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SEND PAST AND PRESENT (PART 2)

The old Send Post Office stood next to the old Keep House in Send Marsh Road with a small footbridge over the stream, it was often flooded and was pulled down about 1910. In 1900 the road was flooded for a week. Here at Goodgrove we had 18 in. of water indoors, and had to sleep upstairs. In 1969 we again had about 18 in. of flood water indoors, the land not the house has kept us here.

In those early years the large houses liked the children to call on the first of May with their Maypoles, and were rewarded with a penny and a bun at Boughton Hall and other large houses. At Boughton Hall each year the schoolchildren gave a repeat performance of the school concert and were given, with the teachers, a sit down tea in the dining room. Lots of cakes and sweets (lucky little devils). The staff included, until early 1900, a butler, housekeeper, coachman, groom, two gardeners and full domestic staff. The lavatories upstairs and down were Moulés earth closets, "The Footman's" job, and water was pumped up to a tank on the roof from a well for hot water and domestic use. Company water was laid on in early 1900.

Postal service to and from Woking to Ripley by old Tommy Cox, who left letters at Cartbridge for places off the main road. He would blow a horn on his route before he came near your house you had to be ready at the roadside to collect as he drove by, wet or fine.

These were the good old days when farm labourers were paid about 15/- per week - when light 6 in the morning to 6 at night. Cowmen 4.30 milking, one hour for breakfast, afternoon milk and feed, to 6 o'clock, Sunday, Christmas day, every day. Carters, 5 o'clock feed, harness, in the field by 6 o'clock, in the afternoon back to stable, by 5 o'clock feed, clean, finish at six, 18/- per week. It was usual for a free pint of mild daily. They could manage the quart of beer on Sunday, the bottle of whiskey 3/6 and bottle of wine 1/- at Christmas, and have a good lash out for one time. One carter brought up eleven children, boys at 12 away from school for potato picking, 7 o'clock to 5 o'clock, one hour for dinner, 4 o'clock on Saturday, pay 2/- per week, you had a measured length to clear each lad.

The beginning of the Century saw the breaking up of the large estates stretching from Guildford to Effingham across to Woking and Weybridge. The Onslow, Lovelace, and Locke King including Boughton Hall and other small estates. The wind of change has brought many thousands of new homes for the people in this area alone. A building plot could be bought in the early days for £40, in Send Fields £80 per acre.

Death duties and taxes have surely taken their toll. Woking in the 90's was a small town wedged between the Railway and Canal, Guildford had a population of 8,000, Send a few hundred. The local farmers in 1880-1890 period were mostly Scots, Ken Mitchell at Boughton Hall Farm (Aldertons), John Mitchell at Gosden Hill, Aird at Park Lane Farm, Kelly at Dedswell Manor, Sinclair at Tythe Barns, Alan at Guiles Hill Farm, Honey at Papercourt Farm, some with their old Scots farm hands. Even my mother was half Scots. Quite a lot of "foreigners" in Send in those days. I should say the proportion of Scot or Scottish descent south of the border is about 2 - 1 north of the border of five and a half million Scots, English and Polish, about one tenth of the total population of Great Britain, fifty-six million of all races, after all it is all one island. The border, a line on a map, which would not stop any boy who saw a pretty girl on the other side (with women's lib. will it be the other way round now?)

Old estate maps show the part near the stream at Send Barns Lane as Ferry Green, no doubt before the arches and roadway over were built. The part which is now Boughton Avenue was marked Sir James Sande. Opposite the Sadlers Inn used to be two ponds with a causeway between, now filled in, and an entrance to Tuckey Grove was Cooks Green, Grove Heath was Gravelly Heath in 1749, Papercourt was Papperworth Manor, Chapel Farm, Ripley, (Chapel of Ease, Ripley), or Send. Newark Abbey at one time Aldbury, also Nowstead back of Papercourt was Hampton Bridge.

