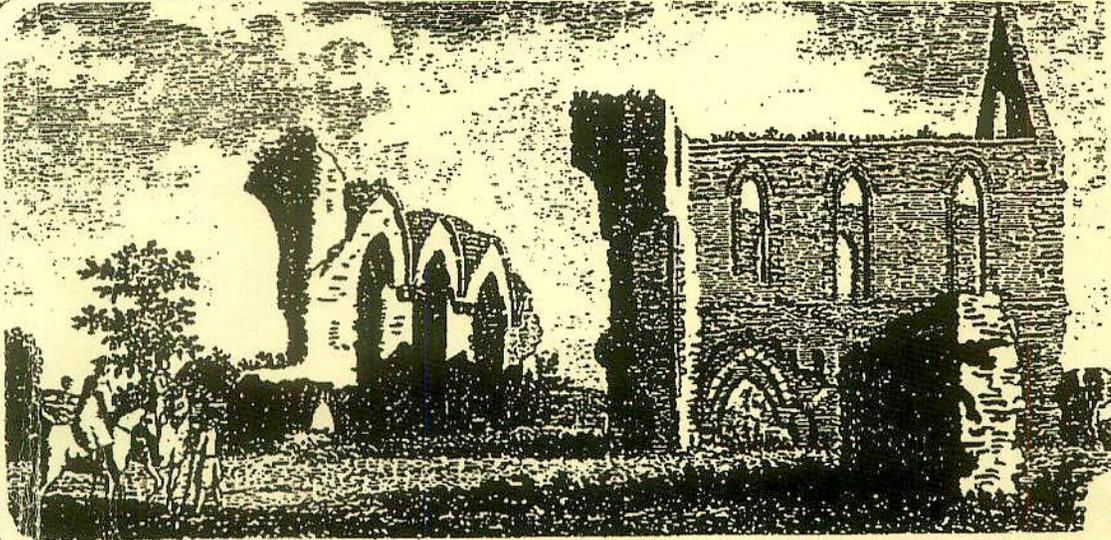


# Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 296324



NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 5 No. 169

Mar/April 2003



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# Send & Ripley History Society

Established 1975 as Send History Society  
Registered Charity No 296324

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**Journal Volume 5 No. 169**

**Mar/April 2003**

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**Cover illustration:** The photograph is of the Send Woman's' Institute, see page 8/9.

## Editors Comment

What a splendid turn out! It was a cold evening for the 28<sup>th</sup> AGM, however about 43 members gathered in the annex of the Ripley Hall and it was warm inside. The official part of the evening was supported with two most interesting talks the first by Margaret Field on the Ripley shop known as 'Miss Bush's' and the second by our Chairman, Les Bowerman on his efforts to save the Anchor Inn Visitors' books. The refreshments of wine and 'nibbles' was very welcome and made the evening very special to me since unexpectedly this was to welcome me back after my absence due to illness. I was so surprised that I forgot to thank anyone. I do this now THANK YOU EVERYONE and I look forward to attending many more meetings for years to come.

Once again I thank the local businesses that support this journal through their advertising, all but two have renewed their subscriptions, Carriages, and Colbornes, the latter having moved from the area. A big thank you to the authors who contribute articles, keeping us informed of topics of local interest and who make reading the journal so interesting. These articles are particularly valuable to those members who cannot always get to the meetings. Last but not least thanks again to Norman Carpenter who distributes the journal every 2 months throughout the year and to Catherine Davey who has taken over as Membership Secretary from Les Bowerman and also produces the membership distribution lists formally provided by Les Brown.

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## 28<sup>th</sup> AGM of Send and Ripley History Society, held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2003 at the Ripley Village Hall.

### President's Report

Promising to be brief, Ken Bourne welcomed everyone to the 28<sup>th</sup> AGM and reminded members that 2002 had been another busy year particularly regarding the publishing of two new books: *Two Surrey Village Schools* by Sheila Brown and the guide to *St Mary Magdalen Church, Ripley* by Ken Bourne, both, the result of many years' careful research and hard work by the authors.

One other important project managed by our Chairman, Les Bowerman, which had also come to fruition during the year was the saving of a number of 19<sup>th</sup> century Cyclists' Visitors Books, which until a few months ago had been held at The Anchor, Ripley. It is a tribute to our Chairman, that through his intervention, dogged determination and personal financial cost that these important volumes were not all lost to Ripley and did not end up abroad in some ones private collection. Many having read already the extraordinary story, which Les summarised in the Christmas edition of the Journal (167) he was invited to show us one or more of the books and tell us a little more about them later in the evening.

News of development in communications in respect of, the proposed society's website. Christopher Brown is designing this in collaboration with the committee. Christopher has already set up a website for the sale of Sheila Brown's book and it is to be extended for the other society's publications.

### Chairman's Report

**Officials:** At the last AGM I announced that Terry Hewitt was to take over as Adverts Manager for the Journal. As it transpired, he was unable to do that, so Ken and I began the renewal process. However, Alan Tinkler kindly took on part of the job by liaising successfully with the local advertisers, something at which George Bleach was particularly effective, and we are hoping Alan will take on the full job next year.

In spite of heavy work commitments, Cate Davey volunteered to become Membership Secretary and began in time for renewals, which have been rolling in.

