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### THE EEL TRAP AT NEWARK

At the end of the visit of the Society to Newark Priory on 19th September interest was shown in the remains of the eel trap nearby. The present trap is almost certainly on the site of the monastic one and is shown on the Plan in the late Captain Pearce's paper in SAS Collections Vol XL p17.

Originally a large culvert existed under the north/south Ripley to Pyrford Road which allowed the now-empty pool adjacent to the road on the east side to be kept filled to a level controlled by the sluice-gates in the main River Wey weir on the west side of the highway. At any time when eels were needed, and especially at the time in the monthly cycle when the moon was full, or after heavy rain, when eels were moving in large numbers, the sluices in the main weir would be shut as far as practice allowed and a sizeable flow of the river diverted into the eel-pool, carrying with it the eels in their uncontrollable urge to move down-stream. The water in the eel pool was allowed to pass through a sophisticated sluice-gate made by Sharpe in 1818, into a small brick bay with parallel sides and floored with a strong iron grating supported by girders at an inclined plane, and sealed by further vertical grating at the far end. The water passed through on its way, the eels were caught on the grating, and in their struggles to shake off their captivity, sooner or later wriggled through an opening in the side of the brick wall into a still more secure prison consisting of another grilled compartment with running water, which in turn was connected to a deeper well where they could be kept for a few days prior to consumption.

The lower courses in the brickwork of the Eel Trap have the appearance of being contemporary with the iron sluice-gate and the gearing, or earlier. The upper courses may be reset, and a rustic inscription in wet cement of 1909 bearing four names, some of which are still names in the local building industry, confirm this.

Eels were an important component of mediaeval diet, providing a delicious, rich, white fish flesh which must have exercised the skills of monastic chefs and others, and in addition supplying a surplus of fish oil for other uses.

Dorothy Hartley, in her fascinating book "Food in England", briefly mentions the uncanny migration of the English fresh water eel to breed in the warm shallow water of the Sargasso Sea on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, and how the young elvers, hardly large enough to be seen, find their way back in March to the same haunts their parents left in October. She also quotes a recipe by no lesser personage than Izaak Walton, who says "It is agreed by most men that the Eel is a most dainty fish"; and for good measure includes a 15th century recipe for eel pie, for which the sauce is Verjuice, a mediaeval extract of the crab apple.

J. Oliver

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### A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO PLACENAMES

I should like to begin by saying, like the circus performer, that what I am about to attempt is impossible. The study of placenames can be a life's work and even a modest understanding can involve many years of study of languages which do not figure in the curriculum of most schools. Nevertheless, placenames are most interesting, and anybody working on the history of a particular locality should at least know something of the scope of the problem and the principles involved.

From the time man first learned to speak, he has given names to things, people and places, and what is more he is still at it. The placenames of this country are a continuous creation, ranging from those given by long forgotten people in languages dead or altered beyond recognition, to the very latest Spaghetti Junction, the process being the same throughout, a description in terms which have a contemporary significance. Placenames are hardy creatures which tend to survive through the ages, enduring the erosion and weathering of linguistic change and rationalisation, and being joined from time to time by those of later birth, thus reflecting the whole history of a region.

The variety of peoples of different origins who have settled or occupied this country has made the study of English placenames both intricate and absorbing. There are traces of pre-Celtic names, although these are very difficult to identify, and of two types of Celtic names, the Brythonic corresponding to the Welsh and Old Cornish languages, and the Goidelic or Gaelic and Irish. There are also the names given by these invaders usually lumped together under the convenient name of Anglo-Saxons, followed by those given by the Scandinavians and Normans. As might be expected, each race left its mark on those areas it occupied according to the effectiveness and length of the occupation. The situation is greatly complicated by the fact that although the invaders are given names of convenience, they were in fact a mixed bag of small nations and tribes each speaking a different although related dialect. There is considerable controversy as to the identity of the Angles, Saxons, Jutes and possibly Frisians, who constituted the so-called Anglo-Saxons, and many scholars fight shy of using the name Anglo-Saxon for their language, preferring to use the name of the specific dialect, e.g. West Saxon, Anglian, Kentish, etc., where appropriate, and old English for the language in general. The invaders variously known as Vikings, Norsemen or Danes were in fact an uncertain mixture of Swedes, Geats, Norwegians, Danes and possibly others whose names have disappeared. The Normans, who came some two hundred years later, far from being native Frenchmen, were in fact Scandinavians who had settled in Northern France and who had assimilated some French language and culture. There is by no means any certainty as to what extent each wave of invaders displaced its predecessors, either by extermination or expulsion, but it does seem probable that in some places at least they managed to co-exist side by side. What is certain, however, is that placenames have a Vicar of Bray quality, and in very many instances they were taken over in a modified and acceptable form, sometimes being rationalised very much in the same way that in modern times the North African Halfaiya Pass was converted by British troops into Hellfire Pass.

