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NATURAL HISTORY GROUP VISIT TO THURSLEY NATURE RESERVE

A fine day greeted about 14 members of the Natural History Group on Sunday, 8th August, 1982, when they gathered near Thursley Village Cricket Ground and met Mr Ray Fry, the warden. Mr Fry manages approximately 800 acres of heathland and bog for the Surrey Trust for Nature Conservation.

On the way to the heathland Ray Fry pointed out the activities of the hairy-legged mining bee, each well established in its own individual tunnel excavated in the sandy soil near the cricket ground. The Group could not miss a large buddleia tree and some time was spent photographing the many butterflies, such as Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady, Peacock, Small Copper and Greyling, which find this shrub attractive. As we approached the heathland and walked down what was once the Old Portsmouth Road, now just a sand track, the Group was rewarded with a wonderful view of undulating cover provided by the mauve bell heather and the pale blue ling.

The bird watchers among the Group were rewarded with a good sighting of a Dartford Warbler and two Green Woodpeckers.

As the party progressed to lower ground, the terrain, although fairly dry, took on the aprearance of acid bog land and many wild flowers, usually found in this environment, were in evidence. The yellow bog asphodel had almost finished flowering, but was still in evidence, and two species of sundew, round-leaf and long-leaf, were growing in abundance. This insectivorous plant, unable to obtain protein from the acid soil, traps insects upon its leaves which offer beads of sweet nectar on the tip of tiny hairs as a bait to unwary insects. One plant exhibited the shell of a wasp which had been drained of all nutrient and in time its light-weight body would be blown away by the wind, leaving the leaf area free for the next victim.

In the management of the area a number of small ponds had been constructed to assist in drainage. In one of the ponds was the lesser bladder wort growing in the water. This plant also has a curious system for obtaining protein inasmuch as the root system is covered with tiny bladders which act like vacuum cleaners, sucking in tiny water-borne insects which are then digested by the plant.

To name just a few of the plants seen, beginning with the rather rare marsh hypericum, there were the lesser skullcap, jointed rush, cross-leaved heath, spagnum compactum, black bog rush and heath rush.

After approximately a three-mile walk through this most interesting area the Group returned via a field on higher ground, also managed by the Trust, which was covered with perforate St Johns wort and a rather rare hoary cinquefoil .

Ray Fry was thanked by everyone for a very pleasant afternoon and the hope was expressed that the Group would come earlier next year to see the orchids for which the area is renowned.

K. H. Bourne

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The death on 23rd July of our member, Mrs Ruth Whapshott, is recorded with sadness. We extend our sympathy to Bob. The Society was represented by Jim Oliver at Guildford Crematorium on 29th July.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mr D. R. Jennings, 53 Maple Road, Ripley.
Mrs K. E. Mundy, Bramley Cottage, Old School Lane, Send Hill, Send.

Total membership consists of 103 couples and 72 single members.

Sutton Place

I have been sent a number of brochures for the forthcoming programme of events being put on by the Sutton Place Heritage Trust at Sutton Place. A brief account of Sutton Place, which was built about 1523 by Sir Richard Weston, was given in Newsletter 37. Since that time the house has been restored under the direction of Sir Hugh Casson, and the garden landscaped by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe "on a scale unparalleled in the twentieth century". The Trust has been established by the new owner to preserve and maintain the house and garden and to arrange exhibitions, concerts and lectures at Sutton Place. The restoration and landscaping has not been without criticism, but a visit would enable one to make up one's own mind. Please contact me if you would like a brochure.

Ripley Old School

The old National School next to the Church in Ripley High Street, built in 1846 to the design of Henry Woodyer, was sold by auction on 21st July. It has since been demolished and the site completely cleared for the building of houses. The school, built of flint and brick, and originally with separate entrances for boys and girls as a prominent feature, ceased being used as such in 1967, after which it was bought by Ripley Church for use as a church hall, although school meals continued to be prepared in the kitchen for some time afterwards. A number of our members received their primary education there; our Treasurer recalls lessons in the air-raid shelters in the early part of the Second World War and in particular the characteristic musty smell of damp concrete. The shelters were probably some of the last remaining in the country, having been demolished only a couple of weeks ago at the same time as the school itself. The Society has a photographic record of the school, which was on the site of a former vicarage and vicarage garden.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 7th October ... Buildings Group Meeting at 8 p.m. at the Manor House, Send Marsh.