**Museum:** Another good year with 30 new acquisitions, plus photos for which Jane Bartlett keeps a separate archive. The first of the new items was the panel of cobbles with the date 1889, saved when the path was replaced with stone paving. It was part of the Victorian north path to St Mary Magdalen church Ripley. Other items include 4-framed photos from around the start of WW1 of Ripley FC and the Swimming Club ex the estate of Harry Carter of Newark Lane. We've also been given a large cast iron mortar ex Ripley Pharmacy. Other photos have come via Brian Copley from Farris Confectioners, of the High St., and from Jack Jelley the last Ripley smith to live in the village. Various items have come in connection with Coronation and Jubilees. Also there are some plates marked Ripley Methodist Church to match the sugar bowl we've had for many years; some beautiful embroidered WW1 greetings cards from David Porter, a delightful autograph album started in 1912 which belonged to May Stevens of Hillside Farm with entries mostly by Send people, and lastly Mary Milner (now happily back in Send at Boughton Hall) has donated a video copy of the cine film of Send made in 1965 by Sonia Dear to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Woman's Institute in 1915. A copy of the updated inventory is available for inspection and also the entries may be seen in the accessions book in the museum.

Clare McCann and Anne Bowerman continue to liaise with the Surrey Museums Consultative Council and are taking a course in Local History for Museum Volunteers. As curator of the Woking Galleries, Marilyn Scrace is a valuable source of advice.

**Publications:** Sheila's Schools book was spectacularly launched in Ripley 1<sup>st</sup> School last September, Ken's book, launched at the Xmas Social without a fanfare, is considerably more than a church guide. Not expected to sell quickly, the important thing is that it's there and it's the book the church deserves. I would have thought that most of us and most Ripley people would want one.

**Journal:** The Journal continues to appear as a quality local history publication. Its beauty lies both in the amount of history it contains and in its illustrations. It is hoped that the strain of producing both the Journal and the Church book did not contribute to Ken's recent heart attack. It is wonderful to have him here in apparently robust good health again.

**World Wide Web:** In this digital age we have perhaps been a little slow to go to the Web, but Christopher Brown has been designing a site for us and it is intended that his father, Les will become the webmaster once it is up and running, which should be well within the current year. This will ensure the society will reach a much bigger audience, which should in turn mean that we shall receive yet more information.

**Appreciation:** In conclusion thanks are again given to all who have helped in any way with the running of the Society and also to all those who have shown an interest in any way. In the absence of Cate Davey, anyone wishing to pay their subscription tonight please see me.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Christina Sheard distributed the accounts to all present and invited questions and comments through the Chairman. Commenting on the accounts, Ken Bourne said that the healthy state of the society's finances showed that in spite of a big increase in expenditure on publications the income overall had increased from last year. This was due to increased membership contributions, donations and sundry income but particularly to the income from the sale of publications. John Slatford confirmed that, of the total publication sales, most of the income was due to the sale of Sheila Brown's book of which over half had already been sold. The accounts were adopted with thanks to Christina and the Hon Auditor A H Finn FCA.

**SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY**  
(Established in 1975 as Send History Society)

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 2002**

**1 Accounting Policies**

Basis of accounting  
The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The accounts are stated on an accrual basis as include income and expenditure as they are earned and incurred.

<b>2 Fixed Assets</b>	£
Cost	487
At 1/1/02 and 31/12/02	487

Depreciation	(486)
At 1/1/02 and 31/12/02	1
Net Book Value at 31/12/02	1

Since its formation of the Society has had in its possession various items, most of which have been donated, on which it is not possible to put a value. These are held in trust and are not included in the Assets. A list is available for inspection by members.

	2002	2001
	£	£

**3 Currents Assets**

Stock of Publications (Note 6)	6,391	2,198
Cash at Bank	5,298	3,310
Cash at Building Society	3,138	6,292
Cash in Hand	44	44
Debtors	213	292
	<u>£ 15,084</u>	<u>£ 12,136</u>

**4 Current Liabilities**

Publications	2,502	-
Sundry accruals	221	432
Subscriptions prepaid	366	1,128
Advertising Revenue prepaid	-	535
	<u>£ 3,089</u>	<u>£ 2,095</u>

**5 Ripley Museum**

The ownership of the building is vested in the Ripley Hall Management Committee. The Society has the exclusive right to use the building free of rent in perpetuity. The costs of refurbishing and equipment are charged to income & expenditure in the year of expenditure.

**6 Stocks of Publications**

The stocks are valued at cost, less due allowance for slow moving items.

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2002**

	2002	2001
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	1,724	1,545
Publications sales	5,314	1,147
Newsletter - advertising revenue	625	625
Sundry income	266	185
Donations & Funds raised for Museum	137	44
Income from investments	151	225
	<u>8,217</u>	<u>3,771</u>

<b>Expenditure</b>		
Museum expenditure	164	126
Publication - costs	3,966	907
Newsletter - costs	1,252	1,214
Exhibition expenses	61	100
Insurance	257	205
Sundry Expenses	563	787
	<u>6,263</u>	<u>3,339</u>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>	1,954	432

<b>Funds brought forward at 1 January 2002</b>	10,042	9,610
<b>Funds carried forward at 31 December 2002</b>	<u>£ 11,996</u>	<u>£ 10,042</u>

**SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2002**

	2002	2001
	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	1	1
<b>Current Assets</b>	15,084	12,136
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	(3,089)	(2,095)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>£ 11,996</u>	<u>£ 10,042</u>

Approved by the committee on 19 February 2003

 Chairman

 Treasurer

## Secretary's Report

The year has been a very busy and active one for the Society, which continues to fulfill four major roles in our work in order to preserve and enhance the heritage of our two villages.