In an article of this length, on a subject so complex, it is necessary to make sweeping generalisations for which numerous exceptions could easily be found, and the first sweeping generalisation I shall make is that the number of Celtic names increases as one goes westward. Some of the commonest Celtic names surviving refer to physical features. The river name Avon is simply the Celtic word *Afon* - a stream, and the river names Axe, Exe and Usk come from the Celtic *Isca*, meaning water. This same word *isca* is found in *Usquebaugh*, water of life, which became corrupted, if I may use such a word, into whiskey. The word *dubro*, black, is found in *Dover* and *Micheldever*, and *minid*, a mountain or hill, survives in *Mendip* and *Minehead*. Celtic names proliferate in Cornwall, but Cornish names are a vast area of study in their own account. My second sweeping generalisation is that the greatest proportion of Scandinavian names is found in the North and in that Eastern part of the country which became known as the *Danelaw*. Some of the commonest Scandinavian names end in *-by*, *-thorpe*, and *-thwaite*. Names ending in these suffixes are plentiful in Northern England. *-by* meant homestead in Norway

and village in Denmark. The precise nationality of the settlers can sometimes be deduced from some of these forms as for instance -thorpe, meaning an outlying farmstead or a small hamlet, was common in Denmark but rare in Norway, but, and this is a very big but, which crops up constantly in place-name study, there is a great danger in assuming that a name ending in thorpe necessarily indicates a Danish settlement. There was in fact a kindred Anglo-Saxon word throp which had a similar meaning, and later changed to thorpe, and so the use of this suffix can only be considered in the light of other evidence. The ending -thwaite is definitely Scandinavian, but might represent either the Norwegian thveit, or the Danish thwet, and means a woodland clearing. The Romans seem to have been quite content to Latinise Celtic names, particularly the names of tribes such as the Cantuarii, from which we get the names Kent and Canterbury, and very often they added the word castra, a camp or fort, which the Anglo-Saxons transformed to ceastre, the c being pronounced ch, from which we get the modern -chester.

The greatest contribution of the Normans was in the development of the language itself in its transition from Anglo-Saxon or Old English to Middle English, which had a very significant effect on all English placenames. They did, however, build some new strongholds to which they gave Norman-French names which often drew attention to the beauty of the locality, as witness the number of names beginning with Beau or Bel, such as Beaufort, Belvoir and Bewley, an extreme example of this tendency is a village in Essex, originally called Fulepet, or filthy hollow, which was renamed Belmont, beautiful hill.

To generalise again, the great majority of English placenames, however, come from the Anglo-Saxons, who having spread across the country from the South-East, displacing the Celtic population, remained as sitting tenants, despite the conquests of the Vikings and the Normans. The Anglo-Saxons derived their placenames from many sources. Some of the most important are quite naturally those denoting physical features. They also used personal names, the names of families or communities, and the names of plants and animals. Often, because there is a gap in the records of the name of a place, it is not always certain from which source it is derived. Ripley, for instance, might be from Rippel - a strip of woodland - and leah - a clearing, or it could be the leah belonging to a person named Rippa. An interesting speculation is that if the Danes had got here, it might well have been Ripplethwaite or something similar. Ockham presents a similar problem. The name could be from ac - oak - and ham - a habitation, or it might be Occan ham - Occa's home. Wisley appears to present no difficulty; it was most probably named from Wisc - a damp meadow, and leah as above.

Tree names are found in Esher from aesc, an ash tree, Oxted, which has nothing to do with cattle, but from Acstead, the place of the oak tree, and Pырford, from Pырianford, the ford marked by a pear tree.

