

No. 300
January 2025

Send & Ripley History Society

50TH ANNIVERSARY 1975-2025



THE BROADMEADS
DROWNINGS
OF 1924

Page

8

HORSLEY TOWERS
AND THE ELECTRICITY
COUNCIL

Page

16

50TH
ANNIVERSARY
QUIZ

Page

20

THE LIFE AND
ANCESTRY OF TALBOT
BASHALL – PART 1

Page

28

thomasfordandsons

beautiful kitchens and furniture for other rooms

high street, ripley, surrey, gu23 6af
t: 01483 211337



"A comprehensive and highly professional tree service undertaken by dedicated personnel"

- Tree pruning
- Felling and stump grinding
- Hedge trimming
- Tree planting & aftercare
- Arboricultural Consultancy
- Planning reports
- Tree Surveys
- Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) Control

Please call us for a free quotation or advice on tree related issues.

Tel: 01483 210066

E-Mail: info@atstreets.co.uk



The Old Saddlery
Ripley GU23 6AN
01483 222212

24 hour Emergencies 07714 295844

8 Marshall Parade
Pyrford GU22 8SW
01932 800575

As a family owned and run group we love looking after the local pet community. We offer primary, specialist and 24-hour emergency and hospital care services.

Our services include free 2nd opinions, free health checks, affordable healthcare plans, free advice on choosing a pet and headstart for puppies and kittens - everything you need up to six months old including free, unlimited consultations, for just £139.

Please see our website for more details
or pop in to meet our team. We'd love to see you!

www.welovevoo.com Facebook @voovetsripley @voovetspyrford
Instagram and Twitter @voovets

P. PESTLE & SONS LTD

ROOFING & BUILDING CONTRACTORS

A well established family run business with a wealth of experience and knowledge. Covering all roofing, building and hard landscape works.



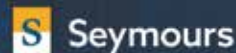
Find us on
Facebook

Based in Guildford, Surrey

To get a FREE quote call:

07800 644028

info@pestleandsons.co.uk



WE'RE NOT JUST YOUR ESTATE AGENT BUT ALSO YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Seymours Guildford is an independent local business, owned and run by the partners in the office. As local residents ourselves we're truly passionate about supporting our community and providing a highly personal service when it's your time to move.

Valuing In Your Area - Back Soon

We're just round the corner, so if you would like to understand the value of your home and current buyer demand, please call us to book a free market appraisal.



Ben Conquer
Director



Joe Leonard
Director

Ripley
01483 211644 sales@seymours-ripley.co.uk
seymours-estates.co.uk



CONTACTS

Send & Ripley History Society
Established 1975 as
Send History Society
Registered Charity
No. 1174161

President: John Slatford
St George's Farmhouse,
High Street, Ripley,
Woking GU23 6AF
T: 01483 222107
E: jmslatford@gmail.com

Chairman: Cameron Brown
Church Farm House,
Wisley GU23 6QL
T: 07811 276386
E: cmb@aappl.com

Hon Secretary: Jenny Jackson
The Haven, Polesden Lane
Ripley GU23 6DX
T: 01483 222 980
E: jmj@jennyjackson.co.uk

Treasurer, Membership
Secretary and Journal
Distribution: Christina Sheard
Old Manor Cottage,
Send Marsh Green, Ripley,
Woking GU23 6JP
T: 01483 224600
E: christina.sheard@btinternet.com

Journal Editor:
Cameron Brown
T: 07811 276386
E: cmb@aappl.com

Art director and copy editor:
Ditz Brown

Archaeology Specialist:
Andrew Jones
106 Georgelands, Ripley,
GU23 6DQ
T: 01483 479647
E: andrew738jones@bt.com

Web site management:
Chris Brown
Web site: www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk

Book sales: Angie Richardson
T: 07792 198363
E: srhistorysociety@gmail.com

Museum Curator:
Clare McCann
T: 01483 728546
E: cricketshill@hotmail.com

Museum Archivist:
Phil Davie
T: 01483 223955
E: phil.davie@jpsd.plus.com

Journal Advertising:
Jez Haines
T: 07747 145946
E: srhistorysocietyadvertising@gmail.com

Cover image:

One of the 50th
ANNIVERSARY QUIZ
question on page 20

CONTENTS | No. 300

Editorial <i>Cameron Brown</i>	2
The Society's Beginnings <i>Cameron Brown</i>	4
40 Years Ago <i>Cameron Brown</i>	6
Happy Hundredth Birthday Pat Clack!.....	7
The Broadmeads Drownings of 1924 <i>Alan Cooper</i>	8
Ripley Casualties of World War II <i>Alan Cooper</i>	10
Local News <i>Cameron Brown</i>	13
Hautboy Memories <i>Ditz Brown</i>	14
Horsley Towers and the Electricity Council <i>Alan Cooper</i>	16
Bygone Days <i>Cameron Brown</i>	18
Jovial Sailor Stoneware Flagon <i>Alan Cooper</i>	19
50th Anniversary Quiz <i>Alan Cooper and Janet Tice</i>	20
Who Are They? <i>Ditz Brown</i>	24
William Harvey – The Ladieswear Specialist <i>Nicholas Bale</i>	26
The Life and Ancestry of Talbot Bashall – Part 1 <i>Alan Cooper</i>	28
Tombstones with Local Links <i>Clare McCann</i>	32
Museum News and Forthcoming Events <i>Clare McCann</i>	34
SRHS Publications List	35



Seymours
Your Property Partner For Life

We are grateful to Seymours Estate Agents in Ripley for their generous contribution towards the production costs of the 2024 Journals

© Send & Ripley History Society and Contributors 2025

All rights reserved. No parts of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means or stored in any retrieval system of any nature without prior written permission except for permitted fair dealing under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 or in accordance with the terms of a licence issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency in respect of photocopying or/and reprographic reproduction. Applications for permission for other use of copyright material including permission to reproduce extracts in other published works should be made to the Editor. Full acknowledgement of author, publisher and source must be given.



sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk

EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

A happy and healthy 2025 to all of our members!

In this, our Society's 50th and my own 77th year I'd like to reflect on what the Send and Ripley History Society has achieved, look at some of the changes and wonder about the future.

Fifty years ago Les Bowerman, John Slatford, Janet Tice, Sheila Brown and a couple of dozen friends and neighbours very quickly drummed up sufficient enthusiasm in Send to get a local history society established. They were soon having regular meetings and immediately began the production of a bi-monthly newsletter, of which this is the 300th edition. Membership rapidly built up to over 200 and after ten years the members decided to expand the reach to include Ripley – and its popularity continued to grow. It is clear from those early newsletters that the membership included a number of serious amateur historians and researchers and that a wide range of interests was catered for. The very first newsletter, circulated to fifty members, pronounced that one of the objectives was 'to add to the intellectual and social life of the village' and recorded that at its first meeting the Society had established specialist groups focusing on local buildings, genealogy, archeology as well as natural and social history. Ken Bourne, the first chairman, summarised the key goal as 'increasing our knowledge of local history and helping to preserve our heritage'.

How did we do over the following half century? I think we can be proud of what we have achieved on a very modest budget and with a relatively small group of volunteers. We have a fully accredited museum; one of the smallest in the country – but it's ours (or will be if we ever get the lease signed...)!

We have certainly fulfilled that initial promise to help preserve our heritage by building up an impressive resource of research material. This includes our collection of over 7,000 photographs; buildings reports on most of the local buildings of architectural or historic interest; 300 indexed journals packed with

articles of interest to buildings researchers, genealogists and social historians. In addition we have a treasure trove of local documents covering church registers of births, marriages, deaths and burials; census reports; trade directories and court and manorial documents transcribed and even translated from the medieval Latin, then painstakingly indexed – some of these only available from our collection. In the past couple of years we have begun digitising these records to preserve them for future researchers.

The Society provides services to local schools and has published an impressive list of books, the latest of which, *Bygone Days*, does what a good history book should do – providing an interesting and enjoyable read whilst giving an insight into a very different set of lives.

It has also stayed true to the original objective of 'adding to the social life' of the villages. We have achieved this through our regular, well-attended meetings and outings and our popular Journal, which won the British Association of Local Historians' award for best local history magazine in 2021. The museum itself has a secondary function as a Saturday morning meeting place for a few of our members ...

I am only the fourth chairman, following in the footsteps of Ken Bourne, John Slatford and Les Bowerman. This year will be my 10th year in the post and I have to accept that this has been a decade in which not all change has been positive. I suspect that much of this is societal and not unique to the SRHS. Without doubt the founding group in 1975 comprised a high proportion of energetic, talented and committed individuals. We are not without these qualities today but there is certainly a smaller proportion of our membership involved in hands on research. None of the formal sub-groups exists any longer. We do have individual committee members taking a lead on archeology, genealogy, local social history and buildings research but fewer members are writing for the Journal or contribute to our occasional books or the interviewing of older local residents in order to record and preserve their memories.

It may be that chairmen have always felt it difficult to attract enough volunteers but I do sense it to be a problem today, particularly for our museum curator but

also for all of us on the committee. Do people really have less time for leisure activities today than half a century ago? I am skeptical that work demands more time now than then but there are certainly more leisure attractions available. Perhaps an interest in history is less widespread than once it was? Having said this, our membership over the past ten years has remained steadily around the 325 mark, which is pleasing.

Looking to the future we need to ask ourselves whether our objectives have changed over the past half century. Our activities have not altered a great deal but the emphasis has certainly shifted. We are without question more of a social club than research group today and this is something we probably have to accept.

I think that our age demographic has also moved; many of that original group of members were a generation younger than most of us today. Can we attract younger members? To answer that we need to understand what they might want from an organisation like ours. In some ways change has become easier than once it was. Communication is, theoretically, much easier and there are grants available to help with all sorts of costs – which was not the case for our founders. But we first need to know what to change.

We are lucky to have a museum, but it is tiny, only able to display a fraction of our collection. It is poorly visited, perhaps partly because it is only open for two hours a week, but also because relatively few people know of its existence and of those many have never visited. To keep even what we have will require significant expenditure on the fabric of the building and ideally we need to completely redesign and fit out the interior and add a store-room. Whilst grants are potentially available the

time involved in applying for them and the overseeing of the subsequent works will be very significant.

