayed in the role until about the mid '50s, with Tony Collier as Assistant Scoutmaster. There were camps on the Isle of Wight, Ranmore Common, and Loseley and Shalford Parks. The camps at Shalford were competitive, with other Scout groups participating. The Scouts also enjoyed fun on the river. They used rowing boats, kayaks and even a launch. The latter was sunk. Vernon Wood, who has also added his memories, has a theory about who was responsible, but suggested that we should ask the culprits to own up!

Weekly subs for Scouts were initially a penny, but even so, some boys found this hard to find, and funds were needed to run the Scout Hut and pay for activities, and so the "tanner hop" was born. This fund-raiser was held every Wednesday, from 7.30 until ten o'clock and it cost sixpence (a tanner) to join and sixpence a week to attend. They had to get a Phonographic Licence to play music, and the dances were such a success that they had up to 80 teenagers present, and there was rarely any trouble.

The Scouts were involved in many local events and activities. They organised concert parties, which ran from just after the war until 1956. They loaned sound equipment to the British Legion for their annual fête and organised the rifle range. This fête was held in the grounds of Ripley Court School and the Scouts would sleep in the big marquee and have a lot of fun. In 1956, the Bonfire Association was founded and meetings were held at the Scout Hall. The Scouts built the coach for the parade, made Guys and helped on the night. Stuart Paice was also determined that the Scouts would help to uphold a tradition of a summer fair on the Green. When the funfair stopped making a summer visit to Ripley, the Scouts ran a balloon stall or a sideshow each year until the Parish Council took over.

Vernon Wood became Assistant Scout Leader in 1961 and Hubert Hill was another assistant. In about 1972, Mick Ebdon became Scout Leader, with Tony Wallis as Assistant Scout Leader. Mick Ebdon became Group Scout Leader in 1974, but a couple of years later, the Ebdons left for North Wales, so Tony took over as Group Scout Leader. Mike Millis, who had started as a Parent Helper, rapidly found himself promoted, first to Assistant Scout Leader and then to Scout Leader.

Although the Ebdons returned to the village, they continued their Scouting in Merrow. Mick, however, recalls many happy memories from his time in Ripley. Ripley hosted the District Camping Competition in 1976. It was held in a field adjoining Ripley Court School, and Lord and Lady Baden-Powell helped out, not least by allowing the Scouts to fill their water bowser at their then home, Chapel Farm. Mick also remembers several summers in which they spent time on the Gribbles' farm, often on Sundays, after church parade.

During Tony's period in charge, there was a move from the old Scout Hut to their present HQ in Rose Lane. Ashdale Properties sold the land on which the Scout Hut stood and this necessitated the move. They spent some time in the old school next to the church before moving into the old fire station in Rose Lane. There was also a spell in the village hall, while the new building was constructed next to the fire station, on a piece of land, originally part of Mr Hughesdon's farm. It was built using mainly volunteer labour, and they moved in at the end of the '70s. Since that time, they have also refurbished the fire station, and this was dedicated in the name of Don Wood in 1992. He had been an Assistant Scout Leader and had died in tragic circumstances, leaving the Scouts some money, which enabled them to do the work.

Mick Ebdon added to the memories of this transition, in particular to the variety of ways that funds were raised. There were the normal Whist Drives, Beetle Drives, paper collection and bingo, but added to that was a far more original fund-raiser, a foot clinic! Stuart Paice, who was

a chiropodist, ran a clinic in Rose Lane, helped by Elsie Wood, and the fees went to Scout funds. Later, jumble sales became the main source of funds, and Mick Ebdon paid tribute to the help of the group executive (the Supporters' Committee) - Clem Munt, Pat Hill, Monica Thompson, and many more.

Tony Wallis remained in his post as Group Scout Leader till his retirement in 1992. Richard Ayears, who had been Scout Leader, succeeded him. Derek Braithwaite has been an assistant for many years and still helps out, though technically retired. The current leader is Kevin Yeo. and Andy Kendall became an Assistant Scoutmaster in 1999.

