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Advertisement for the
Phillips Speed Track
(courtesy Ken Lucas)

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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

As you will see in Clare McCann's article on p30 the big event for us this summer has been the completion of the museum repair work, partly financed by our very successful raffle. Meanwhile the longer-term future of the museum is occupying our minds, as plans for a new village hall are being discussed. The Village Hall Trust have kindly invited the society to join in these discussions so that our aspirations for the museum can form part of the overall considerations about the future of the village hall.

You may have noticed that we have not been taking part in the monthly farmers' market quite as regularly as previously. We would do so if we could get some more members willing to man the gazebo for a couple of hours. It is not onerous, in fact it's quite fun, but we

cannot always expect the same people to do it. Please let Clare or me know if you are able to lend a hand.

I'd also love to have some new contributors to the journal...

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at srhsjournal@gmail.com by 15 October 2017.

Authors of illustrated articles should submit high resolution (300 DPI or higher) jpegs to the editor by email to ensure best reproduction in the journal, but no more than 10MB in any one email

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CYCLE SPEEDWAY RIVALRY - SEND v OLD WOKING

ALAN COOPER



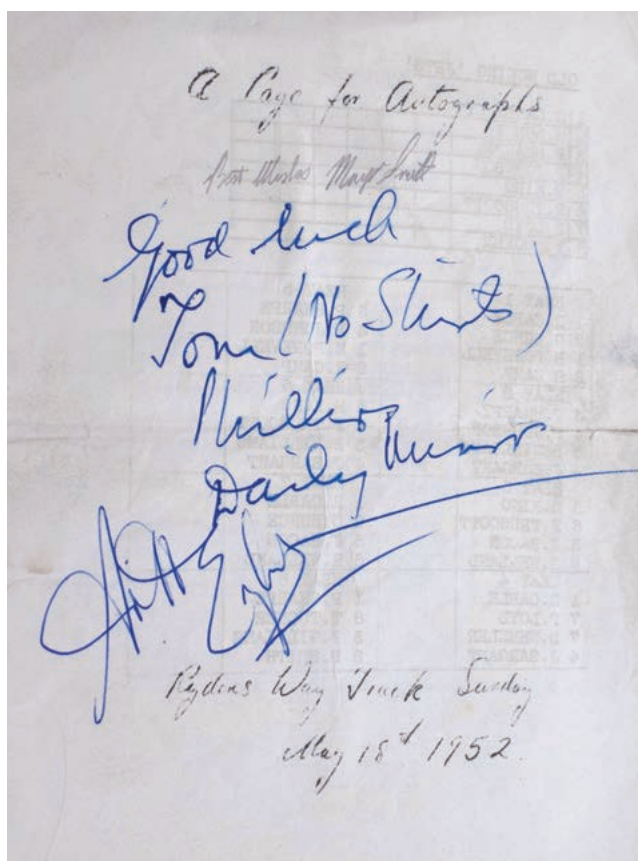
The track at Rydens Way with the growing estate in the background
(courtesy Barry Jackman)

The bitter enemies of the Send Mustangs in the South West Surrey League of the early 1950s were the Old Woking Jets, whose home track was in Rydens Way, Old Woking. A housing estate was rapidly expanding there at the time and the oval circuit has long since been built upon.

Such was the rivalry that the two team managers, Tom Phillips and Arthur English, participated in a best of three race, billed as 'The Tie v The Shirt', which took place on Sunday May 18th 1952 after Phillips had challenged English several weeks earlier via his newspaper column.

Tom Phillips, the manager of the Mustangs was a sports writer, reporter and tipster for the *Daily Mirror* whilst Arthur English came from more humble beginnings.

Arthur English was born in Aldershot in 1919 and became a stage actor and comedian, very much in the style and tradition of the music hall of much earlier times. He will always be remembered for his enormous kipper ties. From his days of standup comedy, portraying wartime spivs, he became known as the 'prince of the wide boys'. He successfully made the transition to film and television roles in the early 1970s, notably playing Mr Harman in *Are you being served?* along with many bit parts where a character actor was required (*Doctor at large*, *Bless this House*, *In sickness and in Health* - his last appearance on television) etc. He also appeared in many films such as *Percy and Barry* and *McKenzie Holds his Own*. He died in 1995 in Frimley Park hospital.



Surprisingly, a programme for this event survives. Illustrated here, the front cover and an inner page autographed by both protagonists! (courtesy Barry Jackman)

THE RACE

Barry Jackman and Ken Lucas, both Mustangs riders who raced that day, take up the story:

BJ: "We (Send Mustangs) were a junior team at the time and raced against the Cobras (Old Woking Jets' second team). Tom couldn't ride a bicycle, but that didn't stop him challenging Arthur to a race – the wager being his shirt against Arthur's tie."

KL: "A man who had never ridden a bike in his life challenging a working-class bloke to a race – I ask you!"

BJ: "Tom came a very poor last, despite our efforts to teach him to ride. Arthur was so determined to lose just one race he deliberately fell off yet was still unable to beat Tom to the back!"



Top: The Jets starting gate (courtesy Ken Lucas)

Bottom: Tom Phillips, Arthur English and Len Pike (founder of Old Woking Jets) (courtesy Ken Lucas)



The birthplace of Arthur English in Aldershot and the plaque (courtesy Alan Cooper)



A recent Mustangs reunion. l-r: Barry Jackman, Brian Barnes, Brian Lucas, Ken Lucas (courtesy Barry Jackman)

THE BLUE PLAQUE

Arthur English finally received the recognition he so rightly deserved when, on 15th July 2017, 22 years after his death, Aldershot's favourite son was honoured by the unveiling of the Aldershot Civic Society's first ever blue plaque.

The actor and singer Jess Conrad OBE unveiled the plaque at 22, Lysons Road, where Arthur was born, from behind an enormous kipper tie, his trademark stage prop.

MUSTANG MEMORIES – BARRY JACKMAN AND KEN LUCAS

BJ: "We raced against a number of teams locally. There were five in Guildford:

Guildford Aces – whose track was at Station Meadows, up against the railway embankment at the entrance to Walnut Tree Close where Grays Garage used to be – now a hotel. Guildford Grayhounds – whose track was in Foxenden Quarry – now a multi-storey carpark. Guildford Park Panthers – whose track was below where the cathedral now stands. Stoughton Stars – whose track was off the Worplesdon Road opposite Keens Lane – now residential housing. Westway Bluebirds – whose track was in Westway, off the Aldershot road – now a school.

In Aldershot The Shots had a track in the speedway car park. Chobham Rockets had a track at Mimbridge. Lightwater Aces had one at High Curley, off the Red Road. Old Woking Jets had theirs in Rydens Way, now a residential estate. Chertsey Mustangs' track was on the wasteland opposite the shops at Clay Corner,

scene of the notorious 'murder at Clay Corner'. Then there was Walton Swans, Ash Aces and teams from Brookwood and Raynes Park.

We travelled quite a lot and were fortunate to have a local haulier by the name of Fred Norman who had a small open-backed lorry and he took us everywhere, and all our bikes and girlfriends too. There were no seats and we had to perch on the sideboards. There would be hell to pay if you did that these days!

We made our track on the triangular plot of wasteland opposite the Send village Hall, where Mr Hester kept his horse, Polly. There are bungalows there now. There was also the old wartime salvage shed for scrap paper and the ARP depot which had doubled as an air raid shelter.

One day a football kicked against it went straight through! We entered the hole to find on the reverse side a white painted square. The bricks painted white were held together with just sand so in the event a bomb exploded and people were trapped inside they would know where to make their escape. Some of the parents involved with the racing boarded it up and we used it as a storeroom. At the time, it was full of spades and gas masks. It was pulled down while I was in the army during which time the cycle speedway just died."

KL: “We built all the bikes ourselves from whatever we could lay our hands on. Phillips the bike firm made ‘The Phillips Speed Track’ but none of us could afford one and at £8/16/5d plus £2/1/1d purchase tax, they sold very few. If you got a pedal in your wheel it would rip out about 20 spokes and buckle the wheel – unsalvageable – so it was nothing to see people with a 28 inch in the back and a 26 inch in the front. You just got a replacement from wherever you could!

The only thing we ever had to buy was the big knobbly tyres and sometimes, from Broomfield’s the boot mender (who also had a small range of cycle accessories), the big back cog-wheels. His shop was next to Sex’s and when he moved out and had a new shop built on the next plot, his old place became Gott’s the chemist.”

BJ: “Although a lot of our kit was made by parents, we did a fair amount of ‘fundraising’ and of course, when a sport like this started to boom, along came the entrepreneurs who made a living selling the accessories, one such example being the plastic breast-plates worn front and back.

Our colours were quite distinctive: basically, red with a black horse contained within a yellow shield.”



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THE SVENHONGER DIARIES

EDITED BY CLARE MCCANN

This is the fifth and final set of extracts from Gerald Sanger's extensive diaries. He was born on the 23 May 1898 in Surbiton but from the Society's perspective the main interest lies in his accounts of Send village life in the Second World War though some of his general observations about the war are equally fascinating.

The diaries are called *The Svenhonger Diaries*, a joke derived from the name of an ancestor, possibly called Severn-hanger. The three published volumes of the diaries have been edited by his son Clyde and they cover the period leading up to the war and run on until 1946. The previous four extracts were published in journals 248, 249, 250 and 255.