As you may know, I am also keen to mark our anniversary year by creating a new website. We should by now be using easily available technology to ensure that the work we have already done and which I mentioned earlier, as well as new projects in the future, are preserved and made widely and easily available. We are yet to see how much enthusiasm there is for these plans. In the last Journal I asked members to take part in a five-minute online survey asking stakeholders for their views on what a new website might offer but only half a dozen have responded. That is a very disappointing response.

Please let your committee hear your thoughts about where the SRHS should be going in the next ten years, if not the next 50. It would be good to be publishing a couple of pages or more of your letters to the editor in the March edition of the Journal.

Come to the AGM on 12th March and share your ideas and enthusiasms. My committee colleagues and I don't have all the answers.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th February 2025.

Authors of illustrated articles should submit high resolution (300 DPI or higher) jpgs to the editor by email to ensure best reproduction in the journal, but no more than 20 MB in any one email

cmb@aappl.com



**Free valuations Monday-Friday:
9.30am-5pm**



Ewbank's

Surrey's Premier Antique and Specialist Auctioneers



Valuations for sale, probate and insurance Regular Antique,
Collectables, Fine & Specialist Auctions

Specialists in Asian Art, Jewellery, Silver, Antique Furniture,
Clocks, Memorabilia, 20th Century, Contemporary & Fine Art,
Fine Wine, Toys & Collectables, Vintage Cars

01483 223 101

www.ewbankauctions.co.uk

antiques@ewbankauctions.co.uk

THE SOCIETY'S BEGINNINGS

CAMERON BROWN

I know of only three of our current members who were at the inaugural meeting of the Send History Society on 28th January 1975 and each of them has shared some reminiscences with us.

JOHN SLATFORD

Fifty years – where have they all gone? It all started when Les Bowerman wrote to the *Surrey Advertiser*. In his letter, which was published, he suggested forming a local history society and invited anyone interested to come to a meeting he had arranged with Ken Bourne, to be held at Ken's home in Tannery Lane, Send.

I was there with my wife Bette and about twenty others – we lived in Send then. This is when the Send History Society started, later to extend to Ripley as we became increasingly aware of how much our two communities had been historically related.

In our early days we owed a great deal to our esteemed mentor Jim Oliver. He was a farmer at Send Court Farm by the church and was also extremely knowledgeable about both local history in general and timber-framed buildings in particular. Jim was the Society's first president.

Our Society has come a long way over the years – especially the journal. The early newsletters were written and typed up by Les and reproduced by him on an old Gestetner duplicating machine.

Under the editorship of our current chairman Cameron Brown and his wife Ditz it has become a very professional-looking publication.

SHEILA BROWN

I was present at the inaugural meeting of the Send History Society held at St Bede's School in January 1975. It followed a gathering at the home of Ken and Phyllis Bourne which had attracted a large number of interested people, many of whom had family connections and had

lived for decades in the village, each with their own stories to tell.

At that meeting Les Bowerman amazed us all with his research over the years on the village and stressed the need to record memories of elderly residents whilst it was still possible. Mrs Marjorie Sex, for instance, was a mine of information and her talks are recorded in early editions of the Journal.

Les Bowerman introduced Jim Oliver who farmed close to Send Church and whose knowledge of old buildings and their history was a valuable contribution.

My own interest was in the old school on Send Hill, built in 1853. The first school for the children of Send and Ripley was in Ripley High Street, built in 1847 but was soon overwhelmed with pupils, so Send built its own school. Now the school was empty as all the pupils had moved into St Bede's School, previously a secondary school, as comprehensive education had replaced the 11 plus exam.

Secondary school pupils were now being bussed to the George Abbott school in Burpham. In the year 2000 SRHS published *Two Village Schools*, written and researched by myself and David Porter who wanted to record his own memories of Send School.

After the January meeting Les Bowerman produced a Newsletter giving more details and the Society has progressed over the years to producing the high quality bi-monthly Journal we have today. All Members have reason to be proud that our group has managed to remain so active after 50 years.

I had always been interested in local history and my thesis at teacher training college had been on Send and Ripley in the nineteenth century.

I do remember seeing Les's initial letter about forming a local history society in my father's *Surrey Advertiser*, using his phone to contact Les and express an interest. My late husband Trevor and I duly attended the first meeting at Heath Farm, the home of Ken Bourne and after hearing from a couple of speakers who told us about their local history societies, all the locals present were persuaded to become committee members!

Trevor and I readily joined the documents group that was soon set up and which was ably led by Bette Slatford. That first year I well remember spending most of my six week holiday from my teaching job (in Farnham) at the Muniment Room in Quarry Street, Guildford, transcribing the earliest Send parish record book of births, marriages and deaths. Many hours

were then spent in indexing the names – no help from computers in those days.

This was all part of the Society's aim: to make our local records more accessible to all. Eventually my father helped with indexing when he retired from work and my daughter typed up several indexes for him as practice for her college course!

There were other groups of course – see the very first newsletter for a report of that meeting.

Newsletter 100 also includes a very interesting article in which Les describes the trials and tribulations of producing those early newsletters.

He had a lot of help from Chris Parker who typed them all. She was blind and Ken Bourne would dictate them to her.



Ripley Osteopaths is a family Osteopathy clinic based in Ripley at Webb House on the Portsmouth Road between Ripley Village and Burnt Common. We treat all ages and conditions including arthritis, shoulder, knee and back problems, post and pre-operative treatment.

Don't put up with pain – give us a call today to see how we can help you!



£20 OFF A NEW PATIENT APPOINTMENT

We would like to offer members of the History Society £20 off a new patient appointment.

Please quote this ad when booking your appointment.

info@ripleyosteopaths.co.uk

www.ripleyosteopaths.co.uk

07586 702925

40 YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN

More haste less speed. In J299 I used two articles from Newsletters 58 and 59, written by Bette Slatford and Les Bowerman to examine the intertwined histories of the Anchor and the former Ripley poorhouse. Reference was made to a law suit of 1616 which had mentioned that there was ‘a little parcel of ground adjoining the chapel [and] an almshouse used for the relief of ten poor people’ before 1539 when the priory was closed. We also knew that the almshouse property was opposite the building now known as the Manor House and next to the main road. The original authors had written ‘We are forced to the conclusion that [the almshouse] must have been where the Anchor now is ... The central part of the Anchor was built around 1550 and it is possible that references to the almshouse before and after this date are to two different buildings on the same plot.’ Without further evidence it seemed that the Anchor and the almshouse might have been in the same building.

Had I gone on to look at Newsletter 60 of January 1985 I would have been able to read a follow up article by the original authors, clarifying the uncertainty about the almshouse and the inn. This third article explained that confusion had been caused by a manorial roll of 1677 referring to ‘a messuage...with a garden...bearing the sign of the Anchor’ as this indicated the possibility that the almshouse had by then become an inn. The date of 1677 is, however, some fifty years before the new village poorhouse was built in Newark Lane which suggested that there was a significant period during which either the poorhouse was in the pub or was no longer available.

The authors noticed, however, that the manorial roll referred to a second property adjacent to both the Anchor and to ‘the churchyard of the chapel of Ripley’ and realised that the original Anchor would probably have been in the buildings on the Guildford side of the present Anchor [fifty years ago this was Ripley Transformers and a private house].

This third article continues: ‘Medieval almshouses were often part of the same building as the church, or perhaps we should say that the chapel was often attached to an almshouse. In the last Newsletter we had the reference of 1616 to the chapel ‘builded long tyme past for an hospital and sythen [since] that tyme altered.’ That may well relate to a time when the original body of the church ceased to be



The Anchor around 1823, (Hassell, courtesy Minet Library)

used for the poor and infirm and would fit nicely with the building of the new almshouse – what is now the central part of the Anchor – in the early part of the 16th century.

If our theory [that the Anchor of today was originally an almshouse] is correct it explains why this is an unusual, low, single-storey structure unlike nearby buildings of about the same date such as Pinnocks, which may be a little later and Little Barn, which is probably somewhat earlier and why it was at the same time of reasonably good quality, which is surprising for what would otherwise appear to be a poor building. To visualise it in anything like its original form it should be imagined without its two crosswings and dormer windows. It was possibly longer originally. If we are correct, Ripley has a very rare building – an early 16th century timber-framed almshouse.

It can be speculated that the overseers ^[1] having spent a good deal of money on the new brick-built poorhouse, would be anxious to recoup some of it by selling the old almshouse and who would be better-placed to take advantage than the owner of the little messuage next door bearing ‘the signe of the Anchor’? The J Hassell painting of 1820 is the earliest proof we have of the present Anchor bearing the sign so the move would have been between 1738 and 1820, probably earlier rather than later. A new, larger Anchor may have contributed to the failure of the George (Cedar House / Tudor House) round about 1800, or at least have been well placed to pick up any residual trade left when the George closed.’

^[1] Elected officials who administered poor relief in a village or parish

HAPPY HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY PAT CLACK! WITH THE VERY BEST WISHES FROM ALL OF US

Cameron Brown writes: The Society has always congratulated local residents who have achieved a century and we are particularly happy to do this for Pat Clack as she has remained an active member. We asked her son Michael to write something about his mother, particularly for those of our readers who perhaps don't know her well.

Pat was born to Harold and Florence Gibbons in Woking on 6th February 1925, so turns 100 this year. They moved to rented accommodation in Send Barns Lane when she was two, whilst the house in Send Road, where she has now lived for 97 years, was completed. Harold was a turf accountant (bookmaker) in Woking throughout his working life. Pat attended Send School where she was a good student, leaving at age 14. She worked at Tyler's wine store in Woking until joining the WAAF as soon as she could in 1944, despite her father's best attempts to stop her. She trained and served as a wireless operator at multiple sites, including Biggin Hill and Bletchley and, after being demobbed, continued to ply her trade for the Foreign Office, the World Service and BEA.

On demob leave in Cornwall she met Eric, and they married in 1951, living with Florence in Send Road, Harold having died in 1948. Son Michael and daughter Valerie completed the family in due course. While the children were young, Pat focused on their early development but soon found a way to do local jobs that fitted in with that aim, first as lollipop lady on May's Corner and then as school secretary at Send primary school. She was always looking for new challenges and joined the Red Cross, becoming the centre organiser and running the junior section in Send for many years; several members of the History Society remember her fondly from that time.

Eric died far too young, of a heart attack at 44, but Pat managed to juggle all her roles, barely missing a beat, ensuring that Michael and Valerie got to university and had sound starts to their lives. Pat now has four grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. She has always been a formidable correspondent, and when she discovered that the best way to keep in touch with her far-flung family was by email, that was a skill she quickly acquired.



