

FERRING HISTORY MAGAZINE

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North East view of Ferring Church 1777-1783 by J Lambert, from the British Library Archives
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COVER STORY

by David Garnett

The earliest known picture of Ferring is a drawing of St Andrew's Church which is in the archives of the British Library where it is listed as: A north-east view, in Indian ink, of Ferring Church drawn by J. Lambert, 1777-1783, 9" by 7½".

The most evident difference between the church today and the one in the illustration is the absence of a bell turret. The drawing shows how St Andrew's looked when it was visited by "S.S." who wrote in the September 1790 issue of *The Topographer (Containing a Variety of Original Articles Illustrative of the Local History and Antiquities of this Kingdom)*: '... its mean appearance is rather a curiosity, being without a steeple ...'

There is, however, a Ferring tradition that St Andrew's did once have a tower, built upon the massive walls of the porch. This could explain the blocked-up doorway still in the east wall of the porch; it may have been the exit from a stairway within such a turret. The doorway on the outer wall of the porch was hidden when the nave was first rendered in 1875, then rough cast in 1886, but its outline can be clearly seen in the Lambert drawing.

'J. Lambert' was James Lambert of Lewes. But there were two James Lamberts of Lewes, uncle and nephew, both artists, and both painted and drew Sussex churches. Between them, James Snr (1725-1788) and James Jnr (1741-1799) produced over 600 works, and it can be very difficult to identify which pictures were by whom. James Jnr was more of an architectural artist and concerned with a precise depiction, often using a ruler and set square to ensure accuracy. James Snr (self-portrait right) is acknowledged as the better artist of the two, who would add trees and wildlife to improve the composition. The birds soaring above St Andrew's suggest that the drawing is by him.



Along with other artists, the Lamberts were employed by the antiquarian Sir William Burrell (1732-1796) to make an accurate record of over a thousand significant Sussex buildings: churches, castles, country houses. Burrell was a wealthy lawyer and himself travelled throughout the county to transcribe parish records and monumental inscriptions. On his death, he bequeathed his entire collection, including 269 paintings and drawings by the Lamberts, to the British Museum. It is now in the British Library. Until the BL listing was discovered in 2016 and scanned for Ferring History Group, the 18th century drawing of St Andrew's had probably been unseen since it was first catalogued two centuries earlier. It is reproduced here by permission of the British Library

FERRING HISTORY MAGAZINE

Journal of the Ferring History Group. Compiled by Ed Miller: EdMiller43@msn.com No. 3

This is the third edition of the Magazine in its new format. Inside, you will find reports of our meetings in 2015 – all of them well-attended, with presentations of great interest – as well as informative articles on aspects of Ferring's history. Our first article, below is of special interest, reporting a surprising discovery in the British Museum.

We have a good programme of meetings, walks and visits for 2017 and, between times, you can keep in touch through our e mail circulars (please ask to be added to the list) if you would like this) and our web site (ferringhistorygroup.co.uk - There are many open pages but please mail us for access to the Members Only pages).

'... HOUSE, FERRING, SUSSEX'

by David Garnett

In the archives of the British Museum is a small (10 inches high, 12½ inches wide) drawing with a four word inscription written on the front. The last three words are 'House, Ferring, Sussex' and (excluding views of St Andrew's church) it is the oldest known picture of the village.

Described in the museum catalogue as 'thatched cottage, with low wall in front of it, road passing by towards right. Graphite, heightened with white on brownish paper' it evidently shows the house now known as Maytree Cottage, at the corner of Ferring Street and Church Lane. The drawing is at least a century and a half old, and there have been obvious changes to the building since that time: the chimney stack has been removed, and the timber frame is no longer visible because the exterior wall is now in knapped flint.



Pen and ink, by Norman Jones, from *St. Andrew's Church in the village of Ferring* (1982). Maytree Cottage is almost certainly the oldest house in Ferring, dating back at least as far as the sixteenth century, and was at one time part of the adjacent Evergreen Cottage. Ronald Kerridge and Michael Standing, in their book *Ferring Past* (1993), state: 'It was originally a four- or five-bay timber framed house . . . with one continuous roof at the same level as that of Evergreen Cottage today . . . By the end of the 16th century the installation of a chimney had started, and eventually two chimneys were built, back to back; a partition was added with connecting doorways, effectively separating the building into two inter-connecting units; new outer walls in flint had been constructed and the roof had been raised to its present level. Most of this was probably achieved by the early part of the 17th century.'