King Athelstan brought England under control by his victory over Northumbrian, Danes, Scots and Northmen from Ireland, at Brinanburgh in 937. He sold land he owned in Send to the Archbishop of Canterbury in about 940. It was during his reign the Bible was translated into the Saxon Language.

The ford at Pyrford close to the Abbey must have been used from the earliest times, with roads from the south through Send Marsh and Ripley converging at the ford; Newark Abbey forming a link between Guildford and Chertsey Abbey to Windsor. Newark Abbey was within the old Parish of Send, which measured $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles E. to W. and 4 miles N. to S. Nothing seems to be known during Canute and the other two Danish Kings' reigns, a period of 29 years, until William, the natural son of Duke Robert the Devil, and the Miller's daughter of Normandy, invaded England with an army of mercenaries gathered in Europe and blessed by the Pope, who no doubt was promised some of the perks. After Hastings the Saxon gentry were deprived of their estates, which were given to William's followers, So presently we have mention of a mill in possession of Thomas and Alice de Sende in Domesday. About 1190 Rauld de Culva refounded the house of the Black Can.ons. Send Church Chancel was built about 1240, with mention of "Ripplege" in 1279. In 1290 John deDedswell and John de Bland also Thomas de Sande held land in Send. None of the old houses still exist, although the moated site may have been the home of the Sande family who then owned that part of Boughton Hall Estate.

The Monks and old owners did a fine job of drainage with their ditches and ponds and sump holes filled with chalk, and "filling stations" for horses with roadside ponds and drinking places. There were fish ponds for rearing fish to stock the river, part of one exists at Aldertons in Send Marsh Road still today.

K. J. French - to be continued.

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP REPORT

Frensham Pond - 12/3/78. A ramble to Frensham Pond was enjoyed by 13 people. A light drizzle was falling to start with, but soon cleared. Many birds were seen and heard, including mute swans, tufted duck, mallard, coot, reed bunting, skylark, green woodpecker, kingfisher, wren, great spotted woodpecker, yellowhammer, pied wagtail, moorhen, grey wagtail, and one shelduck keeping company with mallard. A pair of great crested grebe were displaying.

Sheepheas - 26/3/78. A new venue for this ramble, but one that I'm sure will be very popular. Birds seen included lesser spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker, tree creeper, chaffinch, great tit and long tailed tit. Also we caught a glimpse of two roe deer in a copse of larch trees.

Chantries - 16/4/78. Another favourite spot for this ramble. It was very cold and frosty, but the sun shone. A fox was glimpsed running across a field. Also hare and roe deer were seen. The birds are all very busy now nest building. Tree creeper, yellowhammer, jay, skylark, green woodpecker and great spotted woodpecker were seen.

Normandy - 30/4/78. Eleven people came along hoping to see badgers, but no luck this time. Nevertheless, it wasn't a wasted evening as a fox was heard barking, a partridge was calling, and as it was getting dark bats flitted around our heads.

THE NIGHTINGALE

There are many who would claim that our finest songster is the blackbird, and who can deny that this common resident of our gardens is a pleasure to listen to? However, my own choice is the nightingale - that master of song - the bird which poets have celebrated in verse and song - a song which defies description.

Not many people can claim to have seen the nightingale, perhaps it is the quiet sombre colouring of the bird which helps to keep it out of sight.

Most people are under the impression that the nightingale only sings at night, out of course this is not so, for it can be heard practically any time of the day or night. But obviously when the bird is singing at night it has no competition, it has the stage to itself. The actual song of the nightingale is issued during a very short period in the months of May and June, perhaps the peak performance being the last week in May and the first week in June.

Ideally, if one wishes to hear the master giving a performance, a damp evening with a slight breeze blowing is the thing to look for; it simply brings out the best in the bird - but like humans there are good singers and not so good singers.

The nightingale prefers thick bushy places rather than open ground, with low growing trees such as hawthorn or small saplings. The syrinx or song box of the nightingale is placed at the bottom of the windpipe, the lower rings of the windpipe and the uppermost rings of the bronchi are hardened to form a sort of bony box. The box is crossed by a bony bar which supports a membrane known as the reed. From the side of the windpipe there is a fleshy lip which projects towards the edge of the reed and can be varied to give different notes.