Clare McCann

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - STUART MATHIS

I would like to express my thanks for the enjoyment which I get from reading the memories and recollections contained within the Send & Ripley History Society Journal, which gets passed on to me third hand. I find the articles by David Porter of special interest as I share many of his interests, and was only one year ahead of him at St Bede's School. I too spent many hours at Woking peering through the wooden railings of the fence separating the Broadway bus stands (No 5 for Send, I believe?) from the railway line, jotting the numbers and, when applicable, the names of the engines in the Ian Allan books. Also I enjoy the articles about St Bede's School, which bring back a diverse range of memories. ...

Whilst employed as a driver on London Country Buses, I was allocated to the Greenline services, which at that time was considered the "senior road". This changed when they brought in a new pay structure, based on the amount of decks and doors, making the double-deck Leyland Atlantian buses, used on the 408A local and 408 to Croydon routes, more profitable to the driver. During this time, I drove RP90 on many occasions. We also had one or two RF Greenline buses still on the strength at Leas Road. These RF buses would almost always be overheating by Cobham, but very rarely failed to reach Hertford.

Another article of interest to me was about the Connaught garage, as for around two years I worked as a petrol pump attendant there, after school and at weekends. It brings back many memories of the little hut in the middle of the pump island. The photograph shown in the November/December 2000 issue must have been taken prior to 1964, as it shows the hut at the end of the island, not in the centre. At a later stage, there was an end island with diesel and the basic Esso pump. I remember Connaughts were also agents for Fiat in the 1960s. I would query the Forecourt Manager's name, as I recall it was Bregman, so perhaps "Breeman" was a typographical error. Also when I went to see him about the job, I thought I went to his house, just along the road towards Clandon, in the block on the left hand side? As additional information, the new car salesman was Geof Sizzey, who, when I still lived in the area, had his own dealership in the Sussex area, and the second hand cars were sold by an elderly gentleman named Calne (he always used to say "as in Wiltshire"). ...

This garage was the first I ever remembered to have a line of vending machines. They were on the left hand side, next to the oil store. We also sold bottled drinks on the forecourt (Sinalco, I believe). However, these were not refrigerated, which rather spoilt the idea. Another recollection was the first job of each shift, filling up the Castrol bottles from their respective tanks.

Yes, the memories flood back! Again, I would like to thank you and your contributors for reminding me of the many enjoyable times I've had in Send.

### Editor's Comment

*The above letter was sent to David Porter, who comments as follows:*

Many thanks for sending me a copy of the letter written by Stuart Mathis. ...

Stuart is correct in saying that he was a year ahead of me at St Bede's School: in fact he was one year ahead at the old Send Primary School as well. I started at the Primary School in January 1955 and our Infant Teacher was Mrs Bagley from Old Woking, who had replaced Mrs Birjac the previous September. Some pupils of my very large infant class (well over 40 in number) had started at the school during Mrs Birjac's reign. Mrs Birjac emigrated to Australia in late 1954 and her daughter became employed in the TV industry, producing the well-known soap opera, *Neighbours*. Mrs Birjac kept in touch with Mrs Kathleen Jones (née Baigent) for many years, both being teachers at the school in the early 1950s.

In January 1956, the older members of my class were dispatched to the Red Cross Hut in Sandy Lane, forming a class in their own right, under the very capable Miss Palmer, who photographed them in that year. I followed in September 1956 at the beginning of the new term. I firmly believe it was at this point that Stuart Mathis became one year ahead of me. His former classmates included the following:

#### Girls

Anne Docherty ✓ 1956  
 Annette Jackson ✓ 1956  
 Pauline Holdforth ✓ 1956  
 Linda Sutton ✓ 1956  
 Dawn Amos ✓ 1956  
 Ann Dunn ✓ 1956

#### Boys

Gordon Smith ✓ 1956  
 Clive Godsmark ✓ 1956  
 Paul Bradshaw ✓ 1956  
 Colin Sandford ✓ 1956  
 Billy Whelan ✓ 1956  
 John Jones ✓ 1956

All the above Send pupils joined St Bede's in September 1960, coinciding with the appointment of Mr Sidney Baxter as Headmaster, replacing the well-known Mr William Short, who had been Headmaster throughout most of the previous decade. Pupil Clive Godsmark is clearly seen with his class outside the Red Cross Hut in a photograph in the Society publication, *Looking Back*, carrying their Infant chairs back from the pavilion on the Recreation Ground, which was used as a classroom when the "Hut" was used by the Red Cross. Clive's presence clearly dates the picture.

