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THE MEON VALLEY VISIT - JUNE 6th 1982

The beautiful Meon Valley in Hampshire was the subject of the Society's first all day visit this year. Despite a severe early morning storm, 24 members set off and enjoyed a fascinating although very warm day.

The valley has early associations with Send which were included in the itinerary. However time did not permit the programme to be completed and a second visit to do this is arranged for September 5th.

After leaving the Alton By pass much of the route follows the A32, originally a turnpike road from Reading to Fareham constructed by prisoners from the Napoleonic Wars. Fareham was then an important port, but has long since silted up.

Before entering the valley proper, a detour was made via the spectacular Steep Hanger where the chalk of the Hampshire uplands ends abruptly on the rim of the Weald of the South East, and a series of deep coombes are formed in the wooded hillside. We stopped first at Rothercombe Farm. The land was granted by Godfrey de Lucy, Bishop of Winchester, to Newark Priory in the 12th century. Its value then was 100 shillings per year. After the Dissolution Henry VIII granted the land, called Redecombe in Manning & Bray, to one Thomas Knight. En route to East Meon we passed Langrish Manor Farm where one could see a very fine dovecot reputedly built by Bishop Waynfflete.

After pausing by the feature named Vineyard Hole we entered East Meon where the River Meon flows through the main street. We first visited the most attractive church of All Saints. Dating from 1150 it has a perfect Norman tower constructed with Caen stone and a lead clad spire. Inside the most important feature is the Tournai font, one of only six in this country. Carved in black marble in Flanders in the 12th century, it depicts the Creation, the Fall and the Recreation. The altar designed by Comper was endowed around 1906 by the grandmother of Peter Gallop (well known to members from the Winchester visits). She requested that her four grandsons be depicted in the carving. The Royal Arms over the South Door are of James I and are dated 1613. On the wall of the South Transept a fragment of stone bearing the legend 'Amens Plenty' has been inserted. This was originally in the floor nearby and is reputed to commemorate the burial there of a number of soldiers killed in the Civil War. A mass dial was found on the outer wall of the South Transept.

We were unfortunately not able to visit the Court House, the most important house in East Meon. Built around 1400 adjacent to the church, it belonged to the Bishops of Winchester. In the centre of the village we stopped to look at Glenthorpe. Dated around 1690, this house has a magnificent red and blue chequer brick front with a moulded brick pediment over the central front door. Interestingly the rest of the house is timber framed, i.e. of low cost construction compared with the expensive front.

We passed next through Coombe Cross, a sparse area, of interest if we compare its lay subsidy returns with those of Send. The lay subsidy, a tax on movable goods, was the principal form of taxation from the time of Edward III until the Civil War. Although very much smaller, Coombe Cross returns for the year 1334 (just before the Black Death) were just under half those of Send, suggesting that even then this land was extremely productive and prosperous.

We took lunch at Old Winchester Hill. This Iron Age hill fort bears the mark of human activity from about 7000 B.C. It was an important Mesolithic flint working site with mines that were only ploughed over during World War II, this period being followed by Bronze Age tumuli and the Iron Age encampment. The site is overlooked by a modern-day nature reserve adjacent to the road, which follows an ancient track. Jim Oliver explained the importance of this road in relation to the present day constitution of our country. Following his defeat at the Battle of Worcester, Charles II was brought this way in great secrecy by his supporters to Shoreham before escaping to France. They had failed previously in attempting other routes. Had he not escaped, the Monarchy might never have been restored in Britain.

