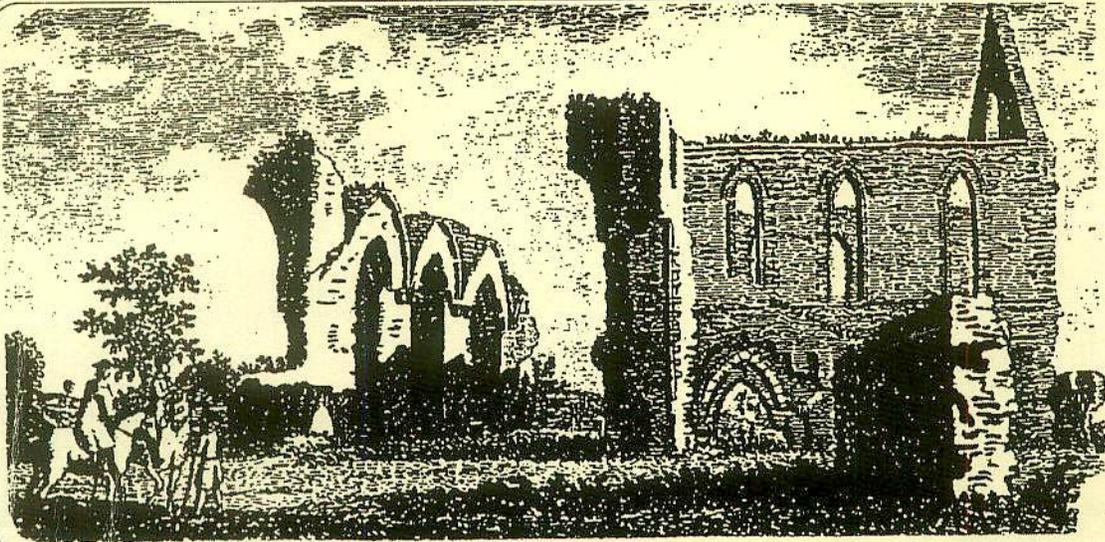


Send & Ripley History Society

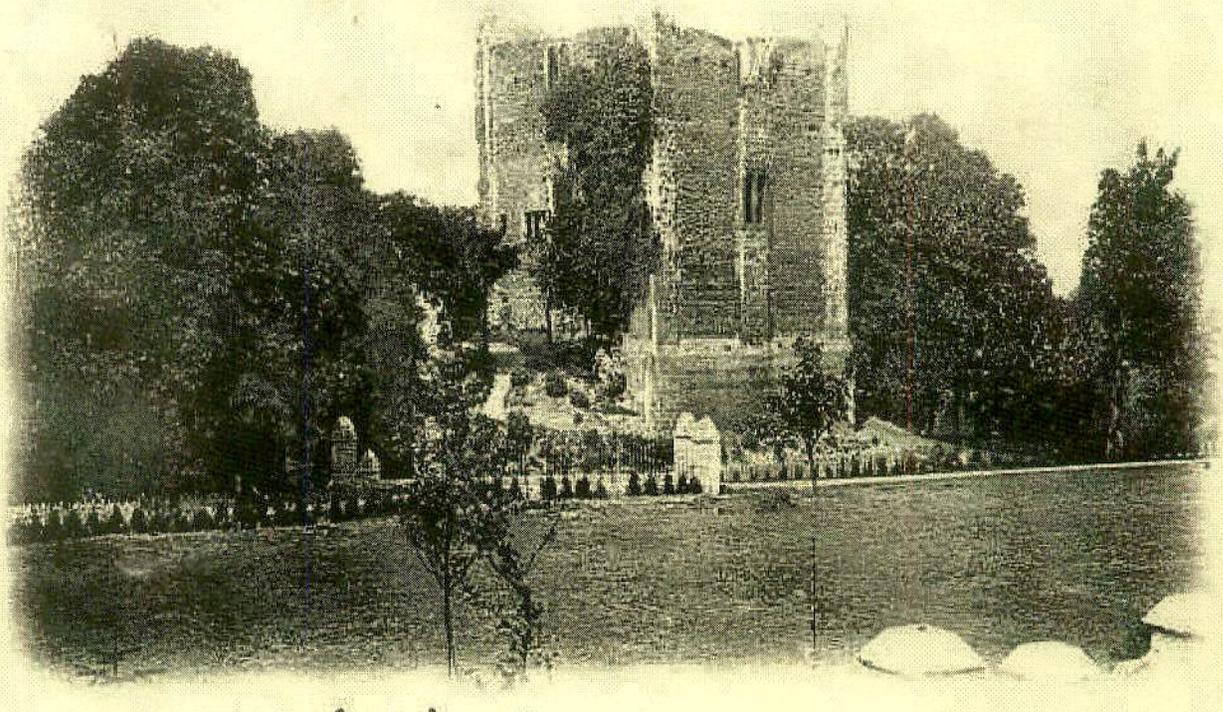
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NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 5 No. 171

July/August 2003



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Send & Ripley History Society

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Cover illustration: Guildford Castle, from a postcard c1900, see page 10

Editor's Comment

Here we are again over halfway through the year with a full programme of outside visits well under way, don't miss the all day visit to **Rottingdean on Saturday 19th July!** Check the Events page for full details. Also for those of you who can't spare the whole day the society will have a Book and Bric-a-brac Stall at the Ripley Event on the same day

The society is considering ideas for an exhibition at The Surrey Local History Symposium at Chertsey on 8th November. On the theme 'Surrey Historians' a likely **local** candidate would appear to be the early 20th century amateur historian Capt C M H Pearce JP FSA, who excavated and reported upon Newark Priory in 1930. Any other suggestions? preferably about someone with associations with Send and Ripley. Contact the editor or our chairman Les Bowerman not later than the end of July

Moss

The Former Chemist's Shop, 110 Send Road

By Les Bowerman

The Moss Pharmacy at 110 Send Road closed on 7th June and re-opened on the 9th at the new Villages Surgery. For planning reasons it will be selling only health-related items and not beauty aids, etc.