A most interesting group of names consists of those ending in -ing, known as patronymics. This ending was formerly -ingas and followed a personal name, probably that of the head of a family, which later widened in scope to include not only his immediate family but his tribe and eventually all his followers. Thus we get Woking, the land occupied by the followers of Wocc. Some of these personal names may sound improbable, but they did exist and they can mostly be verified in old writings. Another common suffix is -ey, meaning an island. Chertsey is a doubly interesting example, as it is also a rare hybrid type, the Chert element being a Latinised form Cerotus of an early Celtic personal name. How these original names developed into their modern equivalents is a detective story which involves the

interrelationships of languages and dialects and the history of their transition through the Middle English Period to the beginnings of Modern English, remembering that although the development is a slow and continuous process, the English language was scarcely recognisable as such until the time of Chaucer, and in many parts of the country until long after. The study of placenames is a complex and hard discipline with many pitfalls, both for the unwary and for the wary, especially for the wary, and it might almost be true to say that the more one knows about the subject the easier it is to make bad blunders. Above all, one must be wary of guessing, and relying on such popular etymologies as Tide-ending-town for Teddington, which was in fact originally Tudinga-tun, the enclosure of Tuda's people. The safest way, but not necessarily completely safe way, to investigate a name is to go back as far as possible to the earliest recorded form, and to start from there, but the best way for anybody who is not a specialist is to consult the publications of the English Placename Society. There you will find that the really hard work has been done by experts who have worked methodically, county by county, but even their opinions are challenged by other experts. Another book which I consider essential to read is F. M. Stenton's Anglo-Saxon England in the Oxford History of England series. This not only sets out in great detail all the history of the Anglo-Saxon settlements in the country, but covers their relationships with the Scandinavian invaders and the Normans. As I said at the beginning, it is impossible to do more than barely skim the surface of such a complicated subject in a short article. I have made generalisations; I have omitted much of importance, and I may well have made statements which are open to dispute, but I shall be satisfied if I have raised a little interest.

H. A. Harvey

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#### THE OLD IRRIGATION SYSTEM AT HEATH FARM

At one of the Committee meetings early last summer our Chairman, who lives at Heath Farm, asked if anyone knew what the pond and small brick building in the field opposite his house were used for, and if they were of any local historical interest. I dismissed this as being the pump house for an irrigation system used in the late 1950's. How wrong one can be I was soon to discover.

Later, when doing some repairs for a Mr Moon on his farm at Cobham, I learnt from him that he had been foreman for Mr Boorman of Heath Farm who grew soft fruit and vegetables there before the last war.

The original irrigation system was installed by Hurst Irrigation of Walton in 1935 and was one of the first of these to be installed in the country. The idea was to water half an acre of strawberries, but the frost of that year put paid to the crop. Later that year a plot of runner beans close by was suffering badly in the drought, and as often happened the local blacksmith (Ron Sex) was called in to move the heavy steel piping so that the beans could be watered, the result being a great success.

In 1938 the pond was dug, the pump house built and a bigger pump fitted; also the main pipes were put underground to cover both Heath and Prews Farm. Some ten years later the farm had come into the possession of Mr. Secrett, who had the pond deepened, and this is still as it stands today.

When Mr Bennett, the present market gardener, took over, the whole system was scrapped, and he now has a tractor-driven pump and light aluminium pipes, but he still pumps from the same pond.

In the dry weather of last year some five million gallons of water were pumped out of the pond before it almost ran dry, revealing a number of large fish and hundreds of fresh water mussels which could be of interest to the Natural History Group.

The pond and pump house can be seen from the track which is a public footpath leading across the field from opposite Heath Farm house to Send Marsh.

E. G. Goldup

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#### GARLICKS ARCH COPSE

During the past summer I have attempted a botanical survey of Garlicks Arch copse (south of the London Road between Burnt Common and Kiln Lane); a project suggested at a Natural History Group meeting early in the year. The result has been quite an eye opener even though I have found nothing exceptional to record.

In all I was able to identify some 60 different plants growing there, and I also found a number of Fungi.