Although the roof had been raised by the time of the drawing, the massive chimney had not been removed and the medieval timberwork was not yet hidden by flint. In 1863 the house was bought by Edwin Henty, and it may be assumed that this was when the other work began, giving Maytree Cottage the appearance it has today.

The drawing was by Montague Penley (1799-1881) — note the artist's initials above the doorway — who was born in Folkestone, into a theatrical family. His father, Sampson Penley, had a company which toured the theatres of Kent and Sussex, and in 1815 he took over the lease of the Theatre Royal, in Windsor. This notice appeared in the *The Windsor and Eton Express and General Advertiser*, 30 September 1826:

'Under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Augusta, Drawing and Perspective, Taught by Montague Penley, Particularly the fashionable and superior art of Crayon Drawing, his proficiency in which was acquired under the celebrated Monsieur Cheni, professor of the Academie Royale, Paris.'

Although Penley acted in some of his father's productions, much of his work was as set designer and scenery painter. ('We did not conceive it possible that so much scenic effect could have been produced on so small a stage,' wrote *The Windsor Express*, and *The Newcastle Courant* said: 'The new scenes, which have been, executed by Mr Penley and assistants, are bold, striking, and effective, and display great excellence as works of art.') By the late 1830s he had taken over the lease of the Windsor theatre from his father and was also managing two others, the Lyceum in London and the New Theatre in Newcastle. Penley seems to have had little enthusiasm for the life of an impresario, his main interest continuing to be fine art, and his theatrical ventures were not a success.

He and his wife, Laetitia, moved to Paris in 1841. While there, three of his works were accepted by the Academie des Beaux-Arts for their annual exhibition in the Salon. The Penleys returned to England in 1847 and lived in Brighton for the rest of their lives. The 1871 census includes Penley as an artist and teacher of painting. Four of his works are listed in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, three more are in Brighton Art Gallery — and one is in Worthing Art Gallery and Museum: 'Highdown, the Miller's Tomb'.

There is, however, more to the Ferring drawing than its age. The full inscription reads: 'Constable's House, Ferring, Sussex'. And 'Constable' can only be John Constable (1776-1837), one of Britain's two most celebrated landscape artists. (The other, of course, is J.M.W. Turner, Constable's great rival.) As confirmation, the British Museum describes the drawing as 'John Constable's house, Ferring, Sussex'.



This pencil drawing by Montague Penley is reproduced by permission of the British Museum.

Could this be correct? Did Constable ever have a house in Ferring? There is no apparent evidence apart from Montague Penley's drawing, but equally there is no reason why Penley should deface one of his own works with such a mischievous inscription.

It is known that Constable lived in Brighton between 1824 and 1828. During this period, he sketched and painted many scenes of Brighton and Hove, and also of nearby Shoreham and Newhaven. When he married Lactitia in 1829, Montague Penley's address was given as Charlotte Street, Brighton, and it is quite possible that he had been there for some time before that — little more than a mile from Sober's Gardens, where Constable was living.

In the mid-1820s, the population of Brighton was 35,000, and Penley would certainly have known that Constable was living in the town. As an ambitious young artist, he may also have made it his business to meet one of the country's most famous painters. This seems the most reasonable explanation for Penley knowing of 'Constable's house, Ferring' — that Constable had told him about it, and perhaps Penley had even visited him at the house.

It was not until 2011 that the location of Constable's Brighton home, where he had lived for four years, were identified. Assuming that he did stay in Ferring, and the phrase 'Constable's House' suggests it was for more than a few days, there is no reason why there should be any record. The village population in the first half of the nineteenth century was under 200, and few (if any) would even have heard of John Constable.

Constable returned to Sussex in 1834 and 1835, when he painted scenes of Chichester,

Fittleworth, Middleton and Petworth. Much nearer to Ferring, he also sketched produced views of Findon and Littlehampton. This may have been the period of 'Constable's House, Ferring', and Montague Penley was aware of this because he still knew Constable from his time in Brighton.

The drawing is undated, and so could have been made long after Constable had left. Penley may have drawn it after his return from Paris in 1847. What is known is that Penley continued his work as an artist. He had several pictures in the Art and Industry Exhibition at the Royal Pavilion in 1867, for example.