The story of 110 Send Road begins in Send Marsh in 1871 when James Broomfield, aged 38, and born in Shalford, saddler, harness maker and beerhouse keeper, is shown in the Census as living at the Saddlers Arms. This was the first Census to mention either Broomfield or the Saddlers Arms. His wife was Emma, also 38, and born at Shamley Green. They had a daughter and a son, James, aged 13, born in Westminster. Kelly's Directory of 1878 indicates that James, senior, had given up harness making and taken up the manufacture of blacking.

The 1881 Census shows 'Emma Broomfield, widow, as the beer-house keeper' and this is confirmed by Kelly's of 1882 and 1887.

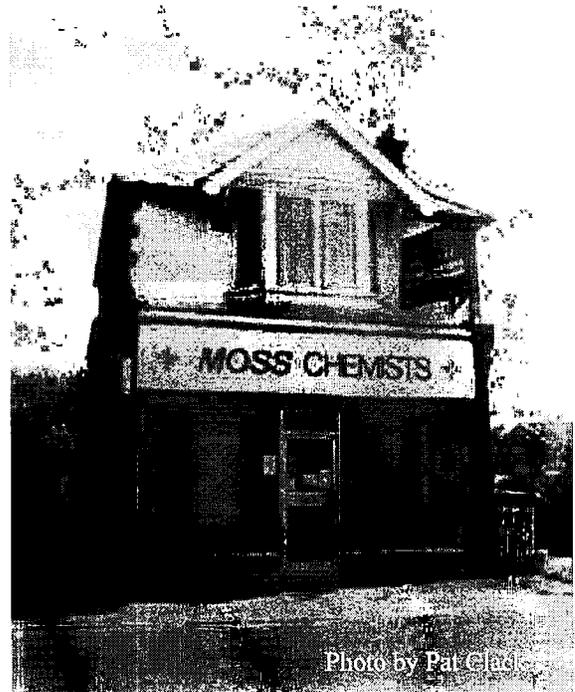


Photo by Pat Glade

Kelly's 1891 Directory, presumably compiled in 1890, shows William Nicholson as beer retailer at Cooks Heath which is the old name for that part of present day Send Marsh. By the time of the 1891 Census, usually taken in April, James Broomfield, junior, then aged 32 and a saddler like his father, had returned to run the Saddlers Arms. He and his wife, Sarah, also 32, had at that stage five children all born in Send and Ripley. They remain there, appearing in successive issues of Kelly, right up to 1911. The 1901 census showed that the family had increased to number ten children, of whom the eighth was Walter, aged 4.

Turning now to Send Road, we can note that the smithy was a building on its own up to 1896 when the 25" Ordnance Survey map was published. A date plaque in the front gablet of 110 Send Road, (see photo right) which is immediately to the left of where the smithy was, indicates that the shop with smart brown glazed tiles on the front elevation was built in AD 1910 (not that we might have thought it was BC), and then Kelly for 1913 shows that Bernard McLoughlin had taken over the Saddlers Arms.



Photo by Les Bowerman

In the 1938 Kelly, Bernard was shown as having been succeeded by his son John, whom many will remember.

Back to the Broomfields and Kelly shows Broomfield & Sons, cycle agents, in Send Road from 1915 to 1924. It is safe to assume that by 1913 and possibly as early as 1910, James Broomfield, who would by then have been in his fifties had had enough of beer-house keeping and set up the cycle business at what is now 110 Send Road to provide a business for his sons Archie and Wallie.

Sarah Broomfield probably encouraged the change of direction because, as noted in the 'Ripley & Send Pubs' book, Sarah became tired of having to run the beer-house while James sat in the shed attached, mending shoes and nattering. The book suggests that James's aunt, Mrs Daws of the Kilns, bought the shop in Send for him. Archie never in fact, we are told, went into the new business, preferring carpentry. His son, Robin, still lives in Send Road and has helped Pat Clack with information. This left Wallie to work with his father in Send Road. Wallie's son, Keith, did not enter the business.



Advertisement side walls - photo by Les Bowerman

Kelly's Directories for 1927 to 1938 show Broomfield & Sons in Send only as boot repairers, but Pat Clack who has lived nearby for most of her life tells us that James always kept the footwear side going while Wallie looked after the bicycles. By August 1931 an advertisement in the Send Parish magazine tells us that J Broomfield & Son was a high-class boot and shoe stores with repairs a speciality and cycle accessories in stock. Although the lettering still visible on both side walls of 110 Send Road (see photo above) tells us that Broomfield & Sons were cycle makers and repairers and undertook plating and enamelling, no evidence has surfaced to show that they actually made, or had facilities for making, cycle frames. The likelihood is that they assembled machines from parts bought in. Whether they had their own makers' badge is not known, but clearly by 1927 the bicycle side had declined to merely selling accessories.

We are told that the shop first became a chemist's about 1950, and sure enough in the Send Parish magazine for July 1951 there is an advertisement for 'Kenneth Gott, MPS, dispensing chemist. Telephone Ripley 2162. Attendance on Sundays 12 to 2 pm. Night bell at side for urgent requirements.' Since we do not have a full set of parish magazines it is not possible to give the precise date. Curiously, the same July 1951 issue also carries an advertisement for 'W Broomfield. Boot & shoe repairer. Cycle accessories. Ripley 2330, 110 Send Road'. This raises the possibility that, for a while, pharmaceutical items, shoes and bike bits were all dealt with in the same building. There are recollections of 'old man Broomfield' sitting at a side window with his mouth full of brads.