The copse is basically a plantation of oak trees which appear to be grown for their eventual timber value. The main undergrowth to this is a thicket of brambles which is preceded by a carpet of bluebells; but neither of these flower much due to lack of light. The interest begins here because within and around the copse there exists a number of micro-ecological structures, each arising because of the peculiarities of particular environmental factors. A little extra light and a rubbish dump give rise to a bed of nettles, grasses and other low-growing plants surmounted by a dogwood and guelder rose. The drive through the centre and a section of the south end is sufficiently open to allow the growth of ground ivy, an occasional dandelion, garlic mustard and dead nettle. At the north end a wetter area contains reedmace, rush, dock, celandine, willow, coltsfoot and the spotted orchis. The bank along the east side has a few lovely clumps of primroses, and other hedgerow features including hawthorn, wild cherry, honeysuckle, elder, violets and even a few daffodils which I believe to be of garden origin although I did not see them flower. Other garden escapees include both raspberry and gooseberry, which have probably been dumped at some time along the roadside. Here is the greatest variety with field maple, speedwell, cleavers, stitchwort, yarrow and various grasses. At one end are a number of spindleberry, a shrub often eliminated because it is the winter host to the common blackfly which leaves it in the spring for the lusher living on our broad beans. An adjacent hedge also contains a fine wild pear tree, which was magnificently covered in blossom last spring. The autumn brought a fine variety of fungi into view, but these proved more difficult to identify and often I could only find their Latin tag and not a common name.

An interesting side benefit was to see the other wild life that existed there. Rabbits produced their young in the banks, and on one occasion a nest was found to have been dug out, presumably by a fox. The grey squirrel had a drey in a tree not far from the hole which contained the nest of a greater spotted woodpecker, while 20 yards away another hole housed a nut-hatch. There were long tailed, blue and great tits, greenfinch, bullfinch, chaffinch and wren, and an occasional brace of pheasants and a number of other common birds. In all the many visits I made I never once failed to find something new and interesting. I know there must be other plants and fungi to be discovered and one could go on to identify the mosses, lichens and world of insects that exist there; sufficient to encourage me to other visits in the new year.

Ken Dawson

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP MEETINGS

Sunday, 14 November - Frengham Little Pond

For the 14 people who met at 7.30 a.m. in Send to traverse the treacherous black-ice covered Hog's Back, this turned out to be an unforgettable outing. Looking into the sun on arrival, there was a Christmas card effect with thick hoar-frost covering the grass and fir trees. Looking the other way was the millpond--still water with a dark green background of trees below the crystal blue sky.

Apart from three tufted duck on the water, the first birds to be seen were three flocks of fieldfare, which passed overhead in quick succession - some 150 birds at an estimate. A female stonechat put on a display, first flitting from one golden-leaved silver birch to another, and then performing an aerobatic dance. In quick succession there were a grey wagtail, a wren, a variety of tits, five snipe and a flock of some 18 siskin.

Three mute swans flew majestically above the party on a tour of inspection, landed on the middle of the pond somewhat less majestically, and finally paddled gracefully back towards us, scarcely causing a ripple in spite of their size. Finally, the party was privileged with a clear view of no less than four kingfishers. Flying in pairs, they sped first at an angle towards the party showing their salmon pink breasts, and then obliquely back towards the boathouse, their beautiful blue backs flashing in the sunlight. Time and again this happened, making a fitting climax to an idyllic morning.

John Bartlett led the group.

Sunday, 12 December - Walk at Pain's Hill, Cobham

This walk, starting from the car park off the road to Downside south of the London Road, passed through a great variety of scenery. Starting with pine trees and heather at Chatley wood, there was along the way a fine open view across farmland, overgrown deciduous woods with some splendid towering beeches, a steep wooded cliff above the site of the Roman bathhouse beside the meandering River Mole, and the neglected ornamental pleasure grounds of Pain's Hill itself laid out by the Hon. Charles Hamilton in the middle of the 18th century.

Of particular interest from the archaeological point of view was the still substantially intact iron water wheel installed by Hamilton. Ingeniously designed and beautifully made, the wheel, which is some 20 feet in diameter, is turned by the river flowing through the lowest part of the wheel. Iron scoops on the rim of the wheel raise water to river bank level and pour it into a trough beside the river. Three reciprocating beams, activated by the axle of the wheel, drive the pumps which lift the water through wide diameter pipes, at the top of which it pours into another trough at upper ground level whence it is taken by pipes to the ornamental lakes. The wooden shed housing the machinery is largely destroyed and the whole device is likely to deteriorate rapidly if nothing is done about it. It is believed that the Industrial Archaeological Committee of the Surrey Archaeological Society are aware of this state of affairs. It would not seem too great a task, and certainly well worthwhile, to restore it to working order.