Thursday, 14th October ... Natural History Group Discussion Evening on Fungi at 8 p.m. at Heath Farm, Tannery Lane. Please let Ken Bourne at Guildford 223028 know if you are proposing to attend.

Thursday, ~~25~~ 21st October ... Open meeting at the Church Room, Send Road, Send, at 8 p.m., when Ken Dawson will give an illustrated talk on "Wild Flowers Along the Local Waterways".

Thursday, 28th October ... Committee Meeting at 8 p.m. at Heath Farm, Tannery Lane.

Friday, 12th November ... Buildings Group Meeting at 8 p.m. at Send Court Farm.

Saturday, 13th November ... Surrey Local History Symposium at Sondes Place School, Dorking, on the theme "Surrey People", at which the Society will mount a display. The day starts at 10.30 a.m. with exhibits ready for viewing. The opportunity of the year to meet people with similar interests to our own from around the county and to see what they have been doing. Tickets are £1 to members if bought in advance, or £1.50 at the door. Money with orders, please, to the Secretary, Les Bowerman, by 1st November.

Thursday, 18th November ... Open meeting at the Church Room, Send Road, Send, when Bob Claydon will give the second half of his illustrated talk on "Farming through the Ages".

Friday, 10th December ... Buildings Group Meeting at Muir House, Brooklyn Road, Woking.

Wednesday, 15th December ... Annual Christmas Social at the Red Cross Hall, Sandy Lane, Send.

CLOSING DATE for submission of material for the next issue of the Newsletter will be Monday, 8th November.

SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY DISPLAY

FLOWER FESTIVAL - 10th-12th SEPTEMBER 1982

St MARY THE VIRGIN, SEND

Send & Ripley History Society supported the Flower Festival held at St Mary the Virgin, Send, with a display of photographs and documents relating to the church. In addition the ancient church chest was moved from the rear of the church to the chancel and became a feature for a wild flower display arranged by Jill Bromley and Phyllis Bourne.

The History Society's display (designed and mounted by Ken Bourne and supported by Derek Bromley and Ken French) comprised photographs of the church plus photocopies of lithographs, the earliest of which was dated 1819 and showed the South East view before repairs were carried out to the crenellations of the tower and removal of the flagstaff from the centre of the tower roof. An early postcard showed the ancient elm tree to the right of the lychgate complete with a steel strap made from cart tyres which encompassed the circumference of the tree and placed in position on the day the news of the Relief of Mafeking was received in 1900. There were also many views of the construction details of the church, particularly internal views of the middle chamber and roof of the tower, areas not normally seen by the public. Detailed photographs of the ancient door lockand church chest were also on display. Two photographs of particular interest were those of the Royal Arms showing the Arms both before and after restoration by the Society.

Among the copies of documents on display was an early account (1777) of arrangements made by the churchwardens and others for the inoculation against smallpox of certain members of Send & Ripley parish. There was also a photocopy of a page from the marriage register of 1654-56, a rare example of a record in the church registers during the Commonwealth period. Copies of Churchwardens' Accounts for 1639 and 1640 gave details of repairs to the church roof and the bell ringing apparatus.

Over the three-day period, from 10th-12th September, over 1,000 visitors came to see the Flower Festival and the History Society's display. Indeed

a large number of the History Society membership was welcomed by the Chairman, very ably assisted by Gloria Henson, Mavis Lake, Jill & Derek Bromley, Rita Goldup, Tony & Pat Medlen, Barbara Tinkler, and John Slatford, who acted as Stewards for the History Society display over the three-day period. Our thanks are also due to the staff of the Guildford Muniment Room for providing photocopies of original documents and to Ted Goldup, Derek Bromley and Ken French, who assisted in repositioning the church chest in the chancel.