In May 1961 the parish magazine shows that W & M M Tyson, MsPS, pharmaceutical chemists, Ripley 2162, had taken over from Kenneth Gott. The bell at the side entrance was still available for urgent requirements. In the same issue the address of W Broomfield, boot & shoe repairer and cycle accessories, Ripley 2080, was given as 109 Send Road. This probably means that Jim's private tennis court, available for hire at 6d or 1/- a time, on the ground to the left of the shop, where many local people learned to play, had been sold and the house, now with an added shop front, had been built to house the shoe business.

The parish magazine of December 1962 contains the last advertisement for W Broomfield, still doing boots and shoes and cycle accessories. The 1968 magazine has an advertisement for 'T A Coats, 1st class shoe repairs, 108 Send Road, Ripley 2080'.

Does that imply, perhaps, that the shop extension had a separate address from the new house itself?

The December 1977 parish magazine contains the last advertisement for Tysons and the following issue the first for 'E Moss Ltd., Guildford 222162, managing pharmacist: Mrs N Davies, MPS'. In December 1978 Coats was still repairing shoes but in the following issue F Waite had replaced him at number 108, Guildford 222080. The last appearance of Waite was in December 1980 and the last for E Moss Ltd (Mrs Davies still there) was December 1983.

With the closure of the chemist's imminent, David Porter drew attention to the attractive iron sign, almost certainly made about 50 years ago by C H Sex & Sons, smiths and wrought iron specialists. Andy Jones persuaded Moss Pharmacies to give the sign to Send & Ripley History Society for safekeeping. They did not wish to take it to their new premises. Thus took place the little ceremony depicted by the "Surrey" Advertiser" in their issue of 6th June. Thanks to all concerned for help in retaining this piece of local history and for help with this article.



Photo by Ken Bourne



Left –Oliver Picard (Area Manager Moss Chemists) handing over the chemists sign to Les Bowerman Chairman S&RHS.
L/r - Les Bowerman, Anne Bowerman, Pat Clack, Oliver Picard and Andy Jones.

Photo by Surrey Advertiser

Potters Lane, Send

By Les Bowerman

At Journal 167/6 I wrote some notes on the history of this road name and observed that the part of the road from Church Lane to the London to Portsmouth Road seems to have been known as Potters Lane from time immemorial. I continued that the earliest definite reference I had so far found was in a bus timetable dated 1st September, 1921.

Whilst researching the history of Crickets Hill Farm, Clare McCann has recently found much earlier mentions of Potters Lane in the Census Returns. In both 1861 and 1871 the name Potters Lane is given both on its own for an unnamed house and then immediately afterwards in connection with the property "Three Fords" which is near the southern end of the road where it joins the A3.

The moral is that one should always check all the available sources.

Cricket Hill Farm
Notes from a very amateur house detective
(Part 2)
By Clare McCann
(See Journal No. 169 for part 1)

I am afraid my resolve to keep up my house research has been rather patchy, a bit like my results! For example I spent over an hour on the internet and the sum of my discoveries was that **Cricketshill Farm** had hosted a caravan rally in 1985 and that someone called Dinah Lampitt had written three historical novels about Sutton Place, the last of which features John Joseph Webbe Weston (owner of Cricketshill Farm in 1840s). I have since read this novel and whilst its literary merit was somewhat questionable, it gave some interesting historical background. The direct line of the Westons died out and John Joseph's grandfather added the name Weston to the family name of Webbe in order to inherit. If Dinah Lampitt is to be believed, the curse of Sutton Place ruined the family or perhaps they just overspent! However John Joseph did seek a career as a 'Soldier of Fortune' (the book's title) in Austria, as it was apparently difficult as a Catholic to have a successful military career here. This ties in with the entry in the Tithe Apportionment, which lists him as John Joseph Webbe of Vienna.

So much for the internet ! I have had better luck with Kelly's Directory. Many of you will know about Kelly's except for beginners like me! Kelly's was a commercial directory that gave a little general information about a locality, followed by a list of prominent residents and local businesses. The Society has photocopies of the Directory at the museum.

Kelly's has given me the name of the occupiers of the farm from 1907 until 1934. In the 1938 directory the farm is not mentioned but interestingly George Frederick Oliver is listed as the new occupier of Send Court Farm. I already know that Jim Oliver later farmed Send Court Farm, while his brother Fred farmed Cricketshill so perhaps their father bought both farms between 1934 and 1938 and this is why there is no entry for Cricketshill in 1938. I hope to confirm this with the Oliver family.

Well, progress has not been great but I hope I will have more to report next time.