The artificial lake was frozen over, so there was less wild life on it than had been expected. The only uncommon bird seen was a heron which flew off in alarm as the party unwittingly approached it. Some of the trees,

N.B. PLEASE NOTE THAT PAGES 8 & 9 ARE INADVERTENTLY TRANSPOSED.

There are no gravestones anywhere in the churchyard known to be earlier than the 18th century. This may be because there was no local stone available or because of the cost. After 1653 stone could be brought by the Wey Navigation. It was the earlier practice to use wooden boards, but there are no wooden ones surviving here. There are two metal ones - one is like a bed board, and the other is a cast iron one to a child.

To date 104 inscriptions have been recorded. So far there have been only two which were completely impossible to read. One tomb of the Boughton family is an 18th century one with no less than 11 names on it. There is a 1716 stone to a member of the well-known Stoughton family: he is recorded as being a famous doctor of Physick of Bartholomew Lane, renowned throughout the world for his Cordial Elixir. There are several stones to the local brick-making family of Dawes. There is a very ornate one to Sir John Strachey and his wife of the prominent family of that name. The Stracheys lived at Newlands Corner and are remembered for their part in the experiments with pisé (rammed earth) houses after the 1st World War. There are some examples still remaining at Newlands Corner. There is another tombstone to William Hargreaves and his wife Alice of the same family as the inventor of the spinning jenny. It was he who had Sendholme built in the middle of the 19th century.

John Slatford had on display, in binders, the Parish Register transcripts which have so far been completed.

The Secretary showed a wide assortment of interesting objects belonging to Jim Oliver. These included, among many other things, a hammer similar to the one in the Roman carpenter's set of tools from the well at Silchester, now in the Reading Museum, a beautifully made brass-trimmed wooden plough plane, a Spitfire sparking plug, and two superbly restored coffee or pulse mills which came from Send Grove in 1934 and could date from the time when General Evelyn had the house built. An exhibition of how to release wind from a cow's rumen, as described in Thomas Hardy's "Far from the Madding Crowd", was given (using a piece of leather instead of the live animal, we hasten to add).

Les Bowerman showed a couple of clay pipes of probably 17th century make, which Ewart Grove had unearthed when digging his sunken gardens near the Boathouse in the 1920's.

Ker Bourne projected a number of slides which he had taken on one of the conducted tours of Send Grove, the Church and Send Court Farm.

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#### THE YEAR OF RECORDS

1976 was without doubt a year of record-breaking events, at least as far as wild life was concerned. The year started off with cold weather, but as spring approached conditions rapidly improved. Ideal weather continued which provided peak pollination of all plants and shrubs, resulting in a display of magnificent May blossom, with trees looking as if covered with snow.

Tremendous crops of berries followed, not only on the hawthorn but on Holly, Guelder Rose and the Buckthorn. Toadstools of all descriptions could be seen, and large crops of Field and Horse Mushrooms have been recorded.

Bird life has also looked up, with the re-appearance of both Lesser and Greater White-throats in and around the village. Great flocks of White Fronted Geese have descended upon us from the Steppes of Russia, and Greylag have come in such large numbers as to cause alarm amongst some farmers.

including cedars, yews and other more exotic species have grown to a truly majestic size. The grounds, as they used to be, are described in Manning & Bray (1804-14) as follows: "There may be scenes where nature has done more for herself, but in no place that I ever saw has so much been done for nature as at Fains-hill. The beauty and unexpected variety of the scene, the happy situation, elegant structure and judicious form of the buildings, the flourishing state, uncommon diversity, and contrasted groupage of the trees, and the contrivance of this water, etc., will not fail to awaken the most pleasing sensations. In the Temple of Bacchus there was a fine antique colossal statue of that deity, with several excellent busts of Roman Emperors, etc. There was a grotto fitted up with the finest spars etc. Mr. Hamilton indulged the publick with the sight of the beauties, and even allowed the use of low chairs drawn by horses which were provided at the Inns at Cobham, to which the excursion of numerous summer parties was a source of considerable emolument."

Leader of the walk was Colin Raisey.

