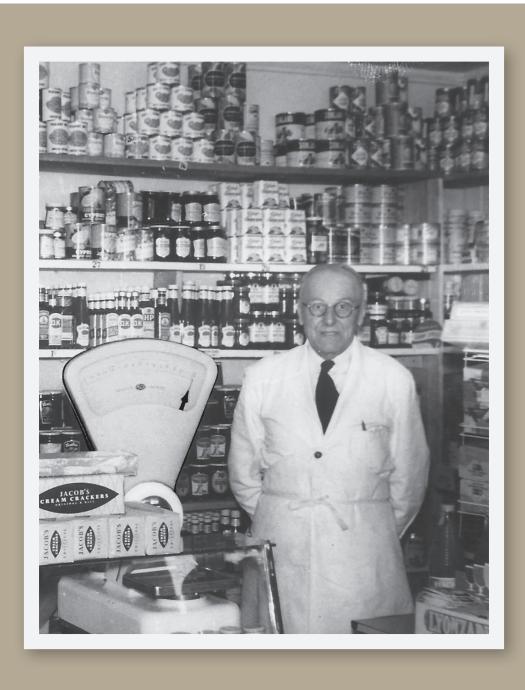
Send & Ripley History Society



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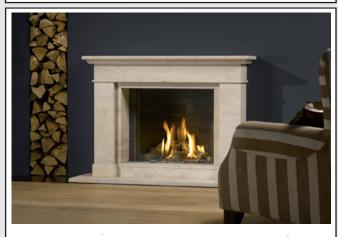
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Cover image:

Alfred Balcombe in his store in Old Woking, courtesy Michele Doick

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EDITORIAL CAMERON BROWN

Another year has passed and our society continues to thrive. We look like ending 2019 with 336 members, a net increase of one since the end of last year! I should like to welcome the following members who joined during this year: Mr Andrews, Pat Barnes, Patricia Berry and partner, Larry & Philippa Bottomley, Mary Conisbee, Stephen Hewlett, Susan Sayers Homer, William Stephen Langley, Zareena & Jeffrey Linney-Waine, G & J Marshall, Joan Mawhinney, Julia & Ben Spain Lewis, David & Judy Williams, Gary Scrace and partner, and Janet Weston.

Our 2020 AGM will take place on Tuesday 19th February 2020. This is the meeting at which we elect (or re-elect) our committee members. We are always looking for more help and if you feel that you might be willing to join the committee, but are not sure quite what it entails, or worry that it may take up too much time,

please feel free to phone Clare or myself – or indeed one of the other committee members to talk about it.

Meanwhile I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Social on December 10th.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th December 2019.

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

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Send & Ripley History Society

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FORTY YEARS AGO — AND TODAY CAMERON BROWN

In July 1979 a group of members went on an outing to Abinger. Newsletter 26 of May/June 1979 reported on the visit, which took in Crossways Farm, Abinger Manor and the Norman motte, the manor pound, Abinger church and the Abinger pit dwelling. Having never heard of the last-mentioned I was astonished to read this description:

The Abinger Pit Dwelling

Not far from the main house in one of the adjacent meadows a small hut contains what is believed to be the oldest dwelling in the British Isles. This dwelling belongs to the Mesolithic period, which spans from the end of the Ice Age, 8300 BC, to the arrival of the first farmers in 3200 BC. Inside the little hut, which is really a museum erected to protect the dwelling, the story of the discovery is told with illustrations and exhibits. The site was excavated by the eminent archaeologist, Dr L. S. B. Leakey, together with Sir Edward Beddington-Behrens and the Surrey Archaeological Society. The site is well preserved and there are many specimens of worked flints, including weapons and tools.

Extract from Newsletter 26

aving never heard of this, despite having good friends who live only half a mile away, I decided to look into it further and turned next to the Historic England website for this scheduled monument. The reason for listing is given as follows:

'The Mesolithic pit-dwelling, 230m south-west of Abinger Manor, is a rare and highly significant site of Mesolithic occupation that has been shown by excavation to contain a considerable microlithic assemblage. The pit-dwelling survives well and represents one of the oldest known and preserved man-made dwellings in Britain. Similar pit-dwellings have been found in Surrey at Farnham and in East Sussex at Selmeston. They are thought to represent sites of semi-permanent occupation, perhaps as winter accommodation, where huts were erected over shallow pits. The area in the vicinity of the Abinger site has a high degree of potential for further archaeological investigation. On the basis of what is known about Mesolithic pit-dwellings it is possible that other pits will survive nearby. The microlithic assemblage found on the site is more primitive and possibly ancestral to those of the Horsham Culture (c7000-6000 BC) found elsewhere in Surrey. As such it represents an important evolution in the development of the prehistoric flint industry and adds additional importance and significance to the site.

The ... pit-dwelling is situated on a gentle south-west facing slope of greensand, south of the Tillingbourne river. It is preserved in an excavated state inside a modern purpose-built hut, measuring approximately 4.5m north-west to south-east by 2.5m north-east to south-west and 1m deep. There are two post holes at the west end of the pit and two hearths located outside the pit, one to the north and another to the south. The site was partially excavated in 1950, which recovered over 6500 flints from the pit and its immediate surroundings.'

In 2010 Historic England contacted the Surrey Archaeological Society for help in restoring the little 'museum' and with their assistance I was able to contact the owner, Mrs Cherry Clarke, who was happy to arrange a visit for Ditz and me, and two friends who live very close by, but did not know about the site. She explained that her family no longer own the manor house in whose grounds the pit-dwelling is located and that she now lives in Manor Cottage, formerly the stable block. Her family did, however, retain ownership of the Mesolithic site together with a right of access across the manor house field reached from Manor Cottage via a public footpath.

Mrs Clarke gave me a copy of a booklet published in 1951 by the Surrey Archeological Society: *Preliminary Excavations of a Mesolithic Site at Abinger Common, Surrey* by LSB Leakey.



The excavated pit-dwelling inside the small museum

This 44-page booklet explains and illustrates the dig in fascinating detail and is now in our museum library. The foreword by Major Beddington Behrens explains how the excavations came about:

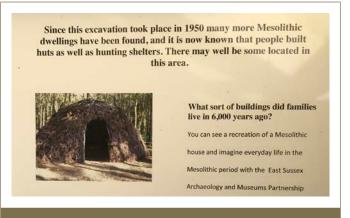
'Dr. Leakey's account of the discovery of a Mesolithic site shows that the activities of the amateur archaeologist can lead to valuable scientific results. Two years ago a representative of the Ordnance Survey called asking if he might look at the mound in my garden marked 'Tumulus' on the map. He said that this slightly raised confused

mass of trees, bush and bracken might be a 'motte', a round earthen fort surrounded by a moat, of the Norman period. I didn't know at the time that a motte and bailey was the type of habitation of our ancestors at about the time of the Norman Conquest; the motte being a mound with a wooden wall and tower surrounded by a moat and attached to the 'bailey', a wooden walled enclosure protecting the habitation and castle of the local chieftain.

My curiosity was aroused, and as a result I had excavations started under the advice of the Surrey Archaeological Society.



The hut built to protect the excavated pit-dwelling



Part of the exhibition within the museum, showing how the Mesolithic hut may have looked

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An old photograph of the original excavation of the motte in 1949, found stuck behind some wiring in the museum

The mound proved to be a motte and the house I live in to be the site of the ancient bailey. But as a result of learned archaeologists visiting the place, Stone Age flint implements and 'pot boilers' were found in the kitchen garden. Pot boilers, I may say, are calcined flints from prehistoric hearths. The garden was, therefore, an occupation site for early man thousands of years before the Roman Conquest.

Thus it was that the same reasons that influenced Sir John Evelyn, the diarist and Lord Chancellor, to build this old farmhouse in Elizabethan times, had influenced previous generations to build the motte and bailey, and men back in the Stone Age to select this position as a desirable site to live on. It was on top of the highest point with a beautiful view. It had a natural spring.

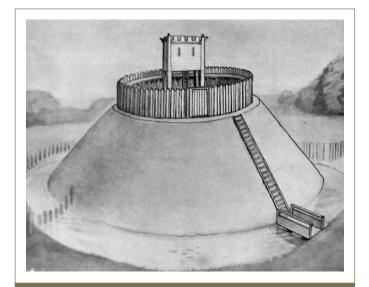
After this, my wife and I walked into the ploughed field adjoining my house, to see if we could pick up any flints. We hadn't been walking twenty yards before she picked up a beautifully made V-shaped Bronze Age arrowhead. The excitement of the hunt was on! We picked up all kinds of flint implements. And with them caught a disease, fast spreading to our friends, which we named 'Flintomania'. It wasn't very long before I had bought every book available on the Stone Age. And each time the rain fell over any of the neighbouring ploughed fields I would hasten to continue the treasure hunt. I was often joined by my little five-yearsold son, Serge, who has now become expert in picking out scrapers, arrowheads, axes and flint knives. It is a very pleasant pastime, giving one plenty of exercise; and there is something exciting in picking up implements that haven't changed, and have been there on the spot, thousands of years before the dawn of history. Many of my friends laugh at this hobby, and to assuage my rebukes agree to walk over the fields with me. They then discover that 'Flintomania' is a quickly catching disease!