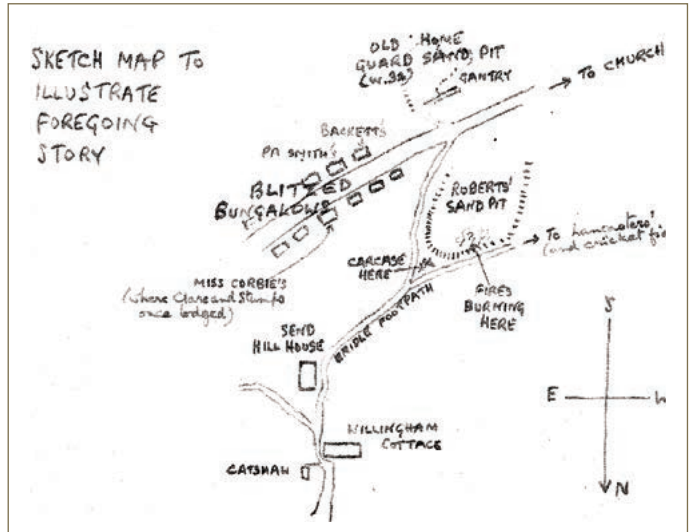
1944. Invasion Year

An entry for January sheds light on the build up to D-Day:

'Send for the last ten days has been in the occupation of Canadian engineers (86th Canadian Bridging Unit). Since the anti-aircraft guns were removed from the Broadmead in the spring of 1942, our only soldiers have been the Bomb Disposal Squad at Send Heath House. Even they have now departed. So the arrival of long columns of lorries and tractors in the early hours of January 7th was a major event in the war chronicles of the village. They planted themselves in the field opposite the Co-op [now the funeral directors] and behind the Church Hall, and prepared to bridge the Sandpits.' There were hopes that Monty and or the King would come but when 'brass-hats' arrived it was neither of them.

D-day was on the 6th of June but it did not mean there was no more local war-related activity as June also marked the arrival of doodlebugs. On the 21st June one fell near Papercourt Farm and a farmworker was slightly hurt. Another one fell on the Roberts' sandpit. Gerald put on his uniform. He started up the bridle-path behind Willingham Cottage where he met Leo Broadwood (they had not been on speaking terms for some time):

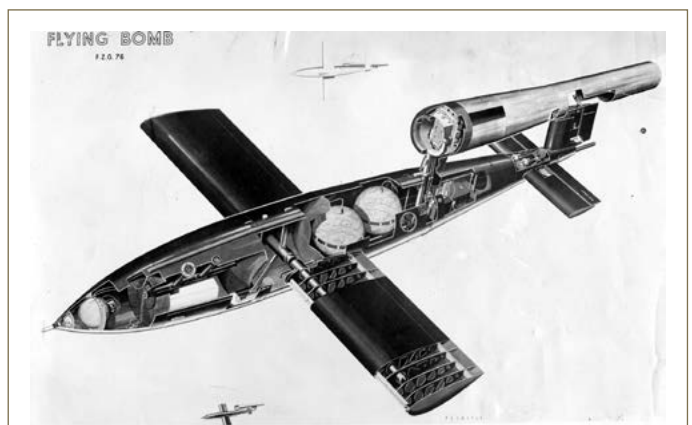
'We conversed and he assured me that the bomb had fallen in the Sand Pit and that he wouldn't give much for the lives of the Roberts. Nevertheless, when flashing my torch, I found the two sons of Roberts, the big gypsy wood merchant, shovelling sods of turf on the dying embers'. Everyone survived and the twisted wreckage of the doodlebug was on the edge of the Sand Pit.



A contemporary drawing showing the location of the Sand Pit

About six bungalows had been badly mauled, and many others were affected'. Various wardens and rescue workers attended and one casualty was taken away by ambulance.

Hope, with her WVS hat on, arrived and, having decided not to open the Drill Hall, took the homeless back to Willingham Cottage for the night. She seems to have taken every waif and stray in throughout the war regardless of the difficulties of space, rationing etc. However, this decision got her in to a certain amount of trouble with County HQ. Next day people came to view the site but not for long, as anti-aircraft gunners removed the carcass claiming they had brought it down.



The V-1 flying bomb, or 'doodlebug'

*'I think I am an awful mug
To mind about the Doodlebug
But curse the man who's just too smug
To mind about the Doodlebug'*

Five-year-old Jimmy Sanger was overheard initiating a conversation with a complete stranger:

'Aren't we having a lot of Doodles today?' This in a bright tone of voice, as if remarking, *"The weather is extraordinary mild."*

In August a second doodlebug fell in Send Barns Lane, narrowly missing Copse Cottage, the home of the Harrington family who had children sleeping at the time. Mr Harrington was injured but not killed and there was quite a bit of damage. One man, however, was killed – *'he was walking in Send Barns Lane after saying goodnight to his girl'*. But this time the WVS *'is considered to have put up a good show.'*

Later that month there is an entry relating to the tragedy at Burnt Common, when four members of the Privett family were killed. Various rescue services were called to assist but Hope had a lot of involvement regarding the three surviving children and others who had been made homeless. Gerald comments, *'the Chairman of the WVS seems to be earning medals in this village.'*

Prior to this incident there are more notes on swimming in the Wey at Triggs Lock: *'there was the usual seething mass of humanity, comprising soldiers, village lads and lasses and visiting Boy Scouts, all looking much the same in their condition of undress... Every now and then the lock would empty and a punt issue forth. This event would be signalled by the more obstreperous of the Boy Scouts diving with a great splash under the passing craft.'*

There is a sense in the diary that the war is finally drawing to a close, despite the doodlebugs. Gerald and Hope both shared the thought, *'Thank God I have lived to see these days'*. For example in September 1944 the Home Guard began to be stood down.

In November Hope got embroiled in a dispute with Nurse Moore who had been the district nurse for 14 years. When the Ripley nurse retired she was asked to cover both villages and move from the cottage she rented from Miss Lancaster. She felt hard done by and the issue split the village. The affair ended with Nurse Moore's departure:

'Hope predicted that Miss Moore would contrive to wreck the Nursing Association's car before turning it in. The prediction proved correct, though the accident occurred in such circumstances



Hope Sanger

as to make it doubtful whether the skid was deliberate or not. Apparently she was driving past Mays Corner on her way to the main road, when the Baby Austin executed a series of acrobatic evolutions, ending up against a telephone pole. Nurse Moore climbed cheerily from the wreckage. Of the cause of this spectacular affair, different accounts are current. Some say that the lady had taken her hands off the wheel and was waving to her crony, Mrs Gibbons [Pat Clack's mother] wife of the local bookmaker. Others suggest there was a grease spot on the road. Miss Moore herself says she had a soft tyre...'

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Nurse Moore, according to Gerald, insinuated fear for what will happen to the Nursing Association, once her devoted enthusiasm was removed...Hope clearly wanted to be sure she would actually go! There was a farewell dance in her honour organised by the Home Guard. The proceeds were devoted to a charity of her choice which was not the Send, Ripley and Ockham Nursing Association.

1945. Year of Victory

The end of 1944 was a memorable one for Gerald, as he became a director of Associated Newspapers. In the New Year he reflects on the war and appreciates his relative good fortune. Gerald muses on rationing and realises he has done very well and has suffered very few deprivations. A short time later he mentions the fuel shortage and the one day without electricity; but with plenty of logs at Willingham Cottage they were fortunate. One assumes Hope had a much bigger task stretching rations to feed the household.

In February 1945 a local man, Bill Dockerty, was killed in a raid over Germany. Gerald recalls travelling up to town with the young Bill Dockerty in 1940 when he was 17. At that time Bill was in the Send Home Guard, in the same night squad as Gerald, Ernie Smith and Wally Broomfield. Bill was the Dockerty's only son and when he joined the RAF, he became a rear gunner.



Gerald Sanger

On the 4th March Gerald reports another VI flying bomb – not so close, but there were still some landing in Surrey. In an interesting comment he also mentions censorship rules regarding reporting; apparently the fear was that the Germans would get a sense of the range of both the VI and the new VII rockets. In April he mentions an encounter with Albert Smith: *'the old rogue who had a market garden adjacent to the sand pits. He and his wife had gone to Blackpool for several months to get away from the VIs. He told his friends at the local: "I had more money than guts. I'm not like you – you had more guts than money!"'* He was now back in Send growing flowers, which he thought would be more profitable than vegetables.

In April 1945 normality was beginning to reassert itself. *'Send has a Fair again; the Dodgem cars at a shilling a time are doing enormous business.'* However fundraising was still carrying on, as on the 1st May Hope and Clyde were counting money raised for the YWCA by house to house collections and Mrs Kinsey's piano recital, when it was announced on the radio that Hitler was dead.

Thoughts were turning to post-war politics and at a meeting of the Send Conservative Association the local Squire, Mr Grantham (Aldertons) was re-elected as Chairman and Gerald Sanger proposed both the Duchess of Westminster and Lady Erleigh (Cartbridge House) and they were duly elected. The Chairman was somewhat taken aback when the Duchess recommended Bill Challen for the committee. In Gerald's opinion he *'was not only a most likeable man but one of the most knowledgeable men in the village as well.'* He was duly elected but Thursdays were ruled out for meetings as it was ITMA on the radio that night (Mr Grantham had no idea what ITMA was).

VE Day began with a thunderstorm. Gerald and his son, Clyde, spent the day in London. The following day Hope, rather against her wishes, was persuaded to go to the Erleighs (*that meddling woman*) and drink champagne and eventually play blind man's buff and dance. Hope commented, *"I didn't know it was going to be a children's party"*. Hope was not amused.

Hope organized a real children's party and asked the Duchess of Westminster to present the prizes. This was held on the sports field of the Central School, (St Bede's). Mrs May from Ashburton House was apparently dominating the conversation with the Duchess – sounding off about a failure to teach girls to curtsy, the corruption of the younger generation and general decline in manners. It seemed that, much to her horror, her son, Michael, was considering becoming a socialist.