Stuart is also correct in saying that it was bus stand No 5 for Send and Ripley at Woking Station. This remains the same today - unchanged for about 50 years: however, to stand at the same spot, one would find oneself in the middle of the Broadway today! Woking Broadway bus stops were rebuilt in 1977 on the trackbed running into Platform 1. The buffers of this short length of track stood behind bus stand No 1, nearest the station entrance. This was not a through running line.

Stuart recalls driving RP90 on Greenline services to Hertford. He will be pleased to learn that RP25 is currently a restoration project and another former Guildford (GF) vehicle. This brings the total to four surviving examples. RP25 had lain derelict on a farm in Dorking for many years. The old RF types had all gone by the time I joined London Country in 1975. Three new Bristol LH6L 35 seaters were replacements on the 432 service to Great Bookham via Horsley and Effingham Junction, and were often found on the 415 to Ripley, which terminated in Rose Lane. RF212 turned up at Hertford garage in 1976 and was in original form (not rebuilt). This "expired" at Turnpike Lane Underground Station one hot Monday evening on Duty 208, returning to Guildford - no points for guessing the name of the driver, who arrived home in the early hours of the morning by taxi! I missed the 11.15 pm service to Ripley!

On the subject of Connaughts, Stuart is again correct regarding the position of the hut/kiosk situated in the centre of the petrol pump island. There were no star-rated fuels in those days, which included Esso Golden (5 star), Extra (4 star) and Mixture, which was a premium fuel, suitable for low compression engines such as those in vans.

Fiat was just one of the many agencies Connaughts acquired, among the range of vehicle agencies displayed on the ex-WW2 Bedford QL breakdown lorry (not a tow-truck in those days!). My father was a mechanic at Connaughts from 1960-9 and counted around 20 agencies, which included Citroen, Renault, Fiat, Peugeot, Ford, American Ford and Goggomobile.

The Forecourt Manager's name was Bregman and Geof Sizzey was the salesman, who started his own business in Wisborough Green when Connaughts ceased trading in 1970.

The vending machines were attached to the small building which was used by Sapia Motors in the final years, situated at the Ripley end of the forecourt. This small arcade of machines tended to attract the less desirable form of passing trade, especially on Friday and Saturday evenings when gangs of Mods and Rockers would gather, riding either scooters or motor-cycles. When the vending machines were removed, these customers did not reappear.

Inside this small workshop, all repairs to plant and machinery belonging to Connaught Contractors were carried out. The man in charge was Teddy Haygate, who was involved in a serious road accident at Lime Grove, West Clandon. Travelling fast around a left hand bend towards Burnt Common, Teddy ran out of road with a Connaught Contractors Ford Thames 15 cwt van. Travelling in the opposite direction was a Carbolin XWD Chevrolet hopper lorry from Clandon chalk quarry. Not wearing a seat belt (which were not fitted in the van anyway), Teddy lay across the engine and onto the passenger seat as the steering wheel passed over his right shoulder! The van hit the offside rear wheels of the lorry with such force, the rear axle became detached from the U-bolt anchorage to the rear springs and the Carbolin lorry ploughed through the hedge into the garden of a nearby bungalow. Neither driver was hurt!