RIPLEY HOUSES

The Editor has included the following reports by K. W. E. Gravett and J. Oliver on houses in the Parish of Ripley which were part of a survey in the district. Mr Gravett is Chairman of the Surrey Local History Council, and an authority on early houses, and is included as a guest contributor.

It is a great pleasure to thank the owners and occupiers of houses that we have visited. To many of them we have been complete strangers, announced by nothing but a knock at the door. We have never ceased to be amazed and gladdened by the readiness of so many people to open their houses to those who are interested in old buildings and we are impressed by the devotion with which they look after the houses in their care.

It augurs well, despite all that the speculators and developers may attempt, for the preservation of our architectural heritage.

J. Oliver

THE GEORGE INN, RIPLEY, SURREY

Now Cedar House and Tudor House

the Homes of Mr & Mrs D. M. L. Bolt and Dr & Mrs R. L. Gale

This house is largely timber-framed and of three storeys, with part cellars, but is very complicated and made up of several parts.

There is a long block A B C D, parallel to the road and probably of five bays. This was originally of two storeys and attics, with a roof of rafters resting on a wall plate at the level just above the two bay windows in the front. This had a "dropped tie truss", so the attics were used - most likely date for this truss c. 1620-1650. The four gables in the rear were contemporary, the second one containing the stair (at E) with closed string and turned balasters, with half balasters affixed to plain newel post, each with a ball finial. The gables had collars and rafters only and had no sign of jowls in the upright post.

About 1840 there were large alterations at the South West end. The bow windows were added, also the doorcases with reeding and roundels (and a similar marble fireplace upstairs) and the wall was rebuilt in Flemish Bond with a french window. At the same time the roofs were rebuilt in the form of two parallel ranges, the rear one being narrow and both having ridge pieces. The parapet in the front of the house was raised and the ceiling sloped downwards to give maximum light from inserted windows. In the Attics were several pine doors of triple planks with recessed centres reused from more important rooms in the building.

The chimney in the two North West rooms had a passageway cut through it about this time (1840), but was originally older and has a fine early 17th century stone surround with a flat four-centred arch and a lintel with griffons and strapwork arranged symmetrically about a central (empty) shield (F). This may have been imported, but is in Upper Greensand, and there are

local parallels. On the other side of the stack on the first floor was a contemporary fireplace with curved timber lintel, the hollow chamfer of which was continued in the brick piers.

The ground floor room at the North East end was fully panelled, perhaps at the end of the 18th century.

Some time about 1800 a single bay was added in brick (with an end-chimney) to the South East (with a cellar underneath) (B C G H). This was once a butcher's shop with a door in front of the chimney and would appear when built to have been separate from the inn. This had a fine fireplace upstairs, with Ionic pilasters and a panelled lintel. The windows were sashes, but without horns. Behind the shop was a small parlour with a corner fireplace. This led to a kitchen block (M N O P) parallel to Rose Lane and beyond this was a former building, with louvre ventilators, believed to be a slaughterhouse (J K L M). Both these buildings had side purlins and angle struts, although a small extension over the kitchen stairs had a single queen strut truss. Neither is likely to date from before 1600.

A fine closet with access from the intermediate landing of the open well staircase at E is an added amenity of about 1800. The siting of this feature in the house is one generally favoured by the improvers of this period.

ROSE COTTAGE, NEWARK LANE, RIPLEY

The House of Mr & Mrs P. Cliff

Rose Cottage consists of a single bay, one and a half storey crosswing, with clasped through-purlins and collars. The fine brick stack with arched opening probably dates from c. 1620.

The crosswing was attached to a block parallel to the road, and was unfortunately truncated in the last century. The roof of this block has been rebuilt and there is no sign of smoke-blackening. Although the crosswing may have been added to an earlier house, there is no evidence for this, and the whole may be contemporary.

