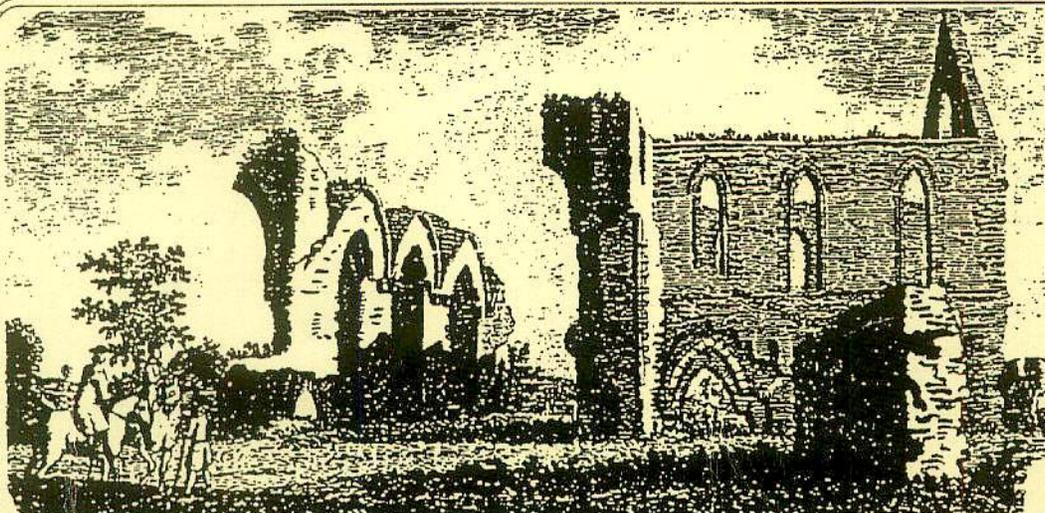


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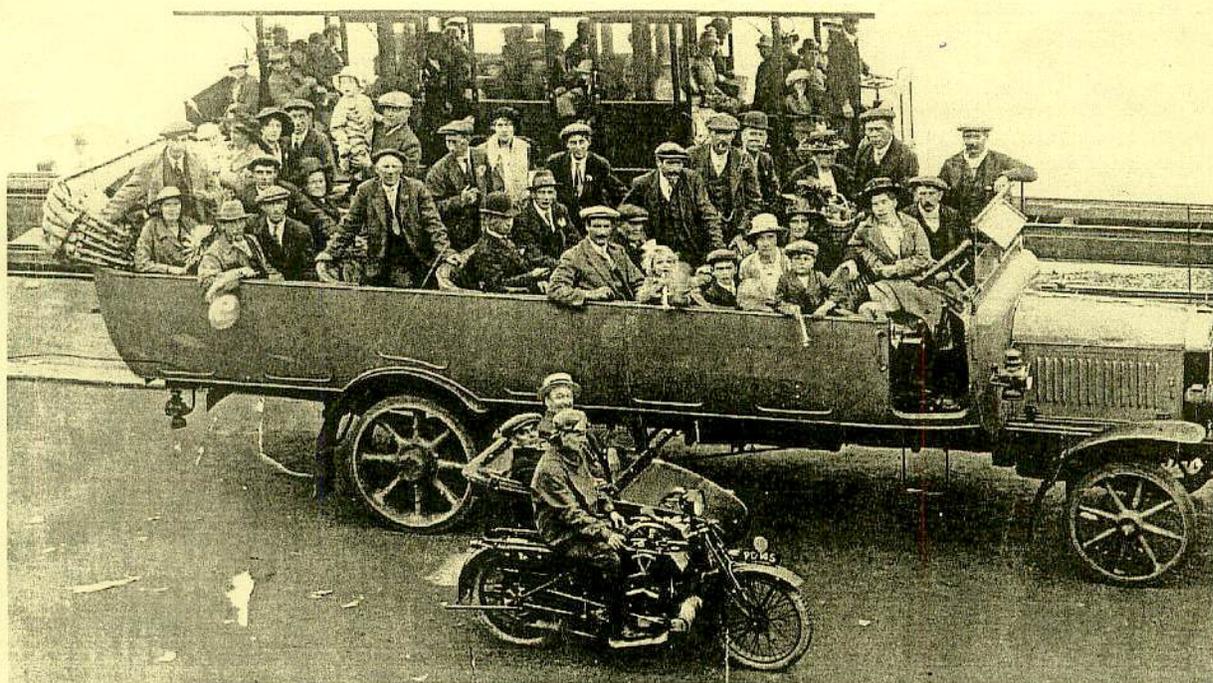
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NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 5 No. 172

Sept/Oct 2003



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Established 1975 as Send History Society
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President: Mr K H Bourne MSc

Chairman: Les Bowerman

The Manor House, Send Marsh Green, Ripley, Woking GU23 6JS. Tel: 01483 224876
Email: les@sendmanor.f9.co.uk

Secretary: Marilyn Scrace BA

10 Birnam Close, Ripley, Woking GU23 6JH. Tel: 01483 224025
Email: marilyn@wokinggalleries.co.uk

Treasurer: Christina Sheard

Old Manor Cottage, Send Marsh Green, Ripley, Woking GU23 6JP. Tel: 01483 224600

Journal Editor: Ken Bourne

Brunel House, 30 Brunel Way, Frome, BA11 2XU. Tel: 01373 455641
Email: kenbourne@novoloco.fsnet.co.uk

Journal Distribution: Norman Carpenter

Ufford, 106 Potters Lane, Send, Woking GU23 7AL. Tel: 01483 714634
Email: carpenter@uffordsend.fsnet.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Catherine Davey

Waters Edge, 27 Potters Lane, Send, Woking GU23 7AJ. Tel: 01483 773452
E-Mail: katedavey@madasafish.co.uk

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Cover illustration - Charabanc outing to Brighton c1919, from The New Inn or The Jovial Sailor, Ripley. Photo provided by Bob Stonard via his aunt Ruby Lee (Stiles).