### LONG RIVER CHURCH, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, CANADA

Last summer, having visited our daughter and son-in-law, now living in New Brunswick, we decided to travel to Halifax, Nova Scotia, to catch our plane home, via Prince Edward Island. Those of you who have, in your youth, read *Anne of Green Gables* or *Anne of Avonlea* will no doubt recall that the author, Louisa May Montgomery, based the tales on her life in Avonlea, Prince Edward Island. Now famous as the home of McCain's Chips - the potatoes grown in abundance in PEI have deep red skins, due to the red soil - the island's main tourist industry is based on a village reconstructed as it would have been in Louisa May's days as a schoolmistress in Avonlea. The majority of tourists, in fact, come all the way from Japan, where she is something of a cult figure.

Having visited the school-room, the story-teller's house (complete with a young man who comes from a long line of story-tellers and held us spellbound), a farm and the priest's house, we reached a pretty little church, looking for all the world as if it had been sitting there happily for years. In fact, having looked around, it was not until we were about to leave that I noticed some pictures and writing entitled "How We Brought the Church to Avonlea". Aha - shades of our Museum, we thought, and began to read!

Long River Church was built in 1874. It had a gallery from where the choir sang. It was not until 1901 that, after some opposition to the introduction of music into the services, a special meeting of the congregation voted for the purchase of an organ. In 1967, due to the drift away from the land, the congregation had dwindled to such an extent that the church was closed. In 1999, it was purchased for Avonlea and preparations were made to move it by road. The new owners realised that, in Canadian terms, this was a building of great historical and architectural



value, and great care had to be taken in dismantling and moving it.

Like our Museum, it was to be transported by low loader, the difference being that four were needed, as well as two of the island's largest cranes. Three horizontal cuts were made, dividing the building into four parts, and under each cut a huge iron beam was inserted to take the weight of the building above it. The first part to be lifted was the steeple, which towered over 80 feet above the assembled crowd. Each piece was removed in this way until the four pieces lay side by side on the ground. Large wheels were then inserted under the beams and a transport truck was brought in for each piece, and the journey to Avonlea began.

The original foundations, sandstone blocks, were also brought from Long River, and on these the church was dramatically reassembled. The result was the resurrection of a beautiful church in only eight days.

To me, this brought back vivid memories of that nail-biting Sunday morning when I was fully convinced that the low loader was not going to get through that gateway in Ripley.

Jean Carpenter

## BELLS AND BELL-RINGING

The speaker at the Society's Open meeting at Send Church Room on 8 March was Sally Morgan. Although Sally is the Guildford Diocesan Public Relations Officer, this was not an evening about religion or the work of the Diocese. Fortunately, the speaker welcomed the fact that there was an attendance of only eleven, having found her previous audience of 150 businessmen rather daunting!

Although campanology is a posh word for the subject, bell-ringers regard themselves as just that, not as campanologists. What we practise in this country is the art of change-ringing, and we have exported it to other English-speaking countries, such as Australia, New Zealand and the USA. We have even exported some of our old bells to the USA. Change-ringing involves starting with the bell upside down. A wooden wheel with a U-section rim round which the rope runs, firmly attached to the bell, enables the bell to be turned in a controlled manner through 360 degrees by means of the rope, causing the bell to go ding. Pulling the ropes in a pre-determined order produces the tune, the technical name for which is a "method".

By contrast, on the Continent the bells are pulled in a random way, and they just chime as they rock to and fro.

The oldest surviving bells in use are 14th Century. Chertsey, Clapham in Sussex and Walsingham in Norfolk all have bells of this age. Most parish churches have four, five or six bells, and many have eight. Guildford Cathedral has 12, Winchester 14, and Birmingham 16. Bells used to be rung only by men, possibly because the fixtures and fittings used to be very solid. The wheel makes it much easier, and there are now many female ringers. Most of the bells in the Guildford Diocese, which covers most of Surrey, were cast in the Whitechapel Foundry, founded in 1570. Others are from Knights of Reading (1560-1710) and Eldridge, founded 1565 in Wokingham, but from 1619 in Chertsey.