1) The **museum**, located in Ripley has continued to show fascinating exhibitions related to the history of Send and Ripley. Clare McCann and Jane Bartlett have worked tirelessly to make these exhibitions attractive and informative to young and old and our grateful thanks go to them for this fantastic work. It brings to life our museum and means that every few months there is something new to see which is vital to generate repeat visits. Thanks to our hard working team of volunteer stewards the museum is freely open to visitors from far and near every weekend.

2) Our programme of **talks and visits** organized by Anne Bowerman constantly seeks out new and interesting speakers. This year we have achieved the publication of a full annual programme, which has been advertised on a new leaflet in addition to the Journal and has helped to keep up numbers of participants at these meetings. In comparison to other local societies, suffering from dwindling support and membership we still manage to achieve good numbers at all our meetings, which is a credit to Anne's constant enthusiasm and hard work. The summer visits programme this year has also been well attended including visits to local areas such as Shepperton and further afield to Bath on a visit masterminded by our President Ken Bourne.

3) Our role in the **conservation and study** of our villages is ongoing and active. The Society is a very busy watchdog for all building changes and development and events and activities are recorded by photography, written accounts and oral history.

4) We continue to promote the interpretation of our heritage through **publications** and this year has seen the publication of two major books. The History of Send and Ripley Schools by Sheila Brown assisted by David Porter, which quickly became a best seller for the Society. The History of Ripley Church written by Ken Bourne is the definitive work on that subject surpassing all previous publications in its thoroughness and accuracy of research.

As a society we should be very proud of our record of achievement, none of which could be done without the support of all our members for which the committee is most grateful. We look forward to another very successful year.

## Election of Officers and Committee

There were no new nominations so the existing officers and committee were re-elected. Officers: President Ken Bourne, Chairman Les Bowerman, Vice Chairman Tony Medlen, Secretary Marilyn Scrace, Treasurer Christina Sheard. Committee: Alan Baker, Anne Bowerman, Clare McCann, Patricia Medlen and David Porter.

It was agreed not to increase the annual membership subscriptions, which remain at £10.00 for couples and £8.00 for individuals plus £2.00 for postage for the Journal to members beyond the villages of Send and Ripley.

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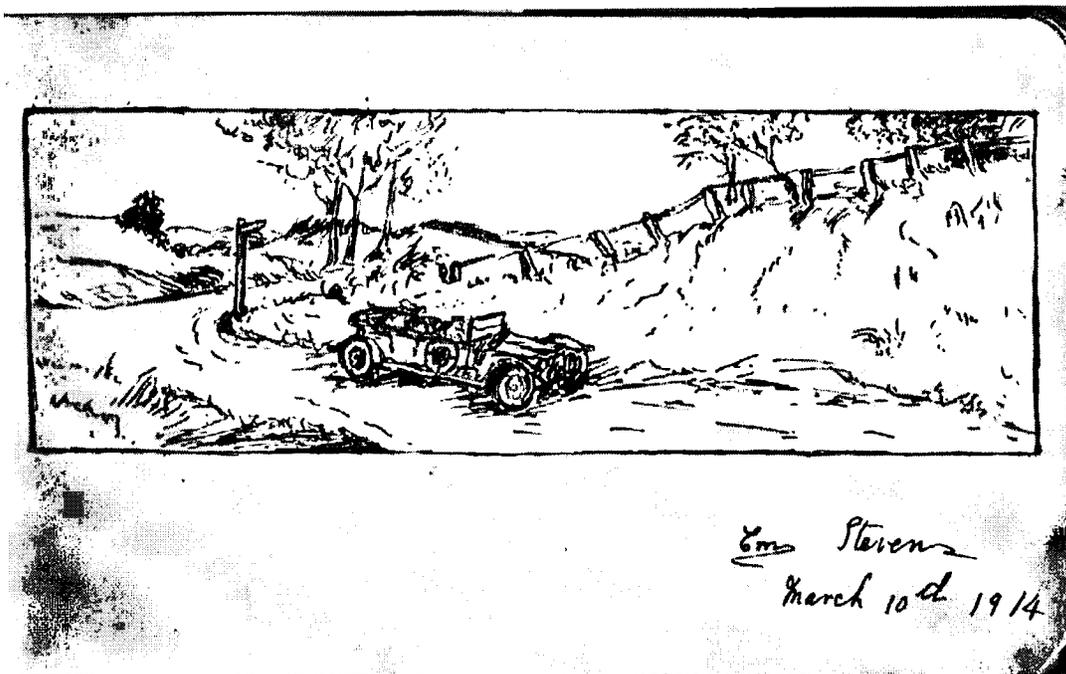
## A Treasure for the Society

By Sheila Brown

The Society has recently been given an Autograph Album. This had belonged to May Stevens, born in Send in 1901, who as a child went to the village school, and it has been donated by the generosity of her niece, May Baigent, in whose possession it has been for many years.