The motte today, glimpsed through the trees beside the footpath



Blades: part of a selection of the many flints found by the family and displayed now in the museum



Part of an exhibit in the museum showing a possible reconstruction of the Abinger motte, based on the post-holes found by excavation

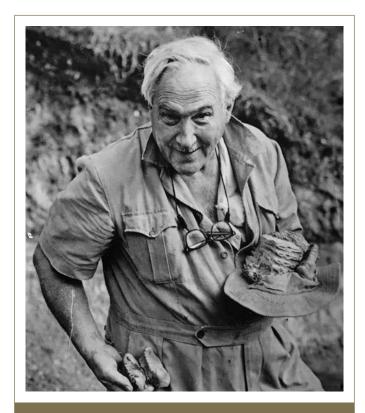
On a very short visit to Kenya early this year I visited the famous archaeologist, Dr. Leakey, head of the Coryndon Museum in Nairobi, and he made me spend a day at one of his prehistoric sites near Lake Olorgesailie. I was surprised to find that the same types of stone implements I found on the Surrey greensand were also fabricated in Equatorial Africa; and the same technique was used. By a strange coincidence, Dr. Leakey came to spend his leave here in Surrey, only a few miles away and, to keep himself in practice, he and Mrs. Leakey kindly agreed to organise the search for a Mesolithic site.

By a piece of good fortune the actual pit was found within ten yards of the place I suggested, which shows that the amateur can still make a contribution to the work of the trained scientist. The site discovered by Professor and Mrs. Leakey is the oldest humanly made and preserved dwelling in the United Kingdom. Chemical experiments have been made to preserve the site by hardening it to the consistency of stone; and I am making arrangements to erect a modest shelter above it, where students of archaeology can see the site and examine the finds *in situ*. When Professor and Mrs. Leakey return from Kenya in a few years' time we hope to continue the excavations, which they believe may uncover the oldest complete village site in Great Britain.

To meet Professor and Mrs, Leakey and to have the pleasure of working with them excavating a site, is a wonderful experience. It increases one's belief in human nature to meet the rare few who devote themselves in a completely disinterested spirit, to the pursuit of knowledge. Today one hears scientists seriously discuss whether or not the world can be destroyed by the atom bomb. A study of how human beings existed in the most primitive times may yet prove useful to continuing the human race from the rare survivors of an atomic war!'

Summarising the detailed reports of some 40 pages into one sentence, the conclusion that this site is earlier than any others found thus far is based to a great extent on the relative lack of sophistication in the design and fabrication of the thousands of flint tools excavated here, many of them painstakingly illustrated in the booklet. The site of the dwelling is sheltered, being well below the crest of the hill, and very close to two ancient springs and Leakey concludes that there will almost certainly have been further dwellings at this location.

Remains of two post holes are still evident at the edge of the pit and it is fascinating to understand from the following section of Leakey's report, how the archaeologist reaches his conclusions when presented with very confusing and incomplete evidence. He writes:



A photograph of Dr Leakey exhibited at the museum

It would seem possible that these two post holes carried short forked poles with a horizontal cross piece between the forks, and that the structure forming the roof of the pit consisted of a framework of branches and saplings leaning against the cross piece and with their ends resting on the land surface surrounding the edge of the pit. Some such structure, covered over with grass and bracken, and then perhaps the skins of deer, would provide a reasonably water-proof roofing to the pit and convert it into comfortable and warm sleeping quarters.

If this explanation is correct, it may well be that the concentration of stones, which is now within the pit at the north-west end, may be connected with the position of the post holes and may represent stones built up with clay and earth between the two poles to form a rough wall at the front. In addition to the presence of charcoal and wood ash which was noticed at the north-west end of the pit, traces of two more definite hearths were found on the land surface adjoining the pit. The small size of the pit-dwelling itself seems to offer an adequate explanation for the presence of the hearths outside, since it would be much more convenient to sit by a fire in the open than in the confined space of the pit-dwelling itself in all but very inclement weather.

Turning next to the probable use of the pit itself, it would seem that it represents an actual dwelling, but its small size strongly suggests that its function was chiefly as sleeping quarters and for shelter during rainy weather, but not for living and working in. Such an interpretation may be supported from examples amongst primitive nomadic hunting peoples of the present day. The Wancleroho hunters of the Mau, in Kenya Colony, construct huts seldom more than 8ft by 6ft and seldom higher in the centre than 3ft to 4ft, which serve as sleeping quarters and for shelter against rain, for a family of up to five individuals. Compared with the cramped space of these modern Wanderobo structures, the pit-dwelling under discussion is very roomy.

In an earlier section of this report it has been shown that the pit filling contained less flints, as well as less actual implements, than were found on the surrounding land surface. It has also been suggested that the vast majority of the flints and implements actually found in the pit-filling slipped down from the surrounding land surface into the pit by the process of erosion after the pit was abandoned. This explanation is in keeping with the view that the pit-dwelling served mainly as sleeping quarters and a shelter against inclement weather, rather than as a dwelling in the modern sense of the word.

The method by which the pit was originally dug out can only be guessed, but it was probably by means of sharpened wooden stakes or deer antlers and the bare hands, for none of the implements of the assemblage can seriously be regarded as digging tools. With only primitive tools available for digging, it was obviously very much easier to dig pit-dwellings into the Greensand and comparable geological formations than in most other types of rock, and this may account for the preference shown by the workers of this group of Mesolithic people for the Greensand zone.'

The Norman motte in the grounds of the manor is not open to the public but is an Historic England Scheduled Monument. The HE website gives the following details:

'Motte castles are medieval fortifications introduced into Britain by the Normans. They comprised a large conical mound of earth or rubble, the motte, surmounted by a palisade and a stone or timber tower. In a majority of examples an embanked enclosure containing additional buildings, the bailey, adjoined the motte. Motte castles and motte-and-bailey castles acted as garrison forts during offensive military operations, as strongholds, and, in many cases, as aristocratic residences and the centre of local or royal administration. Built in towns, villages and open countryside, motte castles generally occupied strategic positions dominating their immediate locality and, as a result, are the most visually impressive monuments of the early post-Conquest period surviving in the modern landscape. Over 600 motte castles or motte-and-bailey castles are recorded nationally, with examples known from most regions. As such, and as one of a restricted range of recognised early post-Conquest monuments, they are particularly important for the study of Norman Britain and the development of the feudal system. Although many were occupied for only a short period of time, motte castles continued to be built and occupied from the 11th to the 13th centuries, after which they were superseded by other types of castle.

The motte at Abinger is of especial importance as the site of the first modern-style excavation of such a monument and hence it formed an important stage in the evolution of thought on the origin and use of these mounds. Waterlogging in the base of the ditch holds high potential for the survival of normally-perishable organic remains such as timber. The monument has been laid out to be easily understood and is excellently maintained. It is therefore of high amenity value.

The monument, a motte castle of the early Norman period dating to around 1100-1150AD, is adjacent to the later Manor House. It includes not only the prominent earthen mound but also the partially-excavated moat which surrounds it and, to the north and west of the mound, a low outer bank of earth. The flat-topped mound measures some 30m in diameter at its base and stands to a height of nearly 4m above the level of the surrounding land. The mound was originally surrounded by a substantial moat which provided defensive strength as well as the earth for the motte itself. This moat was deliberately infilled in antiquity and is now only visible in two areas. To the south-east, where it was excavated in 1949, it features a natural step left unquarried by the moat diggers to provide sound footings for an access bridge. To the north- west of the mound the position of the moat is marked by a pond considered likely to have been dug into the upper part of the moat relatively recently. Only on the north-east side does an outer bank to the moat survive, this bordering the footpath. The excavations demonstrated that a timber look-out tower, surrounded by a palisade fence, had stood on the mound during the first half of the 12th century. The postholes of both were marked with concrete once dug.'

Surrey was particularly important in this period as it was next door to London and at least six castles that we know of were built in the early stages of Norman rule. These included defensive buildings at Bletchingley, Reigate, Guildford, Farnham, Walton-on-the-Hill and this one at Abinger.

Over time, the Normans became more confident in their hold over England and as their resources increased, they were able to construct more permanent buildings designed for greater comfort. The existing wooden structures were replaced in a piecemeal fashion, as and when their owners could spare the funds. Many wooden towers were replaced by stone ones, however, the purpose of these structures was still primarily defensive, and some were built with walls as thick as 6m or 7m. It is easy to see the evidence of this development in Surrey even today in the 12th century stone keeps visible at Guildford and Farnham.

All photographs by Ditz

ALFRED DAVID BALCOMBE — THE SEND GROCER

ALAN COOPER

ast year, we welcomed new member Michele Doick, (née Balcombe) who, although living near Ipswich, Suffolk, has local family connections.

Michele's paternal great-grandfather, William George Balcombe, (1854-1920) was born in Bletchingley, Surrey. He was a beer retailer by trade, running firstly the Three Tuns beerhouse and then the charmingly named Cottage of Content, both located in Bletchingley High Street. The Three Tuns beerhouse was known to be present in 1903 but closed by 1911. The property remains, but in residential use, named Tun Cottage.

when Dorothy was about 13 years old, leaving her with the unenviable task of raising her four younger siblings.