This year the nightingale has returned to our village after a long absence, perhaps those of our members who would like to hear this bird would care to take an evening stroll - I'm sure you will not be disappointed if you find it.

Ted Bartlett

THE ROYAL ARMS IN THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SEND

AN APPEAL

Before the Reformation (1534 onwards), the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Send, like all other churches in the country, owed allegiance to the Pope in Rome. When the Church of England was established by Henry VIII, royal coats of arms were erected in churches in a prominent position, usually above the rood screen in place of the rood (the Cross) in order to bring home the difference to the worshippers. These were usually modified or renewed on the succession of each new sovereign, and this happened, as elsewhere, in Send. There is one of these coats of arms in Send Church; it is of George III and its composition shows it to have been produced between 1760 and 1801. It has therefore been in the church for around 200 years. A detailed account of Royal Arms in general, and this one in particular, was written by the Society's President and appeared in N/L 4 and it is proposed to republish it in the next edition of the Newsletter.

At present the coat of arms is inside the tower on the north wall, but over the years it has deteriorated to such an extent that it is now difficult to make out the details, much less to appreciate the skill of the artist who designed and painted it. Two picture restorers have already pronounced it beyond renovation, but a third is confident that it can be done if done without delay.

The Committee believes that the coat of arms is an irreplaceable asset of church and village, and an important feature in the history of the church and of the parish. Approval for the work has been given by the Vicar, and estimates for the renovation, of which the most favourable is for £245, have been obtained. It is believed that members will wish the Society to be known to have been responsible for the restoration and a direct appeal is therefore being launched among the members by this article.

The Committee considers that it would not be right to raise money for this project which might otherwise have gone to a charitable purpose in the village, and it is not intended, therefore, to compete with the Scouts, Guides, Red Cross, etc., in organising jumble sales and so on for this purpose. It is hoped that members of the Society, whether members of St Mary's congregation or not, will feel it is worthwhile to preserve this product of probable local artistry, and make a donation of a small sum of money over and beyond what they might have given or spent on charitable purposes.

With some 230 members at a cost of £245, an average contribution of about £1 each would enable the work to be paid for. It is believed that some members will wish to give rather more as a mark of their affection for the church, and because they feel that the church will be enhanced in a way particularly fitting for members of the History Society, but it is realised that some members may not contribute at all. If you wish to be associated with this project, as we hope you will, please send or hand your contribution to our Treasurer, Jean Croucher, 14 Orchard Way. You will be given a receipt. If there should be any surplus, it would be the intention of the Committee to put it towards financing another project which is in hand - namely a printed guide to the church.

In conclusion, it should be stated for the information of anyone unaware of the position that the Society is totally independent of all other organisations, although many members are of course churchgoers, both Church of England and otherwise.

Les Bowerman (Hon. Secretary)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

The following have become members since the last edition of the Newsletter was published, and we are pleased to welcome them to the Society:

Mrs Donn, Lynton, Tannery Lane, Send.
Mr M. J. Harris, Longwood, West Clandon.
Mrs H. Webster, 21 Hawthorn Road, Godalming.
Mr J. Carter, Oaksbridge, Send Marsh Road.
Mr & Mrs R. F. Wood, Meadowsweet, East Lane, West Horsley.
Mr & Mrs A. Goldup, "Wild Ways", Beech Avenue, Effingham.

Open Evening - 20/4/78

There was an attendance of some 60 people at the Church Room to hear a talk by Mr Keith Best, a native of Send, and until recently a member of the team at the London Weather Centre broadcasting weather forecasts on BBC television and sound. He spoke absorbingly about the formation of cloud and rain, a phenomenon which we have since had ample opportunity to observe and experience in the light of his exposition. He explained lucidly, with the aid of coloured slides, the way in which weather fronts advance, why "false suns" are sometimes seen, and detailed ways in which the activities of man affect climate, sometimes in a purely local way.