Whilst it is a typical example of the autograph albums that were so popular years ago, this one is unique because it contains poems and sketches contributed by school-friends and relatives who were also Send people, and she was even bold enough to ask her headmaster to add his contribution as you will see on the following pages! The earliest entry is dated 1912 so this album is at least 90 years old.

Here are some selected examples of the contents of the album. There are four drawings, one is really a cartoon, and to conclude there is a cheeky poem, which will raise a smile or two!





G.T. Bagent

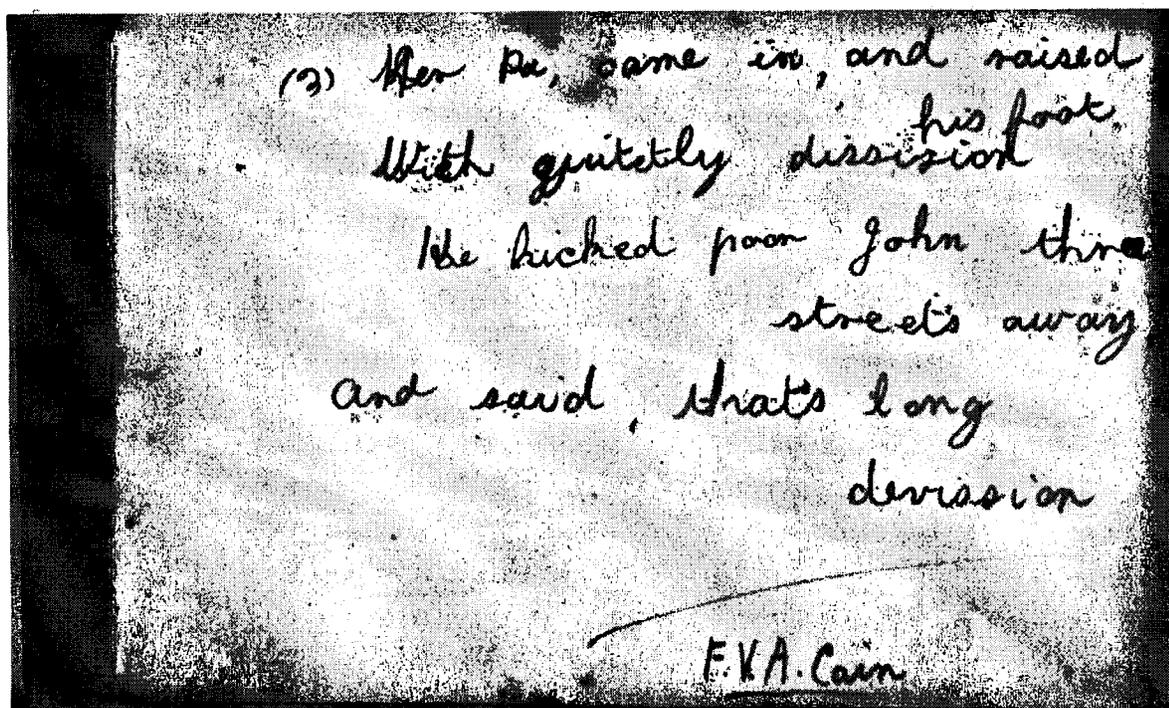
A KISS FOR THE MAID

Arithmetic

11) John was teaching Eliza Arithmetic  
and said that was his mission  
He kissed her once, he kissed her twice  
And said it was addition

12) And as he added kisses to kisses  
In silent satisfaction

She timidly gave him one  
And said it was kiss back  
Subtraction



---

## The Story of the Women's Institute in Send

By Sheila Brown

The Women's Institute, now a worldwide movement, had its early origins in Canada in 1897 and the first WI in the UK was started in 1915. Essentially for countrywomen, the aim of the movement was to help women in rural areas to better their lives by bringing them together as a group and by teaching them to improve their domestic skills. Their history forms part of the social history of women in this country.

But this is the story of the **SEND** (Afternoon) Women's Institute, which starts with an ending! The group, having struggled with falling membership numbers for some time, had managed to keep going until they reached their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday but in 1993 went 'into suspension' as it is called when a WI comes to a halt. The last Secretary later deposited the records with the Send and Ripley History Society.

This presented a unique opportunity to research the records and find out about the activities of the ladies who had belonged to the first WI to be formed in Send, from its beginning, at a time that was at first very stable, and then was to change with the coming of the Second World War.

The **Send** Women's Institute started in October 1933 after an 'augural meeting' attended by over 90 interested ladies. A committee was formed and the first lady to take on the post of President was Mrs Grace Coote.

In those days married women did not work outside the home, and so were glad of an opportunity to meet up once a month and enjoy the company of other women and to widen their circle of friends. It could be a lonely life for housewives whose children were off their hands, and so the movement attracted in the main middle-aged housewives although younger women also joined, as well as some single ladies. The movement was open to all women regardless of status. The basic rules about how meetings were to be organised and run, were laid down by WI headquarters and at the end of the year the Secretary had to give a report on the activities of the branch This was handwritten into a book and read out to the

members at the AGM and it is from these reports that it is possible to see the contribution that the ladies of the Send WI made to the local community.