There is a new front wall and back wall to the crosswing of c. 1800 in brick.

RICHARDSONS' HARDWARE SHOP, HIGH STREET, RIPLEY

Formerly Sink Cottages, the House of Mr & Mrs J. A. Richardson

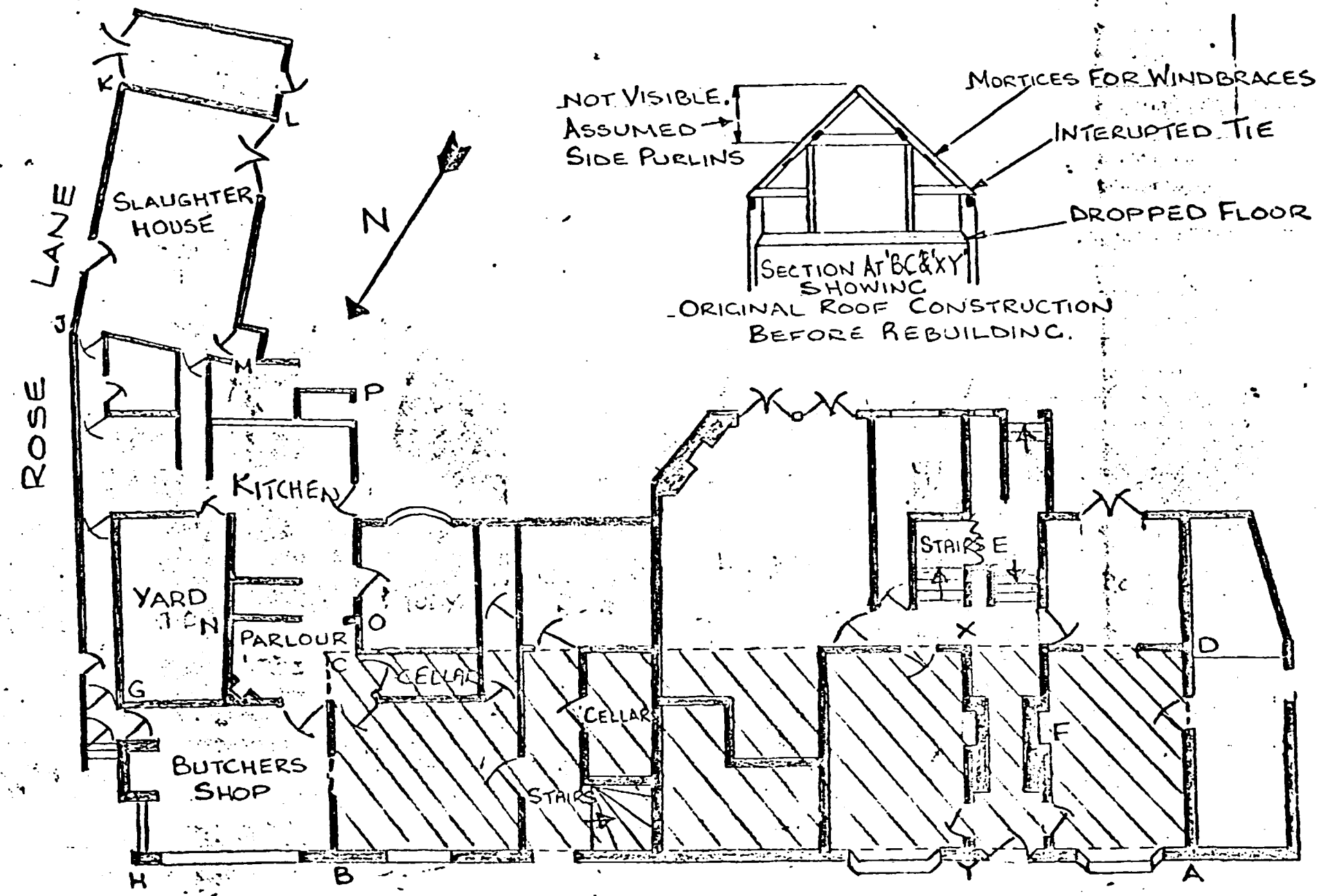
Richardsons' Hardware contains a fine two-bay crosswing, originally associated with a hall of high quality, since rebuilt. The central truss has a plain crown post with two braces up to the collar purlin. The front wall to the street was gabled, and the first floor may have been jettied, but the roof to the rear was hipped. There was originally a single room of quality on the first floor and a similar one at ground level.