Pat learned to knit at school and this skill has stayed with her throughout her life. Her talent was such that she worked for designers such as Eve Sandford, testing and producing their prototypes for publication in pattern books. She continues knitting to this day and hundreds of children hang up one of her suitably capacious Christmas stockings, which are still in production. The blacksmith sculpture on Send Road is regularly yarn-bombed by Pat to commemorate significant events.

Pat didn't join the History Society at its foundation in 1975 but around ten years later. She has been a tremendous source for multiple articles in the journals, thanks to her extraordinary memory and her inability to throw anything away. Pat remains a regular attendee at the monthly meetings and summer outings. There is little that has happened in Send over the past 100 years that Pat doesn't know about and she is always happy to be tapped for information. Her interest in local life and current affairs well beyond remains undimmed and hopefully will remain so for many years to come.

THE BROADMEADS DROWNINGS OF 1924

ALAN COOPER

On 9th July 1924 a tragedy occurred on the Broadmeads stretch of the Wey within a short distance of St Peter's, parish church of Old Woking – a double drowning.

On 2nd November 1915 John William Long and Agnes Mary Nunn married at St Peter's. John, from Woking and Agnes, from Worplesdon set up home at 5, Church Street, Old Woking, just a stone's throw from the parish church where they married. This was something of an achievement as World War One was raging and John, serving with the Army Service Corps, had somehow managed to arrange leave for this purpose. The next year, John Walter Coley Long was born, followed by his sister Kathleen Caroline May Long in 1921.

On that fateful day, 9th July 1924, the children left home after lunch to play in the Broadmeads fields close to their



Church Street, Old Woking with St Peter's church at the end. No. 5, Church Street (the lower height, white-painted property on the left of the photo) was demolished in recent times and today has been replaced by a small terrace of three properties numbered 5, 6 & 7



Caption: John William Long and Agnes Mary Long (née Nunn) with baby John Walter Coley Long

home. Young John was not at school that day due to his recovering from an adenoids operation and, taking a fishing rod, set off with his little sister to the river close to their home to play, fish and watch the haymaking in progress.

Agnes became anxious when they did not return and alerted the police. PC Day recruited the assistance of several local residents and, making assumptions as to the children's route, conducted a thorough search. Thinking it probable that the children had somehow fallen into the river, dragging operations commenced under the supervision of Supt Boshier. There was little difficulty in locating the body of John as his fishing rod was found on the riverbank nearby. Mr Fleming, a local swimmer, entered the water and brought him ashore to be subsequently taken to the mortuary at Woking. Hoping that Kathleen might be asleep in the hayfield, a thorough search was undertaken by the police without any success and eventually dragging operations recommenced and continued until midnight. Resuming the next day at 6am, the body of Kathleen was recovered close to where her brother had been discovered.

Mr J Gunner, who was haymaking in a field near the meadow, told a *News and Mail* reporter that he had seen two small children near the riverbank at around 3pm and



Kathleen Caroline May Long aged three years



John Walter Coley Long aged eight years



The joint grave in St Peter's churchyard, Old Woking

that this part of the river was considered a very dangerous place, with several deep holes and strong undercurrents. ^[1]

Three days later, Saturday, 12th July 1924, John and Kathleen were buried together in the same coffin at St Peter's with the vicar, Rev G Askwith officiating. ^[2]

This heartbreaking tragedy had a profound effect on the Long family who relocated from Old Woking to Goldsworth Road, Woking, with baby Joyce, born 1922.

Their 4th child Kenneth was born in 1925, but one can only guess at the effect on their early lives of the deaths of the siblings they had never known.

On 27th July 1947, Kenneth, now 22, emigrated to Australia on the P&O ship Stratheden bound for Adelaide and, 18 months later, his mother Agnes followed suit on the Orient line ship RMS Orion. ^[3] Joyce married Peter Phelan in 1938 and together they lived in St Mary's Road, Horsell, until they too emigrated to Adelaide on 13th March 1958 with their three surviving children, Daniel, Kathleen and Stephen, on the P&O ship Iberia.

Page 105.

BURIALS in the Parish of Woking
in the County of Surrey in the Year 1924

Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<u>Michael Augustine Garsdale</u> No. 1337.	<u>5</u> <u>Long Cottages</u> <u>Kniffeld</u> <u>Woking</u>	<u>12th</u> <u>June</u> <u>1924</u>	<u>7⁸</u> <u>Years</u>	<u>G. Askwith</u> <u>Vicar</u>
<u>John Walter Coley Long</u> No. 1338.	<u>5</u> <u>Church Street</u> <u>Old Woking</u>	<u>12th</u> <u>July</u>	<u>8¹¹</u>	<u>G. Askwith</u> <u>Vicar</u>
<u>Kathleen Caroline May Long</u> No. 1339.	<u>5</u> <u>Church Street</u> <u>Old Woking</u>	<u>12th</u> <u>July</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>G. Askwith</u> <u>Vicar</u>

Extract from the burials register - note: the comments in the left margin stating that the two children were buried together in the same coffin

Extract from the burials register – note: the comments in the left margin stating that the two children were buried together in the same coffin

^[1] *Woking News & Mail* 19th Saturday July 1924

^[2] The vicar also appears to have been deeply affected by the tragedy as whether by design or otherwise, he embarked on a month's holiday the day following the funeral – as reported in the *Surrey Advertiser & County Times* Saturday, 19th July 1924

^[3] What became of Agnes' husband John is unknown. He simply disappears from all records

We are deeply indebted to our member Audrey Smithers who, aided by her brother Peter, related to me this fascinating story of her grandfather Nunn's sister Agnes and without whose input this article would never have materialised.

Photo of Church Street, Old Woking and burial register c/o Alan Cooper collection

All other photos c/o Audrey Smithers collection

RIPLEY CASUALTIES OF WORLD WAR II

ALAN COOPER

RIPLEY BRITISH LEGION UPDATE

Following the closure of the Ripley British Legion (reported in J297), five original Frank Brown paintings and the memorial montage of those who gave their lives in two world wars were successfully rescued by local residents Stuart Shoesmith and Steve Hill.

One painting (specifically the one of the late Peter Gammon, a veteran of World War II, staunch supporter of St Mary's and former churchwarden) has been re-homed with his son John, who is a military vehicle enthusiast who every year attends the D-Day remembrance events on the Continent. It was felt most appropriate that he should become the new custodian.

Two paintings of Ripley residents who participated in World War II are due to be hung in the entrance foyer of the new village hall very shortly. It was hoped to display three but after much discussion between the trustees, the third one – with content that some in the community with 'woke' views might object to and find offensive – was rejected. On a happier note, that painting and one other have been entrusted to Dave Brown, brother of Frank.

And finally, the memorial montage of those who gave their lives in two world wars has a new home in St Mary's Church. We extend our gratitude to Rev Anna Norton and churchwarden Jamie Hogg for their assistance in this matter.

It is inevitable that some villagers will disagree with the distribution of these artefacts. However, we do not live in an ideal world but one where committees rather than individuals make most decisions. At the end of the day, they have been saved from the

builder's skip and that is of paramount importance. We must therefore be grateful for small mercies but crucially for the concerted efforts of Stuart and Steve which ensured that did not happen. Thank you both.

THE MEMORIAL MONTAGE

In 2020, Send & Ripley History Society finally completed and published *Heroes All*, an exhaustive 370-page analysis of the contribution made by Send and Ripley during World War I. ^[1] It is unlikely that such an enormous task will ever be repeated for World War II, so now seems as good a time as any to remember the fallen from the two villages in that conflict.

Harry (aka Bill) Parrott was born on 28th January 1920 in Horley, Surrey. The family moved to Ripley in 1936 where his father Herbert worked as a village police constable. Pre-war, Bill worked at County Hall, Kingston as a trainee surveyor, joined the RAFVR and, on the outbreak of war, with just one month's training to his name, began active service as an observer flying in Blenheim bombers with 53 Squadron out of Thorney Island, West Sussex.



The memorial montage – now displayed in St Mary's Church, Ripley

He died in a flying accident returning from a mission to France in extremely poor weather conditions on 12th December 1940 and is buried in Rowledge (St James) churchyard, Surrey, grave ref: 37. Harry is commemorated on both St Mary's war memorial and the wall-mounted remembrance tablet at the Ripley British Legion. He has the unwanted distinction of being the first Ripley casualty of World War II.

Harold Rhodes was born 28th November 1921 in Ripley. His parents, George and Nellie, had recently relocated from Norfolk to August Hill, Ripley, where his father worked as a gamekeeper. The family later moved to Pond Cottage, East Clandon. At the outbreak of the war, Harold's occupation was hairdressing. He died on active service over Germany on 4th December 1943 with 428 RCAF squadron and is buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany, grave ref: 18.D.17. Although commemorated on St Mary's war memorial, Ripley, Harold is not included on the wall-mounted remembrance tablet at the Ripley British Legion. Discrepancies such as this are commonplace, as was being named on multiple memorials, which is the case here. (Harold also appears on the memorial at the Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, East Clandon).^[2]

Leslie Stansfield was born 9th February 1915 in Ripley. His father Albert was part of the Stansfield dynasty that ran the successful soft drinks business in Newark Road. In 1941 he married Edith Mary Robertson and they lived in Horsell, Surrey, where their son David was born in 1942. Leslie died on active service in Italy on 19th July 1943 and his death is recorded on the Cassino Memorial, panel 1, Italy. He is commemorated on both St Mary's war memorial and the wall-mounted remembrance tablet at the Ripley British Legion.



1380860 Sgt Harold Frank Rhodes
RAFVR



759225 Sgt Harry Scotney Parrott
RAFVR



7917441 Sgt Leslie John Stansfield
Royal Tank Regt., RAC 50th



933794 Sgt Kenneth Ross Carter RAFVR

Ross Carter was born 1st June 1922 in Ripley. His parents Alf and Gertrude lived in Newark Road. He married Lena Myrtle Ashdown at Lower Birling, Christ Church, Kent in 1942 and lived in Snodland, Kent. Ross died on active service over Italy on 24th November 1943 with 142 squadron and is buried in Milan War Cemetery, grave ref: V1.B.6. He is commemorated on both St Mary's war memorial and the wall-mounted



The war memorial at St Mary's, Ripley



The wall-mounted remembrance tablet at the Ripley British Legion showing just four names for World War II



1683205 Bombadier James Beasleigh
105 HAA Regt, Royal Artillery

remembrance tablet at the Ripley British Legion.