Walk in East Clandon - 2 January, 1977

This walk took place north of the railway line at Lower Clandon. Good views were had of two hares galloping across a field; two foxes walking slowly across a field towards the group - one was grey with a black brush and two black breast bands, and the other was traditional reddish-brown; five partridges feeding at the edge of a field within a few yards of the group; numerous rabbits and pheasants and a flock of many hundreds of wood-pigeons. A nuthatch and a yellow hammer were also seen as well as many more common species. A dead female badger had been buried earlier last year, and its skull was retrieved on this walk for exhibition purposes.

Leader John Bartlett.

Les Bowerman

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OPEN MEETING - 24 NOVEMBER, 1976

Approximately 30 people were present for this meeting, which consisted of talks by members.

John Slatford, leader of the Genealogical Group, spoke about recent work recording the inscriptions on the tombstones in the churchyard. Judging by old pictures and recollections, a number of stones which were once there have disappeared. Others are deteriorating rapidly. It is therefore important to record all of the remaining inscriptions as soon as possible. So far the Group has tackled the south side of the yard. The earliest so far found is 1711. The early stones are plain, although there are some with decoration and others are double stones. There are several raised brick tombs.

There is a carved stone monumental tomb near the north-west corner of the church in memory of General William Evelyn, who laid out the grounds of Sand Grove when he bought it in about 1760, and who was almost certainly responsible for building the house in substantially its present form. He was a great-grandson of John Evelyn the diarist. The tomb is the work of the well-known statuary, Robert Chambers, whose practice it was to sign his name in Hebrew as he has done here. This tomb used to be surrounded with iron railings, but they were removed during the 2nd World War as part of the war effort.

The insect world also produced some spectacular displays, the most noticeable being the hoards of Ladybirds which hatched during the early summer ..... it was certainly a year to remember.

The Natural History Group has been steadily ticking over during the Autumn months, with walks to interesting places. On Sunday, 28 November, the chosen walk was Ranmore Common. In fact the walk was on the lower slopes of Ranmore, taking in the Polesden Lacey estate. This is a particularly lovely part of Surrey, with beautiful valleys and hidden conifer plantations. Being November, not a great deal of activity in the bird world, or indeed in the animal world, could be seen. But nevertheless, despite the continuous rain, the walk proved to be both relaxing and entertaining, and I feel sure that all members who attended appreciated the beauty of the area, especially the clouds of rain sweeping down the valley against a backcloth of dark green spruce and yew. Magnificent beeches, and the colourful berries of the spindle-tree were also features of this walk.

The 12 December saw many members at Pain's Hill; the water at this lovely spot is one of the nicest features. Obviously this is one place which will have to be revisited during the coming Spring.

E. J. Bartlett

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#### ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN SEND AND RIPLEY 1847-1944

##### Part 3

Mr and Mrs Lancelot Rawes came to Send National School in March 1889. They took over from Mr and Mrs Vincent, who had been at the school for at least ten years.

Mr and Mrs Rawes stayed at the school for 34 years until 1923, the longest period of service of any of the head teachers at the school. Such was their influence that they are still spoken of with kindly nostalgia by many of our inhabitants who knew them.

The school flourished under the Rawes. Together with Miss Diddams, the aptly named infants' teacher, their service to the community via the school received frequent praise. The school building, having the largest rooms in the village, were regularly used for meetings of a variety of societies, mainly connected with the Church. Mr Rawes often gave his time and worked the magic lantern for these occasions. There were also entertainments arranged for the villagers by the generosity of the gentry, held in the schoolrooms, as well as concerts given by the school children. The school concerts were always praised in the parish magazine and the praise extended to the staff for their diligence and hard work in training the children. The school benefitted from the proceeds of concerts, e.g. a donation being given to defray the cost of new lamps for the school in 1889 and the Day School Prize Fund was added to on most occasions.

It might be thought worth mentioning here that the school was often referred to as "the schools". This was because the same buildings housed several schools, which are referred to as one these days. Send National Schools consisted of, the Infants school, the Mixed school, and the Sunday school. Mr Rawes added yet another school to the group when he started the evening school during the winter months for boys and men. At first only the 3 "R's" were taught. The evening school started in 1890 and the parish magazine for that date drew the attention of the parishioners to the

"opportunity afforded to all to improve themselves in the 3 'R's' that ought not to be neglected". Evening schools at that time were subject to the same government inspection as the day schools. Many adults disliked submitting themselves to this ordeal, but in the first inspection in 1891, 17 presented themselves for examination. All passed in reading, 14 in writing, but only 6 in arithmetic.