Editor's Comment

The all day visit to **Rottingdean** on **Saturday 19th July** was a great success, see page 13 for further comments. The society's intended 'Book and Bric-a-brac Stall' at the Ripley Event however was abandoned due to the difficulty of organising the two events which occurred on the same day.

The Surrey Local History Symposium at Chertsey on 8th November is on the theme 'Surrey Historians'. A likely local candidate, the early 20th century amateur historian, Capt C M H Pearce JP FSA, who excavated Newark Priory in 1930, reporting his findings in SASy Journal XL in 1932, seemed a suitable subject. However, there was insufficient time to prepare an exhibit that would have done justice to this eminent local historian. There were no other suggestions, so, although there will be several members of this society attending we will not be exhibiting this year. Details of the symposium programme are given at the end of the journal.

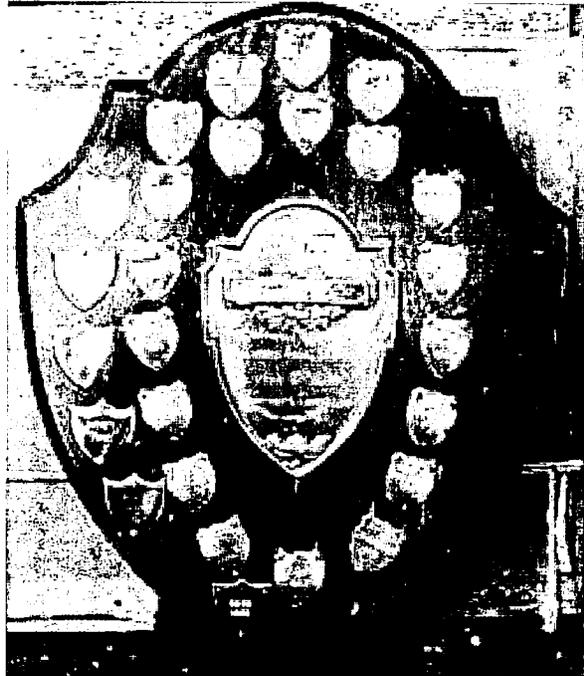
The Ellenberger Shield.

By Jane Bartlett

Send Over 60's Club have given the Ellenberger Shield into the safe keeping of the Send and Ripley History Society.

The British Red Cross had set up the Over 60's clubs soon after the Second World War as part of their objective of caring for the community. They also distributed 'Welfare Food' - Ovaltine, Bovril, tea, etc., at a low cost at their meetings.

Mrs G. Ellenberger was director and president of the Guildford Rural Division of the British Red Cross from 1952 until 1965, covering seventeen different districts. On her retirement she gave this shield for a handicraft competition between Pirbright, West Clandon, Ripley, Send, Fairlands and Normandy. Each village took turns to be host for the competition, giving lunch to all the judges and the VIP (Very Important Person) from the Red Cross who presented the prizes.



The Ellenburger Shield. Photo by Les Bowerman



1988. Mrs Hack with a miniature shield for the highest individual points

A representative from the committees of both the Over 60's clubs and the Red Cross groups, worked out the show schedules, trying to give variety each year. The entries included hand-sewn and machine-made garments, embroidery and tapestry, dressing a doll, cookery, and, to encourage the men to enter, woodwork, photography and painting. There was even handwriting for the over-seventies. The points system of gold stars for the best of each category, was further complicated as they tried to take into consideration the size of the membership of the different clubs.

The shield was awarded to the club with the most points, with an engraved plaque added for that year. The last addition, for Send, was in 1992.

West Clandon, with the fewest members, was the first to drop out of the competition. Then the others, including Ripley and Pirbright, decided not to compete. In its early days, there were over 150 entries annually, about sixty of which were from Send. Send alone carried on with its own competition until 2002, a record of over 35 years.

There was still a link with Pirbright for some time however, as the 'Welfare Food' was collected from a cupboard in the Pirbright centre.

Nowadays there is not the same interest in making clothes, or dressing dolls. The Red Cross hut in Send is closed as are many of the smaller centres, but the Send Over 60's Club still meets in the Church Room.



Joan Harris in Ripley Village Hall with the shield won by Send in 1988.

Gertrude Jekyll – some biographical notes

by Janet Hilderley

Member Janet Hilderley, has long taken an interest in the life and works of Gertrude Jekyll, the Victorian garden designer who was based in the Godalming area and whose partnership with architect Alfred Lutyens was so productive, especially in West Surrey. One reason that Janet is so interested is that her grandfather George Hilderley, worked for G F Wilson at his gardens at Wisley, before they became the property of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1903. Wilson had a strong influence on the young Gertrude Jekyll as can be seen in the following article. Janet's information is derived from the sources listed below, including Gertrude Jekyll's 1904 book, "Old West Surrey", which was re-published by Phillimore & Co. Ltd four years ago.

Gertrude Jekyll was born in 1843 to upper-middle-class parents. They lived in a large house in Grafton Street, close to Piccadilly. Her elder sister was seven years her senior and her brothers were away at school. She remembered as a toddler making daisy chains in Berkely Square.