James Beasleigh was born 16th February 1913 in Wandsworth, London. In 1937 he married Jessie Lydia Brewer of Rose Lane, Ripley and the couple lived in Clapham Junction, London. Both worked for Drayton Printing Works where James was a

printer's manager and Jessie a book-folder. James was also a part-time fireman for the printing works. With the outbreak of war and the ensuing blitz, the couple moved to Ripley. James joined the army and Jessie lived with her parents, Robert and Gertrude Brewer at Glasiers Cottages, Rose Lane. James was posted overseas in August 1944 and their son Eric was born later that year.

He was wounded on active service in Germany and died in Belgium on 15th March 1945, having never seen his newly-born son. James is buried in Brussels Town Cemetery, Belgium, grave ref: X.23.9. and is commemorated on both St Mary's war memorial and the wall-mounted remembrance tablet at the Ripley British Legion.



Close-up of the war memorial at St Mary's, Ripley, highlighting the added plaque naming the dead of World War II

James' death was even more poignant as his younger brother, Pte Thomas Beasleigh, Royal Artillery, had been killed in Burma the previous year.^[3] Jessie continued to live in Ripley after the war and died there in 1996. Son Eric attended Ripley school but moved from the village following his marriage in 1968.

^[1] *Heroes All* published by Send & Ripley History Society and available from the museum or online – but hurry, as very few copies remain

^[2] Of interest: Many boys from the village enjoyed casual employment as beaters for the shoot managed by Harold's father George in East Clandon during the late 1920s/early 1930s, my late father being one of them

^[3] *Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, Saturday, March 24th 1945



The war memorial at the Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, East Clandon. Harold Rhodes' name appears on the upper step of the base, left centre

LOCAL NEWS

CAMERON BROWN

It is worth recording that over the course of just a few weeks the new government has announced the introduction of very significant strategic moves which are almost certain to have a serious effect on our community. In an effort to increase the rate of housebuilding a new category of Green Belt – the Grey Belt – will be introduced, which will not enjoy the protections afforded by the Green Belt. This is defined as land in the Green Belt that has been previously developed or doesn't support the Green Belt's key purposes. Considering that Guildford Borough Council was able to remove the whole of Ripley from the Green Belt without this new relaxation one wonders what 'protection' will remain?

The national housebuilding target has been increased to 1.5 million units over the course of the current parliament.

This announcement was accompanied by a mandatory revision of numbers for all local authorities, which has led to Guildford's annual requirement for new homes more than doubling – from 562 to 1170 – with Woking increasing by 82% from 436 to 795.

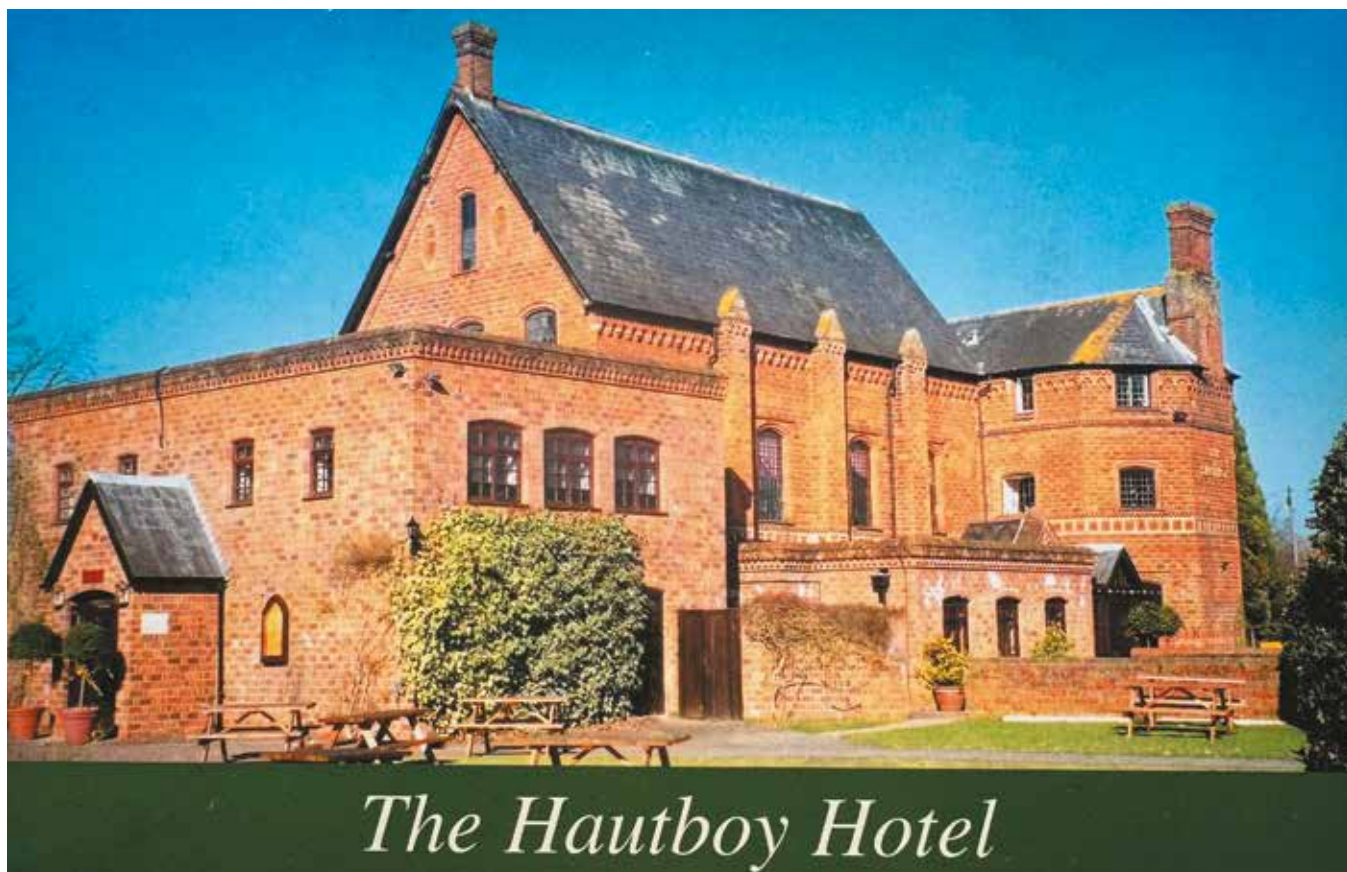
A further recent announcement is the proposed extension of unitary local councils to the whole of the country. This would mean the merging of the responsibilities of Surrey County Council and the county's 13 Borough or District Councils. Surrey has approximately 1.3 million residents and the new devolution proposals could see the current 13 local authorities being reduced to two, each with an elected local mayor and a higher level of devolved authority. These plans are, however, less advanced than those relating to housing targets.

Of more immediate consequence is the news that, despite the herculean efforts and financial contributions of many individuals and groups – particularly Ockham Parish Council, Wisley Airfield Action Group, Villages Against Wisley New Town and the RHS – they lost the fight and the 'Wisley new town' on the former airfield will now regrettably be going ahead. The final judicial review in early December was unsuccessful.

The timing of the work remains unclear as detailed planning applications have yet to be submitted but it appears certain that the disruption recently experienced by all of us will continue for at least the next decade.

HAUTBOY MEMORIES

DITZ BROWN



The Hautboy Hotel in 2006

Reading Alan Cooper's article about the Hautboy in Journal 299 brought back memories of 16th January 2006, a date that would change our lives.

Having always lived in towns we'd reached a now-or-never decision: would we be brave enough to follow our dream of living in an ancient house, a 'bit of history', which necessitated a move to a more rural environment? Old friends of ours who had taken exactly such a step a few years previously helped with taking this decision and took us to the Hautboy in Ockham to celebrate.

This will have been during the period Alan refers to as 'having been re-opened briefly'. How I wish I had taken photographs, as this upstairs pub was simply glorious with its Gothic arches and fabulous murals. Plus, we had the best fish and chips ever and decided that we should have

an anniversary dinner there with our friends every year.

Unfortunately this was not to be as the upstairs pub was closed in 2007, but at least we could dine in the handsome restaurant below where, after having been greeted by a parrot at the reception desk, we also had a nice meal. Sadly, when 2008 came round for us to celebrate our anniversary once more we had to find another venue as by then the Hautboy had shut up for good. Regrettably this Ockham landmark was split up and redeveloped which means that this most unusual of hostelrys became lost to the public forever.

I remembered a card I had picked up at the Hautboy in 2006 depicting the outside of this Lovelace building on one side and giving its history at the back, which I replicate here in full:

The Hautboy Inn at Ockham was built in 1864 by William 1st Earl of Lovelace, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and owner of Ockham Park. It replaced the old Hautboy and Fiddle Inn at Bridge End, Ockham, which the Earl had acquired in 1833, when the previous owner went bankrupt. Lovelace adopted the rather fanciful neo-gothic architectural style which he used for his property throughout the area. The materials used for the building were the famous Ockham bricks, baked in the brickyards off Long Reach, for which the Earl had received a medal at the Great Exhibition in 1851. The Inn was adorned with quatrefoils (four-petalled flowers) and highly decorated mock-Tudor windows and Lovelace is said to have personally superintended the bending by steam of all the roof beams. It was a process on which the Earl was an authority and upon which he had delivered a paper to the Institution of Civil Engineers, of which he was a member in 1849. A feature of the great hall, in which the tenants paid their rents twice a year to the Earl's agent, is the immense chandelier said to have been once the wheel rim of a carriage belonging to the King of Spain.

Lord Lovelace was extremely conscious of his family connections and this fact is illustrated by the five shields of arms which are to be found decorating the outside walls of the Hautboy, each surmounted by the Earl's coronet. Three of these shields contain the arms of King (three silver spearheads on a black field beneath as many axeheads on a blue field) with an inescutcheon or shield within a shield bearing the arms of Byron (three red bendlets ^[1] on a silver field). This particular representation commemorates the marriage in 1835 of Lovelace, then Lord King, with Augustus Ada, only daughter of the famous poet, Lord Byron. The other two shields bear the arms of Noel (red trellis work with an ermine corner on a gold field) and mark the occasion in 1860 when the Earl inherited a fortune from the Noel family, relatives on his wife's side of the family. In order to acquire this wealth the Earl adopted the name and the arms of Noel and most of his buildings from then on were decorated with the quartered arms of King and Noel, thus emphasising that Lovelace was no longer William King but William King-Noel.