Alfred served throughout WWI in France (enlisting as 14895 David Balcombe in the 11th battalion Northumberland Fusiliers with the rank of lance-corporal) and received the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. Upon release from the army he returned briefly to the Cottage of Content in 1919, returning to Send in 1920, living at 2 Hartland Cottages until his marriage in 1923.



Tun Cottage, Bletchingley – formally the Three Tuns beerhouse

The Cottage of Content was also known to be present in 1903. The building was demolished in the 1960s and was once part of the cottages located on the main road below what is currently Howard Cundey, Estate Agents¹

William had three children: Elizabeth Annie Lucy, William Charles and Alfred David. Upon his death in 1920 his wife Elizabeth and eldest son William Charles continued to run the Cottage of Content. Alfred David, born in 1890, had moved to Send in 1911,² working as a grocer's assistant and boarding with the Read family at 2 Norton Cottages, Send Road. He was known locally as both Alf and Dave and in 1923 married Dorothy Bird Steer, who was born in Addlestone in 1892. It would have been whilst living at Norton Cottages that he met his wife-to-be, who lived two doors away at 1 Beaver Cottages, which would later become their marital home.³ Dorothy's father George James was a painter and decorator who moved to Send from Addlestone in 1898. Her mother, Annie Elizabeth made the momentous decision to leave her husband and family



Beaver and Norton Cottages today. Beaver to the left of the two newer houses built on what was Alfred's vegetable garden, and Norton to the right. No. 1 Beaver Cottages (now known as 36 Send Road) has the white Toyota in front. 2 Norton Cottages (now known as 43 Send Road) is the centre property in the terrace

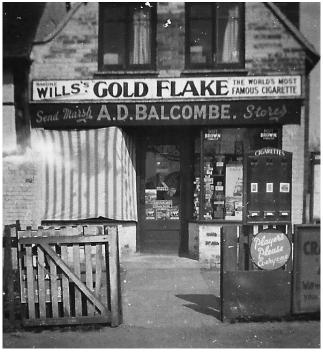
It is unclear who Alfred worked for in 1911 but he is known to have owned Send Marsh Stores in the early 1930s.

In 2016 Albert Pullen, an ex-neighbour of Send Marsh Stores, recalled: "Dave Balcombe ran Send Marsh Stores, and operated very much a 'trust system' in those days. At about the age of five [1933] I would take a shopping list to him and later, if nobody was at home, a box filled with groceries would appear on the kitchen table. A couple of

- 1 www.bletchingly.org.uk
- Of note: Alfred appears twice on the 1911 census, with his entry for Bletchingly left blank all bar his name. We can therefore assume with confidence that his move to Send took place around the time the census was taken
- ³ During the period of late 1948 to early 1949, these properties were no longer known by these names, having been re-numbered, thus 1 Beaver Cottages became 36 Send Road

Send & Ripley History Society





Top: 2 Hartland Cottages today

Bottom: Send Marsh Stores in the late 1930s. An amazing photograph from the halcyon days of smoking; the shop front is smothered with advertising. As one approaches the shop, to the left, obscured by the gate is an enamel sign (product unknown). To the extreme right, Craven 'A' (then owned by Carreras Ltd); beneath the cigarette vending machine to the right of the gate, John Player & Son; above the entrance door, the full width of the frontage, Wills Gold Flake. Examine the window to the right and we find Nut Brown (Adkin & Sons) at the top and Capstan Full Strength (Wills) to the bottom. Who knows what lies behind the blind on the left!



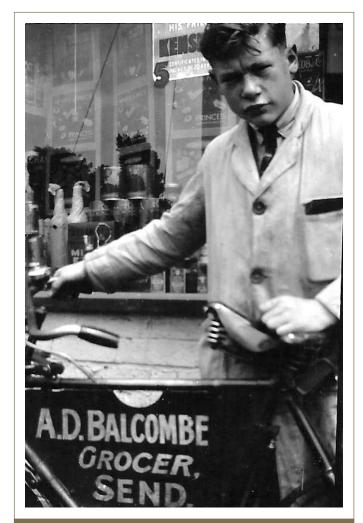


Top: Send Marsh Stores in the late 1930s **Bottom:** Send Marsh Stores today — now a residential dwelling named Pip's Cottage

hours later I would be sent to the shop to pay him. On Saturday mornings I would go to the shop, go upstairs, remove the skin from the outside of the cheeses and take the coverings (a bit like mutton cloth) off the bacon. I would do other chores and for payment I was given a couple of sherbert dabs."⁴

In later life, Alfred worked at Send Grocery Stores opposite the New Inn public house on the junction of Send Road and Potters Lane. Originally owned and run by the Webb family, it was sold and became Gladdings Stores during WWII and later Lemons Store. It was sold to Quilter Cave Ltd in 1978 and demolished to make way for flats in 2003. It was, in all probability, during Albert Lemon's ownership that he worked there.

 $^{^{4}}$ Extract from Albert Pullen's memories published in SRHS journal $251\,$



A somewhat sullen-looking delivery boy outside Send Marsh Stores



Send Grocery today — flats since 2003

After a spell at J Sainsbury's in Woking, Alfred finally worked for himself once more in Old Woking High Street, close to St Peter's church during the 1950s. He died on 9th April 1959.



Alfred Balcombe – far right outside Send Grocery stores

WHAT FOLLOWS IS AN ACCOUNT OF MICHELE'S MEMORIES OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY:

'I was absolutely thrilled to read an article in an SRHS journal from 2008 about memories of living in Send. I myself attended Send C of E primary school. Miss Palmer was one of my teachers, although I believe Mrs Bagley might have been my very first, and Miss Perrin was, in 1955, the headmistress. Miss Palmer had also been one my father's teachers when he attended the school in the midlate 1920s. His name was David Balcombe.

My grandparents lived at 36 Send Road, where my father was born; there are now not-so-new houses standing on what was my grandfather's vegetable garden. He grew just about everything they needed - I recall neat, weeded rows of potatoes, parsnips, carrots, 'greens', beans and soft fruit including strawberries, raspberries and gooseberries. There were also apple trees and they kept three chickens that I remember, called 'The Beverley Sisters'! When we moved to Brookwood, where my mother was born, after my grandfather's death when I was nine, in 1960, we took Jane, the last surviving hen with us. My grandmother moved with us to share our home. I lived as a child in a flat at 13 Sandfields Estate, the garden of which ran right down to Send Road, next to the footpath. This garden is also built on now. Just adjacent, across the road, was Mr Gott's chemist shop.

I remember fishing with my grandad in Send Pond and my father skating there with his friends, something they had always done in the winter. I recall walks along the river past a great big old wooden mill - long gone, I imagine. I recall cutting across the fields to Potters Lane to play with Jill Oliver at the farm; getting into BIG trouble from my father for going swimming in the canal down Tannery Lane (probably because I couldn't swim

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at the time!); learning to ride my bicycle around the 'big' green in the centre of Sandfields, which is nowhere near as big as I remember it.

My maternal great-grandfather, George Steer, originally owned 36 Send Road - he was from another local family in Addlestone where, coincidentally, my husband came from.

My grandfather was injured in the leg during his time in the trenches during World War One and my 'treat' was being allowed to feel the piece of shrapnel still embedded in his shin!

When my grandfather had the shop in Old Woking, there was a little store room, entered from behind the counter, that had a forward-facing window, which would suggest a double frontage, but I really cannot recall exactly. It was a great pleasure for me when I was taken there and allowed to weigh out rice and sugar into blue paper bags on white enamel scales; I can even vaguely remember there was a

special fold to seal the bags. There were sacks of potatoes and other groceries standing on a planked wooden floor. In my mind, I can smell that little room, even now.

Most names of my peers escape me now, but I remember the Leper family - my father went to school with the father of my friend, April; the Mastromarcos were our next-door neighbours, the Stephanias lived down the lane near St Bede's; there were other families living around us called Masters, Freestone, Atter and Gohegan. Other family names I remember, neighbours of my grandparents I suspect, are Turner - Peter was my Dad's best friend - Brough and Challen. I think the Challens might have owned a garage at the entrance to Tannery Lane, although I may be completely wrong about that; it's been a very long time.'

Thanks to Janet & Trevor Tice for their help in locating Beaver, Norton and Hartland cottages.

Period photos c/o Michele Doick collection Contemporary photos c/o Alan Cooper collection





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VISIT TO GEORGE ABBOT'S HOSPITAL, GUILDFORD

CAMERON BROWN



Our group at the Upper Court, looking at an unexpectedly splendid front door bell – the Master's lodgings are in the right hand corner

n October 11th a group of members enjoyed a guided tour of George Abbot's Hospital, Guildford. Our guide was Desmond McCann, member of our society and a governor of the Hospital.

The word 'hospital' is used in its old sense, meaning a place offering shelter or hospitality – more akin to what we might later have called an alms house and nowadays, sheltered housing. It was opened to its first residents in 1622 and was designed to provide for the elderly of Guildford who were too old to work and had no other means of support, and for townspeople who for one reason or another were unable to find employment; at that time Guildford's once booming wool industry was in decline. George Abbot, of

whom more below, financed the building of the hospital and conceived it as both a hospital (sheltered housing) and a 'Manufacture' – a factory or workshop. It was originally called The Hospital of the Blessed Trinity.