The day school inspected at the same time had quite good results, earning £11 more in grants than in the previous year despite many absences due to the severe weather and the measles epidemic. There were also many absences for no good reason and the critics had this to say "... the boy or girl who attends regularly is kept back until the irregular attenders catch up. Thus progress is checked. The water is just coming to the boil when a splash of cold cools it again ...". Parents were exhorted to make children attend school more regularly and prizes were to be given for good attendance in future.

The winter of 1891/92 was the big 'flu epidemic. It was worldwide and thousands died. It was remarkable that Send seems to have been passed over at this time, for only one person died as a result, and in October 1892 the Vicar, writing in the parish magazine, remarks "... Who can tell why our parish was spared at the time of the influenza. Truly it was God's will that we escaped the severe attacks which so prostrated our fellows in other parishes. Fortunately we are favoured with a healthy climate and a dry soil." Certainly looking at the ages of people who died, many were in their 80's and 90's and there were very few young deaths.

The healthy climate may have accounted for the sudden rise in good attendance at school, or was it the incentive of prizes? It should be worthy of note for posterity that GEORGE J. JAMES was presented with a medal in June 1892 for 100% attendance at school, and went on to receive a prize for the following four years for full attendance. Purses containing a florin were given to the other full attenders the next year, but George was given HALF-A-CROWN. Attendance figures improved remarkably.

In 1892 a new infants' room was added and was officially opened by the Rural Dean of Woking. The new addition cost £379 8s. and the school could now cope with 190 pupils more comfortably.

Evening classes began again in the winter and the parish magazine reported that "it was satisfying to see so many scholars of the past two seasons determined again to take every advantage of improving themselves. It is difficult for youths after a day's manual work to sit down and work out sums, or keep their attention on a book but in a few years' time their difficulties will be forgotten in the enjoyment of a more educated mind."

The next inspection of the evening school showed a great improvement, and fortunately was the last, for in 1893 the EVENING SCHOOL CODE abolished examinations in evening schools and grants were awarded on attendance only.

In 1897, as a result of a TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION ACT, which empowered County Councils to levy a rate of 1d in the pound for aiding and supplying technical education, Send Evening School opened its doors to more students. Classes were held in woodworking, cooking, dressmaking and nursing, thus including women for the first time. 57 students enrolled on opening night, and attendance in the first year was over 90%: Mr Rawes was still in charge and it was largely due to his efforts that the evening school was a success. Mr A. Lancaster, the school correspondent, commented in his report in 1904 that with Mr Rawes "it had been a labour of love".

Sadly, the evening school closed in 1928 through lack of support just five years after Mr Rawes retired.

Mr and Mrs Rawes had a son and daughter who attended the school and returned to teach there. Miss Rawes was teaching at the school in 1903 and continued to teach there after her marriage when she became Mrs Dolbear. The son, Lance, the younger of the two, gained a county scholarship from Send in 1904. He no doubt benefitted from the new Education Act passed two years previously in 1902, which ended the School Boards and replaced them with L.E.A.'s (Local Education Authorities) and for the first time made some provision for secondary education for children from elementary schools. The Act abolished children's pence at elementary schools, but most working class parents could not afford to let their children take up scholarships, as there were still fees to be paid for secondary places, and school uniforms were compulsory and very expensive, until really free places were negotiated.\*

Under the new Act the Managers of the school had to include three members appointed by the County and Local authorities. The Master now had to pay a fixed rent for his house. It was fixed at £30 a year. The Act also required the Managers of the school to carry out extensive improvements and extensions to make accommodation available for 228 children. Mr. C. Tice, the local builder, carried out the work at a cost of £1,439. The improvements included toilets in the playground, to replace the bucket toilets in the yard, and a division of the playground so that boys and girls were segregated. The Managers objected to the playground being separated, but their objection was overruled, and a railing was put down the middle of the playground and it was never removed.

Among the staff who worked with Mr Rawes was Miss Ethel Read, who joined the school in 1903. Her low pay was the cause of some concern. She had tried several times to pass the exams to be a certificated teacher but was never successful. Mr Rawes looked for every opportunity to get extra money for her and in 1911 she took charge of a class of gipsy children for which she was paid 15/- a month extra. By 1912 there were 31 gipsy children in her class. Miss Read became infants teacher after Miss Diddams left. In 1932 she became seriously ill and the proceeds of the school concert, £17, were given to her as a benefit. Miss Reed died in May 1933 - "... she was much loved by the children ..." records the log book.