Send Community Collage
By Jean Carpenter

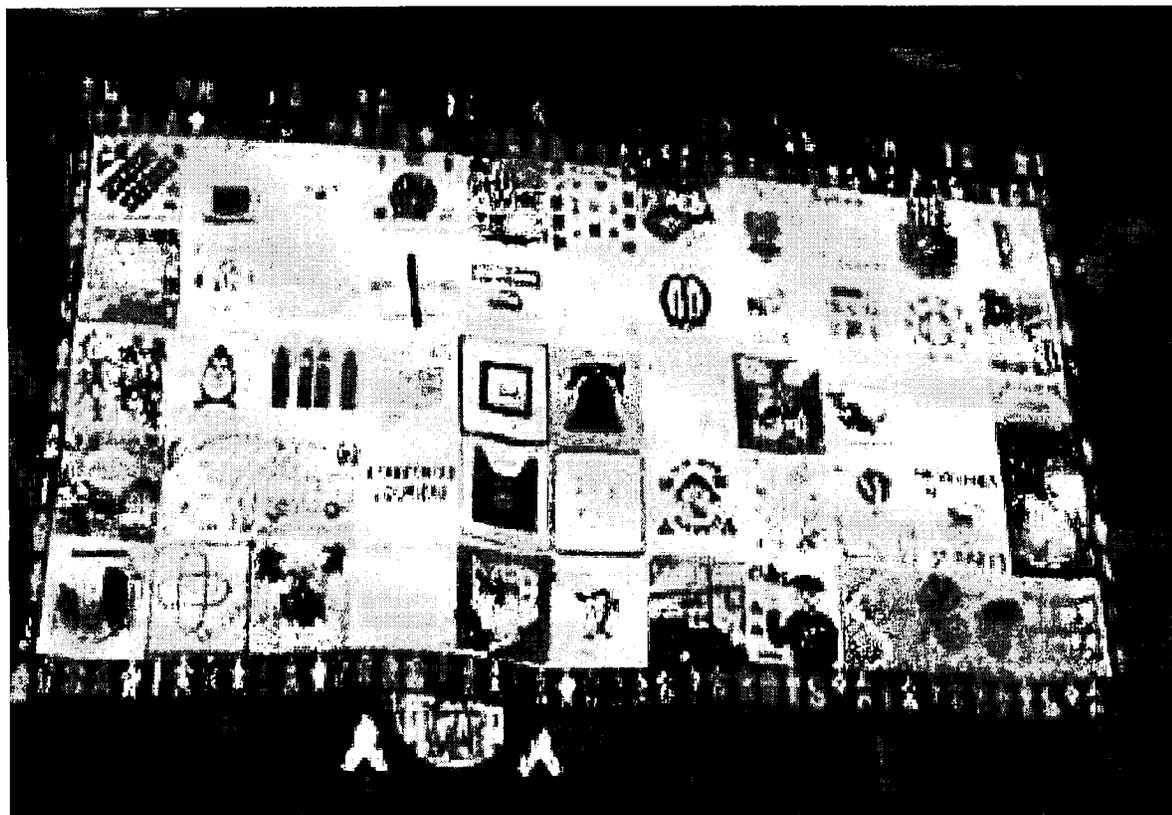
Some weeks ago I was asked by the Chairman to make a foot square panel for the above collage. This was to consist of 55 panels from shops, businesses, churches, societies and other groups in Send.

Our panel was the logo from the society, and Les kindly photocopied and enlarged it to act as my pattern. With less than a month to complete the panel I set to work with gusto and soon became engrossed. The outline of the Priory itself was done in black thread and the foliage depicted around the building in green, using a mixture of stem stitch, varied at times for the foliage with uneven stem stitch (you will not find this in any embroidery book but it worked!).

The writing below was in a mixture of black satin stitch and stem stitch with the capitals picked out in gold thread.

Beth Shutt, the vicar's wife and seamstress par excellence, then sewed all 55 panels together with a bright surround. She also made a pulpit fall, an altar frontal, a chasuble, stole & maniple in the same material as the surround. And, as if this was not enough, made two long banners of the said material, which they hung across the churchyard.

The collage was dedicated on Whitsunday in front of a large congregation from all sections of the village. After the service we clasped hands all around the church to denote the oneness of the village.



S&RHS Logo is 2nd row, 4th from right.

Letters

Miss M D Baigent,
MARLBOROUGH,

A Treasure for the Society (Journal 169)

Dear Mr Bowerman,

Thank you very much for the copy of Send & Ripley History Society journal for March/April with the copies of drawings from my Aunt May's Autograph Album. I gave Sheila Brown as many names I knew. The dog was drawn by my father, William John Baigent. I presume it was when he was home on leave, as he was still in the Army when he married on September 21st 1918 to Ada Stevens.

As I am 83 years old now and have suffered a stroke I wanted the book to go where it will be kept as, when people turn out the house, it would probably end up in the dustbin.

The drawing of the car was by Ernest Stevens who was my uncle and May's second brother. I do not know if Ern ever owned a car, but his brother Charles used to be a chauffeur and worked for a lady at East Molesey. The one of the sweep was by George Trevor Baigent, my uncle who lived in Vine Cottage in Send barns Lane. He was a chimney sweep and belonged to the Send Fire Brigade. One day when he was called out, riding his bike to the fire station, he slung his jacket over the handlebars and it caught in the wheel, throwing him off, and he broke his leg. I believe the accident is recorded in the Fire Brigade records – so I am told, anyway. I used to like Uncle George. He had a large lawn which went down to the barn, and he allowed us two girls to play bowls on it. The balls were so heavy we had a job to lift them up.

I do have some photos I would like to dedicate to the Society but, as they are the only ones I have, I will have to get them copied first.

M D Baigent

Dear Miss Baigent,

Thank you for your letter of 24th April with more interesting details about your aunt's autograph album. To the History Society it is an honour and a pleasure to have the book to look after and to show people who are interested in the Send of days gone by. It is, of course, of particular interest as all the entries are by local people.

You mentioned the Send Fire Brigade's records, but unfortunately we have not yet located these books. I am sure it would be very interesting if we could find them.

It is very kind of you to wish to let the Society have some more photos, and we look forward to seeing the copies when you have had them done. We would like to pay the cost of copying them if you would care to let me know the amount involved.

Les Bowerman

Sixty years of St Bede's School (Journal 169)

Dear Mr. Bourne,

Please would you be so kind as to pass on the following to David Porter in answer to his last two questions on page twelve of the March/April edition of the journal:

I have the memory of a member of staff named Mr. Swan, who I believe left the school shortly after I started there in September 1960. (I don't think the two are directly connected !)

I think he was the beekeeper. I also think he may be the member of staff at the back, second from the right standing next to Mr Streeter. I seem to recall that he drove an old style 'station wagon', large with wood frames, but not a Morris Traveller.

I hope that this may be of some help, and look forward to many more tales of days gone by.

Stuart Mathis.

A Victorian Schoolmaster in Ripley

By Sheila Brown

Shortly after the publication and book launch of 'Two Surrey Village Schools' in September 2002, John Slatford received an email from Alan Young in Toronto, Canada. This asked for help for information about his grandfather, Ernest John Cosier Young who had been 'a schoolmaster in Ripley in the 1890s; (John is the internet contact for people interested in the history of Ripley).

