

Send History Society

(Formed January 1975)

President: Mr J. Oliver

Chairman

Mr K. H. Bourne,
Heath Farm, Tannery Lane,
Send, Woking
Phone: Guildford 223028

Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Mr L. G. Bowerman,
The Manor House,
Send Marsh, Ripley
Phone: Ripley 2876

Treasurer: Mrs Janet Hill, Asphodel, Milestone Close, Ripley - Ripley 2216

Typed by Chris Parker

Newsletter No. 33

July/August 1980

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 18th September ... Open meeting at the Church Room, Send Road, at 8 p.m. when John Slatford will talk about life in Send and Ripley in the 16th century, as recorded in the Court Rolls.

Saturday, 20th September ... The Society's grand Autumn Sale at the Red Cross Hut, Sandy Lane. See separate paragraph under Secretary's Report.

Saturday, 27th September ... Surrey Local History Symposium at Dorking Halls, Dorking. Tickets may be ordered in advance at a discount through our Secretary. The Society is planning to take a stall. The theme of the symposium is "Sport in Surrey".

Thursday, 6th November ... Open meeting at the Church Room at 8 p.m. when Dr Robinson, the County Archivist, will speak about the work of the Record Office, drawing as far as possible from records relating to Send and the area around it.

Thursday, 11th December ... Annual social evening in the Church Room.

Thursday, 15th January, 1981 ... Open meeting at the Church Room, when Mr Bernard Pardoe will speak about the history of Chertsey.

CHURCH PEWS AND SEATS - PART 2

Given below is a transcript of the 1773 manuscript in the church safe mentioned in Part 1. Of the less obvious abbreviations Jn^o represents John, Jer^h is Jeremiah, and Wid^w is Widow.

Many of the houses still bear the same names. Of those which have changed Griggs is Boughton Hall; Highhouse is probably the Manor House; Whittington is Willingham Cottage; Hyde Land was later Highlands Farm and was opposite Birnam Close, Send Marsh; Cooks Green is where the Saddlers Arms is; White house was at the Portsmouth Road end of Potters Lane; Birdeviles was near Send Marsh Green; Maffeys, Williamsons and Coltons have not been identified.

The entry for the Parish House at Three Fords is clear evidence that the Poor House was not Whitehouse Farm (vide N/L 31) in view of the separate entry for the latter. The Parish House was undoubtedly the "house at three ford" for which "A House near ye Church was exchang'd with Genl Evelyn... by Consent of ye Parish at a Vestry Dec 13th 1772" as recorded enigmatically on the painted wooden panel in the church tower headed "A List of the Several Benefactions given to and for the Use of the poor of this Parish for ever." Was this a predecessor of the Poor House at Burnt Common recorded by J. Oliver in N/L 31? It was possibly as a result of reading in the Victoria County History that the house at Three Fords which General Evelyn exchanged for the use of the poor was probably the old parish workhouse that the late Rev. Legg concluded that the Poor House was Whitehouse Farm. One can only assume that the Rev. Legg had not seen the manuscript which had apparently become hidden at the back of the church safe.

CHURCH SEATS

SEND
1773.

Copy of an account of the seats in Send Church number'd and affixed to different Houses by Robert Boughton and John Hole Churchwardens. August 8th. 1773.

<u>Owners of Houses.</u>	<u>Tenants names.</u>	<u>Name of Houses.</u>
	No. 1.	
Robert Boughton		Griggs.
	2.	
Lord Onslow	Tho ^s : Henley	Dedswell.
D ^o .	Jn ^o : Whitburn	Ryde Farm
Mens Seat	W ^m : Harris	Highhouse.
John Tice.	Wa: Atride	Send Court.
John Howard	Geo: Dirley	Whittington.
Geo: Garment		

3.