The Hautboy - the name is derived from the French haut-bois, the wooden wind-instrument producing a high-pitched note, now known as the Oboe. The premises had their moment of notoriety in October 1898 when Mrs Martha Sprague, the landlady, refused to serve Viscountess Harberton, a prominent Rational Dress campaigner, with lunch in the coffee room and instead offered her accommodation in the more spartan

bar parlour. Because she felt it might upset her coffee room customers, Mrs Sprague had objected to the knickerbocker costume which the Viscountess wore for cycling instead of the then usual full-length skirt.

A prosecution for failing to provide a traveller with refreshment was brought by the Cyclist' Touring Club on Lady Harberton's behalf, but at the Surrey Quarter Sessions in Kingston in April 1899 the case was dismissed on the ground that the bar parlour was adequate, even for a Viscountess.

Nowadays, of course, the Hautboy welcomes customers in trouser suits in any of its rooms, so much so that on the centenary of the court hearing, our management was delighted to entertain Lady Harberton's descendants, even though some were in costume! Indeed, because the Hautboy agreed all those years ago to serve the Viscountess (albeit not in the room of her choice), it can be claimed that we helped indirectly to make it acceptable for women generally to wear divided clothing in public!

The Earl of Lovelace died in 1893 and his Ockham estates, including the Hautboy were inherited, first by his elder surviving son Sir Ralph Milbanke, 2nd Earl of Lovelace and finally by his grand-daughter Judith, Baroness Wentworth.

On Lady Wentworth's death in 1957 the Hautboy, like the rest of the Ockham property, passed out of the family, gradually losing much of its original splendour, until recently restored to its former glory.



The reverse of the card, relating The Hautboy's history.

^[1] A bendlet is a narrow diagonal stripe on a heraldic shield

HORSLEY TOWERS AND THE ELECTRICITY COUNCIL

ALAN COOPER

During May 2024 the Send & Ripley History Society paid a visit to Horsley Towers, an account of which is featured in Journal J297. Here we see how the country's electricity industry briefly occupied the property from 1939-1990.

The illustrations for this article are Frith's postcards, issued in packets of six during the 1950s. I have two different sets and probably more exist.

Horsley Towers was initially used as the wartime headquarters of the CEB (Central Electricity Board), with a number of Nissen huts being erected in the grounds to provide temporary accommodation for the staff. At nationalisation the property passed into the hands of the BEA (British Electricity Authority) who converted it for use as a training centre. Ownership was then transferred to the EC (Electricity Council) following the 1957 Electricity Act. Even in the early EC years student accommodation remained in the wartime Nissen huts which had communal washing facilities (no such thing as en-suite in those days!).

In later times a purpose-designed training and accommodation block was built in the grounds, the infamous Nissen huts then being dismantled and removed. Courses were run mainly for area board management and supervisory staff since the CEEGB (Central Electricity Generating Board) had their own management training centre at Buxton in Derbyshire, also inherited from the CEA (Central Electricity Authority) and later relocated to Bricket Wood on the northern outskirts of London.

In the early years a characteristic of the Horsley Towers courses was, that since they commenced at Monday lunchtime (to allow attendees to travel to Horsley on a Monday morning) it was deemed necessary to finish Saturday lunchtime (presumably to get a full five days' work in, though there was no paid overtime for the Saturday attendance!).^[1]

The electricity supply industry was nationalised in 1947 but privatised in 1990 whereupon Horsley Towers was sold off and is currently in the ownership of the De Vere hotel group.



The label from the original packaging of a set of Frith's postcards offered by a local retailer, VC Yates of the post office, located in nearby Bishopsmead Parade, East Horsley



Top: The lounge and bottom: The library



Various views of Horsley Towers



Views of the demonstration room

Interestingly, in 1966 an EC demonstration of battery electric vehicles created wide interest, two vehicles being conversions made under an EC research contract. Although battery vehicles are very topical with today's concern about climate change this shows that the idea is by no means new and a lot of pioneering work was carried out many years ago by the EC.

^[1] *History of the Electricity Council* by Chris Buck – from a supplement to the *Histelec News*, March 2009

All photos c/o Alan Cooper Collection



Top: The main staircase. Bottom: The dining room

BYGONE DAYS

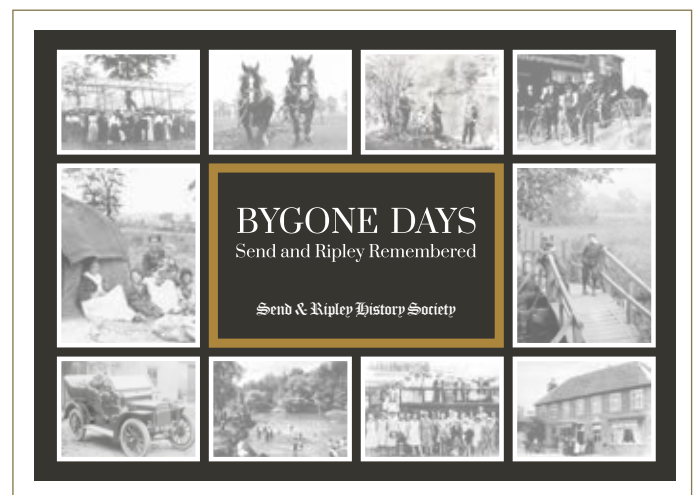
CAMERON BROWN

JUST A REMINDER THAT OUR NEW BOOK BYGONE DAYS IS NOW AVAILABLE.

Local memories have been collected over most of the fifty years since the founding of the Society in 1975. Some were put into book form when *The Memories of War* was published and others appear in our WWI book, *Heroes All*. Some were included in *Ripley and Send, an Historical Pub Crawl* and from time to time snippets have appeared in the Journals. We have tried not to overlap with these publications too much while attempting to do justice to the large body of work represented by the local memories recorded by Jane Bartlett and her group that has not yet appeared in print.

The original transcriptions were chronological and this book groups them in themes such as 'Life at Home', 'Schooldays', Shops and Shopping and so on.

Bygone Days has been a labour of love for the Society. The original tape recordings were transcribed in note form and have been newly edited by Clare McCann and Janet Tice for use in this publication. The original, unedited transcripts of the interviews and most of the recordings have been preserved for future researchers.



Many of the anecdotes recounted are pre-war or even pre-First World War and are illustrated from the Society's collection of over 7,000 photographs.

The book is a handy small format – A5 – paperback, 178 pages and printed to a very high quality. We are able to sell it at £9.99 as we received a generous grant from the Surrey Museums Partnership. Get your copies from the museum or the BOOKS section of our website, or email Clare or me.

JOVIAL SAILOR STONEWARE FLAGON

ALAN COOPER

Stoneware flagons were widely used to hold numerous different liquids from beverages to chemicals, with the majority encountered today being used for drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic.

Flagons were produced in a large range of sizes, typically from 1/2 gallon to 6 gallons with many being used as dispensers, commonly known as tap jars.

Their popularity faded around the same time as ginger beer bottles in the 1920s, although examples are known with 1950s and even 1960s dates printed on them. Prior to around 1890 most flagons had impressed markings, as did ginger beer bottles. However, those manufactured later tended to have printed markings. Doulton & Co of Lambeth, London, were prolific manufacturers of these vessels and it is their products that are generally found.

Whilst plain stoneware flagons are relatively common, those found with manufacturers' advertising applied to them are far less so. The rarest and hence least often encountered (in the drinks world) are those which advertise an individual public house as seen here – J A Wickens, Jovial Sailor, Ripley. The impressed lettering dates this to the Victorian period.

John Wickens was born in 1836 at Papercourt Lock, Send, where his father James worked as a carpenter and lock keeper. Following his father, John also became a carpenter, working at Papercourt where he took over the position of carpenter and lock keeper in 1857 following his father's retirement the previous year. He married Grace Harnes, a servant from Ripley on 30th July 1860 at St Mary's, Send, where his father James was buried on 27th December 1860. ^[1]

John became publican of the Jovial Sailor in 1866 and died there 9th January 1886 aged 49. He was buried at St Mary's, Ripley, on 15th January 1886. Following a childless marriage, Grace then remarried on 17th September 1887 to the widower George Brown at St John the Evangelist, Stoke and died in Guildford in 1918 aged 82.



Flagon advertising the Jovial Sailor

Like John Wickens, George Brown was also a carpenter and it is interesting to ponder on whether they were acquainted or indeed worked together before John's death. Further research provided the answer and one can assume that they were almost certainly known to each other as George Brown's father, George snr, was the previous landlord of the Jovial Sailor and died three years after John and Grace Wickens took over in 1869, also aged 49.

^[1] *London's Lost Route to the Sea* – PAL Vine

Grateful thanks to Mark Stonard for providing the photo of the flagon

50TH ANNIVERSARY QUIZ

ALAN COOPER AND JANET TICE

TO CELEBRATE OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMES THIS FUN QUIZ BASED VERY LOOSELY ON VIEWS OF SEND AND RIPLEY FROM 50 YEARS AGO – OR THEREABOUTS. THE SEND QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN COMPILED BY JANET AND RIPLEY BY ALAN. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE RELATIVELY NEW TO THE AREA, A LITTLE BIT OF ARCHITECTURAL SLEUTHING MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO ANSWER SOME OF THEM.

IMAGES OF RIPLEY



QR1: Maybe you bought your first mobile phone from this shop – what would you buy there today?



QR2: What was this somewhat isolated little building used for?



QR3: A pretty view of the rear of a High Street shop – but which one?



QR4: A strange looking building on the High Street. What was it and what is it now?



QR5: Looks like a demolition job in progress – but where?



QR6: J Gibbs Agricultural Sales outlet – what is sold there today and by whom?



QR7: A car sales garage in the village – what is sold there today?



QR8: Cut flowers and motorcycles – whose shop was this?



QR9: Once a grocery store, then later a bric-a-brac shop. Where in the village was this building located?



QR10: Architecturally, a stunning looking car sales garage. Where was it?



QR11: A fashion boutique – what is it today?



QR12: Sticks & Stones natural flooring – what business occupies this building today?



QR13: What is the name of the building to the left of this picture?



QR14: What business occupies this forecourt today?



QR15: What was Lilliput Garden and where was it?

IMAGES OF SEND



QS1: This garage was built on the site of which business?