As there were several schools in Ripley at the time, this could have been a difficult piece of research, but John immediately looked in the new book and from the list of Masters and Mistresses at Ripley National School he found that Ernest John Cosier Young had been the Master there from 1896-1900.

He emailed the joyful news back to Alan Young and also told him about the book. By return email there was a request for a copy of the book, and so the first overseas sale was made! John told me about the enquiries and I was most interested to be involved in further research.

We decided to have another look at the logbook entries for the years when Alan Young's grandfather was Master there, and photocopies were made of the relevant pages and sent by snail-mail to Canada. Alan was delighted to have this evidence of his grandfather's life in England, written in his own hand, for the family history.

The story could have ended there but Alan decided to share some of his family history with us, as it was relevant to our book. The story starts in Canada. Alan's grandmother was Emily Ethel Young (nee Wright), and just before she died there in 1971, she confided to her daughter that her husband, Ernest John Cosier Young, had had a first wife who was her elder sister Annie Amelia, and that he had been a schoolmaster in Ripley in England. Her sister had died, and later Emily and Ernest decided to marry. However, at that time a man was not permitted to marry his dead wife's sister and so they went to Belgium to get married, where it was legal. This had all been kept secret from the family who, of course, were most curious to know more but it was left to Alan to pursue the family history in later years.

Alan now wanted to know if there had been any children of the first marriage and what the first wife had died from. Bette Slatford searched the Ripley parish registers and found that there had been two children of the first marriage who had died in infancy.

Ernest J. Cosier Young was newly married when he became Master of Ripley National School. There was no mention of this when he wrote in the logbook on May 1st 1896, *I, Ernest Cosier Young, Trained Certificated Teacher have today taken charge of this school.*

On May 11th he wrote, *Annie Amelia Young, Trained Certificated Teacher commenced duties as Assistant.* He did not mention that she was his wife, but nearly a year later, on February 23rd 1897, he noted that *Mrs Young was absent ill.* She did not return to school until the end of March and during this time their son was born, and christened Ernest Robert Cosier Young*.



Ernest John Cosier Young

The log-book recorded that Mrs Young was absent on several occasions during the following months, and during August, their baby son died, aged 5 months*. When the school opened again on September 6th the Master wrote in the logbook, *Mrs Young is forbidden by the Doctor to resume work owing to ill health. Two monitoresses have been put on temporarily**.

The school closed on December 1st 1897 for nearly two months for the building of the Jubilee Room and remained closed until January 24th, 1898. Mrs Young did not return to school. On July 15th 1898 the Master recorded, *Miss Wright is kindly assisting during the absence of Pupil Teachers*. (Alan thinks this Miss Wright was Emily Ethel, his grandmother who was training to be a teacher). On September 10th 1898 Mrs Young gave birth to a daughter, named Lily, who lived for only one day*. Almost two years later, on September 7th 1900, Annie Amelia Young died aged 30*.

On December 21st 1900 Ernest Cosier Young wrote his last entry in the school logbook, *I relinquish charge of the school today having been appointed to the mastership of the New Brentford Schools*.

(* From Ripley parish records)

This period at Ripley had been a very sad time for the Master as his mother had also died in 1898 making four deaths in his family, none of which was reflected in his logbook entries. His mother was of French Huguenot ancestry, which is where the name Cosier comes in. Alan wondered why his grandfather hadn't given the Cosier name to one of his sons, but of course he had, but nobody knew this.

The story could end here but Alan has given us much more. When he told his sister and two Young cousins that he had received the family information from England, they all met up and one of them showed him an inkwell and stand that had been presented to their grandfather on his departure from Ripley. Alan had not known of this before. He was able to photograph it, and one can see from the picture here that it is a handsome piece.

The inscription reads:

MR E J C YOUNG
RIPLEY SCHOOL
DECEMBER 1900

John Slatford researched the hallmarks and found that the inkstand was made of sterling silver, something like 95/96 pure, and was assayed in Sheffield in 1899. The makers were Roberts and Beck, silversmiths in Sheffield. The lid and top of the inkwell were made in Birmingham in 1900. The inkwell is surely crystal or cut glass of the highest quality. The Managers of Ripley National School must have held their departing Master in high esteem to have commissioned such a prestigious gift.

In 1901 according to the census Ernest was living alone, in Ealing, but in 1902 he married Emily Ethel and they moved to Lee Common, Bucks, where he was the schoolmaster until he retired in 1929. Ernest and Ethel had three sons and one daughter. They moved to Canada in 1929 and Ernest died there in 1939.

Alan Young has been able to extend his knowledge of his family history with the help that John and Bette Slatford and myself have given him. We were very pleased to help him and in return he has given us valuable information about one of the Victorian Masters of Ripley National School that was previously unknown to us, plus the photograph of his grandfather, Ernest John Cosier Young.



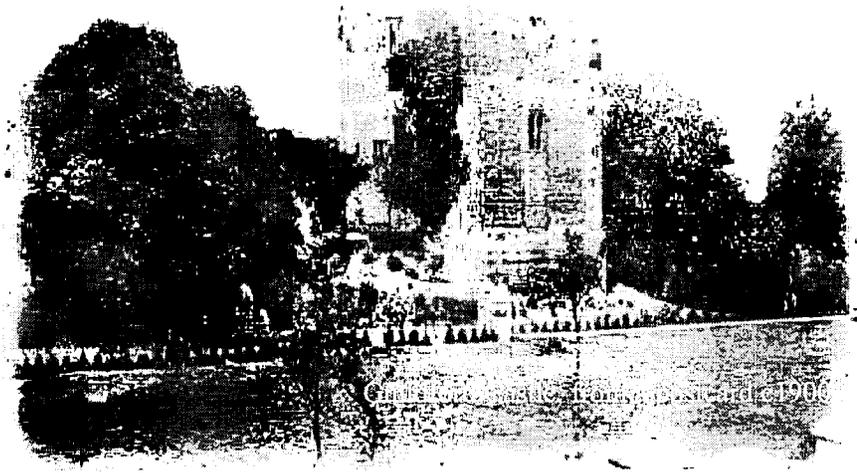
The History of Guildford Castle
Talk to the SRHS by Mary Alexander on 19th March
Notes by Les Bowerman

Mary has been studying the Castle for at least ten years. She has done original research on it as part of a Ph.D course at reading University. Some of the information below derives from her own research.