In June there was a further mention of politics in Send. The Liberal candidate was 'orating' from a loud speaker van. The Labour candidate was, as yet, an unknown quantity but the Conservative was Sir John Jarvis, *'an elderly legislator...however he supports Mr Churchill. So we must support him.'* Gerald described himself as *'a Conservative, Traditionalist, Imperialist – all those things. So fortunately is that strong-minded woman, my wife.'* The candidate seems to have held a conventional and slightly dull meeting in Send until the Baptist farmer, Mr Secrett, asked him *"what he has to do with the Vatican?"* When asked to clarify his question, he said, *"Would you refuse to send an Embassy to the Vatican?"* When the candidate refused to give any such undertaking the fervent, if somewhat odd evangelist demanded, *"You wouldn't send an Embassy to the Devil, would you?"*

On polling day Hope and Mr Skinner were the first tellers of the day. The Committee Rooms were an empty shop at the end of Sandy Lane. Voting was at the Drill Hall and there were no Liberal or Labour tellers. *'So we had it all our own way throughout the day. The weather was glorious and it became a 'Social Occasion in Send.'* Hope was driving the Reluctant Dragon [their car] in and out of the forecourt with invalids and 'strays' as directed by the transport officer. The telling seems to have mainly taken place on the way in to the poll, which was, strictly speaking, against the rules. Later in the day Gerald was telling and was accosted by Mr Gibbons, *'whose garrulity held up one set of polling slips for ten minutes.'* There was some irritation that the candidate had not put in an appearance but had gone to Ripley! The result of the Labour victory in the country was not announced until the 26th because of so many troops voting overseas.

There was a rather low key service at Send Church for VJ day and this was not helped by the vicar being absent. There was a VJ celebration at Willingham Cottage and the last of the pre-war champagne drunk. Hope was still very busy – *'her public spirit sends her all round Surrey on errands for the WVS and the Food Council and carries her twice a week to Stoughton barracks to dispense her urned tea to demobilizing soldiers.'* A little later in the diary he writes, *'Hope's good works have brought her into contact not*

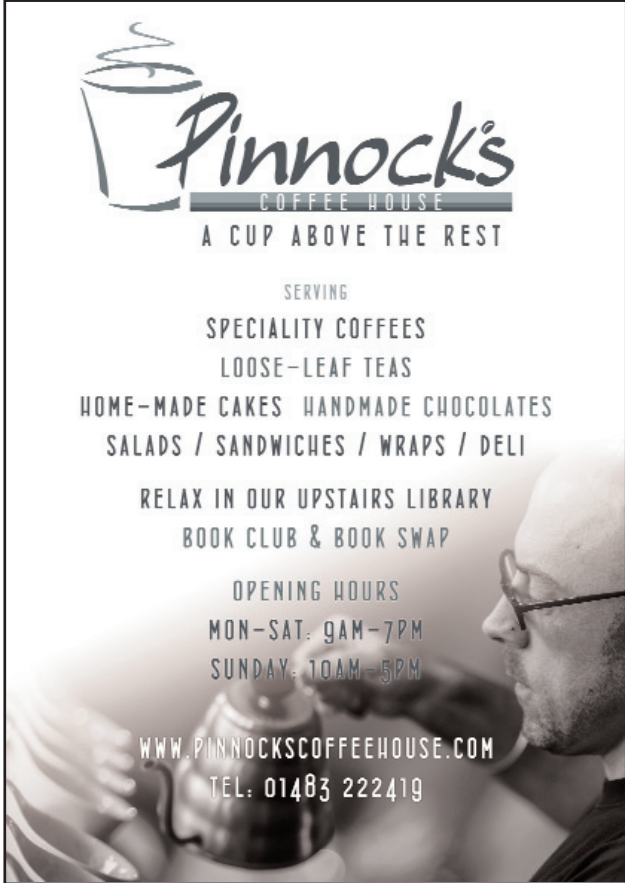
only with demobilizing soldiers (at Stoughton Barracks) but also with returning prisoners-of-war. WVS cars have been periodically called on to meet train-loads of men from the Far East arriving at London termini.'

In one of his many London lunches, Gerald dined with Ian Fleming and Lady Rothermere (later to marry him) who were planning to visit Loelia, Duchess of Westminster, in Send. They were asking for gossip and Gerald told them she had stopped coming to church which had 'shocked' the village. She did present prizes at events but did not belong to the WI. Lady Rothermere asked, *"And what does the village say about all the comings and goings at her house?"* Sadly Gerald's only reply was *"There are rumours"*.

1946. Epilogue

On the 14th of August there is a nice entry reflecting on peacetime changes:

'Jim Oliver is harvesting wheat in his field at last. Brother Fred Oliver, ex-warrant officer RAF is driving the tractor, while a flaxen-haired German prisoner of war sits behind on the dickey seat watching the grain cut and bound into sheaves. How often have I imagined these same Germans, who stood Oliver's sheaves within a stone's throw of the Cottage, advancing over the same field with hand grenades and Tommy guns! Now we contemplate them fearlessly and a little sympathetically from a distance of a few yards, as they help bring in the harvest which will end bread rationing'



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Top: The Golden Fleece in Elstead
Bottom: Image from the photographic plates

JOHN SLATFORD WRITES:

In J255 the article on page 11 asked for identification of three prints from old photographic plates. Janet Tice had suggested to me that the house at the top of the page could be Send Lodge, opposite the New Inn at Cartbridge. I wrote about Send Lodge in Journals 223 and 224 so I made a point of re-checking. The photo and the house are very similar and my first thought was that they were the same. However, the house on the photo has a stone porch and there are three wide steps leading up to it. Send Lodge might have had these features originally but the present driveway is much higher, almost up to front door level. A final clue which convinced me that they were not the same is that the photo shows another building to the left. Since then and quite by chance, Janet Tice was in Elstead and saw the building in the village, quite clearly the same one, and bearing the sign 'Golden Fleece'. So the question is answered.

The middle photo showing a boathouse might possibly have been the one in Send Lodge garden. The Send Lodge boathouse has long gone with only a slipway remaining. The photo might be Send Lodge but there is no way to be sure.

Finally the bottom photo is certainly Cartbridge. Janet has told me that we have a very similar view in our postcard collection – also in *Then & Now* on page 90. The bridge then was wooden and was replaced in 1915.

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EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

ALAN COOPER

In 1841, fewer than 6% of people living in Ockham were born outside Surrey but by 1901 this figure had increased to 45%, with only 30% of the residents being born there. Times were changing and the downturn in domestic agriculture from the late 1870s onwards saw a change in the fortunes of many landowners. Farmhouses were sold or rented to wealthy outsiders to be used as residences and agricultural employment declined rapidly.¹

The changes at Bridge End House in Ockham (also known as Bridge End, Bridgend or Bridgend House) give us a snapshot of such changes.

The Ockham Park estate, which comprised the majority of the village, included Bridge End House which, in 1933, underwent major structural building work for the tenant, Owen St Clair O'Malley, who had moved to Ockham in 1919.

SIR OWEN ST CLAIR O'MALLEY

Sir Owen St Clair O'Malley was born 4th May 1887 in Eastbourne, the son of Sir Edward Loughlin O'Malley, and educated at Radley College, Rugby and Magdalen College, Oxford.

His diplomatic career started in 1911 when he joined the Foreign Office. On 18th December 1925, he boarded the SS Karmala bound for Shanghai, China, along with his wife, three children, a governess and a servant.

Hankou, a major city and main port of Hubei province underwent a period of unrest following the revolution to establish the Republic of China in October 1911. It had, at one time, five foreign concessions, belonging to Germany (ended 1917), Russia (ended 1920), France, Japan and the UK. In early 1927 the British concession was occupied in further revolutionary actions and rioting, culminating in the Chen-O'Malley Agreement of February 1927, which saw joint British and Chinese administration until 1929, when China took over completely. Although the event and territory involved was very minor, it was seen by many as both a humiliation and an ominous warning of things to come for the British Empire. Sir Owen was made CMG² in 1927.³

¹ *A History of Ockham to 1900* by Dr. Gillian Lachelin & Robert Primrose

² CMG - Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George

³ *Who's Who* 1956

In 1939 he was one of three British officials appointed by the government to conduct an inquiry into the 'consular bag mystery'. The affair began when the British consular bag was opened on the French-Spanish frontier by Spanish Nationalists and found to contain what was believed to be plans for a large-scale French offensive. Mr Ernest Golding, the British Pro-Consul at San Sebastian, and his wife, were imprisoned and charged by General Franco with complicity in an alleged plot to send information of his military plans to the Spanish Loyalists.⁴



7th January 1939 – O'Malley departs Victoria Station bound for the British embassy in St Jean de Luz, Spain, to investigate the consular bag mystery

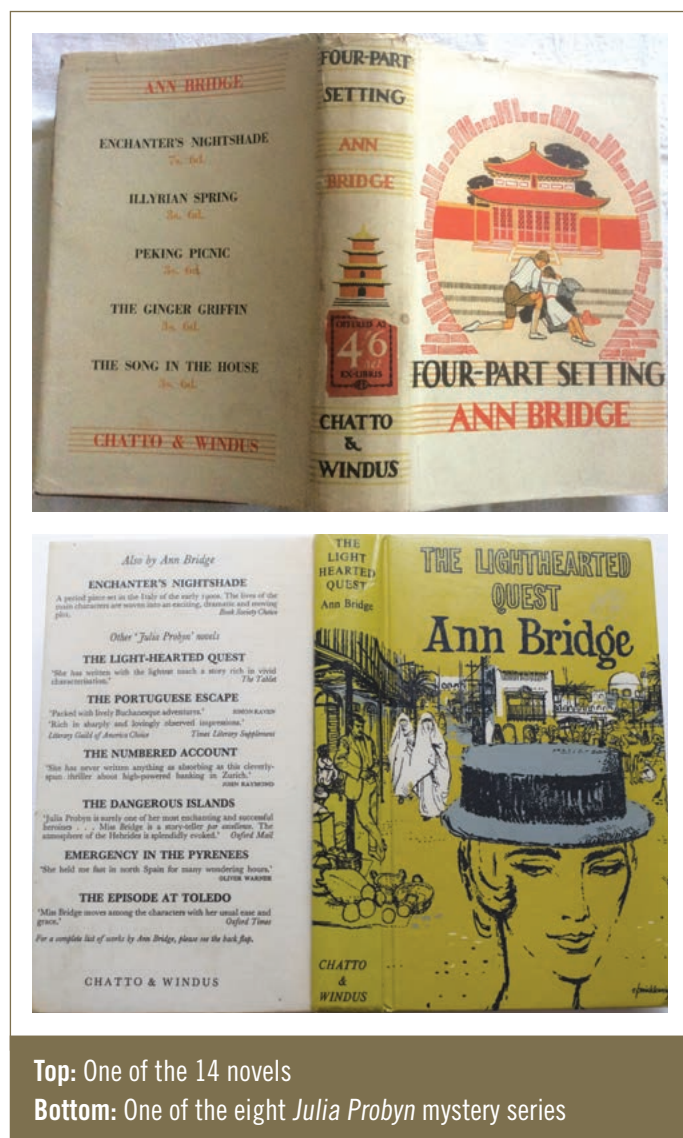
Between 1939 and 1941 O'Malley was minister to Hungary and British Ambassador to the Polish government in exile in London during World War II. It was during this period, on 24th May 1943, that he sent a report (for which he is widely remembered) to the foreign secretary, Anthony Eden, concerning the infamous Katyn massacre, implying Soviet guilt and outlining the moral issues it raised: after Russia invaded Poland in 1939, Stalin ordered the imprisonment of some 22,000 'Polish intelligentsia' in an attempt to destroy the country 'from the top, downwards'. Those arrested included 8,000 military officers, 6,000 police

⁴ *Planet News* London EC4

officers, with the remainder being land and factory owners, lawyers, officials and priests. They were executed at several locations the following year. The massacre is named after the Katyn Forest where the executions took place.⁵

After the war he was Ambassador to Portugal from 1945 – 1947, being made KCMG⁶ during 1947. He died on 16th April 1974 in Oxford.