After lunch we made for Warnford. The village here was originally located near the church, but was displaced when Warnford Park was constructed by the Neale family in 1577. Only the church and the ruins of St John's House remain on the site since Warnford Park was demolished in 1958. 1982 is the 1300th anniversary of the founding of the church by St Wilfrid in 682. New gates have been erected to commemorate this centenary. The church, which has a Norman tower very different in quality from that in East Meon, is constructed on the site of an earlier Saxon church. Over the South Door and what was the North Door are two Latin inscriptions telling us that the church was founded by St Wilfrid and renovated by Adam de Porte (circa 1190). St Wilfrid, (634-709), was a rebellious cleric frequently in trouble with his seniors. He came to Sussex in exile where he converted to Christianity the last Pagan tribe in England. The de Portes held vast estates (55 manors in Hampshire alone), and were present in 1066 at Old Sarum when William the Conqueror disbanded his victorious Hastings army and when his 114 Tenants-in-Chief swore allegiance by the Oath of Sarum before receiving their grants in land. This Oath marked the beginning of the manorial system in England and from this ceremony evolved the manor courts of Send & Ripley now causing so much interest in the Society.

Inside the church were seen two funeral hatchments and a Royal Arms of George IV. The font has the remains of security cover fixings (as had East Meon), necessary in mediaeval times to prevent theft of the Holy Water, etc., in connection with witchcraft. On either side of the altar are monuments to the Neale family. In front of one are the effigies of nine Neale children of whom four are holding skulls denoting their death before their parents.

An interesting stone in the churchyard records the death of George Lewis who was reputedly killed cutting a branch from a tree whilst sitting on it! The stone shows his skeleton and his saw beside the severed branch.

Behind the church is the ruinous St John's House. This was a high quality tiled house of the 13th century built by the de Portes, who by this time had changed their name, after inheriting land, on marriage, from the St John family. After Warnford Park was built it became a barn and finally fell into a ruinous state in the 18th century.

Two miles down the valley we again left the turnpike to look at the church of St Peter and St Paul in Exton. This is a small simple but pleasant church dating from the 13th century. The chancel is constructed visibly at an angle to the nave, believed by many to be a deliberate representation of the fallen head of Christ on the Cross. The principal feature of interest here is the font, manufactured in what is known as Coade stone. This was a very fine and durable reconstituted stone produced in a factory in Lambeth owned by Mrs Eleanor Coade in the late 18th century. It was used in many famous buildings, including Buckingham Palace, and in the lion on the South side of Westminster Bridge. The process was a closely guarded secret and although taken up by others after Mrs Coade's death, its success was not continued.

The presence of a double piscina dates the church to the period soon after 1216 when Innocent III decreed that these should be provided to allow the washing of the hands to be separate from the washing of the Vessels. An interesting stone from the churchyard, now in the church, depicts Father Time beckoning an ailing gentleman in his study to say that his time is up. It also appears that Father Time is helping himself to one of the old man's books!

Our final visit was to the church of Corhampton, a fine and almost complete Saxon structure. Only the East end is brick, replacing part which fell down in 1855 as a result of nearby bridge excavations. The church stands on a mound which may be man made and could be prehistoric. The structure has all the typical features of the Saxon period, including an interesting sundial adjacent to the South Door. Inside the church are the remains of mediaeval wall paintings uncovered in 1968. One theme is the story of St Swithun, Bishop of Winchester. The chancel arch is of perfect Saxon style and in one corner of the chancel is an altar stone, also probably Saxon, having six carved Consecration Crosses. It lay in the churchyard for many years, having been hidden after the Dissolution to escape destruction. A massive yew tree in the churchyard is claimed to be 23 feet in girth, indicating an age of around one thousand years.

The second visit will start at this point, continuing down the valley to Titchfield. Here we will see a further association with Send, this time with Sir Anthony Browne, Lord of the Manor of Send & Ripley after the Dissolution.

John Slatford

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP - VISIT TO NOAR HILL, HAMPSHIRE

About 12 members plus two guests from Spelthorne Natural History Society (Ken Willis, Chairman, and Vera his wife) attended a field visit to Noar Hill, Hampshire (grid reference SU740320) on Sunday, July 4th 1982. Those who chose to arrive early spent an hour or so exploring nearby Selborne, that delightful village made famous by the naturalist, the Rev. Gilbert White. The private gardens were full of colour. Many wild flowers were growing along the grass verges and banks of The Bourne, which flows through the village. Feverfew, yellow loostrife, water forget-me-not, and particularly the fragrant perennial meadowsweet. The name is said to be a corruption of mede-sweet, an older name referring to the custom of using the plant to flavour mead. One of the sources of honey for this drink may well have been lime trees which were full of blossom and alive with the vibrant hum of bees.