Almost 400 years later the Hospital still provides sheltered housing comprising a group of unfurnished homes specially designed to make daily life as easy as possible and to encourage mutual contact and support between neighbours. The Hospital is intended for those who are, when they take up residence, capable of living independently. Residents need to have some connection with Guildford and, broadly, be unable to afford to pay market rent for accommodation.

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The Upper Court looking towards the Lower Court



Window in the chapel

Abbot had firm ideas about how it should be run, and set these out in his *Statutes for the Good Government of the Hospital of the Blessed Trinity in Guildford*. They provided for a Master, 'whose office shall be to rule and govern all the rest, with mildness and love, if it may be, otherwise with moderate severity'. Married couples were not accepted and the residents consisted of 12 men (known as brethren), eight women (sisters) and the Master, all living in rooms around what is now known as the Upper Court. It was not until 1985 that couples were admitted and until 1953 the Master also had to be unmarried.

Each resident had one unfurnished room with a stone floor and simple fireplace. The brothers were expected to work in the vegetable and fruit garden, to keep the outside of the building clean and do any manual jobs which were required. The sisters cleaned inside, prepared food, cooked and did some nursing; one was responsible for cleaning the Master's quarters. Their rooms, coal and firewood and their blue caps and gowns were given to them free of charge, and in addition they were given 2 shillings and 6 pence per week, about half the typical wage of a farm worker, and enough to enable residents to buy each day a medium loaf of bread, half a pound of cheese, a pint of peas and four pints of small beer. To this could be added vegetables and fruit grown in the Hospital's gardens.

Not surprisingly residents were expected to behave as good Christians and were required to attend the Hospital chapel regularly, on pain of expulsion. Holy Trinity, opposite the Hospital, has always been closely involved with their neighbour which shares its name and whose founder is buried in the church. In 1740, after a series of 'improvements' to its acoustics which involved removal of the support arches, its tower fell down and destroyed the church, leaving little undamaged but the tomb of George Abbot, which was removed to the Hospital for safekeeping until the church could be rebuilt over the next 23 years. It is thought that some of the pews were rescued from the wreckage, and cut down to fit the smaller dimensions of the Hospital chapel.

Gas lighting was first introduced in 1824 and the first earth closet lavatory in 1868, followed by WCs in 1873 (though initially only for use by the Master). Electricity arrived in 1910, flush toilets and washbasins (one per each four residents) in 1931, electric cooking facilities in the rooms in 1949 and washbasins in 1961. The gardens below the Upper Court originally stretched all the way to Lower Back Side, the old town ditch running where North Street is now, and they enabled the residents to grow most of the produce required by the Hospital kitchen. In 1953 the decision was made to turn this area into a decorative garden to mark the Queen's coronation. However, in 1984 a block of 12 new flats was built in a style complementary to the original building, despite much opposition to the loss

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of the last visible North Street garden. This is now known as the Lower Court. The new building made it possible for the original 17th century rooms to be reconfigured to accommodate couples. Over the wall to the left of the Lower Court is further accommodation for residents. It was originally built in 1658 as stabling for the Master's horse, which he used to help him travel to collect rents and manage the various endowment properties.



The main entrance to the Hospital with the original oak doors and later gates

At the north-west corner of the Hospital grounds, overlooking North Street, stands the Old Cloth Hall, originally known as the 'Manufacture'. In the early seventeenth century there was widespread unemployment in Guildford due to the failure of the woollen trade. In an attempt to provide employment George Abbot decided to build the Manufacture for instruction in the production of linen cloth. Tools, equipment, a kiln and an instructor were brought in but the project was short-lived. By 1644 woollen cloth was being produced here, but then a combination of sickness and the Civil War brought work to a standstill. In 1648 work re-started but the woollen industry finally failed in 1654. A workhouse for the workforce had been built on to the north end of the Manufacture (doubling its length) and the building became a relief centre with the

endowment provided by Abbot used to supply 'doles'. In 1856 a scheme to join the funds from the Bakers/Bluecoats school endowment and the 'doles' endowment resulted in the founding of the Archbishop Abbot School with about 30 pupils. The tower was added in 1891 to become the headmaster's study but by 1933 the school had moved to other premises in the town. In 1934 the Hospital bought back the building and it was then used as offices for a number of years before becoming a retail outlet.

George Abbot (1562 – 1633) attended school in Guildford, going on to Oxford University at 16 and becoming a fellow of Balliol College at age 21. He remained at Oxford for over 20 years, a distinguished theologian and linguist, becoming vice-chancellor of the university. He was appointed Dean of Winchester in 1600 and had initially an impressive career in the Church. He knew King James and was closely involved in the translation of the King James edition of the bible. A staunch puritan, he became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1611 and in this position was one of the most important men in the Kingdom, a privy councillor, and from 1618 First Lord of the Treasury. Not only had he become very important, but also very rich.

A bachelor, he looked for ways to devote some of his wealth to some charitable purpose, or, as he put it himself, "to leave behind me to posterity some monument of my thankfulness to my Creator". For his new 'hospital' Abbot bought the Half Moon Tavern and the property behind it, for a total of £450 and in 1619 started building.

In July 1621, Abbot was involved in a tragic accident which was to affect him for the rest of his life. On holiday with his friend Lord Zouche at his house at Bramshill he was invited to join a hunting party and given a crossbow, of which he had very little experience. Although the gamekeepers had been warned of this, one of them, Peter Hawkins, ran straight in front of Dr Abbot as the bolt left the bow, was hit in the arm and died from loss of blood.

Although it was not the Archbishop's fault he was deeply shocked by the incident. He ensured that the keeper's family were left with generous provision, but the incident gave his enemies a chance to label him as a homicide.

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King James was generous, and granted a full pardon, but the affair could not be forgotten. For the rest of his life Abbot fasted once a month, as a sign of his repentance. The Archbishop was to live for a further eleven years, but his influence at court dwindled, and he was not allowed to play a full part in leading the Church.

The design of Abbot's Hospital is like that of a small Oxford college, and its towers are reminiscent of Hampton Court or St James's Palace, echoing earlier Tudor design rather than demonstrating the classical features more typical of Jacobean architectural designs. When the Hospital first began, the paved area in front of the main wooden doors (which are still in use) was open to the street. In the early nineteenth century, trouble arose from groups of rioters calling themselves the Guildford Guys. They were especially active on 5th November, when they built a huge bonfire between the Hospital and Holy Trinity, on which they threw gates, railings and doors ripped from the houses of their enemies. In 1830, realising that the Hospital was in real danger, the Governors had the stone balustrade built to protect the building from barrels rolling onto the forecourt.

We were able to visit the Upper Court, the chapel and the Common Hall. This latter room originally acted as a parlour and dining room for residents. Meals were prepared by the sisters and eaten together. Much of the furniture is original including tables, benches, wall-benches fixed to the panelling and stools. This hall is still used by the residents for communal activities. The chapel is double height with a barrel-vaulted ceiling and a series of interesting coloured glass windows which may have been brought from another building, possibly the Dominican Friary, sold off by the Crown in 1620. The glass appears to have been cut to fit the windows, which in places shows truncated people and animals. Before the pews were fitted residents were expected to stand throughout the long services with only the weakest allowed to use the benches against the wall (a common custom; hence the phrase the weakest go to the wall).

We were also able to look out over the Lower Court and the former 'Manufacture' and to visit the Lower Hall, now converted to an exhibition space. Following the tour our group visited the nearby Guildford House with its current exhibition celebrating the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Hospital. One of the exhibits is the original book of rules governing the conduct of the early residents, written in meticulous handwriting by Abbot himself, who had some very firm opinions about how the lives of the residents should be regulated. One rule goes: 'I do utterly forbid ... all animals' - the current Master's dog is the first in 400 years to have escaped this stricture. In another, in a section on the care of the sick, Abbot requires the Master 'to appoint especially two of the sisters whom he thinketh to be most fit for that purpose ... and they shall be called the relievers of the impotent' and they received for their ministrations the sum of 6/8d per year (33 pence).

Photos by Cameron Brown



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MEMORIES OF RYDE HOUSE COMMERCIAL SCHOOLS AND THE GOODMANS

ALAN COOPER



Pat the bridesmaid at brother Ted's wedding in 1946: I-r: Pat Chandler (bridesmaid), Richard Wanbon (best man), Ted Chandler (groom), Meta (Martha) Robinson (bride) Jack Chandler (groom's father) Betty (Jack's wife's sister)

Then Pat Fiszer (née Chandler) died earlier this year, Ripley lost one of the last, if not the last person known to have been educated at Ryde House Commercial School, Ripley, owned and run by the Goodman family.

Both Pat (b.1927) and her brother Ted (b.1925) attended Ryde House School with Pat transferring to Ripley Church of England school upon its closure. She recalled: "We all wore a very distinctive brown and yellow uniform. The girls wore blazers with brown gymslips and a beret which was constructed of two brown and two yellow triangular sections. The boys had blazers and caps, with a brown and yellow badge. Most of the pupils were boarders, many of whom came from overseas. Not many of us lived locally, but I do remember a girl who came from Ockham. We had a lot of French students there.