	Robert Boughton	Ja ^S : Dean	Whittington
	Jn ^O : Howard	-----	Tanyard
Men's seat	Rob ^t : Boughton	Henry Jelley	Keephouse
	Tho ^S : Woods	-----	-----
	Jer ^h : Howard	Rich ^d : Walden.	

4.

	Lord Onslow	Geo: Henley	Aldertons.
Men's seat	Rob ^t : Boughton	Ja ^S : Brackley	Goodgroves.
	Tho ^S : Harris	W ^m : Hammerton	
	Do.	Tho ^S : Wilson	Keephouse
	Burdoe	Jn ^O : Mitchell	Groveheath

5.

	Lord Onslow	Ja ^S : Hone	Holmwood
	Lord King	Tho ^S : Butcher	Hyde Land
Mens seat	Sam ¹ : Greenfield	-----	-----
		Ja ^S : Farley	
	Wid ^W : Brackley	Tho ^S : Brackley	

6.

	Lord Onslow	Ja ^S : Hone	Holmwood
	Lord King	W ^m : Birley	Paper Court
Women's seats	Jn ^O : Howard	-----	Tanyard.
	Jn ^O : Gadie	W ^m : Scott	
	Tho ^S : Woods	Jn ^O : Smith	

7.

	Lord Onslow	Tho ^S : Henley	Dedswell
	Do.	Jn ^O : Mildred	Newark Mill
Women's seat	Jn ^O : Tice	W ^m : Harris	Highhouse
	Rob ^t : Boughton	Ja ^S : Dean	Maffey's.
	Jn ^O : Howard	W ^m : Atride	Send Court

8.

	Lord King	Tho ^S : Butcher	Hyde Land
	Rob ^t : Boughton	Henry Jelley	Williamsons
Womens seat	Sam ¹ : Greenfield		Tanyard
	Step ⁿ : Stone		Groveheath
	Geo: Garment	Geo: Birley	Whittington

9.

Gen ^l : Evelyn	David Atkins	Lodge
Jer: Howard	Rich ^d : Walden	Blacksmiths
Wid ^w : Brackley	Tho ^s : Brackley	
	Step ⁿ : Stone Jun ^r :	Groveheath
Parish House	Jn ^o : Denyer	Three Fords

10.

Gen ^l : Evelyn	Servants.	
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11.

Rev ^d : M ^r : Harwood	Henry Stiles	Nuthill
Tho ^s : Jackman	W ^m : Stent	Felhill
Mary Brackley	Ja ^s : Lee	Cooks Green
Jn ^o : Garment	Geo: Garment	Crickettshill
Cawoodor Keys	Ja ^s : Scotcher	Felhill

12.

Lord Onslow	M ^{rs} : Hunt	Send Barns
Jn ^o : Tice	W ^m : Stone	Tilehurst
Women's Seat M ^{rs} : Maybank	W ^m : Tegg	Hazlehurst
Phil: Bowell	Ja ^s : Bullen	

13.

Lord Onslow	Geo: Henley	Aldertons
Rob ^t : Boughton	Ja ^s : Brackley	Goodgroves
Women's Seat D ^r : Walter	W ^m : Gunner	Felhill
M ^{rs} : Weston	D: Wilkins	Whitehouse
Tho ^s : Harris	Tho ^s : Wilson	Keephouse

14.

Lord Onslow	Jn ^o : Hale	Gosden Hill
R: Boughton	Geo: Marten	Coltons
Women's Seat Tho ^s : Woods	-	-
Step ⁿ : Stone Jun ^r :	Step ⁿ : Stone Jun ^r :	Groveheath

15.

Gen ^l : Evelyn	Jn ^o : Harm	Lodge
M ^{rs} : Maybank	W ^m : Tegg	Hazlehurst
Mens Seat Tho ^s : Jackman	W ^m : Stent	Felhill
Kawoodor Heys	Ja ^s : Scotcher	Felhill
Lord Onslow	Jn ^o : Hale	Gosden Hill

16.