Grandfather, Joseph Jekyll, was a founder member of the Athenaeum, as was Disraeli's father. He was a politician, a wit, a barrister and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Gertrude's mother was elegant. When she was a very old and distinguished lady Gertrude would tell the many children, who gathered round her, of 'Mama' studying under Mr. Mendelsohn and how the sound of Bach drifting out of the windows stopped passers-by who tried to recognize the then, little known composer. Unusually, for a family at that time Gertrude would find in nooks and crannies Etruscan vases collected by 'Papa.'

Was life lonely for the lively minded little girl who later was to transform the gardens of Surrey? If so, it soon would not be. In 1848 five year old Gertrude left London to live in Bramley, a village in southwest Surrey.

In those days a young girl could wander around the countryside alone. There was dear old pony Toby, and the dog Crim, and the three of them used to wander away into the woods...She would wave to the carrier-cart travelling into Guildford drawn by dogs or the yellow fish-van drawn by four horses going to Billingsgate Market and buy oysters for fourpence (2p) a dozen - alive!

There were times when her governess accompanied her and together they dipped into *Flowers of the Field* by the Revd C.A. Johns, trying to recognize the numerous wild flowers, which grew in the hedges and meadows then. Gertrude kept a copy of the book until she died. While she was exploring open spaces, gardens, shrubberies, and ponds with willows dipping into the water and moorhens scuttling about, she was unknowingly gaining material for the book *Old West Surrey* which she would publish much later. In it she describes the carrier, the saddler, and the wharfinger who taught Gertrude to fish in the canal with a cast-net. It was a world now long forgotten. In the introduction (1904) she writes: 'So many and so great have been the changes within the last half-century, that I have thought it desirable to note, ..., what I can remember of the ways and lives and habitations of the older people of the working class of the country...'

Monday washday meant drawing water from the well, boiling vast quantities and keeping the boiler stoked and then the effort of mangling the wash, hanging it out to dry, hoping for a fine day. Tuesday was for ironing, Friday for shopping.

Monday for Gertrude would be the same as any other weekday. 'Mamas' trained daughters to be good housewives, mothers and hostesses. Few other girls' interests included Greek art, music, drawing, or painting - which Gertrude did rather well.

Events such as the Crimean War came and went. Young ladies were not concerned with such horrors. Gertrude would have knitted mufflers and socks for soldiers. London life would have been known purely from visits to exhibitions and tea taken at Fortnum and Masons.

Those of a Bohemian tendency might have attended art school. Young ladies from Guildford-on-the-whole did not, but in 1861 Gertrude entered the porticos of the Kensington School of Art. She lived alone in London attending life classes, some of them involving nudes and sometimes these would be male. As friends and relatives recovered from that step, Gertrude took another ... 'When I was just grown up, though still in my late teens, I had the great advantage of going with friends to the Near East - the Greek Islands, Constantinople, Smyrna and Athens, with several weeks in Rhodes'.

Her companions were Charles Newton, a distinguished Orientalist and Keeper of the Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum, and his artist wife, Mary, who had exhibited at the Royal Academy and had close links with Ruskin. She would later be commissioned to paint portraits of the Royal Family.

Gertrude found moving into these circles led the way to many important friendships, such as with the Watts family, Barbara Leigh Smith founder of Girton, and the musical Brabazons, which led to knowing Rossetti, Corot, Daubigny, Sargent, Morris and eventually Octavia Hill, the founder of the National Trust.

In 1868 she toured Italy - a great experience. The Italians taught her to use her hands - to carve, to gild. This was also the year Gertrude was forced to leave her beloved Surrey. She knew a house had been left to her Grandfather in Wargrave but did not expect on the death of the tenant that the family would move there .

Gertrude left her adolescence in England, and on her return she found herself facing a crisis. Of course, the trip widened her horizons but now she could not sense which direction her life should go. Marriage did not seem to be on the cards. Gertrude returned to painting, copying works by Watts and Turner, studying their use of colour. Gertrude was delighted to have one of her pictures hung in Burlington House.

Another turning point for Gertrude was when she attended a musical evening given by her friends, the wealthy, musical Blumenthals, who lived at 43 Hyde Park Gate. There she met the Duke of Westminster. In 1875 the Duke commissioned Miss Jekyll to refurbish Eaton Hall and generally give advice on its redecoration.

A year later Mr Jekyll died, and Gertrude and her mother returned to Surrey, moving into Munstead House, near Godalming. She was closer now to friends with horticultural interests who called: William Robinson, Dean Hole and G. F. Wilson whose gardens at Wisley were to become the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens. (My grandfather worked for G.F. Wilson, finding him a learned and kindly man.) She did spade work with Mr Wilson, helped with the rockery and advised that lilies should be planted to show through the rhododendrons.

As her horticultural interests grew the new art of photography fascinated her as well. She found 'There is no need for anything to be ugly.' She stressed that it is not what we see but how we see which is important. Sometimes she took a seemingly unattractive article such as a leaden pump and photographed it in such a way that it looked beautiful.

Life seemed good but short-sightedness had always troubled her. As she approached her fiftieth birthday Gertrude Jekyll faced another crisis. She could see barely two inches in front of her and was in pain. She was advised not to continue painting or embroidery.

Fortunately, finance was not a problem. Her family provided a social network but occupation was essential for somebody so creative and intelligent as Gertrude, and she had already met somebody who would prove to be her saviour.