Ted Goldup, in search of industrial archaeological artefacts, was rewarded when he discovered a garage with two manually operated hand-cranked petrol pumps c. 1930, still apparently in use.

After a break for lunch, the group was joined by Judy Medhurst, a Committee member of The Hants & Isle of Wight Trust for Nature Conservation. Judy very ably led the group over the ancient disused chalk workings at Noar Hill, a nature reserve of 'special scientific interest' (S.S.I.) now leased from the owner and managed by the National Trust. Time and weather has modulated the landscape into undulating hillocks and depressions, colonised by a richly diversified flora typical of chalk hill landscape.

Some orchids were seen in abundance such as Pyramid, Fragrant, and Musk, and less numerous were Frog and Bee, and, rather rare, a fine specimen of Bird's Nest Orchid. The largest Broomrape I have seen (up to 1 metre high)

growing on Greater Knapweed is believed to be unique to this area. Other wild flowers grow prolifically, Eyebright, Milkwort, Carlina Thistle, Agrimony, Yellow Rattle, Selfheal, Lady's Bedstraw and many more too numerous to list here. Some adventurous members tasted the leaves of Salad Burnet and proclaimed its subtle apple flavour as "interesting". Many would like to possess a Sweet Briar, the wild rose with aromatic leaves. On deeper soils between the chalk pits coarse grasses, yew and hawthorn and on the banks, juniper, had become established.

The sun shone periodically, providing a brilliant light excellent for photography, only spoilt by the occasional breeze guaranteed to blow at the wrong moment. Butterflies were tempting subjects, particularly marbled whites, and small Skippers.

A memorable day was concluded on the return down the grassy slopes by the sweet song of a male yellow hammer, characteristically and photogenically perched upon the topmost branch of a hawthorn tree.

The group voiced its appreciation to Judy Medhurst for her expert guidance and for an enjoyable and instructive afternoon. The group also recorded its appreciation to Derek Bromley for making the arrangements.
Ken Bourne.

BIRD REPORT - MAY/JUNE 1982

The usual Summer visitors were present at Papercourt in Early May - blackcaps, whitethroat, lesser whitethroat, willow warbler and chiffchaff. On the 7th two migrating dunlin stopped briefly to feed and two shelduck were present on the 8th. On the 14th a wood sandpiper was reported at Ripley Sewage Farm, and with it a redshank and a little ringed plover. Late in the afternoon of the 16th I saw two shelduck, a common sandpiper and a redshank at Papercourt and watched a whitethroat building a nest. A corn bunting sang for an hour in the sunset, but did not stay. The common sandpiper was still present on the 21st and the shelducks on the 22nd.

On the 27th, returning from work, I found two common terns at Papercourt and also a migrant black tern in summer plumage, which almost all of the local enthusiasts turned out to see. It was gone by morning.
D. Nurney

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP VISIT TO WITLEY COMMON

Twelve members of the Natural History Group enjoyed a visit to the National Trust area on Witley Common on Sunday, 9th May 1982.

The Group were first shown a series of slides of the conservation area which gave details of its recent history. Two Army camps were sited on the land during the Second World War, and these with their consequent demolition and clearance affected the ecology of the area. The tarmac parade ground was removed and topsoil introduced from the Hogs Back, which provided an area of chalky soil amongst the sandy heath.

The whole area is 'managed' in order to provide conditions for a wide variety of plants, birds, reptiles and animals. One example of 'Management' is the clearance of certain parts of all the seedling conifers and other trees to allow small plants to grow. Patches of stinging nettles are encouraged to grow to provide a breeding place for some butterflies.

After the slide showing the Group were taken on a guided walk on the Common, which was so enjoyable in the warm Spring sunshine. There was a variety of wet and dry heathland, pine and birch woodland and open glades.