The most likely date is the first half of the 15th century.

K. Gravett & J. Oliver

BIRD REPORT - JULY/AUGUST

July was a quiet month for birds at Papercourt with mainly only the breeding birds much in evidence:- Notable birds did include cuckoo, little grebe, little owl, heron; on the 24th 36 Canada Geese appeared along with two common sandpipers, little ringed plover and a moulting male ruff with



HIGH STREET

THE GEORGE INN. RIPLEY.

(NOW CEDAR HOUSE & TUDOR HOUSE)

N.S. 6.7.82 NOT TO SCALE.

6A.

orange legs. The following day a green sandpiper joined them at Papercourt and there was a snipe and four more green sandpipers at Ripley Sewage Farm. On the 31st two common terns were seen resting on the muddy spit on the lake belonging to Messrs Hall Aggregates at Grid Ref. 035563.

On August 1st there were five migrant green sandpipers and a lesser spotted woodpecker at the sewage farm. There were four green sandpipers again on the 8th and at Papercourt nine swans, 80 mallard, 40 Canada Geese, a heron and a common sandpiper:

Two migrating swifts hawked insects over Grove Heath Lane before a thunder storm on August 10th:

From the 12th to the 25th I was on holiday with Les, Anne and Guy Bowerman in Austria. Birds seen included: hobby, crested tit, short toed treecreeper, black redstart (very common), red backed shrike (fairly common), serin, pied flycatcher, white stork (nesting picture postcard fashion on chimneys), golden orioles (several colonies), great bustard (breeding colony), spoonbill, great white egret, Montagu's Harrier, great reed warbler. Crossbill (breeding colonies), nutcracker, golden eagle, firecrest (breeding colony), raven, Alpine Chough, snow finch, Alpine Accentor, redstart; and little gull, black tern, Arctic skua, gannet and kittiwakes from the Channel ferry:

In the last few days of August Papercourt was fairly quiet, migrants including ringed plover, spotted redshank, black tailed godwit.

D. Nurney

Editorial Note: Also viewed with great interest was a colony of marmots below the Grossglockner viewing platform.

MISS J. M. BECK, ARCHIVIST

Members of our Society who use the Guildford Muniment Room in Quarry Street will wish the Archivist, Miss J. M. Beck, a long and pleasant retirement. Her great knowledge and her readiness, at all times, to help, especially those using the Muniment Room for the first time, are remembered with gratitude.

SECOND VISIT TO THE MEON VALLEY - 5th SEPTEMBER 1982

Eighteen members assembled to participate in this further all day visit. We were privileged to have Elizabeth Lewis, Curator of the Winchester Museums, as our guide for the first part of the programme, starting with a break for coffee at her 18th century brick farmhouse home, Frith Farm (O.S. grid ref. SU 575128). A tour of the house and its associated buildings revealed many interesting features.

Wickham (SU 575155), which Pevsner has described as "the best village in Hampshire and one of the best in the South of England", was just a short drive away. Except for the church, the earliest surviving buildings are 15th century including several 'Wealden' houses. The centre of Wickham is built around a broad rectangular "square" and along Bridge Street. It is probable that the square was laid out in this manner to accommodate the ancient fair for which a charter was granted in 1268. There are other 16th and 17th century timber-framed houses, mostly obscured by modern frontages, but the great majority of the houses of interest are of 18th century brick construction. During a short walk through the square and Bridge Street we

saw some fine examples of this later period, including Eastbrook House on the North West side of the square and Wickham House on the South East side. Other interesting buildings in Bridge Street are Queens Lodge, much altered but having fine brick pilasters supporting Ionic capitals, and Chesapeake Mill. The latter, built in 1820, is documented as having been constructed using timber taken from an American man-of-war of that name. She was captured at the end of the Napoleonic Wars when the Americans came to support Napoleon, and was used as a prison ship in Portsmouth Harbour for a number of years. Thus we have here a genuine example of "ships' timbers" in an old building!