All the Annual Reports have survived and from reading them it is clear that the new WI was a success. They received good wishes, gifts and invitations from other WIs in the area and were soon involved in the activities of the Surrey Federation.

The programme for the monthly meetings was arranged out of suggestions from members, but always keeping to the original aims of the movement, so competitions for the best jar of marmalade; the best iced cake; the best piece of smocking; etc were featured. The highlight of the afternoon was the tea that followed the speaker! Two ladies were head hostesses and with a team of helpers regularly produced 'splendid teas'.

But soon there were other activities to join and enjoy. Send WI formed a choir, a dramatic group, AND a Jazz Band. Each group entertained the members and were also in demand at other WIs, especially the Jazz Band!

The photograph below of the ladies of the Send WI was taken 1934/1935, the clue to the date being the two children with their mothers, Mrs Donn with Robin and Mrs Holden with Jean.



As the years went on, members were giving an annual party for husbands, also a children's party, and these were very popular and well attended.

Most countrywomen grew fruit and vegetables in their gardens and some also kept poultry for their own use. At the monthly meeting there was a sales table where members could offer for sale their surplus produce or any other items they wished to sell, giving a small profit to the branch. They would also donate eggs and fresh vegetables to be sent to the Guildford County and Woking Victoria Hospitals for the patients.

In pre-NHS days, local hospitals were very dependent on voluntary donations of money and gifts of food and clothing from the public, and appeals were often made to local organisations for their help. Send WI members responded generously and regularly and also made swabs for the hospitals at some of their meetings. In 1938 it was recorded that they made over 2000 swabs at their April meeting. Whist drives and rummage sales were held to raise money for their own funds, and Send WI sent representatives to the AGM

of the National Federation of Women's Institutes in London at the Albert Hall as well as to county and group meetings. Altogether the reports give a picture of their activities, which showed that as well as enjoying themselves, members were generous and considerate to others in the community. In 1939 there was a hint of the crisis about to break, with reports of cancelled outings and engagements, but they did manage to entertain 30 women from the East End of London for a day, before war broke out.

*The next issue will report on the part played by the ladies of the Send WI in the years of the second World War*

## Notes from a very amateur house detective

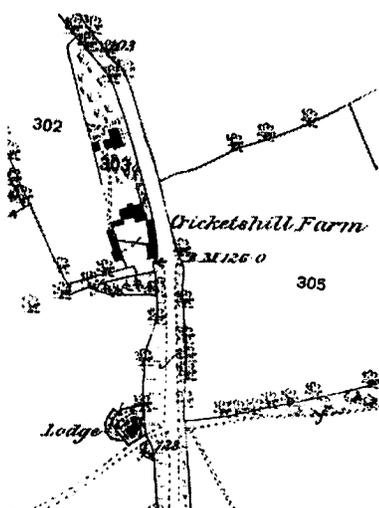
By Clare Mc Cann

My New Year resolution is to start tracing the history of my house and I thought it might be of interest to others to let you know how I get on, my successes and my failures and it might also keep my research efforts on track!

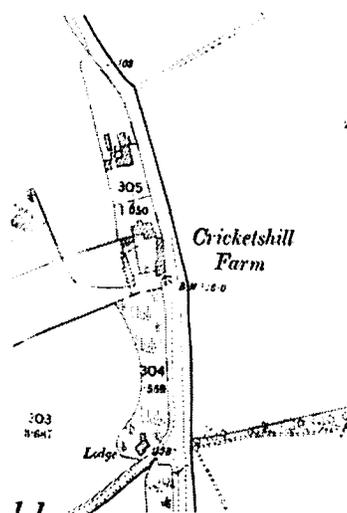
My house is called Cricketshill House and is in Potters Lane, Send and some of its dates back possibly to the sixteenth century but in the early 1990s we amalgamated the old farm house with the adjoining Halfway House, which is of a later date.



The idea of researching the house came from a leaflet I picked up at Surrey History Centre on how to go about it. Sadly we have no title deeds but so far I have got photocopies of four maps from the History Centre dating from 1872 - 1934. What I have already learnt from this is that Halfway House was built between 1872 and 1896. As well as the house you can see from the map, there was an out building added. Former residents of the house tell us that this was a laundry and it was thought to be for Sendholme. This might tie in with another story we had heard that Halfway House was built for the butler at Sendholme.



OS 1872



OS 1896

When I was at the History Centre I also looked at the Tithe Map of 1845. This shows all the parcels of land and fields with numbers on them. If you match up the numbers with the apportionment document, it tells you who owned the land and who leased it. In my case most of the land was owned by John Joseph Webbe and the tenant was John Ellis. Curiously, other people owned two of the fields although their land was surrounded by Mr Webbe's land, which is a bit of a mystery. I then referred to an index of people at the History Centre and made an interesting discovery, which was that Mr Webbe's name was really Webbe Weston and that he lived at Sutton Place. By this time it was teatime and that is as far as I have got... to be continued.

---

## Sixty Years of St Bede's School

By David Porter

I am indeed very grateful for the feedback I received following my article published in Journal No.166. For the record the caption to photograph (1) should be, left to right, Roger Sodont, Mrs Lesley Newton, Mr Whittle, Edna Norris and Mr Walter Waghorn. Roger and Edna were both 'house captains', the latter of 'Potters House' whose colour was blue.