The earliest known map of Guildford is dated 1739, which is late for a first map of a town. It shows that the general layout had not at that time changed much since the Middle Ages. It was basically a 10th century planned town with a central street and town ditches to the north and south. The Castle intrudes on the line of the south ditch. Apart from the castle the town was laid out like a rectangle. But it may be more complicated than that, being based on an earlier town near the castle. In the Middle Ages there was just the High Street with properties along it. There was probably a wooden bridge in Saxon times, the stone bridge being built about 1200.

Although quite a small town, Guildford was always the County Town. It is the only royal castle in Surrey.

The castle would have been started by William the Conqueror. The original site was about six acres. From the 16th century parts of the site were encroached and built on. The site was quite large compared to the town, which it would have dominated. The motte or mound was either totally artificial or it could have been partly a natural mound. A large stone tower cannot be built immediately on a pile of earth, so it



would at first have had a wooden palisade. It would take at least 50 yrs to settle. Most likely, the Keep (or Great Tower to use the latest expression) was built about 100 yrs after the castle was founded. Little is known about the detailed origins of most early castles. The Tower of London is exceptional in this respect. It is known that a rebellion in the south west resulted in William building Exeter castle in 1077 but there was no rebellion round here to make him build. Most castles were built in towns, which became County towns. Guildford Castle was most likely founded within a few years of the Conquest. There would have been various facilities such as stables, kitchens, etc., in the bailey.

Some time after the founding a wall called a shell-keep was built around the top of Motte. Not many of these survive. In Guildford it starts halfway down the motte, which is unusual. Some fragments remain, others have gone since the 19c. It is most likely to have been Henry I in 1100 to 1135 who built that. Stone structures take months or years to build and he would have had the time. Later, in the middle of the 12th century, the keep or great tower was built. It could have been by Stephen (1135-1154) but nothing else by him like this survives. Or maybe it was Henry II (1154-1189), because he built many keeps. But there are documents about all of his and they were of much higher quality than Guildford. For a royal castle it is poor quality. Stephen had not the wealth of Henry II. He definitely built Faversham Abbey in Kent and that may have taken all the good masons, leaving only lesser ones for Guildford.

The shell-keep is of massive construction. There is a backward slope on the wall to counteract pressure of earth behind. Usually a shell-keep would be within the flat top of the motte. It would have been polygonal with at least 6 sides and intermediate towers. It would be impressive. When the great tower was built it most likely incorporated some of the shell-keep, some fragments of which are visible. The shell-keep was mostly of chalk from quarries nearby. The great tower has bargate sandstone from a little further away. It has ashlar blocks of stone similar to bargate. Most of the walling is of bargate rubble, although it is mixed. The tiles are later repairs. A programme of conservation inside and out is being undertaken this year. Experts should be able to date the tower whilst doing this work. In the 19th century unsuitable cement mortar was used for repairs.

The entrance is on the west front. The sketch of 1781 shows diagonal lines in the stonework, which related to a fore-building, a glorified porch, which was added later. It leads up to the first floor door. This tower is quite small for a great tower. The lower hole may have been a way into the ground floor storage area. It may have been there from the start, although it used to be thought it was knocked through later. A ground floor entrance would have been vulnerable but the shell-keep would have provided security. Much stonework has been robbed round the base. Local people would take material when a building was no longer in use, as at Newark Priory until Speaker Onslow stopped it being pulled down completely for road repairs. Much ashlar work has disappeared. There is no indication of what the access to the first floor was. In 1990 the present wooden stair was constructed. The Museum was not consulted.

The east face has a central pillar of ashlar and bands of decorative stone, which are mediaeval. The brick windows are later. An 1830s restoration was of different, neater quality than the mediaeval work. It is all a bit of a mixture. The tower would have been rendered all over and whitewashed. The conservationists will put a thin layer of rendering over it. A thicker layer would be more original but would not show details of the stonework at all. The rendering will protect the stonework against damp. Herring bone work is usually Saxon or early mediaeval.

The original roof was most likely a level down with a false wall above. It may have been raised in the 16th century when the brick windows were put in but the higher roof line has all gone. The base of the east wall shows later restoration work. The chalk foundations were probably not meant to be seen, earth having been eroded away.

The south wall has a large first floor window, which shows that the first floor was of best quality as it is more decorative. A two-seater garde-robe (ie loo) can be seen at second floor level. There is no sign of one on the first floor, although it is unlikely that the bigwigs on the first floor would go upstairs. Their garde-robe must have disappeared in the course of time.

There are two chambers in the west wall. One is an ante-chapel and the other a room of uncertain purpose. It could have been a private room for the king. A lord of any standing would expect a hall, private room and chapel. It is odd that you come straight into the main hall. An upper internal door leads to a little staircase in the wall, blocked until the 1880s when the castle was taken over by the Borough. This is why Mary thinks the roof was raised. On the internal side of the walls there is an off-set all round where the roof would have been fixed, coming up to a pyramid shape. In an 1800 drawing more plaster is shown. There is no original fireplace so the castle may have had a central hearth. The brick windows were most likely inserted in the 16th century. In 1544 John Daborn was made keeper of the castle gardens. He seems to have *modernised* the tower into a residence with brick windows, fireplace and chimney.