The six Send bells were cast in 1947 at the Croydon foundry of Gillett and Johnston, although sadly they gave up casting bells in 1954. In fact, as noted in our Send Church guide book, the bells numbered 4, 5 and 6 were recast from originals made at Whitechapel. As recorded on the bells themselves, those numbered 4 and 5 were originally cast by Richard Phelps in 1711 and number 6 by Thomas Mears in 1803.

Although the speaker did not mention Ripley church, readers may wonder what the situation is there. Presumably because it was not originally a parish church as such, it seems there was never a bell-tower or a peal of bells. Cracklow's *Surrey Churches* (1823-4) tells us that the clock has been "recently put up, with a cupola and a small calling bell ... expense defrayed partly by the sale of two cracked bells from Send church". The church guide published by R N Bloxam in the 1960s says merely that the present bell is modern.

Les Bowerman

## SUNDAY, 8 JULY - VISIT TO THE WEALDEN VILLAGE OF WOODCHURCH

Since our last visit, which was in May 1987, a number of events have occurred in Woodchurch which make it well worth a second visit.

Like Send & Ripley, Woodchurch has now established its own history society, which is about three or four years old. Quite independently of this, however, some years ago, it was proposed to form a museum, and after much debate, organisation and money-raising, Woodchurch now has a fine original Tudor barn, transported from a nearby farm, and set up in a field near the village. Considerable funding has been acquired, so this barn is well heated and ventilated, and can also be used for study purposes in purpose-built offices above the display area. The barn has articles relating only to Woodchurch and the surrounding farmland and, through its displays, gives a good picture of life in a compact Kent village over hundreds of years, with particular emphasis on Victorian and pre-and post-First and Second World War periods.

Since our last visit, the windmill has been fully restored and contains additional information.

Apart from a fine collection of vernacular buildings, situated around the Green, and its fine 13th century church, standing on a site that probably had a wooden church in Saxon times, there are also other places to visit in this charming village.

Due to the new rail track being laid through Kent from Ashford to London, to take the through service from the Channel Tunnel, an ancient farmhouse was removed, complete with its barns and other outbuildings, and an oasthouse, and is being rebuilt on a site just outside the village. It is hoped that we may visit this project, called Yonseas Farm Project, and see a typical oasthouse, of which there are at least half a dozen in or around Woodchurch, built in the 1880s for drying hops. Subject to foot and mouth disease being fully under control, it is hoped that we may be able to visit, time permitting, the Rare Breeds Centre, which adjoins the Yonseas Farm Project.

The visit, which will commence with a gathering at 9 am on 8 July, at The Manor House, Send Marsh Green, with approximately an hour and a quarter's drive to Woodchurch, will start with a visit to the museum and will embrace all the other sites that have already been mentioned, in an order that should give us time for a break for lunch and possibly a visit to the church.

As it is important, as always, to know just how many will be attending, and whether transport needs to be arranged, please contact, as soon as possible, Anne Bowerman on telephone number 01483 224876. There will be a charge for refreshments and visits to the museum. Where no charges are made, please be generous in contributions to these projects.

Ken Bourne

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, 9 June - Unofficial conducted tour of Polesden Lacey by Denis and Hazel Walker**

Meet at 2 pm under the water tower in the stable block at Polesden Lacey, which is a National Trust property.

**Sunday, 8 July - Visit to the Wealden village of Woodchurch, Kent**

Meet at 9 am at The Manor House, Send Marsh Green, for prompt departure. See details elsewhere in the Journal.

**Thursday, 6 September - 8 pm, Send Church Room**

"Traveller and Traffic during the Coaching Era" - a talk by Judith Hunter.

**Wednesday, 17 October - 8 pm, Ripley Village Hall Annex**

An illustrated talk by Carol Brown on the history of Bellfields and the development of its estate.

**Saturday, 27 October - all day from 10 am at Chertsey Hall**

The Surrey Local History Symposium, which this year is on the theme of "Rural Surrey". Volunteers are required to set up a stand for the History Society for this symposium. Please contact Clare McCann on 01483 728546.

**Thursday, 8 November - 8 pm, Ripley Annex**

A talk on Kew Gardens by Dr Peter Brandon.