The connection between Penley and Constable is conjecture, and the only known reference to both Constable and Ferring is the title of the drawing. After so much time, finding any other link between the two is unlikely. But what cannot be doubted is the drawing itself. In 1953, it was one of over 200 donations to the British Museum by Edward Croft-Murray (1907-1980), who was the author of numerous books and papers on fine art. Born in Chichester, educated at Lancing College, Croft-Murray became Assistant Keeper of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum in 1933 and was promoted to Keeper in 1954, serving as such until 1973. The Montague Penley drawing was part of his own collection, and he must have been intrigued by the 'Constable's House' inscription. Given his profession, it is difficult to imagine that he did not research a drawing which he had owned.

During his time as Keeper of Prints and Drawings, Croft-Murray was the main contributor to the British Museum's catalogue of British drawings. Who better to describe his own donations? It was probably he who added the definitive 'John' to the drawing's original four word title, confirming its authenticity as 'John Constable's house, Ferring, Sussex'.

But absolute proof will only come when one of Constable's own paintings or sketches of Ferring is discovered . . .

FOOD HOARDING IN FERRING?

There is an interesting reference to Ferring in *A Grim Almanac of Sussex* by Johnnie Johnson (The History Press 2007), which is in our FHG lending library. Johnnie gave a talk to our Group a few years ago on 'Sussex: Curious Beliefs and Superstitions'.

He reports that on 9 June 1941 Alexander Low was fined by Worthing Rural Food Committee for permitting food to be wasted in wartime. Three months earlier his house on the corner of Sea Lane and Beehive Lane, which he had left empty, was broken into and when the police searched the premises they found over 300 tins of different kinds of food, 'comprising things which made their mouth water'. There were 29 tins of golden syrup, 27 tins of tinned milk, 28 jars of jam, 118lb of sugar, 11lb of butter, 10lb of mincemeat, 44 jars of marmalade, 100lb of honey, 7lb of tea and various tins of salmon and fruit. Most of this was now on ration or simply unavailable but much of the food had now gone off.

Low, who was a commercial photographer, said he had been quartermaster of the Norfolk Broads Cruise for Boys and the honorary treasurer of a mission in London, and so had bought food in considerable quantities for the various camps and other activities. When the war broke out he had transferred the food from Norfolk to Ferring, believing it to be a less vulnerable area. Then the camps had been discontinued and the mission taken over by another authority.

In June 1940, after the collapse of France, fearing invasion, he and his family evacuated themselves to Minehead, and he had left the food behind.

It is difficult to know how much of this story the Food Committee believed.

SUSSEX AND THE CIVIL WAR

report by Eileen Godfrey

Helen Poole was our Speaker at our August, 2016 meeting. She spoke about the involvement of Sussex during the English Civil War. Helen is an historian and archaeologist and has a long career as a museum curator. She is currently Curator of Crawley museum in Goff's Park which is a house built for Edwin Henty whose family lived in Ferring Grange from 1786 to 1916. Edwin never actually lived in the house in Goff's Park which is now used by the Probation Service.

Using excellent illustrations, Helen explained the general situation leading up to the Civil War. James I's son, Charles I, inherited the throne at the age of twenty five years in 1625 and less than three months later, he married Princess Henrietta Maria of France. Being Catholic, she could not be crowned in an Anglican service and was most unpopular with the Protestants of the Three Kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland.



Charles was a neat, small man although portraits of him on horseback would indicate otherwise. Charles believed in the Divine Right of Kings and dismissed Parliament believing he could run the country without it. Of course this led to the great conflict which started the Civil War in which people found that family members would be fighting on different sides.

We were shown pictures of artefacts used in the War including muskets and knives and a 17th century helmet found in a Civil Defence cupboard in Shoreham! The first major battle took place at Edgehill, Warwickshire in 1642. Charles' twelve year old son, who would eventually be Charles II, was present with his tutor, William Harvey, famous for his research into the circulation of the blood.