In the 14th century the buildings in the bailey had fallen and the castle was gradually abandoned. From the 1370s it ceased to be used by royalty. The keep was used as the county jail until the early 16th century.

Mary thinks that one of the buildings in the bailey was the King's own private chamber which it is known that Henry II was building in the 1160s. The Castle was a collection of buildings, sometimes joined and sometimes not. There is terracing connected with the Castle down to Quarry Street. The Museum building has the base of the gatehouse in its cellar. Francis Carter acquired the Castle from James I in 1611 and did some work. Mary thinks he built Castle Arch soon after on the mediaeval gatehouse which dates from 1256. Grooves for the portcullis show it was impressive with building above it at least as high as the archway.

From Ripley to Mars with a few stops along the way.

Doreen P. Lindegaard

49 Clayfield Rd
Brislington, Bristol BS4 4NH

In 1906, the year the American astronomer Percival Lowell wrote 'Mars and its Canals', a little girl called Florence Honour was born at Cove, Hampshire. She was always known as Flo and was the last but one child of Levi and Sarah Honour. Her father, of an itinerant disposition, is described as a farmer when he was in funds and a farm labourer when he wasn't. In 1908, Lowell was at it again, and confidently published 'Mars as the Abode of Life', by which time the family was at Woodmancote, but apart from occasional stargazing, as far as I am aware, they knew little of outer space. There were several more moves, until they arrived at West Clandon in 1909, and in 1910, the year of Halley's Comet, finally came to Ripley. The children enrolled at Ripley School.

When *Two Surrey Village Schools* was published recently, I sent for a copy, but was disappointed that neither Flo nor her little brother Harry, a year younger, were to be found. Never mind, I have a school photo of them aged about 6 & 7 with their classmates, plus Mrs Kate Blaxland and a pupil teacher. I wonder if they took part in the school concert in 1915 to raise money for war funds? Sadly their mother Sarah died in 1916 aged 49, whilst their father Levi was away on war work, always mysteriously described to me as 'gathering fodder for the army'. Sarah is buried in Ripley Churchyard in an unmarked grave. Flo and Harry went off on their travels once more, and Flo eventually settled in Bristol. She married Alfred 'Jack' Pillinger, a gas company pipe layer, in 1931 and they raised two children, myself and my brother. Flo never went back to Ripley until my husband and I brought her there one Sunday in 1996, and we found the row of cottages where the family once lived. The village school she had known was sadly pulled down in the 1980s. Flo died in 2001 aged 95.

So what is this to do with Mars? Well, Flo and Jack's son is Professor Colin Pillinger, CBE, whose brainchild, the Beagle 2 lander blasted off on 2 June 2003 on a six month voyage to Mars. With luck. Beagle 2, named after the ship in which Charles Darwin circumnavigated the world, will finally answer the question, which Percival Lowell believed he had solved in 1908. Is there, or has there ever been, LIFE ON MARS?

George Bleach

It is with much sadness that we record here the death of George who died on 9th May 2003. All those who knew him will recall his great sense of humour. As a member of committee with his wife Irene he was a respected colleague and friend. In this history society we came to rely upon him over the many years he was a member. He could be depended upon to help in whatever capacity he was asked to assist. For a short while he helped at the Christmas socials following on from Bob Gale with a Christmas quiz. He was active in so many ways perhaps more than we can individually recall, but the museum stewards came to rely upon George to be on hand to open up the museum and sort out any problems that would arise with the rota.

He will be remembered especially by our advertisers, as each year he would cheerfully persuade them to part from their money. Under his management the journal was never short of advertising and as editor I have on many occasions been very thankful that George has been there to support me. Many of us will recall those occasions when to meet George was always a pleasure and because of his good humour we were enriched by being in his presence.

The funeral service was held at St Mary's Church on the 14th May. The following are notes by Les Bowerman from the tribute given by The Rev Tony Shutt.

George would say in his playful aux naïf way after the service 'What are all these people doing here? Haven't they got homes to go to?'

He would say he was waiting for Irene, even though he might be doing all the talking.

Hearing aircraft overhead would remind me of George – wherever he went he would leave a vacuum trail of good humour. Since George was keen on ships perhaps more appropriate to refer to trailing in his wake. You would know you had spoken to George because you had a smile on your face.

George was born at Waldhurst in Kent on 21st May 1921, son of a serving soldier. At 6 weeks the family was posted to Gibraltar, then back to Salisbury. In 1940 he joined the Royal Artillery, serving most of the war in Kent. After D-Day he was in France and then Germany. He had a transfer to the Intelligence Corps, which he probably found bizarre. He helped in the reconstruction of Germany.

In 1946 George married Mollie and in 1948 their first son was born. They had three boys in the 1950s and then in the early 1960s a daughter, Sarah.

On retirement in 1980 George and Mollie travelled, including going to Japan. The following year Mollie died of a brain tumour.

George and Irene married here in Send in 1982. They settled in Send. George became a Send churchwarden about 1982. Soon after, the incumbent left. George had to cope with the interregnum. In 1990 George and Irene moved to Ripley but retained their connection with Send church.

In recent years George struggled with dementia and was frustrated by failure of memory and strength. He was especially unhappy about having to give up driving. At Easter a few weeks ago he was on very good form. He will be remembered as a good husband, father, stepfather, grandfather, and friend. In all his roles he was gentle, loving, kindly, and above all witty. He was a private man, but liked to be with people. He was a great organizer but never made a fuss about getting things done. During George's long and fruitful life he experienced lighter and darker shades of reality.

To know George was to know a man who had found how to experience and share joy and happiness.

'Why are you all here?' George might well have asked. We are here to say we love you, thank you and to say goodbye. We look forward to meeting you again.