On an afternoon in early summer, 1889, Miss Jekyll climbed into her pony-cart, tugged Bessie the pony's reins and trotted through the Surrey lanes to take tea with Harry Mangles of Littleworth. While tea was being poured from the silver kettle into delicate teacups, another guest arrived by bicycle. He was a happy twenty-year-old architect named Alfred Lutyens. So began a deep friendship and one of the great partnerships of the nineteenth/twentieth century.

It was decided that Lutyens would design houses and Miss Jekyll would create the gardens. When Lutyens introduced his future wife to 'Bumps', as Gertrude was known, she found her 'very fat, stumpy...she is simply fascinating...we ended up with hot tumblers of elderberry wine'.

By the time she was seventy Mrs Jekyll became wearied of the endless stream of visitors and Lutyens began to design and build a home for Gertrude. A year before her Mother died she moved into a temporary home, 'The Hut.'

In October 1897 Gertrude Jekyll received the Victoria Medal of Honour from the Royal Horticultural Society, and a day later she moved into her permanent home, Munstead Wood. It is still there, almost as she loved it, surrounded by colourful plants with a gentle scent so important to the blind.

Gertrude Jekyll died in 1932. Her legacy is perhaps a wider one than expected. She was interested in the Suffragette movement, creating embroidered banners for the Guildford and Godalming branches.



Gertrude Jekyll. – Photo, The National Gallery, London.

Anyone visiting the Victoria and Albert Museum and wandering through the textile section will see her textiles, garments and embroideries.

One day she asked children to bring their cats to take tea with her own pets. They all sat around with their paws placed on the table. 'Bumps' (as she was always known to children) told stories such as Puss in Boots. When children asked for advice, as for instance did one small Liverpoolian who despaired of his window box, Miss Jekyll told him what to do and wished to know "if my comments are successful."

Perhaps Gertrude Jekyll wrote her own epithet: 'A Garden is a great teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift and above all it teaches trust. Paul planteth and Apollo watereth but God giveth the increase.'

Acknowledgements

I wish to acknowledge the generous help of the staff of the Godalming Museum and thoroughly recommend their excellent exhibition relating to the life and interests of Gertrude Jekyll.

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Massingham, Betty *Gertrude Jekyll*. Lifelines 37. Shire Publications.
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Gertrude Jekyll's Gardening Boots
photo, Guildford Museum.

Dramatic fire in centre of Ripley (Wednesday 11th June 2003)

Not since the fire that burnt down Richard Green's Ironmongers shop in the High Street in 1969 (see *Then and Now* p 23) has there been such a dramatic fire as witnessed by, among others, our committee member Andrew Jones. Andrew said 'that at first he saw only the smoke from the green and thought it was The Talbot Hotel on fire'. In fact the source of the fire was an Arriva bus, which had come to a halt just outside The Talbot at about 9.30am after the engine had failed and with smoke and flames issuing from the engine compartment at the rear. Fortunately there were no passengers on board and no one was injured. The fire quickly developed but was finally brought under control by ten fire fighters from Guildford and Painshill fire stations. The bus was completely destroyed.



Letters

St Mary's Vicarage
Send
9 July 2003

Send Community Collage (Journal 171)

Before the contents of the Journal (Vol. 5 No. 171) acquire too settled an authority may I offer some small but worthwhile corrections to Jean Carpenter's timely and otherwise fine and interesting piece about the Send Community Collage. The Collage was complemented on the occasion of its dedication by falls on both the pulpit and the lectern along with a matching altar frontal. These remained in place throughout June until the feast of Peter and Paul, another liturgically red occasion. However, no chasuble or maniple was made, or ever contemplated. The service on the Day of Pentecost was not Eucharistic so a chasuble would not have been the customary vestment to wear. The one and only time I saw anyone wear a maniple, was on the wrist of a retired priest, one F. Vere Hodge MC, at a service in the parish of Compton Martin on the Mendips in the summer of 1988. So surprising was the sight that these incidental details are burned into my memory. I have never felt the need to indulge in this particularly inconspicuous and exotic refinement of ecclesiastical haute couture. The 'long banners' hung in the churchyard might better be described simply as bunting - or if even that is too grand - swatches stapled to a string. I have it on impeccable authority that these embellishments were actually made by the husband of the vicar's wife. It was heartening to read the thoughtful appreciation of George Bleach. I will be glad to make available on request the full text of my sermon at George's funeral, lest anything be lost in the cherishing of his memory.*
Tony Shutt (Rev.)

* *The full text is reproduced on page 9, - editor.*

A Victorian Schoolmaster in Ripley (Journal 171) (Ernest John Cosier Young)

From: "Alan Young" <asgyoung@sympatico.ca>
To: "John Slatford" <slatford@johnone.freemove.co.uk>
Cc: "Brown, Sheila" <leslie.brown@which.net>
Sent: 25 July 2003
Subject: Journal

Thanks very much, John, for the Journal which arrived safely. The article and photos look great, even if the inscription isn't legible. It is very nice for my grandfather's story to be featured in this way. Too bad we weren't at this three decades ago - perhaps a few of EJCY's former students would have contributed to the tale!

I thought the journal is very impressive, and so many published already. The society's volunteers must be very hard working - probably there is a core group of them, I know!