	R: Boughton	Geo: Marten	Coltons
	Tho ^s : Harris	Ja ^s : Brackley	Felhill
Mens seat	Tho ^s : Woods	Jn ^o : Smith	P ^t : of Birdeviles
	Mary Brackley	Ja ^s : Lee	Cooks Green
		Step ⁿ : Stone Jun ^r :	Groveheath

17.

	Rev ^d : Harwood	Henry Stiles	Nuthill
	M ^{rs} : Weston	D: Wilkins	Whitehouse
Mens seat	Step ⁿ : Stone Sen ^r :		Groveheath
	Sarah Francis	Jn ^o : Stiles	Felhill
	John Gadea	W ^m : Scott	L ^t : Dyer.

18.

	John Hole	Jn ^o : Hale	
	Lord Onslow	Ja ^s : Mildred	Newark Mills
Mens seat	Lord King	W ^m : Birley	Papercourt
	Rev ^d : Walter	W ^m : Gunner	Felhill
	Jn ^o : Tice	W ^m : Stone	Tilehurst

19.

	Gen ^l : Evelyn	Send Grove
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N.B. It appears by the foregoing account that there was not a Man's seat named to Send Barns House. Mr. Hunt was not then living, Mrs Hunt was the Tenant and occupier which I suppose caused the omission. Jackman's house No. 15 sold to Mr. Prickett was taken down which makes a vacancy. Doctor Walter No. 13 and 18 I think was taken down.

R. Boughton.

To be continued - Les Bowerman

THE OLD KEEP HOUSE

The Old Keep House, Send Marsh Road, Send, stands on the site of what was once quite a large complex of buildings. Today all these buildings have gone except for the diminutive Old Keep House which has been cleverly used to form an attractive annexe to a large modern house built on the site of the older buildings.

Covering an area of only 20' x 14' and bordered by the Keep stream on the west and north sides, the Old Keep House is in an excellent state of repair, although plasterwork and restoration make the original structure difficult to identify. There is no access to the roof, but the general form of construction suggests that it was built some time during the second half of the 17th century.

The house is timber framed with a tiled roof, but the walls have been heavily plastered and rendered so that not many of the original timbers can be seen from outside. The simple construction suggests that it was originally a farm worker's house with a ladder leading to the upper floor. There are three tie beams, one at each gable end and one in the middle, suggesting that the internal dividing wall was part of the original build. Interestingly the tie beam across the southern end wall has been cut off halfway and a modern window inserted. This can be clearly seen from inside the house. On the other end wall a window has been inserted between two queen posts above the tie beam. All the windows are replacements.

There is no evidence of a smoke bay and the present-day chimney stack on the south wall is a later addition. It is likely that the original chimney was on the south side of the house, and this may have taken the form of a smoke hood, a timber-framed enclosure supported on the mantel beam of the fireplace and tapering to an outlet or hole in the roof.

The original entrance to the house was probably on the west side of the building. It is likely that the Keep stream was used as a water supply and for the disposal of liquid waste.

All the timbers appear to be original, and some of the ceiling joists inside the house still have bark on them. Two of the timbers have been shaved down near the east wall and it is possible that this was done to make headroom for a long-case clock. Today the ground floor has a door and enclosure to the staircase, which was probably added in the 18th century. The internal dividing wall downstairs has been removed and evidence of studding can be seen. This was probably removed when the staircase was enclosed.

The Buildings Group visited and surveyed the Old Keep House at the kind invitation of the owners, Mr and Mrs P. Rasmussen.

A. R. Medlen

ROMAN VILLAS IN SURREY

At the open meeting on 19th June about 45 members heard a very interesting talk with slides by Viscountess Hanworth, FSA, on Roman Villas in Surrey.

Villas were inhabited by the wealthy, or relatively wealthy, within the community, and many are known in various areas of Surrey, including: Ashtead; Walton on the Hill; Walton Heath; Farnham; Abinger; Ewhurst; Chiddingfold; Worplesdon; Compton; Wanborough; Cobham; Beddington; Ble(t)chingley; Stoke d'Abernon? Fetcham? and East Clandon?