JOAN DIBBLE

We are sad to report the unexpected death on 31st March last of our member, Joan Dibble, a few days before her 92nd birthday. She was the youngest of the twelve children of Alf and Mary Dibble.

Alf's father, George Dibble, became landlord at the Anchor Inn in Ripley in 1848. He died in 1866 and his widow, Harriet, took over the running of the inn. With many children to support, Harriet was pleased to cater for a new type of customer, young men on high bicycles, when they began arriving in Ripley by 1873. Assisted by her daughters, Harriet and Annie, the bicycle trade boomed and the Anchor at Ripley became famed throughout the world. The older Harriet died in 1887 and her two daughters continued with the help of their brother Alf. "The fair Annie" and her sister Harriet died, unmarried, in 1895 and 1896 respectively. The cyclist custom was winding down, and Alf sold the business. "The Genial Alf" returned in 1909 and was very popular again, especially with his old friends in the Bath Road (cycling) Club during World War 1 and until his death in 1927.

Alf and his wife, Mary (nee Pullen), had twelve children, of whom Joan was the youngest. As the parents were so busy with the inn and there were so many children, they were largely brought up in the Manor House opposite, which Alf leased. Joan spoke of a happy childhood with a large and loving family. Mary continued to run the Anchor until the end of 1931 when she and Joan moved out to "Faircot", backing onto the Green, where Joan looked after her.

For a few years during World War 2 Joan was secretary to a Department Manager at Vickers at Brooklands, having learnt shorthand and typing at Ryde House School under the headmaster, Mr Goodman. After her mother's death, she lived with and looked after her elder sister, Gertie Symes, in Little Barn, next door to what was then the chemist's shop. For the last few years she lived at White Hart Court. She had joined Send & Ripley History Society and enjoyed attending meetings.

With the formation of the Ripley Section of the then Southern Veteran-Cycle Club in 1976, Joan had been happy to accept an invitation to join the members on the occasion of their summer weekend camp on Ripley Green. There was a meeting in the old school on the Saturday evening where Joan was pleased to reminisce about life in the Anchor in the 1920s. She brought along to display a combined clock and barometer inscribed 'Presented to Mrs Dibble by a few members of the Temple Bicycle Club as a slight recognition of kind attention received at the Anchor Inn, Ripley, Christmas, 1882.'

Joan's many friends in Ripley greatly miss her and say they remember her especially for her gentleness and kindness. This was clearly a family trait, since very similar comments were made in the pages of the cycling periodicals about her aunts, Harriet and Annie, and her father, 'The Genial Alf'.

Les Bowerman (who is grateful to Jane Bartlett for some of the above information)

Forthcoming Events

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

Saturday 19th July - Ripley Event: S&RHS Book Stall and Bric-a-brac sale starting at 2.0pm on the Green. Please bring any items to include to Anne Bowerman **by the previous day**. Also help wanted to assist on the stall, all afternoon or just for an hour or so!

Saturday 19th July – NB. NOT Sun 20th as previously announced.

All-day outing to **Rottingdean, Sussex. Meet at the Manor House, Send Marsh Green**, for a **prompt 8.30 am start**. There will be a comfort stop at South Downs Nurseries on A273. We start with a visit at **10am** to the 11th century church of St John the Baptist at Clayton near Ditchling with its extensive and unique 11th C wall paintings. Lunch at Rottingdean (mentioned in the Domesday survey, not just a suburb of neighbouring Brighton). There should be free parking on the green and plenty of places to eat or have a picnic. Meet at St Margaret's church at **1.30pm** to see the Burne-Jones windows and at **2.0pm** there is a guided tour of The Grange Museum and houses around the green including the homes of Rudyard Kipling and Sir Edward Burne-Jones. This is followed by cream teas (cost to be advised). Finally, a visit to the windmill time and energy permitting.. Those intending to join the outing please notify Anne or Les Bowerman, (01483 224876) saying if you can offer or would like a lift.

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.

Surrey Local History Symposium on the theme of "Surrey Historians".

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

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

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



SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

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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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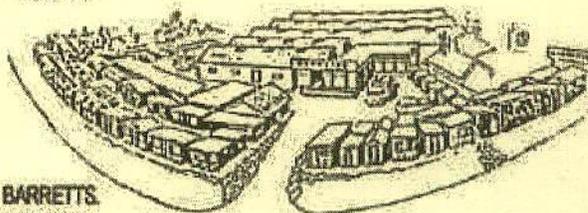


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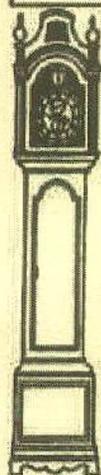


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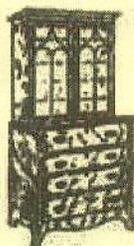
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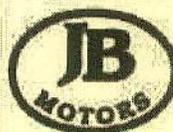
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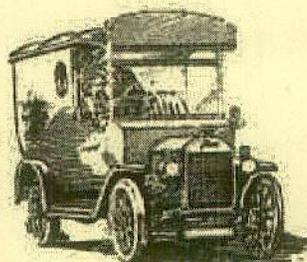
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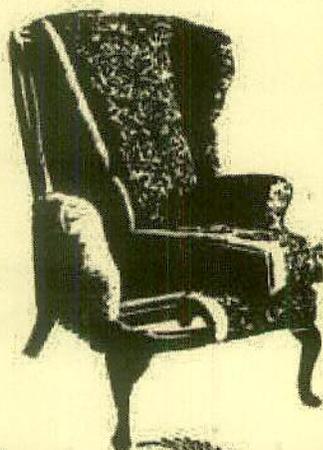
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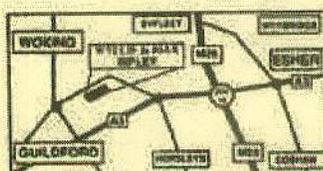
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