After leaving Wickham we were able to visit Great Funtley Farm (SU 554090) about three miles to the South West. This fine house is the home of Nicholas Mallett,, who gave us a most interesting talk on its development. It is a very large but substantially unaltered five-bay timber-framed building facing South East. It has an outshot on the North West side which is clearly part of the original build. The front has a continuous jetty and originally both the ground and upper floors were faced with heavy close studding, some of which remains. At the South West end is an immense brick chimney complete with bread ovens, etc. The house has been dated to the second half of the 16th century.

On leaving Great Funtley we decided to take a break for lunch and at this point Elizabeth Lewis bade us goodbye, having given us a most fascinating morning.

Our next visit was to Titchfield Abbey (SU 543061), the ruinous seat of the Earls of Southampton. The Abbey was founded in 1232 by Bishop Peter des Roches of Winchester as a Premonstratensian Order of White Canons. They owed allegiance to the Abbot of Premontre in Northern France. One of the most noteworthy features of the Abbey appears to have been its library, which is recorded as having contained 224 volumes - a considerable number for that period. However as a monastery its history was uneventful, although it provides evidence of the devastating effects of the Black Death of 1348 and later. In just twelve years the arable production of its manors fell to less than ten per cent of its pre-plague level. There was simply no one left to work the land. It is recorded that at Quob Farm (SU 555110) near the Abbey a village of that name was wiped out, and in the Diocese of Winchester nearly half the clergy died.

At the end of 1537, following the Dissolution, the Abbey was granted to Thomas Wriothesley (pronounced Risley), an associate of Thomas Cromwell. He lost no time in exploiting the situation, for he quickly demolished most of the Abbey and rebuilt it as a residence. After the death of Henry VIII he became the first Earl of Southampton reflecting his years of service to the Royal Household although being involved in the political rivalries of the time. He was in some disgrace when he died soon afterwards. In particular religion was a principal issue, the Wriothesleys being Catholic sympathisers. His son, Henry, who was only five when he became the second Earl, married Mary Browne, the granddaughter of Sir Anthony Browne, the first Lord of the Manor of Send & Ripley after the Dissolution. He was involved in a number of Catholic plots against the Queen and spent several years in the Tower. He died, however, in his bed aged only 37, having left money in his will for the erection of the monument which we were later to see in Titchfield Church.

The third Earl, also named Henry, is best known for his patronage of William Shakespeare. He was, however, a man of many interests, having been responsible for a number of developments in Titchfield, including the canal and the iron works. Much of what has been recorded about Shakespeare's association with Titchfield appears to be mythical (e.g. the suggestion that certain names in the parish registers were the same as those of characters in the plays, e.g.

"Gobbo" in "The Merchant of Venice" has been proved to be incorrect). I should perhaps mention here that there was an earlier Earl of Southampton, unrelated to the Wriothesleys, whose title died with him in 1542. His name was William FitzWilliam and he is of interest to us because he was half brother to Sir Anthony Browne (q.v.) He was responsible for building Cowdray Park at Midhurst which subsequently passed into the hands of the Browne (or Montague) family. The wriothesley line also died out after the fourth Earl, but the Earldom was later again recreated.

Close by the Abbey ruins is the great barn (SU 539066). Although known locally as the Tithe Barn, there is no evidence that it was used for this purpose - it was probably a normal working barn as part of the Abbey farm. The timber structure, which is believed to be c. 1500, is 46 feet wide and 170 feet long. It has two aisles, two pairs of waggon doors (high on the South side, low on the North) and is divided into eight bays with alternating major and intermediate roof trusses. The intermediate trusses are most unusual in that having no aisle posts, there are cruck-like braces supporting false hammer beams above the arcade plates.