Archaeology

The Archaeological Group of the Society has been dormant for some time. There is no immediate prospect of any archaeological excavation in our area, but there might be some field walking to do before long. Occasionally this Society is asked if any of its members would like to assist in "digs" elsewhere in the County, and sometimes the opportunity arises to visit "digs" which are taking place. All of these activities provide interest and experience. Will any members interested in such matters please notify me, so that I may contact you when the occasion arises. In this connection the Surrey Archaeological Society plans to carry out a training excavation on the supposed site of a 12/13th century Manor House near the Roman Catholic Church in Sutton Park between 31st July and 12th August. Will anyone interested and able to guarantee attendance for at least six days please inform me.

Additions to Stock Holdings at Surrey Record Office

The following is an extract from a letter received recently from the Bibliographical Officer at Woking Library:

"I would like to draw your attention to an additional provision within the library service for Local History enthusiasts. We are now receiving, on a regular basis, from the Surrey Record Office, Kingston, notices and lists of additions to their stock holdings. These have so far taken the form of lists of Parish Records held and material - deeds, wills, particulars of sale, marriage settlements, accounts, maps, etc., etc., - all within the County of Surrey past and present.

"I am sure you will already be aware of the extent of the holdings in the Surrey Record Office, but these lists, held in the Woking Reference Library, may save a journey to Kingston while preliminary enquiries are being made."

It is hoped that members visiting the Library will cast an eye over these lists from time to time and report back anything relative to the Send and Ripley area.

Forthcoming Events

The meeting point for all rambles and outings is in the elbow of the old road at Send Barns junction with Fell Hill, some 200 yards south of Send C. of E. First School.

Sunday, 28th May ... Meet 7.30 p.m. for an evening natural history ramble at Bramshott Chase to hear the nightingale.

Sunday, 4th June ... Natural history morning ramble at Winkworth Arboretum. Meet 6.30 a.m.

Sunday, 11th June ... Meet 8 p.m. for evening ramble to Horsell Common to hear the nightjar.

Wednesday, 14th June ... Open meeting at 8 p.m. in the upstairs room at the Lancaster Hall for talks by members. Please note different venue for this meeting. There may be a demonstration of the agricultural pumping engine, a report on progress with the Royal Arms, and a talk on Old Woking about 1900.

Wednesday, 21st June ... Painting demonstration at 7.15 p.m. by Ted Bartlett in the Manor House, Send Marsh Green. If you wish to participate, bring:- Daler board, 20" x 14" approx., three brushes, 1" household, 1" hog, and small fine sable, acrylic paints:- white, India red, yellow, blue, burnt umber; or just come and watch - all welcome.

Sunday, 2nd July ... Natural history ramble to Wood Street. Meet 6 a.m.

Sunday, 2nd July ... Outing to Peper Harow Granary at 2.30 p.m. at Send Barns, or 3 p.m. at the Granary. Peper Harow Granary is the centre-piece of a magnificent quadrangle farmyard, unspoilt by the hand of the modern improver. This farm has associations with Waverley Abbey. The granary is described by Sir Nicolas Pevsner as one of the best vernacular buildings in the South of England. Nearby are Peper Harow Mansion, by Sir William Chambers, 1763, with its stables, and the estate church.

Wednesday, 12th July ... Evening outing to the old church at Albury Park. This has a tangible atmosphere only produced by its situation and the immense passage of time. It marks the site of the deserted village of Albury, which stood on the banks of the Tillingbourne. The unsuccessful struggle to prevent the diversion of the main route to Dorking, and the villagers being moved to a new settlement at modern Albury (Weston), surprises those not acquainted with the activities of Captain Finch and Mr Drummond. Meet at 7 p.m. at Send Barns.

Sunday, 16th July.... Meet 6 a.m. for natural history ramble to the Chancies.