QS2: These cottages were demolished in 1978. Where were they?



QS3: Which area in Send is named after this bridge?



QS4: Where was this shop?



QS5: Why were pedestrians able to walk on the Ripley bypass in 1976?



QS6: Who was the head teacher at this school in the early 1970s?



QS7: Which commemorative sign was erected near this shop in the 1970s?



QS8: This building was used by White Place Vineries but where was it?



QS9: Where was this shop?



QS10: This farmhouse has been demolished but where was it?



QS11: What company had their works here?



QS12: Which family ran this garage?



QS13: This company now has new premises, but where are they?



QS14: This is the rear entrance to which business?



QS15: During the 1970s many wedding receptions were held here. What was the name of the building?



A choice of views of Ripley – more may be made available depending on the number of entrants

Answers on a postcard please to...

or, if easier, send an email to either Alan Cooper (alancooper2007@btinternet.com) or Cameron Brown (cmb@aappl.com).

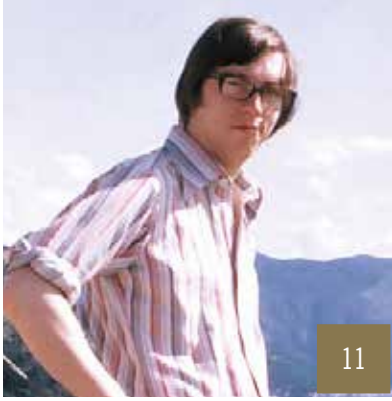
Prizes of framed views of Ripley will be given to those with the highest number of correct answers. Lucky winners can collect these from the museum, have them hand delivered with their next journal or collect at our next talk in the village hall. If posting is necessary, the Society will consider sending the image less its frame in order to save on postage since a delicate item containing glass will require substantial – and expensive packaging.

WHO ARE THEY?

DITZ BROWN

HERE IS ANOTHER NOSTALGIA QUIZ FOR YOU. THESE PHOTOS WERE ALL TAKEN IN OR AROUND 1975. CAN YOU GUESS WHO EVERYBODY IS? YOU WILL FIND THE ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FOLLOWING PAGE.





11



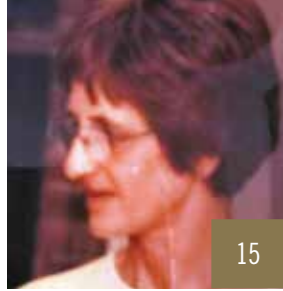
12



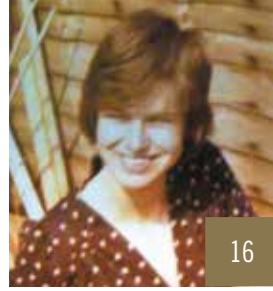
13



14



15



16



17



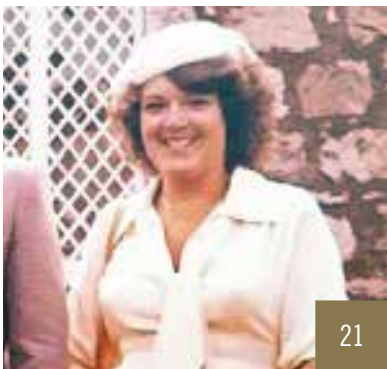
18



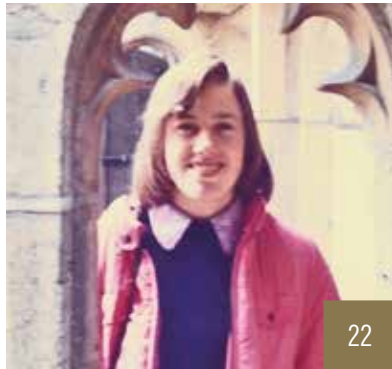
19



20



21



22



23

ANSWERS: (1) Christina Sheard (2) Norman Carpenter (3) Anne Cornell (4) Bob Wood (5) Rosie Wood (6) Annie Benning (7) Chris Finden-Browne (8) Sheila Brown (9) John Slatford (10) Ditz Brown (11) Desmond McCann (12) Colin Cross (13) Linda Davis (14) Alan Cooper (15) Dreda Todd (16) Janet Tice (17) Mike Hurdle (18) Cameron Brown (19) Ian and Edna Slater (20) Pat Clack (21) Helena Finden-Browne (22) Clare McCann (23) Jenny Jackson

WILLIAM HARVEY – THE LADIESWEAR SPECIALIST

NICHOLAS BALE

In November 2024 our Society enjoyed an illustrated talk on Guildford retailer William Harvey by Nicholas Bale, chairman of The Friends of Guildford Museum and town guide.

William Harvey was a key public figure in Guildford in the first half of the 20th century. He was the founder of the Harveys of Guildford department store (later the House of Fraser) in the High Street.

Born in 1883 in Ashford, Kent, William Harvey came from a relatively modest background but after working for one or two large stores in London he moved to Guildford in 1911 to work for Cable, Reeks & Co at 126-127 High Street. That original building was a tailor's shop established in 1725 and John Cable was the original proprietor. In January 1897 it amalgamated with a firm owned by John Reeks in the neighbouring premises and the combined business was known as Cable, Reeks and Co. By 1915 Harvey had become a partner in the business but that same year a fire destroyed the store and severely damaged neighbouring shops. Temporary premises were rented at the Old Corn Exchange (now Tunsgate) with windows onto the High Street. In 1919, after the war, Harvey returned to Guildford and took over the ladieswear department of the company.

Harvey bought Cable, Reeks and Co in 1922 and changed the business into a department store with a concentration on ladieswear and fashion, trading as 'Harveys The Ladieswear Specialist'. In 1948 the business moved into new premises on the other side of the High Street.

The store attracted locals and visitors alike, offering quality products and a level of service that earned it a loyal customer base. In an era when department stores were becoming more common in larger cities, Harveys



William Harvey in the 1930s

represented a more personal, service-oriented alternative and its success helped to define Guildford as a prosperous market town.

Harveys did, however, face challenges from larger chain stores and the new supermarkets. Despite having sentimental value for many Guildford residents who remembered its role in the town's growth and prosperity, the 1948 move to the much larger premises put the company into financial problems and in 1950 the family tried to sell it to Harrods, who declined. In April 1951 it was put into voluntary liquidation, with a new company being set up to operate the store (the equivalent of a receivership today).

In 1953 – after William's death – Harveys of Guildford was acquired by Army & Navy Stores. The store was

expanded and refurbished with the erection of a new five-storey building with a roof water garden. Army & Navy Stores owned a site in Camberley and in 1960 it was decided to build a new store there which would also trade under the name Harveys. The store opened on 14th March 1964. The original store in Guildford High Street underwent an upward extension which was completed in the autumn of 1963.

House of Fraser purchased Army & Navy in 1973 and subsequently put in place a group system for its department stores. Army & Navy became the sole brand for its shops in southeast England and both the Harveys Guildford and Camberley branches had their names changed in 1974. The two shops, which had later been rebranded again to House of Fraser, closed in 2023.

In addition to his business success, William Harvey was deeply involved in local civic life.

He served as the Mayor of Guildford from 1931-33, playing an instrumental role in the town's development during his tenure. His leadership contributed to improvements in Guildford's infrastructure, public services, and general wellbeing. As mayor, Harvey was a strong advocate for the town's residents and worked towards the improvement of local amenities, from transport links to public health initiatives.

His most notable achievement in public life was the Guildford Work Fund, a scheme to provide paid work for the unemployed in the early 1930s. The Guildford Lido, which opened in 1933, is an enduring legacy of the Work Fund project that he instigated. It was officially opened on 21st June 1933 by Harvey who was the first person to dive in and take a swim. On that day 8,000 people packed into the Lido. The Work Fund closed in 1933. Some £10,000 had been raised and more than 150,000 hours of work had been provided. In the 1934 New Year's Honours list William Harvey was appointed OBE and was also given the freedom of the borough of Guildford.

Photographs public domain unless stated otherwise



William Harvey takes the first dive into Guildford Lido, 1933



The roof water garden



Harveys of Guildford in the late 1960s. © Guildford Institute collection

THE LIFE AND ANCESTRY OF TALBOT BASHALL – PART 1

ALAN COOPER

In Journal 259, March 2018, a photo of Ripley Home Guard during WWII was featured and, at the time of publication, Talbot Henry Bashall was believed to be its only living member. Sadly, he passed away on 6th September 2020. What follows is the fascinating story of his remarkable life during which he became personally responsible for what was probably one of the greatest acts of humanitarianism of the 20th century.

During the 1970s he was in charge of the Refugee Control Centre in Hong Kong. Upwards of 800,000 ethnic Chinese people fled Vietnam over a 20-year period following the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 and it was his responsibility to process them all and see them relocated safely. It was, he said, “a challenging and demanding job – but a deeply satisfying one”. For this Herculean task Talbot became the very last person to be granted the Imperial Service Order, the award being discontinued in 1993.

But firstly, the equally fascinating account of previous generations of his family.

When I began writing this article nearly four years ago and shortly after Talbot’s death, little did I imagine it would involve major research into an area of the country far away from Surrey. Covid halted its progress and only now have I returned to complete a captivating tale of an unsung hero of Ripley who truly deserves far more credit than he received in the broadsheet newspapers following his passing.

The formative years of his family are such an important part of the story that you, the reader, must forgive me for starting this multi-part article with no mention of our two villages at all!

OVERVIEW OF THE FAMILY IN LANCASHIRE

The family are thought to have been yeoman farmers in Tudor times but our story begins in Lancashire where the Bashall family resided and built their business empire around the cotton industry during the Industrial Revolution.^[1] William Bashall (1759-1845), already a wealthy man, had 11 children and as they married it would appear that a business ethos of ‘keep it in the family’ was adopted.

His daughter Tabitha (1788-1875) married Miles Rodgett (1782-1872) who became a business partner in Cuerden Green Mill; Elizabeth (1789-1858) married Robert Snell (1787-1857), also a partner in Cuerden Green Mill, and Ellen (1794-1842) married John Park (1789-1851), a wealthy businessman.

William Bashall’s three surviving sons expanded the cotton empire as William (1796-1871) married Margaret Boardman, whose brother William became his business partner in Boardman and Bashall Ltd, which owned Farington Mill.