The barn, having fallen into disrepair in recent years, has just been fully restored and is now a fine example of mediaeval farm architecture. Before starting the return journey, a brief visit was made to the old town of Titchfield to see the Church of St Peter (SU 541 058). Architecturally the main point of interest here is the evidence of its existence in the Anglo-Saxon period of St Wilfrid. The lower part of the West Tower with its porch, together with the West wall of the nave, are preserved almost intact from probably the late seventh or eighth century. Many changes or additions were subsequently made in the period through to the 15th century. In the South Chapel is the magnificent Wriothesley monument. Commissioned by the 2nd Earl, it is a raised rectangular tomb of marble and alabaster. The bodies of the 1st Earl and Countess, originally buried in London, were reinterred in the vault here and followed by the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Earls. On the top of the tomb rests the effigy of the 1st Countess and on either side rest those of her husband and her son. On each side at the base are two kneeling figures, those on the South being the daughters of the 1st Earl and on the North side are Henry, the 3rd Earl and his sister.

An opportunity was taken to look at the remains of part of the 18th century water meadow system at Meonstoke (SU 611201). In the Meon Valley an elaborate system was constructed to provide early pasture for the vast sheep populations that were farmed at that time. The basic idea was to irrigate the meadows alongside the river in such a way that lush grass was produced much earlier in the year and for longer periods than would otherwise have been possible. By means of upstream sluices water was diverted to storage ponds and thence to distribution channels which ran parallel to the river with the meadows in between. By means of careful control more sluices were then used to release water into further channels in the meadows so that all areas could be kept well supplied without being flooded. Similar systems were constructed in other parts of England.

The availability of early grass enabled sheep to be fed and reared earlier and much more efficiently, but careful shepherding was very necessary. Each day flocks would be brought down from the high ground on the slopes of the valley to graze, but to ruminate they were taken back again. This was done to ensure that none of the sheep would pass liver fluke through their systems onto the grass of the water meadow and thus perpetuate its cycle.

Water meadows were highly successful for a long period, but eventually failed for several reasons. Firstly, the arrival of refrigerated ships in the late 19th century enabled frozen mutton to be brought from New Zealand cheaply and in large quantities, this being part of a policy of the government

of the time to bring in cheap food from the Empire. Further, the introduction of artificial fertilisers produced early grass cheaply whereas the water meadows system, beinglabour intensive, had become expensive to operate.

Finally a brief detour was made to take a distant look at the site of the deserted mediaeval village of Lomer (SU 594234), situated high above the Meon Valley on the old trackway between Butser, Old Winchester Hill and Winchester. Although the Domesday Book gives a detailed description, little is to be seen here today apart from a number of mounds and ditches and the inevitable banks of nettles which proliferate on sites of this sort. The church in Lomer, which was probably the only stone building on the site, was one of a number endowed to and served by the Abbot and Canons of Titchfield Abbey in the same way that Ripley & Send were served from Newark Priory. There is on record a detailed statement from the year 1248 defining the amounts of the Glebe provided for the Rector of Lomer.

This village was typical of the vast number that disappeared when the pattern of farming changed in many places from arable to sheep farming in the 15th and 16th centuries. Landlords found there was far more profit to be made from wool. The resultant abandonment of ploughing the Open Fields did away with the need for plough teams and all the other labour associated with crops. Tenants were subsequently turned out of their houses and forced to roam the country searching for somewhere to settle.

This second day in the Meon Valley presented a wide variety of subjects for study. I hope that the members who came enjoyed these and that suggestions for future expeditions of this sort will result.

John Slatford

POSTSCRIPT TO SECRETARY'S REPORT

Those who knew her will be saddened to hear of the death on 23rd September of 11-year-old Lara Watts after a long illness. We extend our sympathy to Iris & Bernard and the rest of the family.