When they packed up completely, I longed to go to Ripley school because everyone I knew went there. When I did, they accused me of being stuck up because I spoke differently to them – obviously the teachers were a lot better at Ryde House! They were a lovely bunch really

and everybody liked Miss Francis. I remember how Miss Goodman used to put on wonderful shows with a 'magic lantern'. We were very well looked after and not only was there a sanatorium for the poorly, but a small building opposite the main school where medical examinations took place. When the school closed down, they demolished it. They should never have been allowed to do that, it was such a lovely building, bright and airy with all those windows". ¹

When Thomas Samuel Goodman (nephew of Thomas M Berridge, the school's founder) died in 1934, his son Thomas William and sisters Alice and Lillie continued to run the school, but they lacked their father's charisma and it finally closed four years later in 1938.

Annie Sink (née Watson) worked as-and-when needed at the school cutting the boys' hair and did so until it closed whereupon she was presented with a garden bench, once the property of the school. Annie's daughter Audrey Woodhams (née Sink) is now 97 and lives in Norfolk and, amazingly, still has the bench. Unfortunately, it has no manufacturers' markings on the metal ends but it is possible it was blacksmith-made locally.²





Top: Ryde House Girls School in Newark Lane (believed to have been built at the turn of the 19th century, the building was recently converted into flats). See Journal 260 for additional information regarding the history of the building **Bottom:** The bench, presented to Annie Sink in 1938 for

services rendered



Ryde House School (on left) in the High Street opposite St Mary Magdalen church, sold in 1938 to J Gibbs Ltd; the building was demolished and is currently a Co-op supermarket

Football matches between Ryde House and the village school generally resulted in cuts and bruises. The late Ted Cooper recalled how they were a very rough, ill-disciplined bunch, what today would probably be described as 'highly competitive'!⁵





Top: School staff circa 1919³⁴
Back row, I-r: Edward J Allen, Mrs Elsie Butler, unknown, Miss Palmer, unknown, Mrs Eleanor M LeFevre, Miss Alice Goodman, Miss Lillie Goodman, Miss Minnie Allwork
Front row, I-r: Mrs Alfreda B Goodman, Thomas Samuel Goodman, Mrs Mary G Goodman, Thomas W J Goodman **Bottom:** Ryde House School football team 1919

If any readers of this article know of anyone educated at RHS still living or have any memorabilia of any sort relating to it, please contact the writer of this article.

Photo of girl's school c/o Audrey Smithers collection Wedding photo c/o Pat Fiszer collection Bench photo c/o Pat White (née Woodhams) collection Photos of football team, school staff and High Street

¹ As recalled by Pat Fiszer in 2016

School c/o Alan Cooper collection

- ² See J264 for additional information about Annie Watson
- ³ Edward J Allen was the music teacher. He was also the organist at Ockham (All Saints) church and was blind. He lived at Buckingham Lodge, Ockham

Mrs Elsie Butler was Elsie Goodman, daughter of Thomas Samuel Goodman.

Miss Palmer was the sister of Mrs Eleanor M LeFevre Alice and Lillie Goodman were also daughters of Thomas Samuel Goodman. Lillie died in 1931

Alfreda was the wife of Thomas W J Goodman, son of Thomas Samuel, whose wife was Mary G Goodman

- ⁴ Coming from the same source as the dated football team photograph it is fair to assume that this picture is of the same date
- ⁵ Local memories.

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CENTENARY OF SEND RECREATION GROUND

LINDA PARKER-PICKEN

n 23rd September 2019 the mayor of Guildford, in the presence of Send parish council and the Ripley and Send Rotary Club, officially opened the centenary avenue of trees and new gazebo on Send Recreation Ground. This article explores the history of 'the rec'

The plaque on the war memorial on the corner of the recreation ground and Sandy Lane tells us that this piece of land was acquired 'for the benefit of the inhabitants of Send'.

It was bought for the village from Mr Joe Baigent who farmed at the top of Sandy Lane, with money raised by public subscription in 1919, officially opened on 1st June 1920 and dedicated to the memory of the soldiers and sailors of Send who fell in WWI. Until 1920 it had been farmland and was managed by a group of trustees whose names are listed on the plaque on the war memorial. We know this about them:

Samuel Staines Boorman was born in Tenterden, Kent, in 1865. He had come to live in Send in his early twenties and had a flourishing market garden business at Heath Farm, Tannery Lane, until 1935 when he retired to Inniskeen, West Clandon. He died on 17th September 1952 and was buried at St Mary's Church, Send. In 1915 he was listed as a JP on the Woking bench and chairman of the parish council. SS Boorman also became a county councillor and alderman. He was appointed as a JP before WWI and sat for several years on the Woking bench, was a market gardener and had land along Send Road. He lived with his wife and two daughters at Heath Farm in Tannery Lane.

We have tokens in the museum from his market garden where he grew strawberries, gooseberries and raspberries. The work was very seasonal and the workers (often gypsies) were paid in tokens and then had to use them in the local shops. He sold his business to Mr Secrett who continued in market gardening.

Arthur H Lancaster lived at Sendholme, which was built in 1863 by the architect George Devey for Captain William A Hargreaves. Unfortunately we do not know a lot about Captain Hargreaves, but he came from the same family as the inventor of the Spinning Jenny, so maybe it was wealth from textiles that paid for the building.



The war memorial at the Rec

Lancaster clearly saw it as his duty to act as a local benefactor as he not only acted as trustee for the Recreation Ground but endowed a drill hall in the village, which still bears his name. The drill hall is also celebrating its foundation and more will appear in a separate article in due course.

John Alexander Shirer was born in Cheltenham in 1864. He was a solicitor and came to live in Send some time before the 1901 census and lived at Heath House, Send Road, which was later demolished to make way for Heath Drive. He bought the property in 1907 but seems to have leased it before buying it from Mrs Hill. The conveyance refers to eight acres with further land on the other side of the road. In 1908, preparatory to granting a mortgage to Mr Shirer, Thurgood and Martin of Chancery Lane prepared a report on the house which indicates that it was a substantial property with eight bedrooms. JA Shirer became a member of Send and Ripley parish council and also served on Guildford rural district council as the representative of Send for many years. He was a churchwarden at St Mary's, Send and continued living at Heath Hall until his death on 25th January 1939.

William Maling Grant lived at Sendhurst Grange in Vicarage Lane, a house built around 1850 as a country home for the Hon Francis Scott who was MP for Berwick. F Maling Grant, a tea planter, who was also an MP, bought the property from Scott. While he and Mr Lancaster both acted as trustees there may have been some rivalry between them as the cricket club had played on Grant's land until they moved to Sendholme. Also according to articles by Marjorie Sex and Ken French, Maling Grant had given a smaller hall at Burnt Common to be used for the people of Send for leisure purposes. This was upstaged by the building of the Drill Hall by Mr Lancaster.

The Rev Frederick Morgan-Jones was vicar of Send from 1912 until 1921. Little else is known about him. There is no mention of him in the SRHS Local Memories. He was born in Oundle, Northants, about 1872 and before he came to Send was the vicar of Marks Tey, Essex. According to the probate of his will he died on 23rd February 1941 at Beaconsfield, Bucks, aged 69 years.

William Giles Whitbourn was born in Shalford in 1860, started working for Unwin Bros when he was 11 years old, was apprenticed to a compositor and later became a reader. In 1906 he was promoted to manager and retired in 1930 after 59 years' service, having become a director of the firm. He came to live in Send when Unwin Bros relocated to the St Martha's Printing Works, Old Woking, after their Chilworth premises burnt down in 1894. He was a member of Send and Ripley parish council for many years and during WWI he became its chairman. He held this position for sixteen years, became a JP in 1921, sitting on the Woking bench and was also a deacon of Guildford congregational church. William Whitbourn lived at Lynwood, a house at the Cartbridge end of what is now Potters Lane, for over forty years. He died on 26th September 1952 aged 92 years and his funeral service was held at Send congregational church.

It must be assumed that the Recreation Ground fell into disrepair over the next few years, hence the sequence of events recounted in the minute books of Send and Ripley parish council ¹²:

10TH APRIL 1924

'A letter was read from Mr S Spooner drawing attention to the bad state of the Send Recreation Ground, partly caused by the wilful destruction of lads..... It was generally agreed that much could be done at a moderate outlay to improve and beautify the ground. Mr Sex proposed and Mr Harris seconded "that the Clerk be instructed to thank Mr Spooner for his letter and to state that the Send and Ripley parish council were prepared to take over the

management and upkeep of Send Recreation Ground provided that the trustees were willing to place it in their care.... and would put the fences and gate in a state of repair satisfactory to the council." Carried unanimously.

11TH SEPTEMBER 1924:

'The Chairman stated that the trustees of Send Recreation Ground were prepared to hand over the recreation ground with any cash balance in hand at the date of transfer.....Carried unanimously.'

20TH NOVEMBER 1924:

'A letter was received from Mr Lancaster with the conveyance of Send Recreation Ground to the Send and Ripley parish council, also a cheque for £6.15.3 for the trustees' a/c. Mr Spooner is planting some trees to replace those that died and this small account will have to be paid from the balance handed over.'