There was a tantalising call of the woodpecker, heard but not seen, to the disappointment of all. However there was a good sighting of a willow warbler and the volume of its call was amazing for so small a bird. This bird is a migrant, spending the winter 2,500 miles away in Africa. One of these birds, ringed at Wisley, has returned three years running, a total of 15,000 miles' flight in all.

The following list of flora were seen:

Spotted Orchid - (just beginning to show above ground)
Common Milkwort - (white, blue and pink forms)
Tormentil.
Wild Strawberry - (not in flower)
Sweet Briar - (leaves when crushed have a distinct smell of apples)
Bell Heather - (not in flower)
Forget-me-not.
Lousewort.
Honeysuckle.
Bluebell.
Common Twayblade - (not in flower)

Butterflies Seen: Speckled Wood (food plant various grasses).
Brimstone (food plant buckthorn).
Grizzled Skipper (food plant wild strawberry or raspberry).

There were some keen photographers in the Group and it is hoped the product of their efforts (more often than not obtained in a prone position) will be seen in the form of slides at future meetings of the Group.

All in all a most enjoyable outing and a day to remember, and members of the Group extend their grateful thanks to Ken Bourne for arranging it.
Jill & Derek Bromley

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mrs D. Grogan, 33 Hillside, Woking.
Mr & Mrs N. Prince, 4 Winds Ridge, Send Hill.
Mr & Mrs D. Mills, 5 Grove Heath North, Ripley.
Mr & Mrs P. Willison, Elmcroft, Coldharbour Road, Pyrford, Woking.
Mr C. G. Hughes, 47 Dean Close, Pyrford.
Mrs J. & Miss D. Corbin, 90 Bishops Mead, St Johns Road, Woking.
Mr D. Sowerbutts, Branches, Burnt Common, Send.
Mr & Mrs M. T. Ebdon, Hazelcote, 13 Papercourt Lane, Ripley.

95 double and 66 single subscriptions were paid by 17th July.

Research Material

The Committee has asked me to publish details of the main items of research material available within the Society in the hope that more members will use it and perhaps subsequently publish the results in the Newsletter.

1. There are over 600 pages of the proceedings of the Send & Ripley Manorial Courts, covering the period 1533 to 1719, as translated for the Society from the original Latin. Among other possibilities this would be useful for researching first names or surnames in the locality at different periods, field names and other place names, devolution of copyhold property, minor misdemeanours, use and abuse of common land, etc. Copies of the translations are held by Bette & John Slatford, Ken Bourne, Jim Oliver and myself.
2. The Society possesses copies of a map and schedule (somewhat indistinct) of land held by members of the Onslow family in 1777. It gives field names, place names, acreages, and names of some tenants. At present it is with me.
3. We have some transcriptions of Parish Registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, mainly of the 18th century. Details of names, relationships, some occupations and addresses, and various other, sometimes unexpected, details are included. A complete set of transcripts so far completed is held by John Slatford.
4. The Society has bought copies of the Send & Ripley Census returns of 1851 and 1861. They give details of names, relationships, ages, place of birth, occupations and some specific addresses. Acreages of farms and numbers of employees on them are also specified. For access to this material please contact me.
5. Individuals own other sources of reference to which they are willing to give access to members. Ken Bourne, Jim Oliver, the Slatfords and myself possess the Surrey Archaeological Collections as noted in a recent Newsletter, and also have the Surrey Histories. Jim and myself have a number of maps (some reprints and some original), going back some 250 years. I have a transcription of the Send & Ripley Inclosure Act of 1803 and a microfilm of the Inclosure Award of 1814. I also have copies of the Send & Ripley Tithe Map of 1843 and of the Tithe Award of 1844. The Tithe Award gives all field and some house names, acreages, owners and occupiers. The Slatfords also have a mounted copy of the map. The Inclosure Map of 1804 shows among other details which parts of the parish were previously unenclosed.