The couple lived at Farington Lodge, adjacent to Farington House, the palatial home of the Boardmans. Richard (1800-1861) lived in Lostock House and later Bashall’s Lodge. It would appear he took over the running of Cuerden Green Mill following the death of his father in 1845. John (1802-1874) married Charlotte Bodkin, whose father Peter lived in Clerkenwell, Middlesex. John and Charlotte moved south, firstly to Islington, then Kingston, Surrey and was described in the 1851 census as a ‘proprietor of houses and fundholder’.

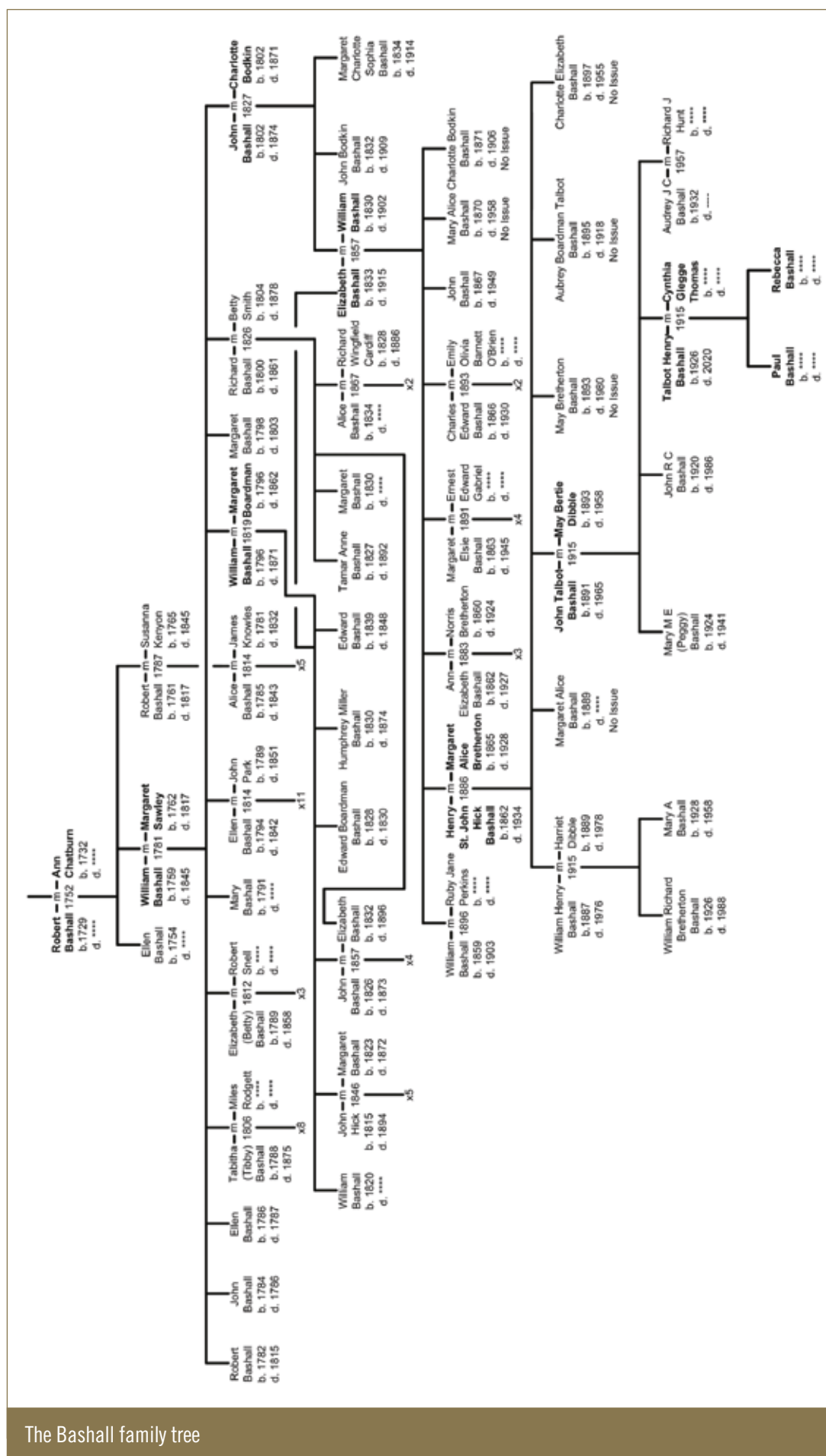


Farington Lodge – home to William Bashall and Margaret (née Boardman)

Peter Bodkin (John Bashall's father-in-law) came from a long-established family in County Galway, Ireland, and Charlotte was the youngest of six children. Her brother William Henry, knighted in 1867, became a barrister and Conservative party politician, sitting in the House of Commons from 1841-1847 as MP for Rochester, Kent, before finally becoming a judge.

The practice of marriages of convenience, notably with the children of William and Margaret continued with the marriage of cousins. William's daughter Elizabeth married her cousin William (John and Charlotte's son) and his son John married his cousin Elizabeth (Richard's daughter).

Next, William's daughter Margaret married John Hick, a wealthy industrialist and partner in the business Hick Hargreaves and Son, whose foundry manufactured a wide range of products for customers at home and overseas (including India, Russia, Spain, South America, China,





William Henry Bodkin – painted by William Richard Waters

and Japan). They specialised in the manufacture of stationary and locomotive steam engines, boilers, water wheels and mill gearing. Also, a noted art collector, John Hicke was later the Conservative MP for Bolton from 1868 to 1880. John and Margaret's daughter – also Margaret – married Edmund Ashworth, a master engineer in the cotton manufacturing trade, employing over 800 men, women and children and living at Egerton Hall.

The next generation saw William and Elizabeth's daughter Ann Elizabeth marry Norris Bretherton and their son Henry married Margaret Alice Bretherton; Norris and Margaret Alice were two of the grandchildren of William Bretherton and Alice Boardman. The Brethertons had been yeoman farmers in Tudor times and had married into the Boardman family – both families now local business owners and extremely wealthy.

CUERDEN GREEN MILL

Cuerden Green Mill (aka Bamber Bridge Mill and Woodcock Hall Mill) was built in 1783 by William Winstanley on the north side of the River Lostock. Following his death in 1799, his widow sold the mill to William Bashall (1759-1845) who continued its expansion. A new steam engine was installed in 1817 and by the 1830s power looms were in operation. The

mill was severely damaged by a catastrophic fire in 1874 which completely destroyed the machinery. It appears the mill was subsequently repaired and sold.

The mills were located to exploit their surroundings, namely rivers and farms. Water was always in demand for the cotton bleachers and the dairy farms provided urine and dung used for dye-fixing. As they prospered, the owners' families took over the properties once owned by the landed gentry and it appeared that this scenario would continue indefinitely. Today however, none remain.

FARINGTON MILL

On 14th August 1834, the *London Gazette* proclaimed: 'The Co-partnership lately subsisting between William Bashall the younger, Robert Snell and Richard Bashall all of Walton-le-dale and John Bashall of the City of London, cotton-spinners and cotton-manufacturers, under the firm of William Bashall and Company was on 30th June last past dissolved by mutual consent'.

William Bashall and William Boardman then teamed up to work on a highly ambitious project – Farington Mill.

Clearly astute businessmen, they took the unprecedented decision to build an immense, brand new type of spinning mill, complete with a whole village to house its workers on a site remote from the industrial areas of Preston. Construction began in 1834 and in July 1836 spinning commenced. Visionary perhaps, or maybe they had some 'insider knowledge' as this coincided with the construction of the new and adjacent railway line by The Preston and Wigan Railway Co.

Initially Mill Lane housed the workforce but, as the mill grew, housing at Spring Gardens and East Street appeared, along with a mill school in 1843.



Spring Gardens, the second phase of workforce housing built during the 1840s

The 1851 census records Bashall and Boardman employing 308 men, 333 women and 356 children. Although the mill owners made vast fortunes and experienced luxurious lifestyles, (William - like John Hick - was known to have amassed a large fine art collection and both Bashall and Boardman built themselves huge villas) it was an altogether different story for the local people who exclusively made up the workforce with hardship seemingly around every corner. The late 1830s saw fighting between mill workers and Irish labourers building the nearby railway, with one killed and as many as 40 injured in what became known as the 'battle of Farington'. ^[2]

In 1853 the mill owners chose to side with fellow owners in nearby Preston coping with a striking workforce and locked out the workers. This continued for 30 weeks during which time, in an attempt to break the deadlock, scab labour or 'knobsticks' as they became known then, were recruited from nearby Manchester, Yorkshire, and even from the South.

A decade later, the American civil war contributed to the Lancashire 'cotton famine' of 1862 to 1864 and again, some 1700 workers found themselves existing on poor-relief, having to walk six miles to Preston to claim it.

Following on from the 'Cotton Famine', Bashall's Sidings were constructed. This was by private agreement with the railway company and although not perfectly situated, the mill could call upon its large numbers of employees to lend a hand and mostly women were sent down from the mill to push wagons up a very steep and curved incline into the yard.

Events took a turn for the worse for both parties when, in 1867, a disastrous fire totally destroyed the mill. It was however rebuilt in record time.

William died in 1871 leaving the equivalent of £12.5 million today, a figure that could have been considerably larger were it not for the previously mentioned issues that beset the business. To many, this probably seems



Farington Mill, with Mill Lane, home to many of the workforce, at the top of the picture. Note also the chimney which, at 225 feet tall, was a visible landmark for miles around

a relatively small figure considering the amount of property owned – but then, a millworker's terraced cottage could be built for less than £50 - and they then paid rent to live in them!

TO BE CONTINUED....

^[1] Interview with Audrey Bashall (Talbot's Sister) in 2021

^[2] Many of the Irish contingent settled locally after railway and canal projects reached their conclusion

Photo of William Henry Bodkin (painted by William Richard Waters) public domain

All other photos c/o Peter Houghton

Grateful thanks to: Audrey Bashall and Peter Houghton – Leyland Historical Society

Swimming	Snorkelling	Scuba Diving
----------	-------------	--------------



PADI 5* IDC Centre
Retail Shop
Escorted Holidays
Equipment Servicing
Friendly Advice

*"We don't run courses....
We teach you to dive!"*

67 High Street Ripley Surrey GU23 6AN
01483 22 56 99
www.surreydivecentre.co.uk

TOMBSTONES WITH LOCAL LINKS

CLARE McCANN



Lady Margaret Beaufort's tomb in Westminster Abbey. There are Tudor rose on both pillows

Recently Desmond and I visited Westminster Abbey after a gap of many years - in fact I think the price of my old guide book was in shillings and pence. We decided to wander rather than take a tour and ended up spending about three hours looking at all the tombs and memorial plaques.