### RIPLEY SCOUT GROUP c1911

Below are some of the members' names shown on the photograph on the front page. Do you know any others?

1<sup>st</sup> Ripley Troop c.1911 back row:- S.Pantling,?, D.Cartwright,  
J.Colborne, Bert Heath, Leslie Morris,?Edis, Albert Smith, Mr  
Riley, Jack Grace, ?, ? Puttock, Alf Caffyn front row:-?,  
?Brown, ?, Jack Tappin, ?Caffyn

### Journal contributions

The closing date for contributions for the next edition of the Journal is Friday, 8 June.

## SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

(Established in 1975 as Send History Society)  
Registered Charity No : 296324

### OFFICERS

<b>Chairman</b>	L Bowerman
<b>Secretary</b>	A Sykes
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mrs C Sheard
<b>Auditor</b>	AH Finn FCA

---

### OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The Society was formed to promote the study of the history of the Villages of Send & Ripley

### FINANCIAL REPORT

The income for the year under review shows a decrease of £971 (1999 decrease of £991) and expenditure has decreased by £264 (1999 decreased by £683). The deficit for the year amounted to £248 (1999 surplus £459). The Income from Advertising Revenue has been reduced to account for the correct prepayment at the year end. The change has reduced the revenue by £465.

### TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ACCOUNTS

Charity law requires the trustees of the Society to prepare a receipts and payments accounts and a statement of liabilities for each financial year. In addition the trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and to disclose with reasonable accuracy at any one time the financial position of the Society. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

*(See also page 3)*



## SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

OPEN: May-September, Saturdays 10-12.30  
October-April, Saturdays 10-12.30

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

Other times for school groups and small parties  
by arrangement.

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

---

### HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

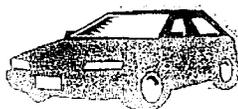
"Ripley & Send Then and Now, the Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life"	£10 Reprint 1998
"Guide to Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Send"	£1.25
"Then and Now, A Victorian Walk around Ripley"	Reference copy only
"The Straight Furrow", by Fred Dixon	£1.50
"Ripley and Send - Looking Back"	£4.95
"A Walk about Ripley Village in Surrey"	£2.00
"Newark Mill, Ripley, Surrey"	£2.95
"The Hamlet of Grove Heath, Ripley, Surrey"	£4.00
"Ripley and Send - an Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures"	£6.00

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

## ACK AUTO SERVICES formerly METHOLDS

PORTSMOUTH ROAD,  
SURREY, GU23 6EY  
TEL.01483 225373  
FAX. 01483 211494

VEHICLE SERVICING – MOT TESTING



FREE LOAN CARS – COLLECTION &  
DELIVERY SERVICE



## VALERIE THOMPSON Professional Interior Designer

**Advisory or Comprehensive Consultations**

*"I work with you, to make your home work for you"*

Careful attention to your own taste and style

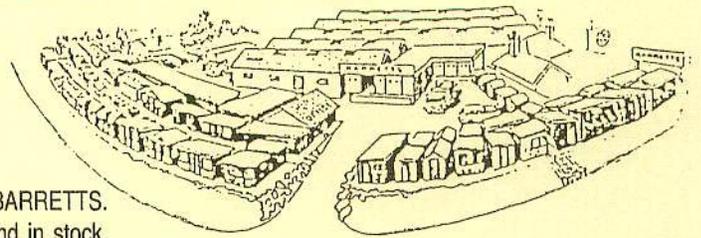
Telephone Valerie on 01483 285666

## Barretts Garden Buildings Ltd.

PORTSMOUTH ROAD  
RIPLEY,  
SURREY GU23 6EW

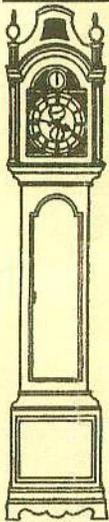


(01483)  
224186



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

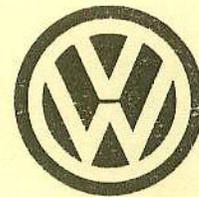
## Keith Blake-Roberts M.A.P.H.