He married Mary Ann Dolling Sanders (born 1889) in 1913 and had two daughters and a son. Mary was a novelist who worked under the pseudonym of Ann Bridge, taking the name Bridge from Bridge End. She became internationally successful, drawing on the variety of countries visited with her husband as backgrounds for her 14 novels. She also wrote a book of short stories, a mystery series (eight books) featuring heroine Julia Probyn, and four autobiographical non-fiction books.



Top: One of the 14 novels

Bottom: One of the eight Julia Probyn mystery series

Her interests were varied, ranging from gardening to archaeology, but mountain climbing was an early passion, and she became the youngest member of the Alpine Club at just 19 years old.

In 1909 she met mountaineering legend George Mallory and an extremely close friendship ensued. Mallory died climbing Everest in 1924 and she wrote a memoir of him but it was never published.⁷ She died on 9th March 1974 in Oxford.

In 1958, the Ockham Park Estate was sold by Knight, Frank & Rutley in an auction which lasted two days. This included virtually all of the properties in Ockham, and a profusely illustrated sales catalogue was issued to interested parties [we have copies in the museum].



Title page of the sales catalogue

⁵ World War 2: Behind Closed Doors – Stalin, the Nazis and the West by Laurence Rees

⁶ KCMG - Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George

⁷ <http://www.bookrags.com>

LOT 98

(Coloured Yellow on Plan)

Bridgend House

BRIDGEND

Area : 1 a. 2 r. 25 p.

(O.S. Nos. 326, 330a and 330b, Parish of Ockham)

Holding	Tenant	Tenancy	Area	Rent p.a.
House and Garden	Mr. J. S. Morton	Yearly—Lady Day	1-660	£ 250 s. 0 d. 0

Outgoings: Corn Rent Annuity 4s. 5d. per annum (informally apportioned).
Rateable Value £126.

THIS ATTRACTIVE PERIOD HOUSE

is situated at the junction of the public road with Hyde Lane and is built of brick, with a tiled roof. It contains:—

Ground Floor: Hall, with strip oak floor; Cloakroom and W.C.; Lounge (S. & E.), about 17 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft. 3 in., with panelled dado; Study (S.), about 16 ft. by 11 ft. 3 in.; Dining Room (S.), about 16 ft. by 12 ft. with service door; Breakfast Room (E.), 17 ft. 6 in. by 14 ft. 3 in., with safe; Pantry; Kitchen, with Aga cooker; Store Room and with Larder; Scullery, with Agamatic; Boot Room; W.C.

First Floor: Oak Staircase and Landing; Seven Bedrooms, with basins; Bathroom, with basin and W.C.; Housemaids' Room and Closet. Above—One Attic Bedroom.

Outside: Garage for Two Cars; Fuel and Other Stores; range of Potting and Garden Store Sheds; Greenhouse*.

Services: Main Electricity and Water. Hot Water System and Central Heating. Cesspool Drainage.

The Garden includes Lawns, ornamental Trees and Kitchen Garden.

(*Claimed by Tenant)

39

Details of Lot 98 – Bridgend House

THE WORKFORCE

Looking at the list of the 25 involved in the renovation, shown in the photo on p15, it is clear that in 1933 Ockham was no longer the self-sufficient village it had been in mid-Victorian times, with specialist tradesmen such as electricians all coming from elsewhere. Even labourers and carpenters appear to have been in short supply.

Back row, l-r:

A Keniston (labourer) – Albert Keniston was born in Ripley in 1886. He lived at 4, Perseverance Cottages, Ripley. In the 1939 census return he was living at 1, Perseverance Cottages. He died in 1944 aged 58 and is buried at St. Mary's, Ripley.

C Berry (labourer) – Christopher Henry Berry was born in Fernhurst, Sussex in 1883. In the 1939 census return he was living at 125, New Road, Guildford. He died in Guildford in 1956 aged 73.

CA Wooff (painter) – Charles A Wooff was born in Bradfield, Berkshire in 1891. In the 1939 census return he was living at the Black Swan public house, Ockham. He died in Reading in 1963 aged 72.

E Monk (storekeeper) – William Edgar Monk was born in West Horsley in 1882. He moved to Ockham before 1891. In the 1939 census return he was living at Bridge End, Ockham. He died in Ockham in 1944 aged 62 and is buried at All Saints' church, Ockham.

J Butler (electrician) – No positive identification.

CH Nokes (master electrician) - Charles Haydn Nokes was born in Barnet, Hertfordshire in 1892. He moved to Ripley and found employment initially as a cycle mechanic and lodged at 1, Bonfield Terrace, Ripley. In the 1939 census return he was living in the High Street, Ripley. He went on to be a domestic electrical engineer and ironmonger, owning the cycle and hardware shop started by Richard Green, which was destroyed in a memorable fire in 1969.⁸ He died in 1973 aged 81.

B Jones (carpenter) – No positive identification.

AJ Welford (carpenter) – Albert James Welford (son of Sydney Louis) was born in Ripley in 1907. In the 1939 census return he was living at Church End, Ockham. He died in Ockham in 1980 aged 73 and is buried at All Saints' church, Ockham.

AJ Lewis (painter) – Arthur James Lewis was born in Cobham in 1896. He died there in 1952 aged 56 and is buried at Cobham Municipal Cemetery.

AE Smallpiece (carpenter) – Albert Edward Smallpiece was born in Guildford in 1880. In the 1901 census return he was lodging in Wimbledon. In the 1939 census return he was living at 78, Woking Road, Guildford. He died in 1970 aged 90.

Middle row, l-r:

G Plumbridge (bricklayer) – George Plumbridge was born in Ockham in 1869. He moved to Ripley, living in Rose Lane and finally at 3, Oak Cottage, Ripley. He died in 1950 aged 82 and is buried at St. Mary's, Ripley.

J Edgell (foreman bricklayer) – John Edgell was born in Send in 1876. He moved to Workhouse Cottage, Ockham Common. In the 1939 census return he was living at Elm Corner. He died in 1957 aged 81.

W Hook (bricklayer) – William Edward James Hook was born in Wonersh, Surrey in 1885. He moved to The Chalkpit, West Horsley. In the 1939 census return he was

⁸ This fire is described in SRHS publication *Then and Now* - p23



Bridge End in 1933 and the workforce who took part in the renovation works © Charles Hewlett collection

living at Yew Tree Cottage, Bridge End, Ockham. He died in 1971 aged 86 and is buried at All Saints' church, Ockham.

S Welford (foreman painter) – Sydney Louis Welford was born in Brill, Buckinghamshire in 1876. He moved to Ripley, living in the High Street. In the 1939 census return he was living at Bridgend, Ockham. He died in 1954 aged 78.

W Hough (manager) – John W Hough was born in Northwich, Cheshire in 1883. He moved to London, living in West Ham (1901) and Wandsworth (1911). In the 1939 census return he was living in Carshalton. He died in 1949 aged 66.

W Thorne (carpenter's shop foreman) – William Western Thorne was born in Somerset in 1864. He moved to Ockham, living at Church End (1901) and Alms Heath (1911) and finally at Holly Cottage, Ockham. He died in 1934 aged 70 and is buried at All Saints' church, Ockham.

W Gregory (foreman carpenter) – William Herbert Gregory was born in Bermondsey, London in 1881. He moved to Ockham and in the 1939 census return he was living at Passworth, Ockham. He lived finally at 1, Garnet Cottages, Merrow Street, Guildford. He died in 1957 aged 76 and is buried at All Saints' church, Ockham.

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H Norman (carpenter) – Harry Robert Norman was born in Epsom in 1910. He moved to Ockham and in the 1939 census return he was living at Church End, Ockham. He died in 2002 in Teighbridge, Devonshire aged 92.

FRONT ROW, L-R:

E Wright (carpenter) – Ernest Reginald Wright was born in Hackney, London in 1916. In the 1939 census return he was living at Scotland Farm, Guildford. He died in 1987 in Taunton Deane, Somerset aged 71.

R Turner (labourer) – Roland Rugman Turner was born in Ockham in 1883. He lived at Rectory Farm, Church End, Ockham (1891). In the 1939 census return he was living at Mays Green, Ockham. He died in 1965 aged 82.

S Budd (labourer) – Samuel Amos Budd was born in Brading, Devonshire in 1877. He moved to St Johns, Woking. He died in 1935 aged 57 and is buried at All Saints' church, Ockham.

W Longhurst (carpenter) – William George Longhurst was born in Esher in 1906. He moved to South End, Ockham and finally Church Gate Cottage, Ockham. He died in 1970 aged 64 and is buried at All Saints' church, Ockham.