Amongst them were a few of local interest including Lady Margaret Beaufort.^[1] Woking Palace was one of her favourite homes during her long life. She outlived her son, Henry VII and it was her grandson Henry VIII who commissioned this magnificent tomb.

Another memorial that caught our eye was dedicated to John Earl Ligonier, Baron Ripley. Those of you who came to the Georgian exhibition at the museum may remember he was the remarkable man who came to England as a little boy from France and rose to be head of the British army in the eighteenth century.

Although taking the title Baron Ripley he is actually buried in Cobham but memorialised in Westminster Abbey.^[2]

The only other memorial we spotted with a local connection was one to the writer PG Wodehouse.^[3] He is buried in Long Island, New York but was born in Guildford.

We also spent a week in Shropshire and again my eye was caught by a tomb, this time in Shrewsbury Abbey. It was of Richard Onslow, born 1528, and his wife Catherine. I had always assumed the Onslow family was from Surrey but it seems that they originally hailed from Shropshire. Richard Onslow was the first of three Onslows to serve as speaker of the House of Commons and it was one of the later speakers, the Right Honourable Arthur Onslow of Clandon Park, who carried out some repairs to the tomb in 1742.



The Onslow tomb in Shrewsbury Abbey

At that time they were buried in St Chad's church in Shrewsbury and were only moved to the Abbey in 1788.

According to the Abbey guide poor Richard and his wife have not only been moved from their original resting place but even within the Abbey. However, it is a handsome tomb in a beautiful setting and worth a visit.

Do let our journal editor know if you spot anything of local interest when you are on your travels.

^[1] See article '40 Years ago' by Cameron Brown in Journal 293

^[2] See article 'Georgian Send and Ripley' by Clare McCann in Journal 294

^[3] See article 'PG Wodehouse' by Ditz Brown in Journal 289

OPEN ALL DAY, EVERY DAY FOR GREAT FOOD

Kid's
Play area
& Menu

ESTD 1791
THE JOVIAL SAILOR

Portsmouth Rd, Ripley, Surrey GU23 6EZ
www.baronspubs.com | 01483 224360 | jovialsailor@baronspubs.com

follow us or download the BaronsApp from your app store

MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN

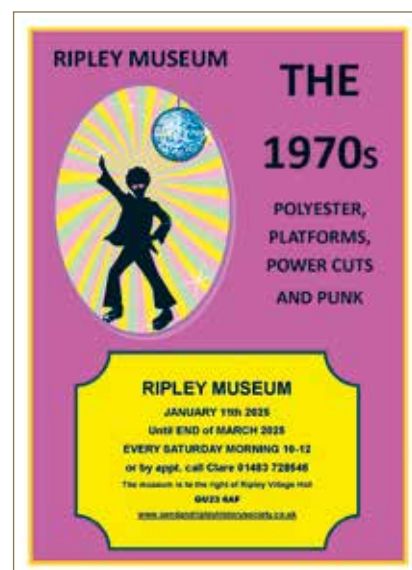
The exhibition entitled 'He's Behind You! Amateur Dramatics in Send and Ripley' was fun, if a bit challenging to put together. What pleased me was that the idea came from one of the Society's members and more suggestions would be welcome. A short Christmas themed exhibition filled the gap until the New Year. It fitted in nicely with the new publication, *Bygone Days*, as local memories of Christmas crop up here and there in the text. For example we had fuzzies (local name for gorse) and pinies (pine cones) in our 'fireplace' - ready to light for a Christmas fire.

The New Year brought a total change of mood – we hope to stir memories of the 1970s – once called the 'decade that taste forgot'. It was, however, also the decade that saw the formation of the Send History Society – later the Send & Ripley History Society. Please feel free to contribute 70s memories and memorabilia.

Don't forget that we are open every Saturday from 10 – 12 but also by arrangement with me.

Finally, I would like to remind you about signing up for the Wey and Arun Canal boat trip. I know the 11th of June seems a bit distant but the number signing up affects the size of boat and we need to let them know in good time. It is anticipated that the cost will be £20 – £25 but at this stage

we are looking for a £10 per person deposit. I suggest you send requests/money to either Helena Finden Browne helena_findenbrowne@compuserve.com or tell me 01483 728546 cricketshill@hotmail.com



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

With the exception of February's dinner, meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Ripley Village Hall. Doors open for all evening talks at 7.30pm for an 8.00 start. Tea/coffee and wine available. NB – payment by cash only.

DATES - 2025	EVENTS
Friday 21st February	Society 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner (fully booked)
Wednesday 12th March	AGM: Premiere of Historic Ripley Walk Film
Wednesday 9th April	Anna Cusack talk: <i>17th & 18th Century Female Criminals of Surrey</i>
May Outing	TBC
Wednesday 11th June	Wey and Arun Canal boat trip
July/August	Society BBQ TBA
Wednesday 10th September	TBA
Wednesday 8th October	Jean Wickens Talk : <i>History of Allotments</i>
Wednesday 12th November	TBA
Wednesday 10th December	Christmas Party

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

SEND & RIPLEY LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS



THE MUSEUM IS BEHIND VICTORY HOUSE
AND TO THE RIGHT OF THE NEW VILLAGE HALL

OPEN: SATURDAY MORNINGS 10.00 – 12.00

We can arrange to open at other times by appointment

Please contact Clare McCann on 01483 728546 or
cricketshill@hotmail.com for further information or if
you wish to help in the museum

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Bygone Days, Send and Ripley Remembered		£9.99
Frank Brown, Ripley to Rothesay – Journeyman Painter		£5.00
History Colouring Book (price includes felt tips and a carrier bag)		£5.00
Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life	Reprinted 1998/2006	£10.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.00
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£2.50
Ripley and Send – Looking Back	Reprinted 2007	£9.00
A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£2.50
Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2012	£4.00
The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£4.00
Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures	New Edition 2017	£5.00
Two Surrey Village Schools – The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools		£10.00
The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey		£2.00
Memories of War		£5.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£6.50
Send and Ripley Walks (revised edition)		£7.50
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£5.00
Special Offer: Purchase Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£5.50
Heroes All		£20.00

All the publications are available from the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk, the museum on Saturday mornings or email srhistorysociety@gmail.com. A selection is available from Pinnock's Coffee House, Ripley

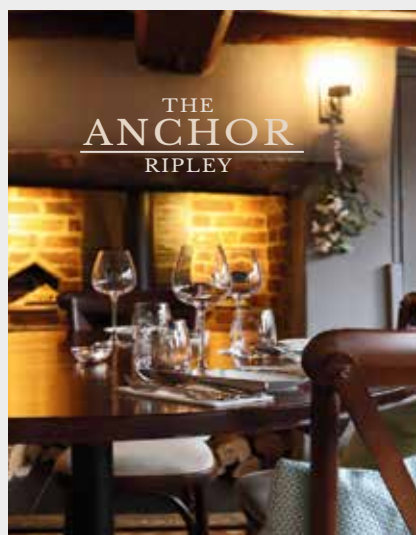


Come and join us for drinks on the decking,
overlooking the beautiful Papercourt Lake

Check out our website for opening times,
menu, distillery tour dates and more!

POLESDEN LANE, RIPLEY, SURREY, GU23 6JX | 01483 222392

WWW.DISTILLERSOFSURREY.COM



TWO AA ROSETTES | MICHELIN BIB GOURMAND | THE GOOD FOOD GUIDE 2024



Wednesdays to Saturdays
Lunch & Dinner

Award winning restaurant in the heart of
Ripley Village with a focus on fresh,
local & Seasonal produce.

We provide a relaxed environment to enjoy
casual family lunches, special occasion
dinners or a quick drink & nibble.



• SET LUNCH MENU THREE COURSES FOR £34 • A LA CARTE •
• FIVE COURSE TASTING • WINE PAIRINGS • 0% PAIRINGS • PRIVATE HIRE

www.ripleyanchor.co.uk | 01483 211 866 | info@ripleyanchor.co.uk

RIPLEY FARM SHOP

Fruit & Vegetables
Meat - Fish - Dairy - Eggs
and much more

Open 7 Days
a week

01483 225090

www.RIPLEYNURSERIES.co.uk



C. F. Hall & Co. Ltd.

We are your local Euronics electrical retailer,
established for more than 60 years.



Sony, Panasonic, Bosch, Samsung, Miele, Roberts, Sebo,
Toshiba, Dyson, Pure, Zanussi, Blomberg & many more top brands

2 Station Approach | East Horsley | 01483 282945
www.cfhall.com



J. HARTLEY ANTIQUES Ltd

Tel: 01483 224318

Specialising in
Edwardian, Queen Anne,
Georgian & Regency Furniture.
Trade and Export

Mon-Fri 9-5.30 186 High Street, Ripley,
Sat 9.30-4 Surrey GU23 6BB.



Miss Bush

Bridal Boutique

Luxury wedding dresses in Ripley since 1988. Visit our
unique Victorian chapel on Ripley High Street.

www.missbush.co.uk

Alan Greenwood & Sons

Independent Family Funeral Directors



We offer a Caring and Compassionate Service
24 hours a day 365 days a year
The latest Jaguar or Mercedes Funeral Vehicles
Golden Charter Pre-paid Funeral Plans
Home Visit Arrangements
We will not be beaten on price
Direct Cremation £950 T.B. CD APPLY

Please Visit Our Website for Full Details of Our Branches and Services
and also to View All Our Local Obituaries

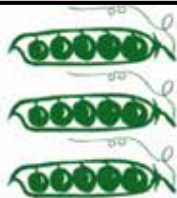
www.alangreenwoodfunerals.com



66 Send Road
Send
GU23 7EU

01483 210 222

send@alangreenwoodfunerals.com



Ripley
Farmers'
Market

Visit us on Ripley Green
on the second Saturday of every month from 9am to 1pm



Buy a wide range of fresh produce and special treats for your
weekend from small local traders.



@ripleyfarmersmarket



@ripleyfarmersmarket



@RipleyFarmersM

www.ripleyfarmersmarket.co.uk



Pinnock's

COFFEE HOUSE

A CUP ABOVE THE REST

MON-SAT: 9AM-4PM SUNDAY: 10AM-4PM
WWW.PINNOCKSCOFFEEHOUSE.COM 01483 222419