Hope you are all having a good summer.
Best wishes,

Alan

Membership

Cate Davey has reported that the following have joined the Society so far this year, and we welcome them to membership:

Pamela Annett, 10 Charles Dart Crescent, Barnstaple, Devon.
John Ashcroft, 7 Providence Place, Pyrford Rd., Woking.
Peter Blake (re-joined after some years), 4 Birch Close, Send.
Joan Brown, 14 Fircroft Close, Woking.
Jon & Janet Carter, Heatheron, Tuckey Grove, Send Marsh, Ripley.
David & Diana Cobbett, Brindicott, Boughton Hall Ave., Send.
Mrs M Coldrick, 3 Orchard Way, Berry Hill, Coleford, Glos.
Michael Coope, 3 Maysfield Rd., Send.
Chris Dabbs, The Paddocks, 10A Arnsby Crescent, Moulton, Northants.
Tony Ellis, The Conifers, Henley Bank, Guildford.
Margaret Field, Farm View, 1 Portsmouth Rd., Ripley.
Joan & Jonathan Foster, Langley Cottage, The Green, Pirbright, Woking.
Lillian Flynn, St Martin, Send Marsh Green, Ripley.
Brian Gegg & Susan Gent, Purbeck House, Polesden Lane, Ripley.
Betty Goddard, 1 Sedgleys Cottages, 14 Potters Lane, Send.
Mrs Hampton, 4 Prews Cottages, Tannery Lane, Send.
Tom & Val Harris, Cedar House, High St., Ripley.
Brenda Henson, Rosemead, Polesden Lane, Ripley.
Rod Lomax, Heathfield, Heath Rise, Ripley.
Jessie Mellersh, Hilltop Farmhouse, Minstead, Hants.
Helen Milton, 54 Georgelands, Ripley.
Mr & Mrs P Smithers, 124 Potters Lane, Send.
Mr R A J Soden, Sidbury, Manor Rd., Send Marsh, Ripley.

'Two Surrey Village Schools. The Story of Send and Ripley Village Schools'

Send us your names!

Since the book launch in September 2002, over 600 copies of this book have been sold, not only locally but nationally and overseas as well and our Publications Officer, John Slatford, has been kept busy fulfilling the orders.

The interest in the book for many people, including family historians, has been the Pupil Lists for both schools which have over 5000 names of pupils who attended the schools, Ripley School 1847-1968, and Send School 1854-1972.

However, since the book was published, the authors have been contacted by people disappointed that their name, or that of a family member, was not included in the Pupil Lists and we are now compiling a list of these names with the intention of publishing an addendum in the Send and Ripley History Society Journal at the end of the year.

During the preparation of the book, we were fortunate to have access to the Admissions Book for Ripley School from 1919-1968, which gave us the names of all the pupils admitted to that school during those dates. However we were unable to find any Admissions Book for Send School and had to compile our Pupil Lists for Send School from different sources.

These included taking names from the backs of old class photographs held by the Society; names given to us by people who had themselves been former pupils; and names taken from the Send School Logbooks which were only available from 1922 onwards.

It was inevitable that some names were omitted and we would like to include as many extra names as possible in the addendum. So if you or members of your family were former pupils at either school whose names were omitted and you would like your names added to the lists, then please contact **Sheila Brown** by phone (01483 223024), or by email (leslie.brown at which.net) or by letter (12 Winds Ridge, Send, Woking, Surrey GU23 7HU).

If the book goes to a reprint then these extra names will also be included in the new edition.

'For George Bleach'

21 May 1920 - 9 May 2003

Funeral Service at St Mary the Virgin Send, 14 May 2003

"I don't know what all these people are doing here," George would sometimes say after the services here, in his playful faux-naive way. "Haven't they got homes to go to?"

As he chatted with one after another of the congregation he would sometimes comment that he was only waiting for Irene to stop talking so they could go home. But it was often Irene I saw waiting in the porch or on the path for George to finish his conversations.

We get lots of aircraft flying overhead around here. They remind me a little of George, because wherever he went he left a kind of vapour trail of good humour. In view of his love of ships though, perhaps we should think in terms of George leaving a cheerful, rippling wake. You could always tell you'd been speaking with George by the smile on your face after he'd gone.

George Ronald was born in Wadhurst, Kent on 21 May 1920, the son of a serving soldier, George Frederick Bleach. At the age of six weeks the family was posted to Gibraltar where about 5 years later his sister Gwennyth was born. Perhaps it was those early years in Gibraltar that gave George his fascination with ships, especially liners, an interest he retained throughout his life. When he was about 8 years old the family returned to Britain, settling near Salisbury.

In 1940 George was called up to the army and like his father, served with the Royal Artillery. Most of his service during the war was in Kent, although after D-Day he was posted to France and later Germany. After the war, his smattering of German earned him a transfer to the Intelligence Corps - I imagine that was always something that amused George - and he was involved in the rebuilding of the German social structures and organisation.



George in good form celebrating his 70th birthday with his family on board a boat on the Thames

In 1946 George married Mollie in Hildenborough, Kent. After demobilization in 1948, he joined BP working, we think, as some kind of internal buyer in Southampton, Tonbridge and London.

Simon, Martin and Andrew were born in the fifties and Sarah in the early sixties. In the seventies the family moved to Catworth near Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire. George commuted to London.

After retiring in 1980, George and Mollie took the opportunity to travel, including a visit to Japan when Simon and Kayoko were married. The following year though Mollie became seriously ill with a brain tumour and died.

I'll leave it to Irene to tell you how she and George decided to get married, which they did here in 1982. They lived in Send and George quickly became part of the local community. He became churchwarden here in, we think, 1986. Shortly afterwards, and perhaps it was more than coincidence, the incumbent left, leaving George with the extra responsibilities of an interregnum to bear. In 1990 George and Irene moved to Ripley but retained their links with this church and its congregation.