RJ Gregory (carpenter) – Robert JC Gregory (son of William Herbert) was born in Guildford in 1913. In the 1939 census return he was living at Passworth, Ockham. He died in 1981 aged 68.

LI Evans (carpenter) – Llewelyn Aubrey Evans was born in Woking in 1908. In the 1939 census return he was lodging at 8, Perseverance Cottages, Ripley. He died in 1991 in Brighton, Sussex aged 83.

GJ White (carpenter) – George James White was born in Cobham in 1907. In the 1939 census return he was living at Esher. He died in 1972 aged 65.

THE STATISTICS

Of the 23 out of 25 identified:

Only two are known to have been born in the village.

At one time or another 13 are recorded as having lived there.

Seven are known to be buried at All Saints' church.

Unless otherwise stated all photos and artifacts are courtesy Alan Cooper

100 YEARS AGO

JAN AND PHIL DAVIE

There was little good news available during September and October 1917. Throughout both months there were continual reports of local men being killed, wounded or gassed. There were also several deaths reported of familiar village residents.

The former organist and superintendent of the Sunday School at the Ripley Wesleyan Church, Miss K Gatley died from a stroke on 10th September after living in Ripley for 25 years. A memorial service was held at the Chapel.

The funeral of William Taylor took place at Send Church on 8th September. He was a hay tier and thatcher who was known for miles around. Three of his sons were on active service, fighting in France, but his fourth son was training in Lincolnshire and able to attend the funeral.

The death occurred of Mrs F Clark, wife of Mr F Clark, landlord of the Ship Inn, Ripley. Mrs Clark had been in indifferent health for some years and more or less confined to her room for two years. Her funeral was held at Ripley parish churchyard.

Bishop's Messengers were lay readers appointed by the Church of England in 1917 due to the lack of male clergy through war service. The Surrey Advertiser reported, on

8th September, the recent visit to Send of Messengers from the diocese to see a large number of people. On Monday afternoon they addressed school children.

Send harvest festival was celebrated this time by the Rev JA Cruikshank of Woking. The collection amounted to £22/17/2d and was split between St Dunstan's Hostel for blinded soldiers and the Royal Surrey County Hospital. The Ripley parish church was nicely decorated for the harvest festival, with the address given by Rev FW Morgan-Jones of Send. The rector, the Rev AH Headeach, preached in the morning with Rev CA Hamilton (Wisley & Pyrford) preaching in the evening. The collection amounted to seven guineas, in aid of the County Hospital.

At their October meeting Send and Ripley parish council learned that Send Church Bridge, over the river Wey and leading to the Sutton estate, was in need of some repair. Mr John Coventry, agent for the Sutton estate, wrote that Mrs Witham (wife of the owner) had heretofore carried out repairs to this bridge as a matter of grace and was unaware of any legal liability to do so. It was proposed that Lady Leese and Mrs Witham be asked to carry out the necessary repairs as an act of grace and favour.

FROM THE JOURNAL, 40 YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN

The article below, by EJ (Ted) Bartlett, is taken from the August/September 1977 journal. Bear in mind that, at the time, we were just the Send History Society, hence the title of the article referring to 'the village', and that the committee included a member responsible for natural history.

WILDLIFE AROUND THE VILLAGE

The year 1977 has proved to be the year with the emphasis on flora rather than fauna. Following the drought of 1976 and the dying back of trees and plants in general, a complete new burst of life has been the result. On looking back in my natural history records which I have kept for the last 35 years, I cannot see a year to compare. The bramble is heavily laden with fruit, and so too are the hazel trees, with nuts a-plenty. The cornfields told of the same story up until a few weeks ago, that is until the rains came.

Extremes in nature can cause some very unexpected results; the abnormal conditions of 1976 caused a severe lack of moisture at the roots of most plants. Trees of various species are showing the results this year. Our beeches are perhaps one of the worst affected, growing as they do up on the high chalk downs. However, the water table all but vanished, leaving the trees to live almost on night dew.

Having comparatively thin bark the beeches were almost dehydrated, the flow of moisture in the cambium layer pretty well stopped. This provided ideal conditions for a certain fungus to gain a strong foothold. In common

with all species of tree, the beech has its own quota of insect- life living on or within its framework and it is one of these insects which weakens the resistance of the tree, allowing the fungus to kill the bark. The insect, known as the Felted Beech Coccus, is present in most beech trees, but under normal conditions its activities are neutralised by the vigorous growth of the tree.

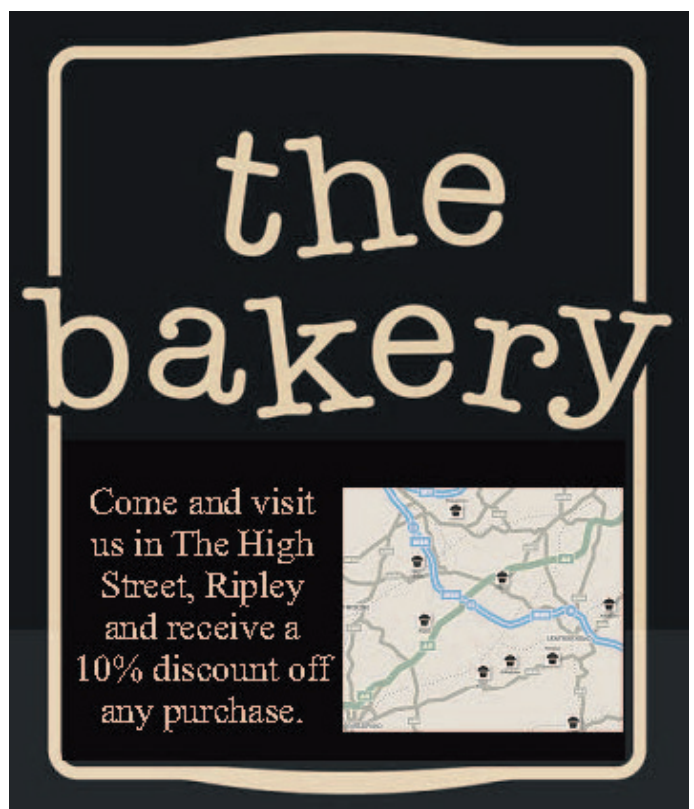
An exciting find by the Secretary of our Group was a Purple Emperor Butterfly, which was settled on a buddleia in the garden of 14 Orchard Way. The larvae of this species live on sallow, and it is at this time, when the females are laying their eggs, that opportunities arise for spotting it. Naturally both the male and female are high fliers, around the tops of oak trees is the favourite haunt. The males of this species of butterfly have a terrific craving for carrion, and it is this fact that has led to the capture of thousands of specimens by the collector.

Our own colony of Sand Martins has been given a reprieve, for the sand workings are to be carried on into the next field. This year their numbers have increased tremendously, providing a spectacular show-of community living. As usual the Kestrels, Little Owls, and Carrion Crows have preyed upon them, sitting quietly on a convenient lookout post - to dive, swiftly in and carry away their victim to eat at leisure. Other birds to visit the area this year include the Crossbills, these have been seen flitting from tree to tree in their 'chimes', little parties of agitated feathers.

Sparrowhawks have returned to the village, those handsome dashing hawks whose mastery of the air is superb in every way. It is a bird of the pinewoods, preferring this type of tree to any other; taking over an old squirrel's drey, or perhaps a disused crow's nest. Sadly, one of the pair which looked kindly on our village as a place to rear their offspring, came to me with a broken wing, splintered with shot.

Once again the Little Ringed Plovers have nested at the gravel pits, but only just - for they have been harassed by certain members of the community. However a number of young did succeed, so it is hoped that they return again next year.

P.S. Since writing the above notes, the Sparrowhawk has died.



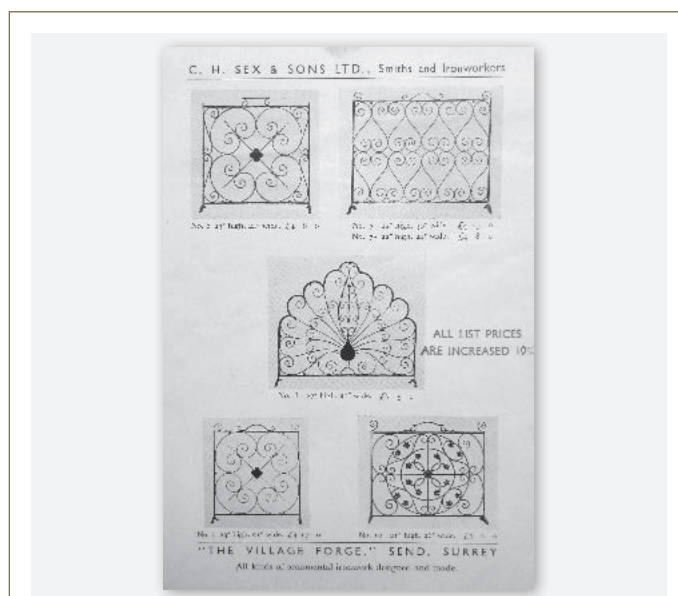
RECENT ADDITION TO THE ARCHIVES

JANET DAVIE

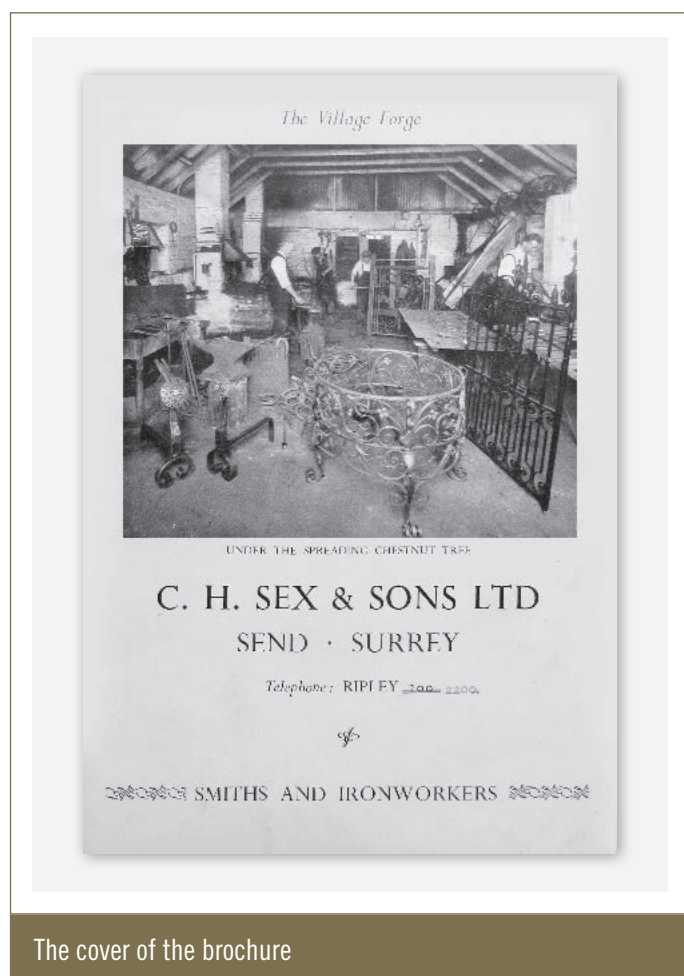
We have recently been given a sales brochure and some sales information leaflets from C H Sex & Sons, who owned and ran the Send Forge. Their date is unknown but clearly coincided with a change in telephone numbers in Ripley. The forge opened in 1899. Mr Arthur Sex was owner of the forge in 1942, and was also a member of the Send Home Guard Unit.