In photograph (2), standing outside annex (2), left to right are Mr Walter Waghorn, Guy Pullen, Roland Mead, Mrs Lesley Newton, Valerie (Val) Morris and either Pauline Mont or Beryl Williams. The teacher on the right is still not identified.

And so to my final selection of photographs in order to celebrate the 60-year milestone in the history of St Bede's school.



Photo 1

### Photograph (1)

Parade ground or 'Playground'? Certainly the latter. In fact how the boys' playground looked up until 1962 when the extension work began. The photographer was possibly standing on the short flight of steps leading to the school gardens. The boys' toilet block and woodwork room (Room 4) are in the background.



Photo 2

**Photograph (2)**

What appears to be a very formal occasion held in the girls' playground. The school shield clearly seen on the gate, the Rev. Cyril Sylvester (Vicar of Send) with his back to the camera on the far left. Mr & Mrs Hope Sanger, school governors are on the far right. Does anyone recall the occasion?



Photo 3

**Photograph (3)**

Sunlight beams down in the 'Quad' (as it was always known) in the 1950s as the school staff pose for the camera. Behind them are the open windows of the Science room (Room 2), which was replaced by a new laboratory within the new extension in 1962. With the fishpond in the foreground and one of the beehives beneath the corridor window, the staff include: Mr William Short (headmaster) standing third from right, Mr Adam Streeter far right with Mrs Lesley Newton standing to the right of the wooden seat. Sitting on the far right is Miss Constance Rosena Ayre the deputy headmistress. Can anyone identify the rest of the staff? Which one was the beekeeper?



Photo 4

**Photograph (4)**

This delightful Christmas scene, again from the 1950's shows the full compliment of pupils, tiered from the floor level of the hall to the rear wall of the stage. The wording over the top of the stage, partly obscured by lighting reads – 'GLORY BE TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, PEACE ON EARTH, GOODWILL TOWARDS ALL MEN'. Can anyone identify the girl in the right foreground and name the year in which the picture was taken?

**Photograph (5)**

Moving forward to the 1960's, a special project was embarked upon by pupil John Wade of Tuckey Grove, Send Marsh, under the very experienced supervision of Mr Waghorn, the woodwork teacher. The framework of John's boat began to take shape in the 'Quad' with the beehives shown again in the background. The bees had flown by the time the picture was taken, also the member of staff who kept them.



Photo 5

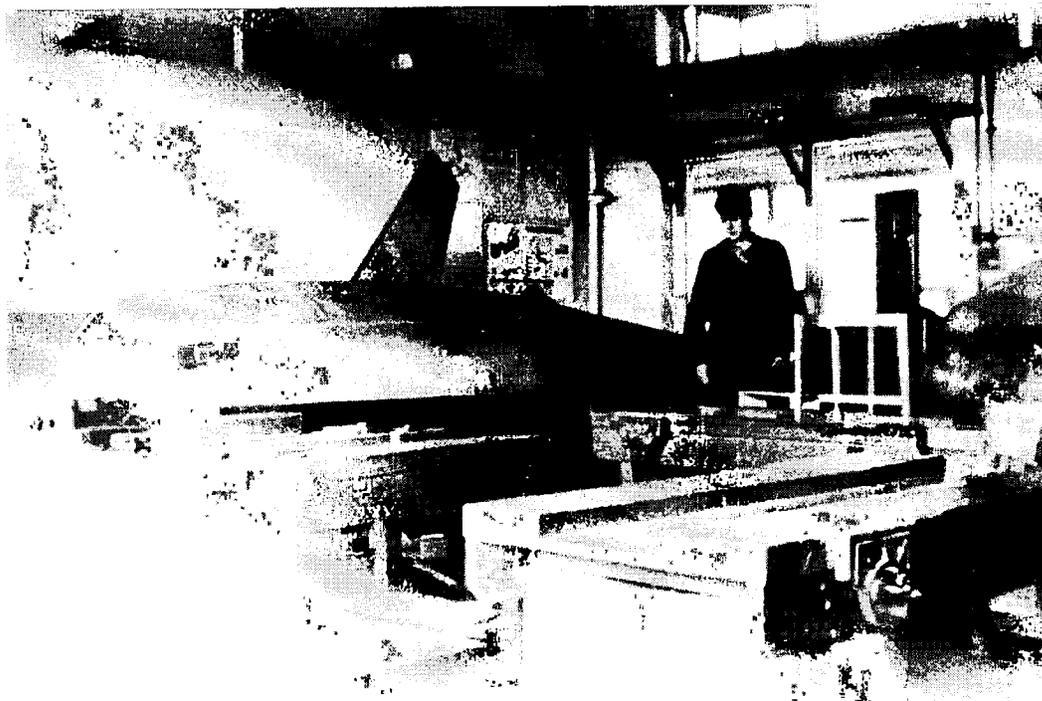


Photo 6

**Photograph (6)**

Looking like a 'shark' in the woodwork room, John's boat continued to take shape and proudly displays the keel! The windows are those seen from the outside in photograph (1). Who is the boy? Is it John Wade?