EXPERT CLOCK  
REPAIRS &  
RESTORATION

*Member of the Association  
of Professional Horologists*

**(01483) 771123**



- New and used car sales
- Service and repairs
- Parts sales
- Accident repair centre
- Commercial vehicles

# Colbornes

### RIPLEY

Portsmouth Road,  
Ripley, Surrey.

**(01483) 224361**

### WOKING

74 / 76 Maybury Road,  
Woking, Surrey.

**(01483) 722415**

## AU-PAIRS EUROPE LTD

Providing quality Au-Pairs  
Suitable for family environments  
and the elderly.

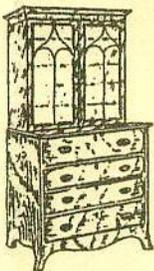
We also have urgent requirements for female and  
male candidates to work in Europe as Au-Pairs.  
Short-term and long-term contracts available.

Tel/Fax: (01483) 210016

## J. HARTLEY ANTIQUES Ltd

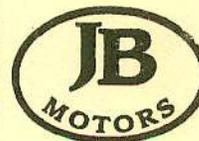
Tel: 01483 224318

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



Mon-Fri 9-5.30  
Sat 9.30-4

186 High Street, Ripley,  
Surrey GU23 6BB.



## Send Service Station

Send Road, Send  
Nr. Woking, Surrey GU23 7E2

For all your Car needs.  
New & Second-Hand Cars, Repairs, Servicing.

Tel: Guildford (01438) 222207  
Workshop: (01438) 222125  
Mobile: (0831) 335590

# GOODRICK-MEECH

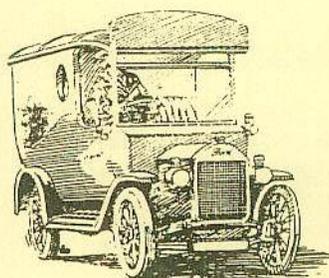
*Chartered Surveyors & Valuers  
Auctioneers & Estate Agents*

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

*High Street, Ripley  
Surrey GU23 6AQ*

TEL: GUILDFORD (01483) 224343

## RIPLEY POST OFFICE



STATIONERS  
"BRITAINS FARM"

HIGH STREET  
RIPLEY  
WOKING GU23 6AA  
TEL: 01483 224688

ALL MOBILE PHONE CARDS AVAILABLE

## BARBERS OF RIPLEY

HIGH STREET, RIPLEY  
TEL: 01483 222998

*Modern and Traditional Hairdressing*

OPEN

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8.30am to 5.30pm  
SATURDAY 8.30am to 4.00pm

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY



## SEYMOURS

ESTATE AGENTS

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

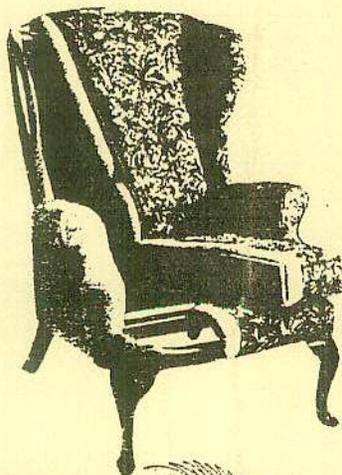
- Property in Ripley & Villages
- Letting & Management Office
- Open 7 Days a Week
- Also in Guildford & West Byfleet



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

# REUPHOLSTERY

Sofas and chairs  
renovated and  
recovered in our  
own workshops.



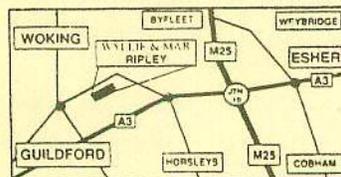
Large fabric  
selection  
available.  
Free quotes.

HIGH STREET, RIPLEY, SURREY

WYLLIE & MAR

TEL: GUILDFORD (01483) 224455

(W.B. GREEN LIMITED)



FREE PARKING