In recent years George struggled increasingly with the disabilities of dementia and he was frustrated by his weakening memory and strength. It was a considerable grief to him to have to stop driving. But with Irene he continued to attend services regularly. I last spoke with him here at Easter when he was on his usual good form.

George will be remembered as a husband, a father, a grandfather and a friend. In these and all his roles he was gentle, loving, kindly and witty. He was shy, in a way - a private person - but he liked to be with people. He was capable - a great organiser - but you never saw him making a fuss about getting things done.

In the poetry of Ecclesiastes (3.1-13), the writer outlines the ups and downs of different times. During his long and fruitful life George experienced most of the extremes that can come our way, the lighter and darker shades of reality and of dreams.

The writer of Ecclesiastes also concludes: 'I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live.' To know George was to know a man who hadn't stopped at merely imagining the beauty of happiness and enjoyment, but who had found how to experience it, and more than that, to share it with others.

"What are all these people doing here?"

Well George, we're here to say we love you; we're here to say thank you; we're here to say goodbye; and we're here to say we look forward to joining you over the horizon where at last we will all find an eternal home to go to.

(This final reference is to one of the readings in the service. Bishop Brent's reflection 'What is death?')

Tony Shutt.

We are indebted to Les Bowerman for his notes included in the previous journal taken from the tribute given at George's funeral by the Rev Tony Shutt and also for the full transcript of the tribute which appears above. No doubt the appearance of this apparent duplicate obituary would be much appreciated by George. - editor.

'Trees at Surrey'

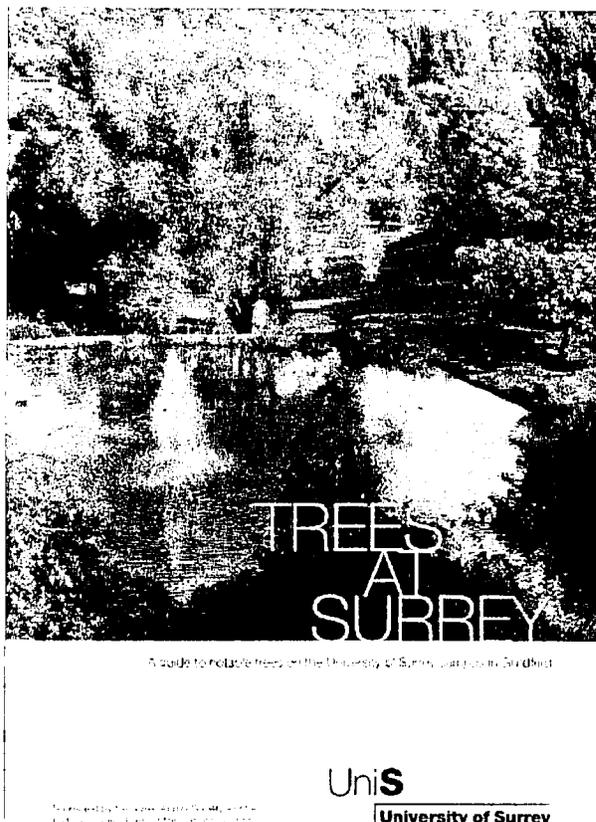
A guide to notable trees on the University of Surrey Campus in Guildford

A welcome new publication by the Surrey Alumni Society; includes the botanical story of the University campus. Written by Gordon Hartman, formally of the School of Biomedical and Life Sciences.

Gordon gave a talk to S&RHS in 1994 on 'How Trees came to Britain' (Newsletter 116, page 2) and subsequently a tree was donated by this society to the university. The tree an Acer griseum, (Paper-bark maple) was planted near the Senate building.

Unfortunately the guide, which lists only some 100 of the 1600 or more trees on campus, does not mention our tree. Perhaps it did not survive the extensive building works that continues to be carried out there?

Copies of this publication can be obtained from the Alumni Office at the University or a library copy may be seen at the museum.



Visit to Wisley and Pyrford Churches

By Anne Bowerman

A dozen or so members met on a sunny Sunday afternoon on the 22nd June to look at two local Norman churches. The first one was Wisley, of which the dedication is unknown. A Saxon chapel at "Wisselee" is mentioned in the Domesday book but although some foundations of a Saxon chapel were uncovered under the present building in 1903, the church is basically Norman, dating from the mid-12th century. The walls are over two feet thick and made of a hard form of chalkstone. The exterior is now covered with a rendering of sand mixed with lime due to lack of original protective dressing. The roofs are tiled and the present splay-footed bellcote was built during the 1872 restoration.



Inside the church, some traces of wall-paintings can still be seen although the motifs are unrecognizable. There are also three consecration crosses to be found. An Elizabethan hour-glass holder can be seen near the pulpit, a reminder of the times when long sermons were common.

The restored Georgian coat of arms hangs opposite the vestry door. Unfortunately, the ancient chest was stolen a few years ago. Most of the pews are Victorian but one pew in the southwest corner of the church still bears the date 1630. The east window, dated 1627, is similar to those in the north and south walls of the nave with their twin lancets and transoms enclosed in a square frame.

Interesting items in the churchyard include the brown sarsen stone near the porch and the tombstones of John and Hannah Choate whose "children and her Children's Children numbering 160 shall rise up and call her blessed."

In 1344-5 and 1370, The Black Prince, who was Lord of Byfleet Manor, was patron of the living of Wisley. A remarkable rector, John Oldys, who held the living from 1668 to 1703, is remembered for his charitable works, which included raising money for the re-building of St. Paul's Cathedral in 1678. The Onslow family were patrons of the living during most of the 18th century.