The sun, shines brightly on the woodwork benches, all of which were equipped with a carpenter's vice. Classrooms 4 to 8 all overlooked the playing field and became very hot in high summer. Rooms 5, 6 and 7 were furnished with heavy green curtains (matching those in the hall), which made life more comfortable behind the desk. However, Rooms 4 and 8 were not so equipped, no doubt due to the presence of gas and naked lights, Room 8 being used by the girls for Domestic Science (Home Economics).



Photo 7

## Photograph (7)

St Bede's staff in 1962 was under the reign of Mr Sidney Baxter who had replaced Mr William Short in September 1960. Those in the photograph are, from left to right:

### Standing

Miss Joan Grant (History)  
Mr William Davies (Maths.)  
Mrs Arthur (Domestic Science)  
Mr John Worgan (General Science)  
Mrs Fletcher (Commercial Typing)  
Mr Alan Streeter (Geography/Music)  
Miss Pat Dangerfield (Art)  
Mr Badham (Supply Teacher)  
Miss Clare Mason (Girls P. E. /Games)

### Seated

Mrs Stewart (Secretary)  
Miss Ryder (English)  
Mrs Mona Simmonds (Needlework)  
Mr Sidney Baxter (Headmaster)  
Miss Constance Ayre (Maths.)  
Mrs Lesley Newton (English)  
Miss Leach (Exchange)

Miss Leach was a Canadian on exchange for our own Miss Beryl Shanks who taught gardening and was at the time teaching in Canada. Missing from the photograph are Mr Walter Waghorn and Mr Peter Stein (boys R. E. and Games, teacher), the latter having recently replaced Mr Scott-Shaw (an ex: Royal Marine) (and former PE and Games teacher at the Woking Boys' *Grammar School – LGB on proof reading*)

Mr Scott-Shaw's wife Kaye owned the coffee bar and sweetshop in Bath Road, Woking, known as 'Kaye's'. Both emigrated in the 1960s when Bath Road ceased to exist due to the town centre re-development. Also missing is Mrs John Freeland who taught French and shared Annex 3 with Miss Ryder.

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## MUSEUM NEWS

### A NEW EXHIBITION

From early March we hope to be staging a new exhibition on the theme of **SHOPS**. We have a wealth of photographic material, (although more is always welcome), but we would be grateful for the loan of interesting artefacts – old tins, jars, tools etc.

### SURREY MUSEUMS' TRAIL

In the latter part of July and for the whole of August, the Society is taking part in the Surrey museums' trail. Families will be encouraged to visit more Surrey Museums and thereby get a chance to enter a prize draw. The 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wey Navigation has prompted the symbol of the trail to be an otter. A toy otter will be concealed in the museum for the children to find. Maybe not too hard in the case of our museum! We plan to resurrect our Wey Navigation exhibition, with Reg King's splendid model of the mill as its centrepiece. There will be a childrens' colouring competition, for which John Bartlett has drawn a delightful outline of a barge. John Slatford has kindly agreed in principle to lead a walk around Ripley on Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2.30pm., starting at the Museum. It would be tremendous if we could encourage a few more members to lead village walks, so if you feel you might be interested, please get the date in your diary and join John as a 'training' session.

For more information contact Clare Mc Cann 01483 728546

## The Reverend Guy Armstrong

Vicar of St Mary Magdalen Church Ripley from 1973 to 1977, Guy Armstrong died on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2002 aged 84.

Guy Lionel Walter Armstrong was born on February 19<sup>th</sup> 1918 at Highclere in Hampshire. His Canadian father, who was serving in the Royal Flying Corps, had recently been taken prisoner of war, and on his release the family moved to Toronto, where young Guy received his early education. When the family moved again, to Jamaica, he attended Munroe College.

At the age of 17 Guy returned to England enlisting in the Royal West Kent Regiment. Having served in the ranks for three years he won a cadetship to RMA Sandhurst in 1937 passing out in the following year.

Armstrong was commissioned into the Indian Army on January 26<sup>th</sup> 1939 and attended OTC. In March 1939 he was attached to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion South Wales Borderers, stationed at Landi Kotal in the Kyber Pass, and served with the battalion on the North West Frontier before joining the 4<sup>th</sup> Punjab Regiment at Peshawar in late 1939.

On the outbreak of the Second World War, he was transferred to the newly raised 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion as quartermaster, becoming adjutant a few days later. In March 1942 the battalion was mobilised for service on the Burma front against the Japanese and, because of a shortage of officers, he took command of two companies.

Later he was selected for staff appointment at Imphal followed by a Staff College course at Quetta, before being posted to the staff of Lord Louis Mountbatten at the new South East Asia Command HQ in Ceylon. He served there until the end of the war, reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel and moved with Mountbatten to Singapore after the Japanese surrender.

After Singapore declared its independence, Armstrong was the last senior officer to leave Government House. He took the Union flag with him for safe-keeping, and this flag was subsequently draped over his father's coffin and that of Mountbatten following his assassination.

After India became independent, Armstrong transferred to the British Army in the rank of acting major in the Royal Artillery. At the age of 40 he obtained a parachute qualification and was for a time second-in-command of the 16<sup>th</sup> Parachute Brigade. He retired in July 1960 in the honorary rank of lieutenant-colonel.