During its lifetime the forge made ornamental works such as the Lady Chapel Screen at Guildford Cathedral plus the railings for Watts Memorial Chapel and the Abbot's Hospital. They also made the Chemist sign which is on display in our museum.

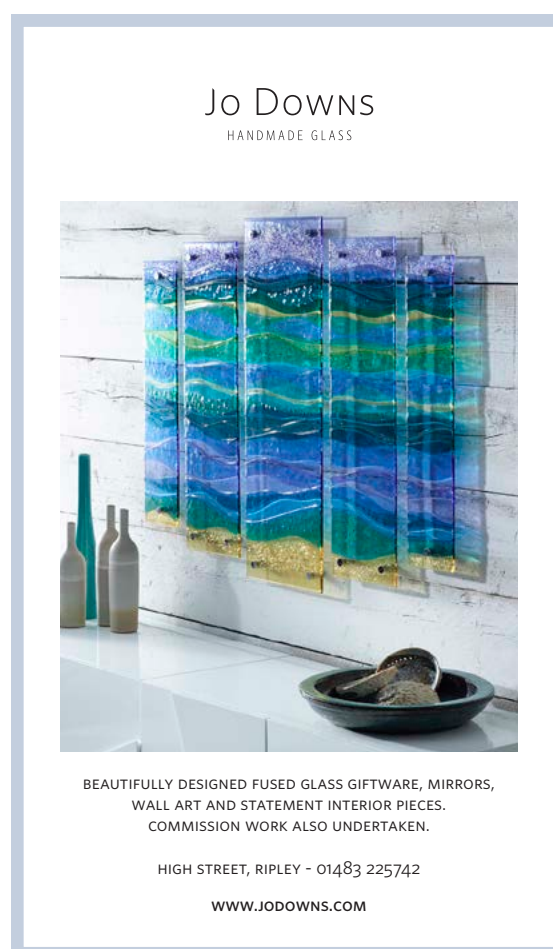
The forge was in action until the 1960s when it became a garage. When this in turn closed it became the Walnut Tree Place housing development. The old forge is commemorated by a statue opposite the development.



Some designs for fire-screens



The cover of the brochure

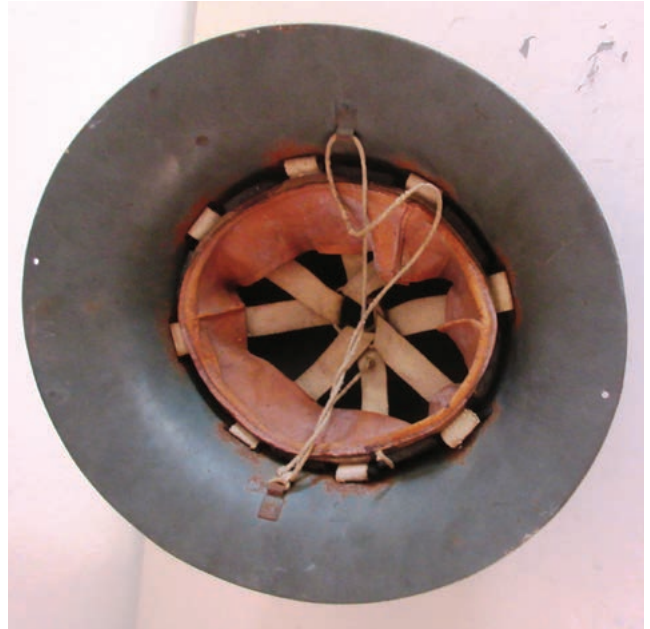


CIVIL DEFENCE AND THE ZUCKERMAN HELMET

CLARE McCANN



A helmet marked SFP (Street Fire Parties)



Zuckerman helmet liner (1941)

Following Alan Cooper's article in journal 255 members might be interested to know that Helena Finden-Browne recently donated a Zuckerman helmet, marked SFP, and designed for use by civil defence organisations and the general public during World War II. It was designed by Solly Zuckerman (hence the name), Derman Christopherson and Hugh Cairns.

The aim was to provide a helmet that could deal with impact from falling and flying masonry and provide more coverage for the head and neck area and it went into circulation in December 1940.

Helmets were made from pressed mild steel or manganese steel (known for its impact resistance). The design of the high dome was to allow the helmet to withstand impact and still protect the wearer. Many have two single holes opposite each other on the brim. This marking details the amount of resistance the

helmet offered to ballistic impact (this being the lowest and therefore not for use as a front line helmet). The helmet was available in a number of colours - white, black, grey and olive green.

A helmet liner made of leather and webbing was attached to the helmet with string, lace or leather thong threaded through 16 pre-drilled slightly angled holes around the helmet to hold it in place.

The helmet was manufactured by a number of companies, among them the Austin Motor Co and Morris Motors. Zuckerman helmets were issued to Civil Defence personnel such as Fire Guards, Street Fire Parties and factory workers and were also on sale to the general public for 5/6d (five shillings and sixpence). When used by Fire Guards and Street Fire Party personnel the helmets were marked accordingly with FG or SFP. Bands around the helmet (often in black) would denote seniority within the Fire Guard service.

Helena's helmet is being added to the WWII loan box as it came from London and has no known local connection.

LOCAL SARSEN STONES AND THEIR UNEXPECTED USES

DITZ BROWN

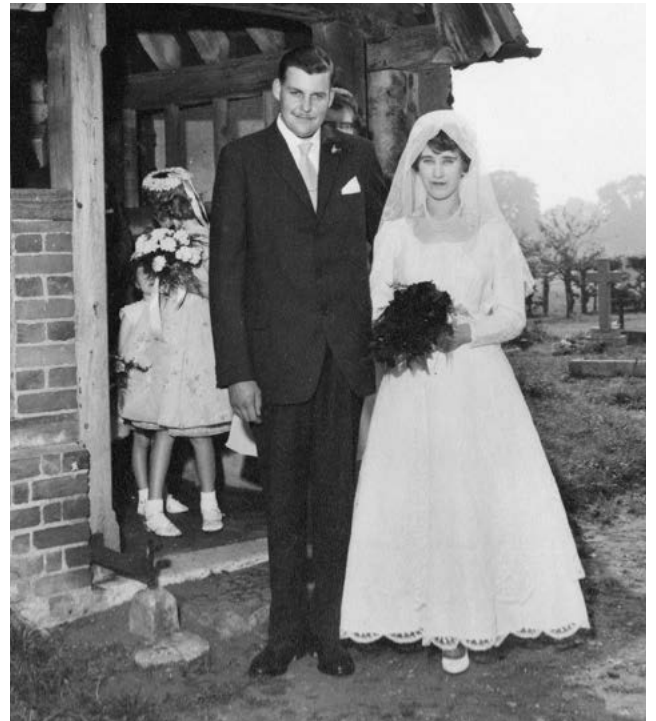
In an article for a local newspaper which Wendy Lloyd (from Ockham) wrote in April 2004 about the story of Wisley Airfield, there is a little vignette which caught my eye. Wendy writes:

“Historians amongst you may be interested to know that when Vickers began levelling the ground in preparation for flying, some large ‘Sarsen’ stones were discovered and removed. The stones are found mainly in Wiltshire and in Berkshire and the name was used by early Christian Saxons as a synonym of pagan, or heathen, associated with Druid worship. One such stone is thought to form a doorstep of a local church in this area.”

The word ‘sarsen’ is actually a shortening of ‘Saracen stone’ which arose in the Wiltshire dialect. ‘Saracen’ was a common name for Muslims, and came by extension to be used for anything regarded as non-Christian, whether Muslim, pagan Celtic, or other. Sarsen stones were used at Stonehenge, Avebury and many other megalithic monuments.

As sarsen stones differ greatly in their appearance from other local stones it is said that people once thought that they might have come from outer space, that they might be meteors. I am not a geologist, but when researching for this article I found a recent (2014) essay by Iain Wakeford in *Geology* where he states: “it is possible that the Great Bagshot River brought us the sarsen stones that can still be found in places around Woking”. The ‘river’ he refers to extended from Dartmoor to the North Sea leaving deposits of what are called Bagshot Sand on top of the earlier London Clay in NE Surrey, in an area extending from roughly Camberley down to the Ockham area. As sarsen stones are predominantly sandstone this would seem to make sense.