The second church visited was St. Nicholas at Pyrford, built about the same time as Wisley Church but a little larger. Its walls are nearly three feet thick and built of flinty conglomerate or 'pudding-stone'. The three buttresses made of sarsen stone are from the fifteenth century and the others were added later. The bell-turret and north porch were Tudor additions and the vestry is Victorian. The porch still has its original pierced bargeboard.



Inside the church, which was decorated with a profusion of white flowers for a wedding, the extensive red ochre wall paintings, dating from 1140 to 1200, showed up well. Some horsemen fighting with spears, and men with staves, could be identified. The trussed rafter construction roofs were renewed in the 15th century and possibly raised. There are still some Tudor pews in the nave, those at the back by the south door almost unaltered, and some of the pew ends still show the marks of door hinges. The pulpit fitted with brass candlesticks and sounding-board are Jacobean. It bears the date 1628 and the initials N.B, possibly those of Nicholas Burley who lived at The Old House in Pyrford in the early 17th century. Like Wisley church, St. Nicholas has three internal consecration crosses.

After a thorough exploration of the church, we enjoyed a cup of tea and biscuits in the little Victorian school building nearby which has recently been renovated.

Most of the technical information on these two churches is derived from the guidebook to Wisley church by Sylvia Lewin and Mervyn Blatch and the guide book to St Nicholas, Pyrford, by Sylvia Lewin. Both were published in 1987. The Society had previously visited these delightfully original churches in 1976.

Outing to Clayton and Rottingdean

By Anne Bowerman

We had a gloriously sunny day for our trip to Rottingdean, meeting at the South Downs Nurseries for refreshments before proceeding to the church of St John the Baptist at nearby Clayton, nestling at the north foot of the Downs. The church is renowned for its Saxon wall paintings, which are possibly the earliest in the country. They are indeed breath-taking, depicting the Last Judgment and painted in red, yellow and white. Christ in Majesty is shown above the Saxon chancel arch sitting on a cushioned throne with the white-robed apostles grouped on either side. The frescoes continue on the north and south walls and there is a 12" meander or key pattern immediately below the wall plates.



St John the Baptist, Clayton. Photo by Les Bowerman

The building is of pre-Conquest origin and is mentioned in the Domesday Survey. The fabric of the building is of un-coursed flint with sandstone corner stones forming the typical Saxon 'long and short' work. Other interesting features include the 13th century opening of the east window, although the present triple lancets are mid 19th century. The lancets in the side walls are also 13th century but with Victorian glass. There is a memorial brass on the south wall to a former Rector, Richard Idon, who died in 1523. He is shown wearing vestments and holding a chalice and wafer.

It was interesting to see that the pathway from the lychgate to the church is constructed of "ripple-stone" quarried at Horsham. It is apparently the fossilized bed of the sea or a river.

After some free time to explore the old narrow streets of Rottingdean, have lunch, and even see (and in one case bathe in) the sea, we met at St Margaret's church. Although many visitors are attracted to St Margaret's just to see its stained glass windows by Edward Burne-Jones, it also has a fascinating history of its own. The base of the tower and north and west walls are Saxon and the rest of the church is mainly Norman. The tower collapsed in 1205 and was rebuilt in flint and Caen stone. During the 100 Years War, the French sometimes landed at Rottingdean, the worst occasion being in 1377 when the raiders set fire to the tower and many villagers sheltering inside were burnt to death. Evidence of the fire can still be seen in the reddish colour of the stone in that part.

Of course, the seven Burne-Jones windows are splendid and plenty of time is needed to really appreciate them. In the east window of the chancel above the altar are the three archangels, Gabriel, Michael and Raphael, given by Burne-Jones to commemorate his daughter's wedding. In the south window is the Blessed Virgin Mary and the north window portrays Margaret of Antioch. The windows were made by Burne-Jones's friend and business associate, William Morris. There are two more windows designed by Burne-Jones in the nave, one depicting St Veronica and St George and the other, St Martin. The two lancet windows in the tower show Jacob's Vision and the Tree of Jesse.

From the church we walked to the nearby Grange, which was built in the 17th century as a rectory. Here, Michael Smith, a local historian and Chairman of the Kipling Society, spoke to us about the history of Rottingdean and well-known people who had lived in the Grange which is now used as a public library, museum and art gallery. Michael Smith then led us round the pond on the village green and pointed out the house where Burne-Jones and his family lived in the 19th century.



The Grange, now a museum

We also saw The Elms where Rudyard Kipling lived until driven out by gawping sight-seers, and we were able to walk round the beautiful walled garden.

Finally, we sat down in the peaceful back garden of the Grange for a delicious cream tea. Let no-one think that Rottingdean is merely a suburb of its neighbour Brighton!



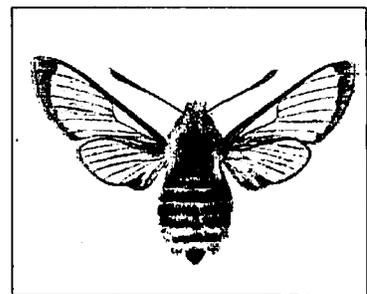
Members 'gawping' in the Kipling gardens formally the gardens of Rudyard Kipling's house, The Elms.