In 1960 Armstrong went to Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, to prepare for ordination and, from 1961 to 1965 was a curate in the large parish of Caversham, near Reading, where he was given responsibility for the district church of St Andrew. He then spent eight years as vicar at Bagshot, in Surrey, playing a full part in the life of the community.

This was repeated in the parish of Ripley from 1973, and it was here, as chaplain of Send Prison, at that time an institution for young offenders, that he also began his prison ministry, (a task that engaged him for almost the rest of his life). Early retirement due to ill health in 1977 took him to the Isle of Wight within reach of Parkhurst Prison where he was employed as a substitute chaplain, standing in for the regular chaplain whenever he was absent. Although he was paid only for two days he worked virtually full time, ministering to the prisoners and officers and their families, earning great respect and affection.

A tall, upright and compassionate man, he brought to his prison ministry a wealth of Army experience, but he was much more a caring father figure than a tough military leader. This also found expression in his founding of a trust to assist long-serving prisoners at the time of their release. He raised £20-30,000 every year to provide the men with such things as tools and computer training, and sometimes capital to start small businesses. The trust he characteristically named not after himself but as the Hardman Trust, in memory of an admired prison officer who had died young.

In his retirement, he also assisted at the Holy Trinity church, Ryde. He was appointed OBE in 1993.

His wife Rita predeceased him, and he is survived by two daughters. (Obit. Daily Telegraph 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. 03)



## **Forthcoming Events**

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

### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall**

An illustrated talk on 'The History of Guildford Castle' by Mary Alexander, Collections Officer of Guildford Museum

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall**

An illustrated talk on Syon House by Andrea Cameron

### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 1.50 pm – The Manor House, Send Marsh Green**

A visit to Syon House. Meet at The Manor House at 1.50pm or at Syon House car park at 2.30pm.

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2.0pm – The Manor House, Send Marsh Green**

A visit to Wisley and Pyrford churches.

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

An all day visit to Rottingdean, Sussex, details to be announced.

### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall**

A talk on The History and development of Pyrford by Ian Wakeford

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall**

An illustrated talk by Carol Brown of Guildford Museum, entitled 'Follow the Drum', Women in the army from 1790.

### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall**

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

For further details of the above events, unless stated otherwise, contact Anne Bowerman; Programme Organiser, tel. 01483 224876.

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May from 6.45 to 8.45 at The Surrey history Centre, Woking.**

There is a book launch at the center, by the Surrey Industrial History Group of their latest publication – *The Wey Navigation, an Historical Guide by Alan Wardle*. 'A practical guide and a concise history of one of Britain's earliest man-made navigable waterways'

Everyone is welcome to this event, for which there is no admission charge. Copies of the book will be available for inspection, and also purchase at £11,95 during the evening.

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**Journal Contributions:** Closing date for the next edition is **Friday 25th April 2003**



## SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

**OPEN: Saturday mornings: 10.0-12.30  
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Other times for school groups and small parties  
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Contact Les Bowerman on 01483-224876 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)	£10
'Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send'	£1.25
'Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley'	Reference copy
'The Straight Furrow', by Fred Dixon	£1.50
'Ripley and Send – Looking Back'	£4.95
'A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey'	£2.00
'Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey'	£2.95
'The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey'	£4.00
'Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures'	£6.00
'Two Surrey Village Schools - The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools'	£10.00
'The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey'	£5.00

The reference copy is available at the museum. The others are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of 'Ripley & Send Then and Now' and 'Two Surrey Village Schools' can also be obtained from Send Post Office.

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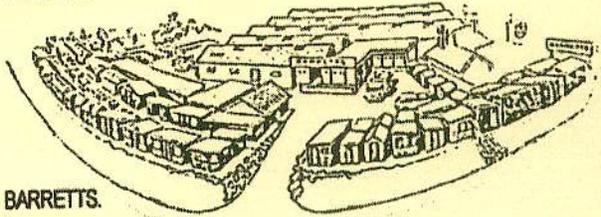
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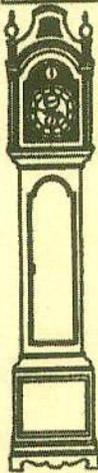


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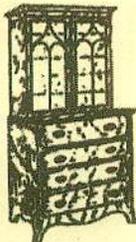
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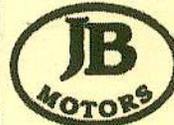
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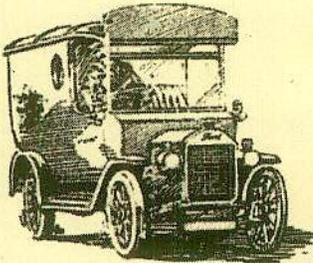
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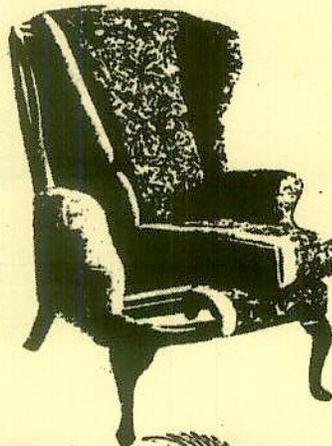
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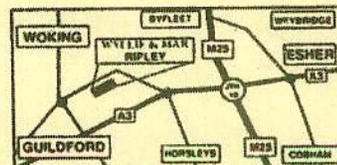
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