Mr Rawes suffered ill health in 1922 which led to his retirement in December 1923. The teachers and staff presented Mr and Mrs Rawes with a brass spirit kettle. In his very last entry in the log book Mr Rawes wrote "I and Mrs Rawes leave Send School today with the very deepest regret, but with many happy memories." Mr and Mrs Rawes lived out their retirement in the village amongst the community which they loved and who loved them in return.

Mrs Marjorie Sex worked with Mr Rawes at Send School as a teacher and I am indebted to her for much of the information of that period.

\*Mrs Sex believes she was the first girl to win a scholarship to a grammar school from Send School.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Society, which now consists of 173 members, i.e. 53 single and 60 double subscriptions.

Mr A. Davies, 92 Old Farm Road, Guildford.

Mr & Mrs R. N. Whapshott, West Clandon Nursery, Lime Grove, West Clandon.

Veteran Cycles: A Ripley Section of the Southern Veteran-Cycle Club has recently been formed. Anybody interested in cycling history, or old cycles, should contact our Secretary, Les Bowerman.

Forthcoming Events

Thurs., 13 Jan. ... Open meeting at the Church Room, Send Road, at 8 for 8.15 p.m. Mrs Marjorie Sex to talk about life in Send 60 years ago.

Sun., 16 Jan. ... Natural History Group walk over the Nature Trail at Brooklands Technical College.

Sun., 30 Jan. ... Natural history walk somewhere local.

Sun., 13 Feb. ... Natural history walk at Farley Heath.

Thurs., 24 Feb. ... AGM of the Society at 8 for 8.15 p.m. at the Church Room, Send Road. Items for inclusion on the agenda to be received by the Secretary before 27 Jan. Miss Nancy Cox, Editor of Surrey Arch. Society Bulletin & member of our Society, will speak (with exhibits) about local archaeology.

Sun., 27 Feb. ... Natural history walk at West End, Chobham.

Tues., 1 March ... Committee Meeting at 8 p.m. at home of Mr & Mrs G. Parker, Glenalwyn, Potters Lane.

Thurs., 3 March ... Natural History Meeting at 8 p.m. at home of Mr & Mrs B. Watts, Iron Latch, Send Marsh Road.

Sun., 13 March ... Natural history walk at Witley Nature Reserve.

NB: All natural history walks meet at 7.30 at Send Barns in the old road layby.

JUNIOR NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

After going on some of the Send Natural History Group rambles I decided to form a junior Natural History club myself.

There are eight members so far, and they usually come to my house for meetings. Last Autumn, after school, we went on a ramble in the woods behind my house to show some fungus and birds that I knew. Also we have been further afield, once to the Chantries, where we found a badger sett, but on further observation we think it is now occupied by foxes, or maybe by both.

At Witley it was the fungus that caught everyone's eye, especially the Fly Agaric toadstool, which is bright scarlet with white spots. There were a lot of woodpecker holes and one yellow hammer's nest pointed out on one

of the previous Natural History rambles.

At the first meeting I asked the members for suggestions of things to do, and there were several, such as quizzes and competitions, rambles, making a scrap book, teams and team points.

The aim of the club is to get people interested in wild life and to show how fascinating it can be.

David Croucher (aged 12)

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Congratulations to David on forming this Junior Group. We hope that the members obtain fun and pleasure from their activities and develop a lasting interest in natural history. We look forward to receiving reports from them from time to time - Editor.

#### Parish Magazines

Flossie Oliver has been given a set of Parish magazine local pages for the years 1878 up to 1960. Unfortunately some numbers are missing. The pages contain a wealth of local news and information which will be of great help to anybody carrying out local research. Flossie is willing to lend them to any member carrying out specific research, but unfortunately the paper, particularly of the earlier numbers, is very fragile, so it will not be practicable to lend them for casual browsing.

It would be useful to have access to a complete set of the local pages of the Parish magazine up to the present date. If, therefore, any reader has any back numbers of the local pages which he or she is prepared to give to the Society, or to make available for study, the Secretary will be pleased to receive details.

Closing Date for the next Newsletter is Thursday, February 24.