Change of Telephone Numbers

With effect from 28th July the Ripley Telephone Exchange ceases to operate and all Ripley numbers are changed. Most become Guildford numbers, but some are Woking and a few East Horsley. The new numbers of the Treasurer and Secretary are as noted on the title page of this Newsletter.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, 8th August ... Natural History Group outing to Thursley Nature Reserve.
For details please see the note after this report.
- Wednesday, 18th August ... Buildings Group ^{visit} to the old Carpenters Shop,
Worsfold Gates. Meet there at 7 p.m.
- Thursday, 2nd September ... Buildings Group meeting at 8 p.m. at 11B Kevan
Drive.
- Saturday, 4th September ... Buildings Group Visit to Portsmouth. Meet at
9.30 a.m. at Sendmarsh Green, or contact Barbara Tinkler for details
if preferred to meet in Portsmouth.

Sunday, 5th September ... Leave Send Marsh 9.30 a.m. for the second visit to the Meon Valley. Arrive 10.45 a.m. at Frith Farm, Wickham, SU575128 (Sheet 196 O.S. Series, 1st Edn. 1/50000), the home of Miss Elizabeth Lewis, Curator of the Winchester Museums, for coffee. Afterwards she will show us round Wickham Square, SU575115, described by Pevsner (Buildings of England Hampshire) as "the best village in Hampshire and one of the best in the South of England". It is also hoped to make a brief stop at Great Funtley Farmhouse, SU554090, before lunch at the ruinous Titchfield Abbey, SU553061, with its connections with Sir Anthony Browne and the Earls of Southampton, before visiting Titchfield Church with 8th century Saxon features and the Southampton Tomb.

There will be a brief stop at the 18th century water meadows at Meonstoke on the way home, and at the Deserted Mediaeval Village of Lomer if time permits.

Wednesday, 8th September ... Committee Meeting at 8 p.m. at 116 Potters Lane.

Friday/Sunday, 10th/12th September ... Flower Festival at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Send. The Society will have a display on the history of the church. Assistance with manning the stall is required. Offers to and details from Ken Bourne, Please.

Thursday, 23rd September ... Open meeting at the Church Room, Send Road, at 8 p.m., when Mrs Daphne Grimm will speak on "The Inside of the Victorian Cottage", including cottage industries, with exhibits.

Thursday, 7th October ... Buildings Group meeting at 8 p.m. at the Manor House, Send Marsh.

Thursday, 21st October ... Open meeting at the Church Room, at 8 p.m., when Ken Dawson will give an illustrated talk on "Wild Flowers Along the Local Waterways".

Saturday, 13th November ... Surrey Local History Symposium at Dorking on the theme "Surrey People". The Society will mount a display.

Thursday, 18th November ... Open meeting at the Church Room, at 8 p.m., when Bob Claydon will give the second half of his illustrated talk on "Farming Through the Ages".

Wednesday, 15th December ... Annual Christmas Social at the Red Cross Hall, Sandy Lane.

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP "OUTDOOR" MEETING

The next visit is to Thursley Nature Reserve on Sunday, 8th August 1982. Thursley village is just south of Godalming off the A3 trunk road. Mr Ray Fry, the Warden, has kindly agreed to show us round Thursley Bog, which is internationally known as an important conservation area for wild flowers and butterflies. The Group will meet at Thursley Village Cricket Ground at 2.30 p.m. sharp and will return at approximately 5 p.m.

Cars are meeting at the lay-by off Send Barns Lane at 1 p.m. and there is normally room in the cars for those without transport. Bring a picnic lunch or visit the excellent pub, The Three Horseshoes, at Thursley.

Stout shoes or wellingtons. Confirm if coming by telephoning K. H. Bourne on Guildford 223028.

Closing Date

The closing date for material for the next issue of the Newsletter is Monday, 6th September.

A WALK AROUND RIPLEY - 20th MAY 1982

Some 30 members assembled in the playground of the Old School for this evening walk around Ripley. A brief summary of the factors which have caused the village to develop as it has was given by the Secretary, who proceeded to illustrate these factors by observations about specific buildings.