Sunday, 30th July ... Ramble to Alice Holt Forest. Meet 5 a.m. Hope to see deer.

Wednesday, 27th September ... Open meeting at 8 p.m. in the Church Room, Send Road, Send. Natural history evening.

Thursday, 16th November ... Open meeting at 8 p.m. in the Church Room, Send Road, Send. Mr Kenneth Gravett will give an illustrated talk on Stuart & Georgian Houses.

Saturday, 18th November ... Surrey Natural History Symposium on Old Surrey Industries at Dorking Halls.

The London Portsmouth Road

Further to the notes in Newsletters 15-18 concerning the surfacing of the London to Portsmouth Road, the following extract from the Send & Ripley Parish Council Minute Book, recording an item discussed at the Annual Meeting at Send Schools on 17th April, 1905, may be of interest: "A letter has been received from Dr. Pearse drawing the Council's attention to a Petition which is shortly to be sent to the District Council from the property owners and residents in the main street of Ripley to request that the road may be covered with a solution as in Cobham to prevent the dust nuisance arising from motors." Surrey Record Office Ref. P41/4/1.

CLOSING DATE

The closing date for the July/August issue of the Newsletter will be Monday, 10th July.

CHANGES AND PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE LOCALITY

Box and Holly Cottages

A paragraph in the Surrey Daily Advertiser of Feb. 28th-March 1st first drew the attention of the public to the fact that Guildford Borough Council had decided to demolish Box & Holly Cottages which it owned on the south east corner of Mays Corner and to replace them with six one-bedroomed flats. Parish Councillors are reported to have discovered the proposal too late to do anything about it. Our member, Mary Milner, who is a Parish Councillor, is quoted as saying "They could be two delightful cottages ... I'm sure there are other places they could build flats." She was not happy with the plan, which she felt had been kept quiet deliberately. Parish Councillor Mr Albert Westwood apparently felt that the Borough Council hadn't supervised them properly, and with the proposal to demolish in view had allowed them to fall into disrepair. Send's Borough Councillor, Mrs Hope Sanger, is said to have observed that the proposed flats are needed in the village, particularly for young married couples. (One-bedroomed flats?! - Geoff Parker)

On 29th March a letter was sent in the name of the History Society to the Borough Council Planning Officer, urging that the cottages be retained. We said "These late 18th - early 19th century cottages are one of a pair with the building on the opposite corner which is now an off-licence. They are of pleasing proportions, and it is believed that there are no other examples of cottage architecture of the period remaining in the parish. Mays Corner has become one of the main focal points of the present village, and to destroy these delightful cottages and replace them with new flats would, it is submitted, be an act of vandalism. At a planning enquiry in October 1975, a witness described Send as having no particular charm or character. That is not accepted, but the present proposal would, if granted, remove part of the charm and character it does have.

"I would urge on behalf of this Society which has some 200 members in the area that the cottages should not be demolished without very careful thought being given to the matter from the aesthetic point of view. If accommodation of this type is needed in the village, let it not be at the expense of the character of the village."

On 7th April the Advertiser reported protests from a number of nearby residents including our members, Mr & Mrs Tinkler, and noted that tenders had been sought for demolition.

On 10th April a card was received stating that the Society's letter was receiving attention. The same day the roof of the cottages was removed and within a week they had gone completely. They have been photographed minus the roof.

On 17th April the Borough Planning Officer wrote to say that the cottages are (? were) not included on the list of buildings of architectural and historic interest and, consequently, planning permission is not required for their demolition. When the Council propose to redevelop the site, the Society's observations will be reported to the Planning Committee!

Heath Cottage

The Daily Advertiser of 17th/18th April gave details of a planning application as follows: "SEND, site of 8 Send Road, Send - Outline application for the demolition of existing cottage and the erection of a pair of semi-detached houses."