OPEN MEETING - 23rd SEPTEMBER

"THE INSIDE OF THE VICTORIAN COTTAGE, INCLUDING COTTAGE INDUSTRIES"
SPEAKER - Mrs DAPHNE GRIMM

Mrs Grimm, an architect by profession with qualifications in applied art, was introduced by the President, Jim Oliver, to an audience of 43.

Mrs Grimm spoke principally about cottage trades carried out in the home as a means of livelihood as opposed to crafts practised for amusement. A fascinating variety of objects was shown on photographic slides during the talk, and the actual objects were available for inspection afterwards. Some examples are given in these notes with a view to recording the essence of the evening.

The first object shown was a band box, bonnet box or bentwood box. It is like a wooden hat box, the lid being of pine and the sides of any other wood being bent round and joined with willow or stripped blackberry. In earlier times it was used for storing one's ruff (also known as a band). Later it was used for buttons, butter or bonnets. The specimen had belonged to the speaker's great grandmother.

Sycamore wood snuff or sneeshing boxes were first decorated with pen & ink drawings and coated with five or seven layers of varnish. Later transfers on copper, and then steel plates, were applied. Tartan ware appeared from about the middle of the century due to Queen Victoria's interest in the design. Thomas Cook's travel agency was starting, and tartan covered objects brought back from Scotland became known as souvenir ware. Ferns were also applied on the Isle of Arran, and these also were later copied on paper and transferred. They were put on to small items such as paper knives, jewellery, winders and needle boxes. Coats, the sewing thread business, gave gifts of tartan needle boxes - the start of free offers. Go-to-beds were boxes which held an upright lighted match which burnt just long enough to hop into bed after extinguishing the light.

Objects of horn were another form of cottage industry. It could be moulded to some extent by soaking, steaming and heating. Spoons could thus be made. Horn for lanterns could be flattened in the same way - the name was originally lant-horn. Other objects were horn combs, ram's horn snuff boxes, powder horns, stag horn handles for knives, toggles for smocks; African dikdik horns which were imported in very vast quantities were used for handles of paper knives, etc. Horn beakers were made in the cottages by springing an open ended piece of horn over a ready made glass base. Glove making was originally done at Woodstock. Women were able to make 15/- per week making gloves, while men were paid only 10/- working on the farm. Cut-steel jewellery was made also at Woodstock and later in Birmingham. Patterns were provided for workers to follow. Studs were made out of horseshoe nails melted down. These were put into cut-out frames. The studs were given many facets which were polished by hand to look like diamonds. They were put into the base plate and the tail of the studs sheared off to fix them. Toddy stirers were made of offcuts of glass.

Dorset buttons were made at Blandford Forum. A metal ring would be button-holed and sewn from edge to edge. A pattern would be built on that base. This likewise was better paid than agricultural work, until a patented button machine shown at the Great Exhibition of 1851 ended the cottage trade, leaving large numbers of people destitute. To alleviate the problem whole families were sent to Canada or Australia. The desertion of a whole village near Reading was brought about in this way.

Knitting sheaths, usually made of wood and fastened in the belt in use, enabled people to knit with one hand while performing some other task with the other hand. Basically the sheath simply held one of the needles. The practice was so popular that knitting-go-forths, or knitting-go-lightlies, would be held when numbers of knitters would meet in different houses, and by the light of embers in the fire would knit while singing and swaying to the pattern.

Straw hats were made in Dorset and Luton. A straw splitter could divide a straw into seven strands. Lace making required bobbins, presses and rollers.

Tonbridge-ware was decorated by tying and glueing bundles of small lengths of wood of different colours together, slicing off discs with the end grain showing and then applying them in a variety of patterns to boxes, etc. Immigrant Italian workers in Kent produced similar work known as Sorrento ware.

Mr Kenneth Gravett, Chairman of the Surrey Local History Council and a long standing friend of the Society, proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Grimm.

Editor

Editorial Note: The report on the Buildings Group visit to Portsmouth has been held over till the next issue of the Newsletter.