The meeting then discussed byelaws to apply to the ground, to be called the Send War Memorial Recreation Ground, under the sole control of the Send and Ripley parish council. Sometime later, new byelaws were adopted and are shown on the poster below:



The original byelaws

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¹ These minute books are stored by the Surrey History Centre in Woking.

² Separate parish councils for Send and Ripley were formed in 1933.

A special council meeting was convened on 5th December 1966 to discuss an order by the Secretary of State for Education and Science, who, to facilitate the widening of the road, would pay £160 for a 0.16 acre strip of land with a frontage of 152 yards forming part of the Recreation Ground. The authority would carry out necessary reinstatement works to the fence. The compulsory purchase for the road-widening scheme was agreed in a conveyance of 26th September 1967 and signed by Mrs MH Sanger and Mr GS Wood.



The mayor cutting the ribbon on 23rd September 2019

19TH DECEMBER 1967:

The clerk reported that he had received £160 in settlement of the sale of the land for road widening. The part of the fence to be paid for by the council was approx. £199 10s 0d. [Note that this was more than the monies received!]

To mark the centenary of the Recreation Ground a new pergola has been erected with an avenue of young trees, designed to create a lasting memorial on the Recreation Ground as well as a place of peace and shelter for the residents of Send.

On 23rd September 2019 the Mayor of Guildford, Cllr Richard Billington attended, accompanied by Mrs Billington, to cut the ribbon at the end of the new avenue and to formally open the pergola. The event, which sadly took place on the first rainy day for a long time, was organised by Send parish council and Send & Ripley Rotary Club. The chairman of Send parish council, Cllr Philip Beddoes spoke, followed by Rotary president Malcolm Pritchett, to welcome the guests who included members of the Rotary Club of Confolens, the French town twinned



The Surrey Fringe Barbershop Singers singing in the pergola

with Send, members of GBC, Send Primary School, Send Evangelical Church (who provided refreshments), 1st Send scouts, Send Arts & Crafts, Send Village Club and the Send & Ripley History Society. A musical interlude was provided by the Surrey Fringe Barbershop Singers.

Photographs © Cameron Brown

SEND AND RIPLEY 100 YEARS AGO NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1919

PHIL DAVIE

Ripley and Send parish council again discussed the poor condition of the Church Bridge, over the river Wey, after Woking urban council costed replacement of the bridge at £60 but then refused to fund it. The parish council proposed a revised bridge design costing just £25 - £30 and suggested sharing the cost between the two councils. Woking council then agreed to pay half the cost. Until the work was undertaken the parish council decided to place notices at either end of the bridge warning of its unsafe condition and that persons using it did so at their own risk.

A Mrs Lepper asked Ripley and Send parish council for help with her housing, as for eight months she had been living in a four-roomed house with seven other tenants. Subsequent discussions resulted in a conference between Ripley and Send parish council and representatives from Guildford rural district council to expedite building of cottages in the district. Proposals already existed for six cottages for Burnt Common, six on Send Road 'opposite the post office', and 12 on Newark Lane, Ripley (although detailed costings were not available for this particular location). There were strong arguments against the proposed Burnt Common cottages development both because it was some distance from village facilities and because it was located on the Guildford side of the village - while the majority of residents worked in Woking. It was decided to proceed with the Send cottages, but not those in Burnt Common. Costing activities on the Ripley cottages was also to proceed, before a decision was made.

A series of fires were occurring in Ripley. The first was in the grocery store and another in buildings opposite the White Hart hotel. Neither was serious and they were promptly extinguished without needing the Ripley fire brigade. The fifth in the series occurred in a haystack on Homewood Farm. It was well ablaze shortly after discovery yet a number of people, including the vicar, managed to mostly control the blaze before the fire brigade arrived. However, a large flame then emerged on one side of the stack, to be doused by a bucket of water thrown from the top of the stack. Unfortunately the vicar was underneath and the contents of the bucket were dashed upon him. He presented rather a sorry spectacle after his baptism of fire and water, but no further harm resulted.

Also in Ripley a motor van went out of control while being driven through the village towards London. It narrowly avoided three young women, scaled a bank 2.5 feet high, and knocked down a small tree before running into the corner of a house. The van was considerably damaged, but not the house. The two occupants of the van were also only slightly injured.

And as Christmas came ever closer an entertainment was held by pupils at Ryde House school in aid of Sir Arthur Pearson's School for Blinded Soldiers' Children. It comprised songs, instrumental pieces, sketches, and a play.



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BRIDGET GORDON AND THE RE-DEDICATION OF THE BELLS OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SEND, SURREY

AS REPORTED IN THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF MARCH 2019

Ivan Saunders, retired Bell Captain of Send wrote about Bridget Gordon, born 10/11/1932 and who died on 15/5/2014.



Bridget Gordon in St Mary's

Bridget began ringing here at Send church in 1978 and continued right up until a couple of years before her death. As a keen cyclist Bridget would cycle every Sunday morning come rain or shine. On one Sunday morning she arrived soaking wet. She had left home with grey clouds which had turned to rain, very heavy rain. In typical Bridget style she dried herself off and rung for the Sunday service. Bridget didn't like a fuss! Because of the love she had for Send church and especially the bell-ringing, when she sadly died she left the Bridget Gordon legacy.

Bridget's legacy left a large amount to the bell restoration fund for churches in the Guildford diocese to share out when work is needed on their bells. Here at Send church we have had all six bells restored, including all their frames and bearings, the cost being born by Bridget's legacy. On 18th of November 2018 we had a service to re-dedicate the bells and a memorial plaque has been made in fond memory of Bridget.

THE RE-DEDICATION

Bells are the outward voice of the church, announcing the presence of an active community of Christian faith wherever they are rung. Their sound is part of the British psyche, especially in England, where bell-ringing has evolved to a high degree of art, science and skill. Bells are a precision musical instrument, accurately tuned to the musical scale and carefully suspended on ball bearings in a steel frame that can withstand two tons of bronze circling back and forth with minute precision. Like any machine, the structure must be maintained and the moving parts renovated when worn.

It is fairly certain that four bells were made and installed in St Mary the Virgin's church, Send in the late 15th century when the tower was also built. They were replaced with five bells in 1711 by famous founder Richard Phelps of Whitechapel London. This was at a time when the art of change-ringing was becoming established and five bells were the minimum needed for this. But over the years some of those bells were taken out and by the end of the Second World War there were only three bells left. The present six bells at Send were cast as a war memorial in 1947 by the Croydon firm of Gillett and Johnson, whose skill in casting bells with a beautiful tone has never been surpassed. But 70 years later it was time for a thorough renovation to be undertaken.

It seems likely that Bridget Gordon found the fellowship of ringers provided her with some sense of community: she was adopted as a child and perhaps related to this, she found it hard to engage in much conversation. So in making a very large bequest to the Guildford Guild of Church Bell Ringers, she showed the significance of ringing in her life in a way that, as a somewhat introspective person, she found difficult to communicate in words. Her dedication to ringing and travelling by bicycle in all weathers was legendary, as recorded on the delightful plaque provided by Tower Captain Ivan Saunders and the ringers.

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SEND RINGERS WITH VICAR AND CHURCHWARDENS. Seated (I. to r.): Bridget A. Gordon, Mary E. Milner (churchwarden), Rev. E. A. Garrett (vicar) William K. Macfarlane (churchwarden), Betty V. Brown. Standing (I. to r.): Leslie J. Hawkins, Philip J. Bridge, Stephen E. B. Jones, Robert J. Wiggins, Ivan J. M. Saunders (tower captain), Martin Kemp, Philip L Mussell, Keith R Tomes, Roger J Noble, E. Gabrielle L. Jones. (Due to illness, Brian D. J. Smith was unable to be present

for photograph.)

Photograph from a local paper in the early 1970s

The restoration work was undertaken by Andrew Nicholson and Ian Hasman, bell-hangers, assisted by members of the church and guild, including Malcolm Loveday, Andy Charnleybeal, John Young, Jonathan Bell, Rachel Wilkinson and many others.

The service of re-dedication was conducted by the Reverend Tony Shutt, the vicar, with the involvement of members of the congregation who had helped with the work. Tony spoke movingly of the vibrations of the bells emanating through the churchyard, the leaves and the trees and into the ground where Bridget's remains are laid to rest. He cleverly resolved the difficulty of re-dedicating bells hidden aloft in the tower by representing them with six candles. As each candle was lit by different person, the vicar read an appropriate dedication and the relevant bell was rung six times. When all had been rung there was open ringing whilst coffee and cakes were provided for everyone present. It was a joyful occasion on a beautiful autumn day and a fitting memorial to our benefactor, Bridget Gordon.



The restored bells

COUNTRY LIFE GREAT DANES ARTICLE

Further to the article on Gordon Stewart in I268 we are able to reproduce the following three pages which were published in Country Life on 1st December 1934.

COUNTRY LIFE.

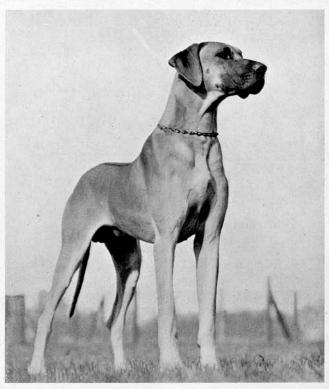
Dec. 1st, 1934.