A Roman Villa was not just a home of the well-to-do, but nearly always formed part of a farm creating an economically viable unit. This was not always realised at first, and outbuildings were not investigated or even looked for in the early stages of villa excavation. Usually placed on top of, or close to, a feature dating to before the Roman period, a villa and its outbuildings would be placed close to a good road or other means of transport so that the farm's crop could be moved to market.

Villas developed in shape over the years, as they were occupied for about 300 years. They started as a simple box shape, often with an aisle, evolved into a winged porticus house and eventually became a courtyard house. In Surrey the villas found seem to be either of the early aisled house type or the winged porticus house. By the fourth century Surrey villas seem to have died out. The only known example of a later house in Surrey is at Chiddingfold - a site which has never been published. It is not known why so few later houses exist, but perhaps by this time an economic recession had hit the County.

The earliest villas would be built entirely of timber, but by the second century the outside walls would comprise dwarf walls of masonry, to reduce dampness, surmounted by either timber or wattle and daub; the entire wall being covered with plaster. Internal walls would also be covered with plaster. Insufficient evidence exists to show whether any villas had a second storey. Two types of hypocaust existed, one type to heat villas and the other type to heat bath blocks. Only some of the richer villas had mosaics on floors, other villas were floored with tiles or wood. Glass has been found in some villas, but was more common in bath blocks.

Rapsley is an unusual villa in that it was originally built as a bath block and became a villa later.

The talk generated lively discussion on a wide range of connected matters.

Janice V. Wood

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Rev. & Mrs J. Wynburne, St Mary's Vicarage, Send.

Mr & Mrs G. Ponfield, Plovers, Meadow Drive, Send Marsh (rejoined).

Total membership stands at 78 couples and 57 individual members.

Autumn Bazaar

In order to be able to pay for the printing of the Church Guide, the Society is arranging to hold a Bazaar at the Red Cross Hut, Sandy Lane, Send, on Saturday, 20th September. Stalls are planned to include children's and adult books (no, not that sort!), magazines, groceries, plants, vegetables and fruit, records, small and large furniture, cakes, etc., white elephant, hardware, tombola, raffle and refreshments.

If you have any articles suitable for any of the above stalls, please put them aside and they will be collected over the coming weeks. Alternatively, if you have anything which you would like out of the way quickly, please telephone any of the following Guildford numbers: 223166, 223599, or 222107. For large articles, e.g. furniture, etc., please telephone Ripley 2876.

Local Postcards and Photographs

Over the years some of our older members have given to the Society a number of old postcards and photographs of local interest. The Committee is keen to build up a collection to display at meetings and other suitable functions, and would welcome further offers from anybody who has any such items which they can spare. Subject matter can be anything from people to views, buildings, street scenes or vehicles. Any period of time is acceptable right up to the present.

VISIT TO SELBORNE

On Sunday, June 1st, a large group of members travelled to Selborne in Hampshire, the village made famous by Gilbert White, whose studies of the wild life in that area and his accurate record of these studies were published as a Natural History of Selborne in 1788 and have remained in constant print ever since.

The first place visited by the group was the site of an Augustinian Priory about 1½ miles east of Selborne, and access to the site was gained through Priory Farm by kind permission of Mr Beach. Very little remains of the Priory and the only tangible evidence of the building, founded in 1232 by the Bishop of Winchester and finally suppressed after a very chequered career by order of the Pope in 1486, are some of the original building stones surrounding just a few of the Priory's ceramic floor tiles. Many tales of "goings on" in the Priory are recorded, including that of ladies?! living in. Recent excavations of the site have revealed finds that include glass fragments identified as those of a distilling apparatus. These fragments are now in the safe keeping of the Science Museum in London, but replicas are on display at the Wakes Museum in Selborne, the name being that of the White family house where the Rev. Gilbert White lived whilst writing and publishing his natural history. The Wakes finally passed out of the White family and was eventually endowed as a museum both to the work carried out by Gilbert White and also to commemorate Captain Lawrence Oates, who accompanied Scott on his tragic South Pole Expedition, and to Frank Oates, another explorer, who died on an expedition in Africa. Many members took advantage of the opportunity to visit this museum, which considering it was established in a small country village was excellent in its presentation of all subjects.