This application relates to Heath Cottage, which is so small that one wonders whether it really is a human residence and not an antique Wendy house. It is the remaining cottage of a pair which within the memory of many of our members was thatched. It has a timber frame with whitewashed brick infilling. It was probably put up ("constructed" or "built" are almost too grand for it) early in the 19th century, and is an example of dwellings which went up virtually overnight on the heath or common-land so as to present a fait accompli. It is perhaps the last real relic of the heath at Send. Apart from that, it has little merit except that there are not many of them about nowadays. The best example in the district is at Sparrow Row, Chobham, named Granny Beetles Cottage after the occupant of many years ago. Other similar dwellings existed at Colony Bog, west of Bisley. It will be sad if it goes, but the wonder is that it hasn't disappeared long ago. It is hoped that we shall have a full photographic record of it.

The "Jovial Sailor"

We again have the Surrey Daily Advertiser to thank for publicising on April 11th/12th proposed changes to the character of this public house on the Portsmouth Road. Mr Brian Stroud, Assistant District Manager for the owners, Chef & Brewer, a subsidiary of St George's Taverns, is quoted as saying "at the moment these are three separate bars, but we are going to knock it all into one long lounge bar." It is proposed to give it a completely new image. "The name will definitely be changed, but no one has yet come up with a suitable replacement."

The "Jovial Sailor" appears in the County Council's list of Antiquities as being of local architectural or historic interest, but it is not yet recognised in the D.C.F. Statutory list. It is stated in the list to be 18th century or earlier.

A letter has been written to Mr Stroud on behalf of the Society urging that the name be retained. We wrote "This house has carried the name, The Jovial Sailor, for over 200 years and indeed there are Coroners' accounts in the Surrey Record Office which show that at that time inquests were held here. The name may be even earlier, and doubtless originated in the days when sailors would walk from London to their ships at Portsmouth."

We suggested that the name and history of the house could be turned to commercial advantage and offered to search for other references to it. Some photographs have been taken.

I have related these matters in some detail (a) to record what has happened, or is about to happen, to three buildings of local architectural and historic interest; (b) to inform members who may be unaware of what is happening; and (c) to notify members of what action has been taken in the name of the Society. The action taken probably marks the limit of what can properly be done in the way of preservation under the Society's constitution as it stands.

P.S. It has now been reported that the plan The Secretary
to replace Heath Cottage with a pair of semis has been refused, but there

could presumably be an appeal. Editor.

NATURAL HISTORY OBSERVATIONS

On rambles around the village - and further afield occasionally - I've watched for the arrival of birds that spend the summer here. Most seem a little later this year than last; although the house martins and sand martins are back, there aren't many in our area yet, or perhaps they are giving us a miss by nesting on other houses and in other sand pits. Or maybe the weather is so cold they are postponing nest building and concentrating on feeding until the warmer weather.

There are many swallows skimming over the lakes and fields, and I saw one solitary swift high in the sky over the river. The cuckoo is back and I watched one calling from the top of a yew tree at Newlands Corner.

The first arrival I heard this year was the chiffchaff at Cobbetts Lakes on 27/3, closely followed by the willow warbler at the same place the following week. Then on 17/4, at Ashburton House, came the blackcap, a beautiful little songster.

I find some summer visitors hard to identify, especially as it gets more difficult as the trees come into leaf. But it is very satisfying when by sight, sound and type of habitat one can identify a bird. This happened to my son Derek and me Sunday morning by the river. We saw a small brown bird in a bramble. It uttered short snatches of rather jumbled song. Then, with binoculars, we noticed a white patch under its chin and we concluded it was a whitethroat. Coming home between the two lakes in the village, we heard a song we didn't recognise, then saw the bird, also with a white throat. Referring to a bird book later, we found this was a lesser whitethroat. The birds look similar with a different song.

Recently, while watching birds in the bushes alongside the track to Fisher's Farm, a weasel came out from under the hedge. It crossed the lane four or five times, then ran towards me, only stopping when it realised I was there about 15 feet away. It stood still and watched me for a moment before darting back under the hedge.

Jean Croucher

PS Since writing the above, the house martins have returned to Orchard Way, but have not yet started building.