When Sue and Trevor Miriams from Australia came to visit Sue’s ‘roots’ we chanced to meet them outside



Top: The sarsen stone outside Wisley church in 1961 (behind the groom’s feet)

Bottom: The sarsen stone in 2017

Wisley Church and invited them for tea in our garden next door at Church Farm House. It turned out that Sue and her siblings were born in our house and christened at Wisley Church. The family emigrated to Australia when Sue was four in 1966 and she therefore did not remember much of her time in England, but promised

to send us photographs of her family's life here. Amongst those was the wedding picture of her parents Brian and Christina Francis (her grandparents were Alex and Lucy Francis), who married at Wisley Church on the 2nd of September 1961. In front of the porch is what I believe could be the sarsen stone mentioned by Wendy. The stone has long since ceased to be used for wiping one's muddy shoes on and can now be seen to the left of the porch.

However, it isn't the only sarsen stone in Wisley's churchyard - another, much larger one lies on top of the grave of a farmer named Hanford. I wonder if there is any truth in the rumour that the stone once adorned another grave, but that Farmer Hanford somehow managed to acquire it for himself?

A further large sarsen stone can be found standing upright in the central open area of The Courtyard, next to the Church. It was once part of Church Farm and housed cattle and other farm animals whilst it now serves as offices to, amongst others, The National Trust.

Further afield at St Nicholas' church in Pyrford the three oldest buttresses also appear to include sarsen stones.



The large moss-covered sarsen stone over farmer Hanford's grave in 2017

ST MARY'S FLOWER FESTIVAL

CLARE McCANN

In June St Mary's, Send, held a flower festival on the theme of Transformation. The vicar, Tony Shutt, made the point that while a flower festival is not going to transform the major issues of our time, it adds to the fabric of the community. The History Society was represented with two lovely arrangements in the lychgate and we would like to thank Sue French who composed the arrangements on the society's behalf.

Christine Lavendar, one of the organisers (and a member of the society), said they were very grateful for, and extremely pleased with, all the contributions by local communities and other organisations. All the visitors were very impressed with the skill demonstrated in the arrangements. The event raised nearly £900 for church funds.



Part of the History Society display in the lychgate

FRED DIXON, A LIFE REMEMBERED

JOHN SLATFORD

Anyone living in Ripley in or before 1961, who was a pupil at the old Church of England School, will remember Fred Dixon with affection. He was the headmaster from 1936 until his retirement in 1961. This was the longest of any of the heads apart from his predecessor William Blaxland who served one year longer. Mr Blaxland was, however, away for two years during WWI.

A group of us first met Fred around 1985 when we heard about his memoirs which he was hoping to get published. He was then almost 89 and turned out to be a fascinating character. We got to know him very well. He told us that as a retirement project he had written primarily about his 25 years in Ripley and wondered if Send & Ripley History Society would be interested in publishing his story. We took his manuscript away to consider and quickly came to the conclusion that it would be a viable project.

Fred was born in 1896 in Westcott near Dorking. His father was a grocer working for the Surrey Trading Company and in 1908 was appointed manager at their shop in Send; until recently this was Send Post Office. So, long before Fred was appointed as headmaster in Ripley, he would have known the two villages well.

Fred saw service in the army throughout WWI, having joined the Surrey Yeomanry shortly after the outbreak in 1914. He considered this to have been a crucial choice because many of his friends had joined the Royal West Surrey, only to be killed at the Somme. His service took him to Egypt and Italy as well as France, Belgium and lastly to Germany.

After the war he trained as a teacher and subsequently held posts in Addlestone, West Byfleet and lastly in Woking before he applied for the headship of Ripley C of E School in 1935. He was successful and was appointed to start on the 6th January 1936 at a salary of £436 per annum and a school house at a rent of 15 shillings per week. His house was at the entrance to Wentworth Close, the present day Holly Lodge.

Before commencing his new duties, he had been warned about likely problems with the school managers or governors. There were six managers but he was to be particularly concerned with two of them, who he learned were constantly at war with each other. These were Captain Christopher Pearce, who was at that time chairman, treasurer and correspondent, and the Ripley vicar, the Reverend Morgan Owen Thomas.



Fred with one of his pupils (courtesy Steve Jenner)

Captain Pearce was one of two sons of Robert Pearce, who was the founder of Ripley Court School in the 1890s. He also had a sister, who married Guy Onslow, another teacher, who later became head at Ripley Court after the death of Robert Pearce. Captain Pearce never married. He was very well known locally, being variously a Woking JP, a Guildford RDC councillor and Chairman of Ripley Parish Council. He was also an archaeologist best known for his report on Newark Priory (Surrey Archaeological Society Volume 40). When Ripley Court School was evacuated to Shropshire at the start of WWII he went with them and it was there that he died in 1943.

The vicar, another bachelor, was a fiery Welshman, who had a distinguished army wartime career, being awarded the Military Cross. He was vicar of Ripley from 1930 until 1953. He was a small man whose parochial duties were hardly helped by an aggressive attitude towards his parishioners.

So from the start of his Ripley career Fred Dixon was closely involved with these two governors and, it would seem, had many battles with either one or the other of them. Many of these are described in detail in Fred's book *The Straight Furrow*. When he first brought his manuscript to us its title was *The Lonely Furrow* which was how he described his mission on commencing his new teaching role. We considered this as part of our editing and decided that *Straight* was a better description than *Lonely*. His manuscript presented us with many problems because his outspoken views were, in many cases, highly libellous. So, after talking to Fred about this, we had to very carefully

edit his words to avoid causing offence to people still living in the village. Even then, we failed somewhat. One of our members at that time was Rose Onslow who, as the daughter of Guy Onslow, was the niece of Captain Pearce. Understandably, she objected strongly to the way Fred had described some of his confrontations with the captain so we were obliged to edit further. Nevertheless, we felt that we succeeded in retaining the essence of Fred's original words and so produced an important record of his career in Ripley. Right up until he died, we paid him a small annual royalty from our sales of *The Straight Furrow*.

From the start, Fred was appalled at the lack of facilities in the school and he worked tirelessly towards improving them. There was no electric lighting and barely any heating and he had to use all manner of subterfuge in overcoming resistance from the governors. All along he put the wellbeing of the children as his first priority and in this he was well regarded by all for his successes.

Fred and his wife Dorothy had only one daughter, Cynthia, who also became a teacher. After his retirement they went to live in a bungalow in Christmas Pie near Normandy, although his last years were spent in a care home. He remained alert and we were later told that he was busy with the Daily Telegraph crossword on the day before he died in 1995, just a few weeks short of his 99th birthday.

After Fred's death, his daughter and her husband contacted Ripley Parish Council about a permanent memorial and, as a result, an oak tree was planted and protected by a band of smaller trees. Sadly, at that time, a plaque commemorating Fred was not provided. More recently Joan and her daughter visited the Green and were disappointed to discover that only the oak tree has survived.



Fred in later years (courtesy Steve Jenner)



Top: The new crab apple tree with the plaque commemorating Fred
Bottom: The plaque itself

Although this is now a fine specimen all of the smaller trees, apart from a lot of holly, have gone. They made a new approach to the council realising, of course, that none of the original councillors were still around. Today's councillors have been most sympathetic and the council has this year installed a plaque and beside it have planted a crab apple tree. These are on the Green and close to the oak, which will now be a quarter of a century old. Jennie Cliff, the Parish Council chairman, wrote about this in her report in *Send and Ripley Matters* No 98. We can only hope that these trees will survive and that the plaque will not just disappear in the undergrowth.

Editor's note: *The Straight Furrow* is still in print and is a fascinating read.

WORPLESDON OUTING

CAMERON BROWN

On July 17th twelve members and two guests enjoyed a sunny afternoon in Worplesdon. Our first destination was St Mary's Church, set in calm seclusion away from the busy main road. Our guide was Mary Broughton, also a trustee of the Sidney Sime gallery, which we were to visit later.



View of the west end and tower

The name Worplesdon (earlier forms include *Werpesdune* and *Worpludon*) is thought to mean a bridleway in a wood. The settlement and the church are mentioned in the *Domesday Book* which suggests that there may have been a Saxon chapel before the present church was built. This is likely as Worplesdon had clearly been occupied long before the conquest, having the remains of a Roman villa, and two bronze age barrows, excavated by General Pitt Rivers in 1877. Mary Broughton first showed us the place just outside the north wall of the church where the Admiralty built a semaphore tower in 1822. It was taller than the church tower and was used for less than 25 years, then demolished.



A Victorian engraving of the semaphore tower

The oldest part of the present church building is the north chapel, within the chantry, where a colourfully-painted pipe organ is now situated. The foundations are apparently 11th century, though we were not able to see them. The windows still (just) visible behind the organ would appear to be 14th or possibly 13th century.



The early windows hidden behind the organ



The colourful organ, obscuring the north chapel windows

The chancel was built in the 13th century and the nave some 100 years later. The helpful booklet about the church (there is a copy available in our museum) suggests that the nave was raised in height by some 18” in the late 16th century. This would explain the unusual row of windows just below the roof on both sides of the nave. The chancel was substantially extended in 1866 when a south chapel was also added and much of the architectural history of the building was lost. The Norman arch between nave and chancel was replaced by a ‘Gothic’ arch, frescoes were destroyed, the original Norman font was replaced, box pews removed and so on. Some Hassell watercolours hanging in the church give an idea of how it will have looked before the Victorian ‘improvements’.

The tower is unusually high for Surrey, which, being a relatively poor county until the advent of the railways, does not have any very grand old churches.

It was erected in 1487 and the builder’s name, Richard Exfolde (a local man) is inscribed on a wall inside the tower. Equally unusual was the probably simultaneous installation of five bells. Over subsequent centuries the bells have been repaired or recast (many in the famous Whitechapel foundry) and added to, so that the church now boasts a peal of eight bells.

St Mary’s also has some very early stained glass, including a delightful kneeling figure of a monk, measuring only eight inches in height, and made in the late 15th century.



Late 15th century stained glass window

The patronage (or advowson) of the living remained with the de Cobham family from the time of the first recorded rector, James de Cobham, in 1282 until it passed to the Crown in the 17th century. Interestingly it was soon exchanged for the living of Petworth, then held by Eton College, who still hold it today. In fact several of the rectors have also been Provost of Eton.