After the visit to the Priory, the whole group visited Selborne Church with its perpendicular tower arch and its Norman arcades. There is a particularly interesting window to Gilbert White, showing St. Francis feeding the birds. Gilbert White is also buried in the churchyard in a rather undistinguished setting. Probably the most interesting subject in the churchyard is an enormous yew tree said to be at least 800 years old. There is also a stone in the churchyard commemorating the burial of a person known as The Trumpeter, who in fact led a revolt in the village against the then rector in protest against the excessive tithes being levied on the workers at a time of extreme poverty shortly after the Battle of Waterloo.

One of the striking features of Selborne is a tree clad hill known as the Hanger. It is now the property of the National Trust, but together with the Lythes it was the study situation for Gilbert White's natural history work. In fact the Hanger can be climbed by using a zig-zag path which was cut by Gilbert White and his brother during his time at Selborne. The more energetic amongst the members made the climb, which was well rewarded, firstly by the magnificent views afforded to those who made top position, and secondly to several members who took the opportunity to visit the Wishing Stone at the top and make their secret wishes.

The visit to Selborne was considered a very successful and enjoyable trip, and apart from the organised visits to the church and the Priory, members were left to walk around the village and visit points that were of particular interest to them. One of the things to be seen along the main street is an old butcher's shop, which is opposite the Wakes and largely offended Gilbert White while he lived there to such an extent that he planted four lime trees in front of the butcher's shop to hide the sight of the blood and filth (his words). The butcher's shop is still there today, although not functioning for this trade, and two lime trees are still very much in evidence.

Alan and Barbara Tinkler

Editorial Footnote: On the very day of our visit, it was reported in the

Sunday papers that the final, handwritten draft of the "Natural History of Selborne" was coming back to this country from America where it had been since the 1920's to be auctioned at Christies. Although moves were afoot for it to be bought for the Gilbert White Museum, it was feared that it would fetch £15,000 to £20,000 and go back to America.

The outcome was that on 12th June it was sold for £110,000 to the Gilbert White Museum, the money coming from such widely different sources as private donations, the National Heritage Fund, the Victoria & Albert Museum Fund for the Provinces, Hampshire County Council, and charitable trusts, all co-ordinated by the British Library as befits the manuscript of the book which has been in continuous print in this country longer than any other apart from the Bible.

THE CLOSURE OF GROCERY SHOPS

"The Retail Grocery Business 1980", published by the Institute of Grocery Distribution and reviewed in "The Times" on 26th June, gives statistics showing that the number of grocers' shops in Britain has halved in the past 20 years, and that the two largest chains, Tesco and Sainsbury, supply about a quarter of the grocery market. The trend has been very noticeable in Send, particularly recently.

The building attached to April Cottage at Send Marsh was built as a shop by local builder Mr Douglas Holdforth in 1921, replacing Collins' general shop, which had previously been in the eastern extension of Corner Cottage. Mrs Collins was rather genteel, having been a lady's maid. She always dressed in black. The front windows of the shop were low-fronted like those in the "Quality Street" sweet tins. The replacement operated as a grocery shop, latterly by Mr Dave Balcombe until the early 1970's when it became an electrical shop. That shop closed in 1978 and since then it has been converted into a pleasant residence named "Pip's Cottage".