ORGANISING OUR HOBBIES

GREAT DANES AND POULTRY AT SEND MANOR

ACTING, no doubt, upon the principle that busy men have the most time, Mr. Gordon Stewart, in seeking relaxation from business cares embarked upon hobbies on a scale that would have meant a whole-time job for most people. His firm, Messrs. Stewart and Ardern, have had much to do in conhad much to do in con-nection with building up the sales of the Morris cars; but there comes a time when the energy that can create a com-mercial concern in this way needs some diver-sion. The bow cannot remain taut for ever. The thought reminds me of a charming little legend had much to do in conof a charming little legend associated with St. John. A sportsman approached the Evangelist as he was stroking a tame partridge was stroking a tame partridge that he held in his hand. "Why occupy yourself with pleasures so humble?" he was asked. The reply came in the shape of a further question. "What hast thou in thy hand?" "A bow," said the sportsman. "And why dost thou not always carry it bent?" "Because it would then lose its strength, and when it was wanted to shoot at some will animal it would fail from continuous straincontinuous strain-"Then," said St.

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CH. EGMOND OF SEND Who took the leading dog part in the Gainsborough film, "The Hound of the Baskervilles"

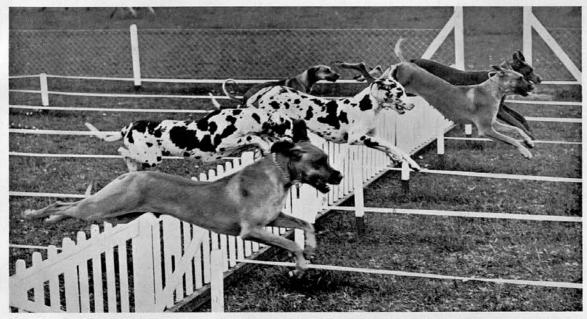
John, "let not this brief and slight relaxation of my mind offend thee, young man; without it the spirit would flag from over exertion, and not be able to respond to the call of duty when need required."

Mr. Stewart, who had been interested in Great Danes for some years, naturally turned to dog breeding and exhibiting, which has advantages over many other amusements. A man of restless activities has no use for hobbies that entail restless activities has no use for hobbies that entail no tax upon the brain. Breeding livestock of any kind requires judgment and the ability to reap the fruits of experience, and when one is engaged in weighing its press and and when one is engaged in weighing its pros and coons, other worries are, for the time being, excluded. Some say that it brings cares of another kind, but that depends to a large extent upon one's temperament. John Galsworthy, whose sympathies with dogs were extensive, expressed our feelings admirably in a passage in The Patrician. The day after his arrival at his country home Lord Valleys visited his kennels before breakfast, like a true enthusiast. "He stood chatting with his head man, and



THE DUKE OF KENT, WITH HIS GREAT DANE CH. MIDAS OF SEND, AND THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER-MR. AND MRS. GORDON STEWART, AND MAJOR AND MRS. BEDDOES

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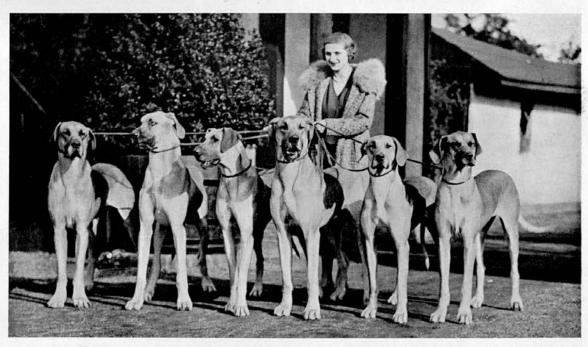
OVER THE HURDLES: MR. GORDON STEWART'S GREAT DANES SHOW THE ACTIVITY OF THE BREED

caressing the wet noses of his two favourite pointers, with some-thing of the feeling of a boy let out of school. Those pleasant creatures, cowering and quivering with pride against his legs, and turning up at him their yellow Chinese eyes, gave him that sense of warmth and comfort which visits men in the presence of their hobbies."

Mr. Stewart was fortunate in having a country house at Send Manor, Ripley, in Surrey, with ample land to carry out his operations on a considerable scale. The house itself is a joy to all who reverence the past, having belonged to Queen Margaret of Richmond, mother of Henry VIII. It was used by her when visiting her son, who was educated at the monastery at Newark Abbey, near Pyrford. Send Manor and the lands that Henry inherited from his mother passed from him in a way typical of the period. A great tournament was held at Woolwich, at which the estate was offered as a prize. So it went into the at which the estate was offered as a prize. So it went into the hands of Count Tregoz, and no doubt it had undergone many changes before it came into the possession of Mr. Stewart. The front remains in the original form, and so does a beautiful old barn close by that has now been turned into a ballroom, with a floor of the most modern form. By special permission it has

been decorated with the crests of the various owners since the time of Henry VIII.

Mr. Stewart has put up a large covered-in tennis court finished in the Swiss style, and this is devoted to various purposes. At times dog shows have been held there, demonstrations of the cleverness of the Great Danes trained in obedience have taken place within its walls and at the moment it is being used as a place within its walls, and at the moment it is being used as a cinema studio, films of different sorts having been produced there. One in the course of preparation is for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Another for which Mr. Stewart has to be thanked also had its setting at Send Manor. That was made for the National Safety First Association, of which the Duke of York is Patron, the idea being to convey to children by an object lesson the necessity of taking care when in the streets or on the roads. A troupe of twenty-four Great Danes was trained or on the roads. A troupe of twenty-four Great Danies was trained in a most marvellous manner, and among those taking part in the picture are the Duke of York, Sir Herbert Blain (President of the Association), Sir Malcolm Campbell, and others. Twelve copies are in continual circulation, and have been shown to upwards of three-quarters of a million children. The work is conducted in co-operation with the local education authorities and the cinema



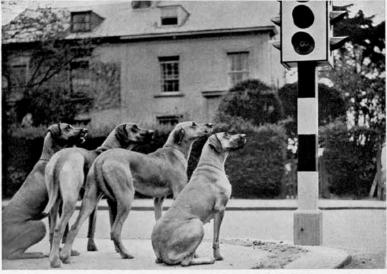
MISS MARJORIE BINNER, WITH SIX CHAMPION FAWNS The third from the right is Ch. Midas of Send



A DEMONSTRATION IN STEADINESS AND AGILITY The Send Great Danes have been wonderfully trained



THE SEND KENNELS ARE STRONG IN ALL COLOURS Here is a team of harlequin Great Danes, which is the most difficult pattern of all



WAITING FOR THE LIGHTS TO CHANGE A number of the Send Great Danes that took part in the National Safety First Association children's educational film, "Alert to-day, Alive to-morrow"

houses, which are lent for the morning session. Children from the secondary schools are taken there by their teachers.

schools are taken there by their teachers, and on their return to school they are asked to write essays upon the subject.

It is impressed upon the young people that "Safety first" resolves itself into a question of obedience and self-control, and they are shown what these clever dogs have been taught to do in the way of observing traffic simple. the way of observing traffic signals, and leading puppies across the road. In another direction, Ch. Egmond of Send is one of the star turns in "The Hound of the Replantilles" of the Baskervilles."

Perhaps this is rather anticipating a description of the kennels, which occupy thirty-two acres. Having a talent occupy thirty-two acres. Having a talent for organisation, Mr. Stewart laid them out on a plan and a magnitude that have never been equalled elsewhere. The accommodation for the inmates is on a scale that is the envy of all who see them, and of course special attention has been paid to the sanitary arrangements. Everything is as complete and convenient as the mind of man can conceive, down to a big exercising ground in the centre. Cook-house, offices, a bake-house for the manufacture of biscuit foods, a hospital for the sick, are all there. Most of the original stock was imported from the Continent, the best available being procured. Strange though it may seem, dogs from these kennels are now being sent back to Germany, part of the explanasent back to Germany, part of the explana-tion being that a few months ago cropping was prohibited by Herr Hitler in that country, a beneficent act that will meet with general approval. Great Danes are now wanted in Germany with natural ears.

Until four or five years ago Alsatians were looked upon as the most suitable breed for training in obedience, Mr. Stewart has done excellent service by demonstrating that Great Danes are equally amenable to discipline and capable

equally amenable to discipline and capable of doing almost anything that the shepherd dogs can do. One of our illustrations shows Prince George with Ch. Midas of Send, a handsome fawn dog that was presented to him by the Great Dane Club.

The Send Great Danes have put up some remarkable performances in public, and in one respect only have they seemed to fall below Alsatians. It would not be reasonable to expect such heavy animals to jump as high as those that are lighter and more active, but that, of course, is a question of athletics that has nothing whatever to do with obedience and tractability. I have seen an Alsatian clear 9ft. 6ins. ability. 9ft. 6ins.

9ft. 6ins.