Humming Bee Hawk Moth (*Hemaris tityus*)

By Ken Bourne

The last few months have been very warm and mostly sunny and coupled with a mild spring has produced a bumper harvest in wild fruits and berries. We are assured by the weather forecasters that this is not unusual merely part of a cyclic pattern and not necessarily due to global warming.

However the last time I saw a Humming Bird Hawk Moth was in the Dordogne in France about 20 years ago. I was delighted therefore to see its smaller cousin hovering over the Valerian in our garden here in Frome. The field guides say it is not rare in this country but it is inconspicuous and likely to be mistaken for a bee. With one exception its flight is very spasmodic (jerky), they can move at lightning speed in any direction and being shy can move quickly to another area and observers are left wondering what sort of insect they nearly saw!



Forthcoming Events

All the meetings are at the Ripley Village Hall or the Village Hall Annex unless stated otherwise.

Wednesday 24th September 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall Annex.

A talk on **The History and development of Pyrford** by Ian Wakeford

Wednesday 15th October 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall Annex.

An illustrated talk by Carol Brown of Guildford Museum, entitled '**Follow the Drum**', Women in the army from 1790.

Saturday 8th November. Chertsey.

Local History Symposium

Chertsey Hall, Chertsey

SURREY HISTORIANS

Saturday 8th November 2003

Programme

- 10.30 Exhibits ready for viewing. Coffee is served.
10.55 Morning Session. Chair: Alan Crocker, Chairman Surrey Local History Committee
11.00 Julian Pooley (Archivist and Manager, Surrey History Centre)
 Researching Surrey's History: Manning, Bray and the Antiquarian Network, 1760-1832
12.15 Break for lunch
14.10 Afternoon session. Chair: Heather Hawker DL, Chairman Surrey History Trust
 Presentation of the Gravett Prize for the best local history display.
14.15 Alan Crocker (Past-President SyAS; President Surrey Industrial History Group)
 What the Surrey Historians tell us about Industries
15.00 John Janaway (Author, Publisher and former Local Studies Librarian)
 Getting it Down on Paper
15.45 Break for tea
16.15 Dennis Turner (Past-President SyAS; Co-ordinator Village Studies Project)
 Local History in Breadth and Depth
17.00 General Discussion
17.30 Close

Lectures will be in the main hall of Chertsey Hall and exhibits in adjacent rooms. A licensed bar and refreshments, including lunch, will be available in the hall. Alternatively those attending may bring sandwiches. Surrey History, vol 6, no 5, will be on sale at the meeting, together with a selection of back numbers and other publications. Chertsey Hall is in Henot Road, near the south end of Guildford Street, and has a large car park almost opposite. It is about 5 minutes walk from Chertsey railway station.

Tickets: Members in advance £9. Visitors and at door £10. Groups (5 or more) in advance £8.

Contact Les Bowerman for tickets not later than 19th September.

Wednesday 19th November 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall Annex.

An illustrated talk entitled **The Wey Navigation and other Surrey Waterways** by Gordon Knowles.

Wednesday 17th December. 8pm – Ripley Village Hall Annex - Christmas Social.

Members and friends are invited to a seasonal buffet supper to include entertainment by Mavis Stimson on the accordion. (Mavis is a member of The Thames Valley Accordion Club). Tickets at £2.00 available from Anne Bowerman.

For further details of the above events, unless stated otherwise, contact Programme Secretary, Anne Bowerman. Tel: 01483 224876.

Journal Contributions: Closing date for the next edition is **Friday 24th October 2003**



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Contact Les Bowerman on 01483-224876 if
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help in the museum

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

'Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life' (Reprinted 1998)	£10
'Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send'	£1.25
'Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley'	Reference copy
'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
'Two Surrey Village Schools - The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools'	£10.00
'The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey'	£5.00

The reference copy is available at the museum. The others are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of 'Ripley & Send Then and Now' and 'Two Surrey Village Schools' can also be obtained from Send Post Office.

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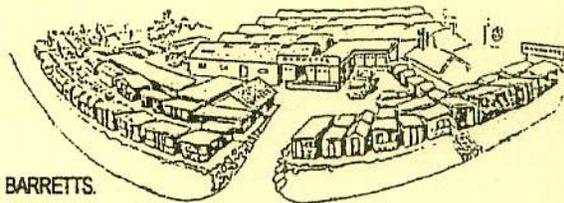


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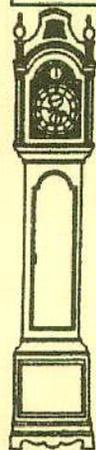


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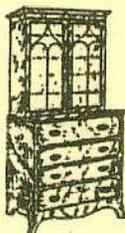
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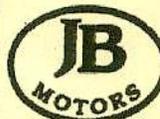
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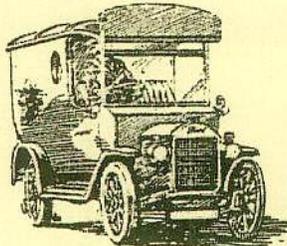
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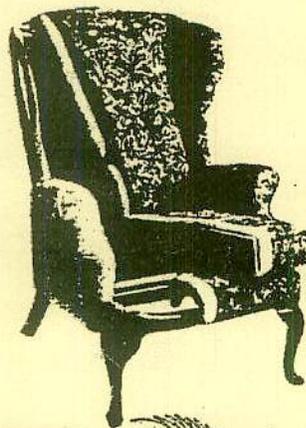
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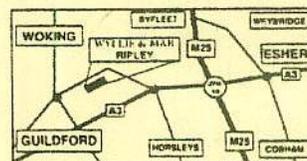
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