Next we visited the gallery dedicated to the artist Sidney Sime (1865 – 1941) who spent much of the later part of his life in Worplesdon. The gallery, though small, holds 88 hung works ranging from the theatrical caricatures with which Sime made his name after moving from his native Manchester to London in his twenties, to amusing sketches of local Worplesdon residents and landscape paintings in oil and watercolour. We were joined by the gallery curator, Anne Phillips.



Curator Anne Phillips with some of our group



Some of Sime's oil paintings

The following is taken from the gallery's very informative website <http://www.sidneysimegallery.org.uk/>:

Sidney Herbert Sime was born in Manchester in 1865 (a date confirmed by researches during 2014; some sources have previously quoted 1867). He was the second of six children of Scottish parents.

As soon as he was old enough he went to work in the Yorkshire pits where conditions were very bleak and he spent about five years pushing 'scoops' filled with coal along rails through tunnels about 28 inches high. The miners had their own folklore and 'familiar': goblins, coblynau, cutty soams, dunters and knockers, who were bringers of, or defenders against, ever present dangers. Here Sime used to scratch drawings of imps and devils on the walls and snatch a few spare moments for little sketches when possible. Other jobs included working for a linen-draper, a baker and a shoe-maker. Later, Sime took up sign-writing, at which he became successfully self-employed, and eventually joined the Liverpool School of Art, which was part of a national network of art schools stretching out from South Kensington, London.

By his early twenties, Sime had managed to educate himself and gained several prizes and medals from the Liverpool School of Art. In 1889 his first picture, a portrait of Henry Peet Esq, was exhibited in the Walker Art Gallery Autumn Exhibition, the northern equivalent of the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.

His studies completed, Sime decided that the best way for a young artist to start earning a profitable living was by illustrating for magazines and books. He contributed to many magazines including the *Illustrated London News*, *Pall Mall Magazine*, *Graphic*, *Tatler*, *Strand*, *Pick-Me-Up* and *The Idler*, which was edited by Jerome K. Jerome. Here in 1897, Sime's bizarre drawings 'From an Ultimate Dim Thule' began to appear and in the same year (1897/8) he became editor of *Eureka* magazine. In 1899 he purchased and edited *The Idler* magazine for a short time.

Very welcome tea and cake brought the afternoon to a close.



Members and our guides enjoying tea at the gallery
(Photo Cameron Brown)

Unless otherwise indicated all photos ©Ditz

RIPLEY BONFIRE 1971

ALAN COOPER

As another Ripley bonfire approaches, we have an opportune moment to revisit the fancy dress competition of 1971. Participants paraded around the village on foot or aboard any suitable transport available at the time. Ripley British Legion ladies section impressed everyone with 'Clunk, Click, Every Trip' whose inspiration came from the television advert first broadcast earlier in the year starring the now infamous Jimmy Savile.



Back row, l-r: Lona Puttock, Jean Wort, Gwen Puttock, Joyce Bowers.
Front row, Mary (?)



'Dads Army' based on the television series, and eventual winners of the competition.

Top: The Puttock brothers and cousin Barry. l-r: Stephen, Barry, Franklin, Michael, Andrew

Bottom: Captain Mainwaring (Franklin Puttock) receives first prize from Bonfire Queen Patricia Treadwell

(All photographs courtesy Lona Puttock)



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MEMORIES OF A FARMER'S WIFE

PART THREE

PEGGY IRELAND

Peggy Ireland's husband John was the farm manager of Charles Hughesdon's Dunsborough estate in Ripley and they lived at Church Farm House in Wisley in the 1960s and 70s.

One morning John (my husband) came home and said "I've found three baby little owls [ed: 'little owl' is a type of owl] under a tree, I'm going to go back every few hours and see if their mother has returned".

They were still there at 9pm so, concerned that they would be taken by a fox, he decided to bring them back to the farmhouse. We managed to feed them but wanted somewhere to keep them safe outside, so John spoke to the estate gamekeeper who provided us with a pheasant cage. They remained in there being thrown food regularly which allowed all three to thrive; they grew bigger and looked eager to fly. With trepidation one afternoon John took them to a local wood and set them free.

That evening when he went to close up the greenhouse he found all three of the little owls in the greenhouse; he left them in there but gave them access to get out.

The little owls returned for the next few days, always all three of them, but after that they must have found new homes because we never saw them again.

As well as animal visitors we also had many foreign people visit us, and often farming students, who lived with us in the farmhouse. The various nationalities included Australian, Dutch, Danish, Swedish and South African. Some of the most intriguing visitors were three gentlemen who Mr Hughesdon had invited to Church Farm. He rang to say

"Expect three men in sheepskin coats to knock on your door; find John and tell him to show them around the farm and please give them lunch".

Sure enough, three gentlemen arrived at Church Farm a short time later wearing sheepskin coats; two of the gentlemen were from Mongolia and they both looked like the actor Charles Bronson, and the third gentleman was their interpreter. It appeared that Mr Hughesdon was doing some business in East Asia and these gentlemen had come to see British farming techniques and had to report back to their government. John spoke to them through the interpreter, and after showing them around the farm, asked if they would like to have some lunch and a drink of tea or coffee. They suggested that they might like to lunch at the local pub, so John obliged and took them down to the Anchor. However their lunch turned out to be a completely liquid one; they refused anything to eat and just asked their interpreter to order neat vodka, which they proceeded to drink one after the other with no obvious ill effects. Fortunately John did not have to pay for their lunch and the interpreter suggested that they were quite happy with the visit to the farm and had also enjoyed their lunch!



This old photograph of Peggy's proves how incredibly well hidden the owlets were

WHAT IS THIS / WHERE IS THIS?

ALAN COOPER

WHAT IS THIS?



Mystery objects

These items are made of ebonised wood and are 12 inches and 9 inches in length. They date to the 1920s.

What were they used for?

WHERE IS THIS?



This is in Send and should be an easy one

JOURNAL 255 P28 – WHAT IS THIS? - ANSWER



Mystery object

I don't know what the object is but a friend insists it is a miner's knife for use with explosives. The explanation is: the steel blade snaps shut into the brass housing without creating a spark; the conical

point is used to make a hole in the plastic explosive and the blade to cut the fuse. The blade is central so it could push away from the body where the fuse was kept in a reel attached to the trouser belt. Sounds possible but my guess would be it's for harvesting fungi - but it's just a guess.

JOURNAL 255 P29 – WHERE IS THIS? - ANSWER



Where was it taken?

No-one seems to know where the bridge is. It was somewhere in Send but it no longer exists; even Pat Clack can't remember, and it's her photo!

MUSEUM REPAIRS

CLARE McCANN, CURATOR

As you know our little museum has been suffering from serious structural issues due to damp getting in over a prolonged period and not being detected because of the internal cladding. The front supporting beam in particular was completely rotten.



Finding the extent of the problem

While we were lucky enough to get the original investigation work done pro bono, the remedial work done so far has cost about £8,000 and we may still have to have the building braced in some way. However, the specialist firm that carried out the work are confident that the building has at least another twenty years of life.

Thanks to the support we have received from the local parish councils, local businesses and from the raffle we have raised over £5,000 and the remainder has come from the society's reserves.

The draw for the raffle was made at the



Clare McCann with Cllr Colin Cross drawing the prize-winning raffle tickets



Rebuilding the front wall

Ripley Summer Event (a misnomer, as it was cold and extremely wet!) on July 22nd. This was a disappointing end as perhaps we could have sold quite a few more tickets had the sun shone. However, I would like to pay tribute to the members of the society who really got behind the raffle and in many cases sold extra tickets or made donations. The total raised from this source was £2,200 and apart from funding the first prize, every penny has gone towards the repairs. As well as thanking members, I would particularly like to single out John Creasey for his tireless work in getting together the array of excellent prizes from generous local businesses and for bringing in many of the monetary donations.

As we have not had to deplete the reserves too badly, we are now beginning to consider refurbishing the interior, which is an exciting prospect. Enclosed with this journal is a survey which will help us with forward planning. We would ask you to complete and return the survey before the end of September. If you can also survey a neighbour or local friend (see reverse of the form) then that would be great. We really need to get visitor numbers up and your thoughts and recommendations are important.

Finally I am working on a new exhibition, SEND – THE EVOLUTION OF A VILLAGE, but as the raffle has taken up so much time it may be a few weeks away, so please come along to see the current exhibition if you have not already done so.

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Doors open for all evening talks except AGM at 7.30pm for an 8pm start at Ripley Village Hall. Tea/coffee available.

DATES	EVENTS
Tuesday 19th September	Liz Taylor talk: History of RHS Wisley
Tuesday 17th October	Jane Lewis talk: Life and Labour in a Country Village (or, Learn to Love Your Ag Labs)
Tuesday 21st November	Brigid Fice talk: Dating old houses by their architecture with particular reference to Send & Ripley
Tuesday 12th December	The Christmas Social, with entertainment by 'No Direction' (barbershop quartet). Members only

Further details can be obtained from Margaret Field 01483 223387



OPEN: SATURDAY MORNINGS 10.00–12.30

throughout the year (check bank holiday opening times)

Also open on 3rd Sunday of each month to coincide with Ripley Antiques Fair in the Village Hall

Other times for school groups and small parties by arrangement

Contact Clare McCann on 01483 728546 if you require further information or wish to help in the museum

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life	Reprinted 1998/2006	£10.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.25
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£4.00
The Straight Furrow, by Fred Dixon		£1.50
Ripley and Send – Looking Back	Reprinted 2007	£9.00
A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£2.00
Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2012	£4.00
The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£4.00
Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures	New Edition 2017	£8.00
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
Memories of War		£8.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£10.00
Send and Ripley Walks		£5.00
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£8.00
Special Offer: Purchase Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£10.00

All the publications are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, from Pinnocks Coffee House, Ripley, or via the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk



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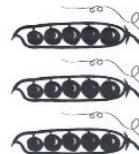
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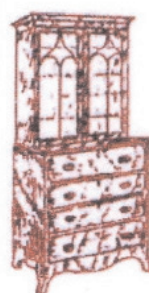
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