May's Stores at May's Corner opened as a sweet shop when built in the 1920's. It progressed to a general shop and was run by Miss Connie May for many years. Our members, Mr & Mrs Hodgkins, were the last shopkeepers there until they retired earlier this year after running it for about ten years. They have since converted the shop into a comfortable dwelling-house.

Yet another grocer's shop to go this year is the "Co-op", which closed on 10th May last. It had been in Send Road since the late Reuben Sale of Sale's Laundry in Wharf Lane sold the site to the Woking Co-operative Society Ltd., also in the 1920's. After the Second World War a reorganisation of the chain resulted in it becoming a branch of the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society.

Three grocery shops remain in Send. Gladdings Stores at Cartbridge was bought by Quilter Cave Ltd. approximately two years ago on the retirement of Mr Bert Lemon. The land on which the shop is built was enclosed from Send Heath in 1814. By the time of the 1861 census John Webb, aged 35, from High Wickham (sic), was living at Cartbridge as a master grocer. In the Woking Year Book and Directory for 1900 Messrs W. & J. Webb, bakers, are shown. The Webbs were prominent in village and church life until the outbreak of the last war. Shortly afterwards Arthur Webb retired and the shop became Gladdings Stores. On the retirement of Mr Elms some years later, Mr Lemon came from Shere and took over. He maintained it with an extensive delivery service around the district for several years. The number of cigarette advertisements at present in the window gives the misleading impression that it is now more of a tobacconist's than a grocer's shop.

One of the other surviving grocery shops is, of course, the Post Office in Send Road. This operated as Forrest Stores, owned by Mr Jimmy Lucas of Sandmore, Send Hill, and later as J. & K. Dedman for two generations. The Post Office was transferred there from cottages near the Old Keep House in Edwardian times. The third shop is also in Send Road, on the Parade which was built in the 1950's.

It can be surmised that one of the causes of this decline in the number of village grocery shops is the increased affluence which has turned the country into a nation of private motor-car owners, whereby housewives are easily able to travel to the nearest town and transport large quantities of goods which they have been able to purchase at lower prices in supermarkets. The supermarkets are, of course, able to sell at lower prices because of the transformation in packaging and in bulk distribution. It is unfortunate and surely short-sighted that the superficial savings to be obtained from impersonal supermarket shopping have resulted in the loss of convenient and friendly village shops.

Les Bowerman

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP REPORT

Sunday, 22nd June, did not look very promising for a walk at Sheepleas to search for orchids, and a very small band set out under the leadership of Ken Dawson. As expected, the heavens opened and part of the walk had to be curtailed, but not before seven different varieties of orchid had been observed. These were the butterfly orchid, bird's nest, tway blade, common spotted, fly orchid, the white helleborine and the fragrant orchid. Many other wild flowers were seen, including some enormous deadly nightshade plants.

Anne Bowerman

BIRD REPORT - MAY/JUNE

May began with the last of the summer visitors arriving. A garden warbler was singing in Potters Lane on the 3rd and a lesser whitethroat next day at Papercourt. That same day a fieldfare went north over Ripley Sewage Farm and there was a common sandpiper on one of the flooded filter beds. Also at Papercourt on the 4th were four little ringed plover, a ringed plover and a turnstone in full summer plumage - the first turnstone ever recorded at Papercourt to our knowledge. However, the day was not quite over, for late in the morning five common and one Arctic tern arrived and fed around the yachts on the boating lake.

On the 10th more wader migration was in evidence when a ringed plover, a redshank, two common sandpipers and a greenshank stopped over at Papercourt. The redshank was seen in display the day after and was joined by three ringed plover although the greenshank had gone.

June was very quiet with the resident warblers breeding, and by the end of the month there were also young bluetits flying around.

The most noticeable event in June was the presence of a pair of ringed plovers for several weeks; however they did not stay to breed.

On the weekend of the 28th/29th little, tawny and barn owls were heard calling at Ripley Green; earlier that day a ring necked parakeet had also been heard there.

David Nurney