Mr. Stewart is now turning his attention to utility poultry, his aim being to encourage all possible steps for rendering Great Britain capable of meeting her own requirements in eggs and table poultry. He is exploring the possibilities of producing table chickens for the masses at a price they can afford to pay, a line of development which has been the whole secret of the success of the Morris car. His demonstration farm goes under the secret of the success of the Morris car. His demonstration farm goes under the name of British Poultry Development, and is not a commercial undertaking, but is intended to be instructive. Sixty-five acres are given up to the work, and over 1,000 table poultry a week are being turned out. He has shown, for one thing, that by using crude oil fuel in the immense that by using crude oil fuel in the immense brooder house that accommodates 6,000 chickens, it is possible to carry the young chicks through this important period of their life at a cost of less than one halfpenny each for heat at the age of a month. He is also doing a good deal of work in connection with sex-linking, a matter that has assumed importance since the War. Years ago, before he took up dogs, he did much useful work in connection with the poultry industry, and he has returned to it again because of his conviction that it is necessary to make the country as nearly self-supporting as possible.

A. CROXTON SMITH.

WHERE IS IT / WHAT IS IT? ALAN COOPER

From the photo archive of Trevor Tice comes a view that many may recall — or will they? Where was it taken?



Barry Jackman and Peter Spindler correctly guessed that this is a bicycle spoke key tool.



Janet Tice wrote that the item Ditz found in the garden looks like a type of hose clip. Ditz writes: I contacted Tilford Rural Life Centre and they came back with: 'We have had a look at your item and we think its a pole clip for animals. You would squeeze the body so the hook could fit through the ring to release it. It would then go around a pole or stake and be closed again. The hook would then be attached to a rope or chain to keep a horse, cow or even a dog tethered to an area.'

GOLD TREASURES OF THE KENNEL CLUB

VAL FOSS (OF THE KENNEL CLUB)

Following Clare McCann's article in J268 about Gordon Stewart and his Great Danes, the Kennel Club sent us the following article.

he Send gold vases (one of which is illustrated here) are known throughout the world of dogs. They were presented to the Kennel Club by Great Dane enthusiast Gordon Stewart, owner of the Send Dane kennel. These days, their only outing each year is to Crufts, where they are displayed and carefully looked after 24/7 by Dave and Jason Clarke. They are awarded to each of the winners of the seven groups in the Best in Show ring.

The nearest any winner actually gets to the trophy, is for the photograph to be taken after they win the group. The trophies then go back to Clarges Street, into their special glass cabinet situated prominently in the members' area of the club.

Five of them were given to the Kennel Club in 1930 by Gordon Stewart. In those days there were only five groups - Hound, Gundog, Terrier, Toy and Non-Sporting (Working & Utility). Interestingly, in 1930 when awarded on the first occasion, the Non-Sporting Group Vase was won by the donor's Great Dane, Ch Mavis of Send. In 1965 with the splitting of the Non-Sporting group into Working & Utility, a further gold vase was made. When in 1999 the Working group was split into Working and Pastoral, yet another vase was made, but on this occasion in silver gilt.

Six of the vases are made of 9ct gold, one of silver gilt and all of them stand at 17 inches high. They were made by the Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Company, who eventually became Garrard & Co Ltd, the Crown Jewellers. Great Dane masks form the two handles to each vase, and the finials for the covers represent a breed from each group - Bloodhound, Cocker Spaniel, Airedale Terrier, Pekingese, Great Dane, Bulldog & Rough Collie.



The Send gold vase for winner of the Terrier group at Crufts

MILLIONAIRE DONOR

Gordon Stewart, the donor and owner of the Send kennel, was a legendary entrepreneur in aviation and motorcars. He built a vast industrial empire with his associate William Morris, 1st Viscount Nuffield, and he was for many years the sole distributor of Morris Cars in the South of England. In 1946 he bought the Strand Theatre to indulge his theatrical ambitions.

A friend of royalty, he bred the Dane Ch Midas of Send which belonged to the then Duke of Kent. Many of his friends came from the theatre and film world. He was the founder of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and lived at Send Manor at Ripley in Surrey. At its peak his kennel housed over five hundred Great Danes with ninety staff in all, for the kennels and the house. The kennel staff was reputed to have contained twenty-five maintenance men, ten kennel boys, thirty kennel maids, three trainers and eight managers.

Gordon Stewart's great rival in Danes was James V (later Lord) Rank of the Oughborough kennel. He was the brother of the film magnate J Arthur Rank and also a millionaire. Both of these famous rivals imported many Great Danes from Germany and Holland.

It is said that Gordon Stewart originally had no real interest in dog shows himself and that he only took up showing to prove his dogs could beat those of Lord Rank. He made up many Champions, but he was interested in many other aspects of Great Dane ownership and had a belief that Danes were at the head of canine intelligence. His Danes were trained to many things, especially in his involvement with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

The spectacular Send gold vases that Gordon Stewart originally provided all add to the image that puts Crufts, as a dog show, in a league of its own throughout the world.

The Kennel Club Art Gallery is open to all and free to visit, however an appointment is necessary. Visiting hours are Monday to Friday 9.30am-4.30pm. To book an appointment please contact the Kennel Club Art Gallery on 020 7518 1064 or email artgallery@ thekennelclub.org.uk

Photograph courtesy of the Kennel Club

LETTERS

CHRIS LEE, WHO ADMINISTERS THE RIPLEY GRAPEVINE WRITES:

Dear Readers,

2020 is the centenary of the building of the Homes For Heroes houses in Polesden Lane. I am researching the history of the houses and market gardens in Polesden Lane, also the old gravel pits, Papercourt Lake and the former pipe factory. The history society are, of course, proving a valuable source of knowledge.

However, if anybody has any interesting information about any of the above - who lived in these houses or information about the gravel pits and pipe factory, I would be very interested in hearing from them.

Chris Lee 01483 224022 chris.lee@btinternet.com

SARAH KURKOWSKI HAS BEEN IN TOUCH VIA OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.

I don't know an awful lot about my grandfather Jan Kurkowski apart from that he came over from Poland to fight in World War 2.

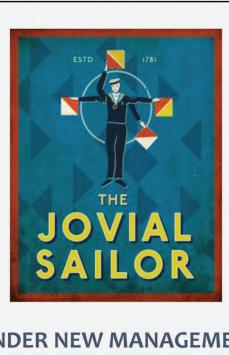
He and my grandma Margaret moved to Nyewood on Send Marsh Road in roughly 1946 and had 2 children, Kelvin and Marissa.

He started working as a mechanic at Continental Cars Ltd on Portsmouth Road in 1947 but I don't know how long for. At some point he also worked at Dennis.

I just wondered if any one knew any history about it and if they remembered my grandad?

Thank you so much

Sarah



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No. 269 | November 2019 Send & Ripley History Society

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CLARE McCANN

hank you to everyone who came to the exhibition about Gordon Stewart, a truly remarkable man, who deserves to be remembered. Hopefully our small exhibition has done something to keep his name alive – one wonders if he deserves a blue plaque?

Our new exhibition is, I hope, a complete contrast so that visitors will want to come back to the museum. It utilises memories that were recorded in the early days of the society and concentrates on life below stairs.

Send and Ripley History Society

A new exhibition at Ripley Museum

LIFE BELOW STAIRS

Memories of Local Residents Who Worked in Service

From 2nd November to end of January 2020 Every Saturday 10am — 12.30pm



All visitors will have the opportunity to enter into a draw for *The Official Downton Abbey Cookbook* and, as we near Christmas, we plan to give the exhibition a seasonal twist.

NEW ACQUISITIONS



Thanks to Peter Smithers for letting us have this old photo of Send football team.

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

DATES	EVENTS
Tuesday 10th December	Christmas Social – members only
2020	
Tuesday 21st January	David Rose and Geoff Burch talk: A Romany Lifestyle
Tuesday 18th February	AGM (members only) followed by refreshments and 'local memories'
Tuesday 10th March	Moira McQuaide talk: Burpham – A Gateway to Guildford
Tuesday 21st April	June Davey talk: West Horsley Place, the House and its History
May or June TBC	Outing to West Horsley Place
July TBC	Members' BBQ
Tuesday 15th September	Pat Morris talk: Walter Potter and his Curious World of Victorian Taxidermy
Tuesday 20th October	Kenneth Bare talk: 60 Years of the Surrey Hills
Tuesday 17th November	Cherrill Sands talk: The Creation and Restoration of Painshill Gardens
Tuesday 15th December	Christmas Social (members only)

Further details can be obtained from Helena Finden-Browne. helena_findenbrowne@compuserve.com

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS



OPEN: SATURDAY MORNINGS 10.00-12.30

throughout the year (check bank holiday opening times)

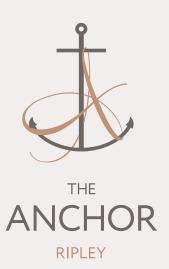
Also open on 3rd Sunday of each month to coincide with Ripley Antiques Fair in the Village Hall

Other times for school groups and small parties by arrangement

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

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS		
Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life	Reprinted 1998/2006	£10.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.25
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£4.00
The Straight Furrow, by Fred Dixon		£1.50
Ripley and Send – Looking Back	Reprinted 2007	£9.00
A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£2.00
Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2012	£4.00
The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£4.00
Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures	New Edition 2017	£8.00
Two Surrey Village Schools – The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools		£10.00
The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey		£5.00
Memories of War		£8.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£10.00
Send and Ripley Walks (revised edition)		£7.50
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£8.00
Special Offer: Purchase Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£10.00

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



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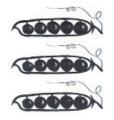
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