It can be presumed that the London Road, at least as far as Guildford, is a very ancient route, probably Romanised (see N/L 42/7). On its way through the ancient locality of Send (a place name existing by 960) it is crossed by a minor route leading from Chertsey to the North Downs. Chertsey Abbey was founded in 662 and the builders probably used the route to obtain supplies of chalk. The crossroads were therefore a likely spot for a religious site. Thus, a wayside hospice of monastic origin was begun there in about 1160 and is the chancel of the present Church of St Mary. The string course of carved Caen stone is of exceptional quality; the capitals were designed to take a vaulted stone roof, but the building was never finished as planned. This may be because the principal landowners of Send, Ruald de Calna, and his wife Beatrice de Sandes, in about 1200 gave the oratory of Ripelia, together with other land, to Augustinian Canons to build a church in a New Place, i.e. Newark Priory. By 1200, therefore, that part of Send had acquired its own name - Ripelia - indicating a personal name Rippa, or a strip of woodland from the Old English "rippel".

The oratory and then the priory doubtless gave rise to the settlement and the earliest surviving houses were built during the active lifetime of the priory, i.e. up to 1539. The second phase of building in the village corresponds with the Tudor development of Portsmouth as the major Naval port, the passing traffic doubtless bringing a degree of prosperity. The third phase followed the passing of a Turnpike Act in 1749 "to amend the road from Kingston to Petersfield". The Turnpike Trust so improved the surface that whereas a whole day had previously been required for a coach to travel from Guildford to London, now the 70 miles from London to Portsmouth could be covered by stage coach in nine hours. This led to vastly increased traffic and the influx of much more money. The railway had come to Woking Common in 1838. A new line was constructed from there to Guildford in 1845 and extended to Portsmouth in 1847. This meant a drastic decline in through traffic and the end of the stage coaches. A lean period ensued for the large coaching inns; but the magnificent road surface, with very little on it, was as if tailor made for the high bicycles with solid rubber tyres which grew out of the earlier iron-tired velocipedes in the 1870's. The incredible popularity of Ripley with the cyclists in the '80's and '90's brought another influx of money, albeit on a more modest scale, and this century has seen the process continued by the motor car, which ultimately nearly strangled the village until it was rescued by the by-pass completed in 1976.

To mention specific buildings, the Old School designed by Woodyer in 1846 was built in what had been the garden of the earlier vicarage. It has not been used as a school for many years, although some members of the Society attended it; it is at the time of writing due to be sold by auction. On the North side of the road which was followed by the party in an Easterly direction, St George's Farm had a set of farm buildings around it within

living memory. Perseverance Cottage, with a date of 1888, has been extended to cover the whole of the plot, which is long and narrow like a typical burgage plot (land leased by the Lord of the Manor for money rents rather than the earlier services in kind). The Tithe Apportionments record the plot as "Malthouse" in 1843. Georgian House has an earlier timber-framed construction behind the Georgian front. Gibbs Yard, shop and offices stand on the site of Ryde House School. Parts of the school buildings are incorporated into the store and office. Two or three members were pupils at the school. The school was originally at Ryde House, which will be mentioned later.

The Manor House, the name of which appears to be relatively recent, is typical of 17th century ornamental brickwork with Dutch gables and window lintels with curved shoulders. The original house is E shaped. For such a fine house, surprisingly little is known.

The former church hall, made of corrugated iron, may be compared with iron churches of the 1860's. The use of corrugated iron came in after the Great Exhibition of 1851. The building called Amberley Cottage and Tobycraft was reported by John Baker in his "Seeing Eye" report of 27/9/75. It is a three-bay hall house with a smoke-blackened centre bay. The flanking bays were always floored. It is of the 1550-1600 period - a transitional house, part open, and part floored. The crosswing bears the date 1597, and it is certainly of 1650 build at the latest. Clocke House has a fine Georgian front with a nice pattern of glazed black headers and an eaves cornice. Behind it are brewery buildings. The Methodist Church in polychrome brick has a memorial stone dated 15/4/1869. The site of the smithy is marked by a modern house incorporating the name and is in sympathy with the lines of the smithy, which many remember. In 1843 one Henry Pledger owned and occupied a smith's shop here. Some distance further to the North-East is Ryde House, described by Nairn and Pevsner as a delicate three-bay house of the late 18th century. On it is the sign of one of the fire insurance companies, and it has a porch of about 1820 to 1840 showing the Greek influence. There are many such in Chichester. In 1860 Ryde House School, mentioned earlier, was started here. The bridge marks the end of the parish.

Returning along the South side, Footbridge House is a late timber-framed house with a relatively poor Georgian front. Ripley House is a rambling hotch-potch of many builds. The 1851 census shows that a barrister's wife, Louisa Gurney, was living there, and in 1861 an annuitant, Hester Russell. Fear Tree Cottage is the attractive coachhouse for Ripley House. Yew Tree House has a nice 18th century front. The building occupied by Hartley Antiques has flush (i.e. without reveals) casement windows of about 1700. The London Building acts of 1709 and 1711 required windows to have reveals in Town as a fire precaution, and this was followed more as a matter of fashion in the country. Talbot Cottage is part of a timber-framed building with a brick facing. It was partially demolished to make way for the drive beside the Talbot Hotel.

The Talbot itself has an imposing brick Georgian front with a coach entrance, built across a substantial timber-framed house to the west and a later brick building to the East. A bill heading of 1765 (S.A.C. 35) states "Talbot Inn and Post Office". In the 19th century it was owned by the Earl of Lovelace and occupied certainly from 1843 to 1861 by John Metcalfe, who farmed 250 acres. The property known as Barn and Little Barn is believed to have been formerly the White Horse, which seems to have gone out of business before 1861. Green Cottage has dentilations under the eaves.

A butt joint in the brickwork shows that it is of two builds. The present White Hart has been built on to an older property at the back. The publican in the middle of the 19th century was Thos. Filleary. On Cobham Cottages there is good quality brickwork and an attractive string course. The name comes from the fact that the Churchwardens of Cobham Parish owned this property and the 2-acre Cobham Field behind it. It was occupied by Lucy Henrietta Harrison in 1843. W. B. Green Ltd. was established in 1837 as Green's Boot & Shoe Factory. A pen-and-ink contemporary drawing shows it before the building was doubled in size by extending it forward. We are grateful to one of our members for identifying the alteration. Cranford, the attractive little cottage next to Green's, has a nice shaped metal roof over the bay window. Hurst Park Autos' old building has a fine Georgian front. The crosswing of Richardson's Hardware Shop is one of the oldest buildings in the area. An arched tie beam with early crown post indicates a 15th century date. The first floor oak joists of massive section, which are a prominent feature of the interior of the shop, confirm the date. The Ship Inn is one of three public houses in the parish with seafaring connections clearly aimed originally at the Naval traffic. The Sweet Shop next to it was formerly the Ship Tap. A date of 1763 incised on a brick is about the right date for the front, although there may be an earlier timber-framed rear part. In 1851 the innkeeper, Stephen Green, is also described as a cordwainer (high quality shoemaker).

In Newark Lane the crosswing of the very attractive Rose Cottage, built well below the present road level, dates to about 1620. The part parallel with the road is later. Vine Cottages are of inexpensive local build, probably of the 18th century with 19th century additions, making a very attractive picture, particularly in afternoon sunlight. The small garage-like brick building with double doors is the pre-1800 station for a hand worked fire pump. The brick rustications show that it was given some status. It was doubtless used until 1911 for its original purpose, and even now is still owned by the Parish. Wistaria Cottages are the former Parish Workhouse for the poor and are marked with a date of 1738 in what was the central panel until the Southern end was destroyed by a German bomb in World War Two. Nairn and Pevsner describe Dunsborough Lodges as a "strange Tudor Pastiche of 1939 by W. Braxton Sinclair". Returning along the West side of Newark Lane, The Hollies is an attractive house of probably the 18th century with a nice porch with a curved metal roof. The Ebenezer Baptist Chapel, dated 1812, must be one of the earliest of its kind, and, together with the Methodist Church previously mentioned, is evidence of a strong Non-Conformist element in the village.

The word Ebenezer is Hebrew for "Stone of the Help" and was used in the context of Baptist Chapels from 1758. The office of Stansfields Soft Drinks Factory is said by the County List of Antiquities to be formerly the Chequers Inn, but no corroboration of this is yet forthcoming.

On the East side of Rose Lane iron reinforcing plates for the bread oven of the bakery can be seen. Vintage Cottage is the earliest known domestic building in the area (vide "Seeing Eye" 25/1/75). It is a hall house of about 1400 with a combined service and bower. The open hall may have been ceiled before 1550. The crosswing addition is itself of about 1550 with a smoke bay at the end joined to Vintage Cottage. It is a veritable Chaucerian house as described in the Nun's Priest's Tale "ful sooty was hir bower, and eek hir halle". Clova Cottage has an attractive brick front of some quality. The British Legion is the former Infants' School * started in about 1875 at the expense of Mrs Marshall of Ripley Court. Ripley Court Cottage is timber-framed and end on to the road. Little Court School is a converted barn. Both of the latter are possibly farm buildings connected with Ripley Court, the present structure of which is thought to date from 1667.

Ripley Court was bought by Captain Gerrard Elwes, R.N., who had commanded the Royal Oak at the Battle of Malaga. In 1843 it was owned and occupied by the Lucy Henrietta Harrison previously mentioned. It has been a Preparatory School since this was founded in 1893 by Mr & Mrs R. M. Pearce. On the West side of Rose Lane, the Fire Engine House is dated 1911 and was used as such until about 1955. There is a very nice bell turret. In 1930 it was thought worthy of comment in "Sunday Circle" by virtue of the fact that a board on the station announced charges for the attendance of different ranks of firemen at a fire.

Back in Ripley Street Tudor House and Cedar Restaurant are the former George Inn. It is timber-framed, but extensive alterations have taken place. In 1777 it was occupied by John Lloyd, who also farmed some 81 acres, including George Lands. It ceased to be an inn before 1854. Next to it, the present Vicarage has a Georgian front. It was apparently acquired by the Parish for the Rev. Charles Richard Tate, Vicar of Send & Ripley, between 1851 and 1861. The tour finished with an inspection of the saloon bar of The Anchor! The East crosswing is the earliest surviving part of the Anchor, approximately of late 16th century date. The West crosswing is probably 17th century. The central part, parallel with the road, is not of high quality and may replace an earlier hall house. The dormers, although picturesque, are an addition, possibly in the early 19th century. On 30/9/79 this building was also the feature of a "Seeing Eye" report, as was the High Street as a whole on 26/10/74.

EVENING VISIT TO St CATHERINE'S CHAPEL, ARTINGTON - 17/6/82

21 members attended this visit to St Catherine's Hill, formerly Drake or Drage Hill. Artington is a tything in the parish of St Nicholas, Guildford. At the time of the Domesday Survey it was Ertindun and part of the Manor of Godalming. Henry II gave it to a Master David of London. In 1317 the chapel, of which the ruins still stand, was built. By the 17th century it had fallen into disuse and a century later it was very derelict. In 1793 Robert Austen of Shalford repaired it as a romantic landscape feature. In 1890 H. Thackeray Turner expounded the theory that the apparent upper doorways on the North and South sides were for the use of large numbers of Canterbury pilgrims in viewing holy relics in the chapel. The theory was disproved by Mr Kenneth Gravett, a long standing friend of the Society, in a paper in Surrey Archaeological Collections Vol. 70, where he showed that these upper doorways had been adapted by Austen from the original window spaces.

The trading fair at St Catherine's Hill, originally granted in 1308, has been made eternal by J. M. W. Turner in a painting of about 1830. The fair continued until the outbreak of the Great War, although by then it had largely degenerated into an amusement fair.

The party walked down the hill past the site of the railway tunnel collapse in 1895 to St Catherine's Well & Ferry. The ferry across the Wey ran from the Middle Ages up until 1963. The evening was concluded by some members in the nearby Ship Inn next to the ancient building which had been used as a warehouse at the time of the fair. A party of modern "Morris Girls" was dancing outside the Ship. Thus ended a visit to one of the most interesting areas of Guildford.