Focussing on Sussex, Helen explained that Chichester was taken by Parliament in 1642 and 1643 and their local forces took Haywards Heath in just one hour on 28th December, 1642, defeating the Royalists under the command of Sir Ralph Hopton. On 8th January, 1644, Wiston House and Bramber were seized by the Parliamentarians and at this time, there were battles around the River Arun and the Adur. A slide was shown of holes in a column in the church of St. Mary de Haura in Shoreham where a battle actually took place in the church where the Parliamentarian General, William Waller (left), was in control. The Royalist were also defeated at the siege which took place at Arundel Castle which was destroyed and much damage done to the town. The ruined castle became the



Parliamentarians' garrison during most of the Civil War. The parliamentarians also managed to destroy the iron and gun making industry which was a successful activity in Sussex.

The year 1645 saw the Rising of the Clubmen, a rebel group in Sussex and by 1648 there was an uprising in Horsham with both sides fighting in the streets. The following year saw the execution of Charles I at Whitehall with his son and heir, now in exile (right), being declared as King Charles II by the Royalists. On 1st January, 1651, the Scots crowned him King at Scone Abbey. An illustration of the event clearly showed the Stone of Scone under the throne. The Scots certainly had the upper hand as far as the kind of rule they expected from Charles. The new King's oath included a promise to preserve the Protestant religion. On 3rd September the same year, Charles was defeated at the Battle of Worcester after which he hid in



an oak tree at Boscobel in the Midlands. Despite the fact that there was a reward of £1000 on his head, he managed to escape capture over the next six weeks disguised as a farm labourer. Stories of his being disguised as a woman are untrue as he, unlike his father, he was over 6 ft in height. There was great difficulty finding a ship on the south coast to allow him to escape to the Continent but eventually, Francis Mansell, owner and captain of a ship, sailed from Shoreham with Charles on board.

After the death of Charles I, the Council of State ruled the country until 1653 when Cromwell became Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland. Cromwell's religious beliefs led him to cancel Christmas! He died in 1658 leaving his son, Richard, as his heir. He was nicknamed Tumbledown Dick and as the name suggests, he was unfit for the job. General Monk was the army leader who recommended bringing the rightful heir back so Charles II arrived back on English soil with the diarist, Samuel Pepys who worked for the Admiralty. Charles landed in Sussex on his 30th birthday and was crowned at Westminster Abbey on 23rd April 1660.

Then started a period of retribution when the leading supporters of the Parliamentary side in the Civil War were either executed or fined. Cromwell's body was dug up and hanged and later his head was strung up near Westminster Hall where it remained for some years. There were also rewards of medals which were specially struck. The captain of the ship, Francis Mansell, who had taken Charles from Sussex was given a watch. Helen related the account of a local history teacher in recent years, having a boy in his class who actually brought this watch into school to show him. Mansell was also given a share in the Old Ship Inn, Brighton and parts of his ship are now on display in Brighton Museum.

Charles II's reign ended on his death in 1685. Helen's talk ended with the fact that there had been an interesting film made in Steyning as early as 1913, entitled "Charles II". The meeting ended with a Q & A session with Helen adding to the interesting facts she had already imparted to her audience.

From the Worthing Gazette 29 August 1917

Young Airman Killed

Fatality at Ferring

His First Experience of Flying

An Exceptional Pilot

While flying over Ferring last Tuesday evening Lieutenant W. T. Harries, of the Royal Flying Corps, was instantaneously killed owing to his machine making a nose dive into a field on Ecclesden Farm, on the western slope of Hightown.

The deceased, who had sustained shocking injuries, was removed by Sergeant Carpenter and Constables Scutt and Geale to a cottage in Hangleton-lane to await the inquest.

Evidence at the Inquest

The inquiry was held at Hangleton Farm on Wednesday afternoon by the West Sussex Coroner (Mr F. W. Butler) and a Jury of whom Mr Penfold acted as Foreman.

Formal evidence of identification was given by Second Lieutenant RICHARD BRAMWELL-DAVIS of the Royal Field Artillery, and now stationed at Shoreham, As Adjutant to the Royal Flying Corps, who deposed that the deceased was twenty-five years of age, and belonged to Bokburg, South Africa, He had been in the Royal Fling Corps twenty-two days, having obtained his Commission on the 31st of July. He had seen

Active Service in S Africa

But this was his first experience of flying.

THOMAS STANLEY STEWART, A Lieutenant and Flight Commander in the Royal Flying Corls, stated that the deceased had been under his charge for everything concerned with flying since he got his Commission, and had made excellent progress. He had done three hours and twenty-five minutes' flying and made nineteen landings alone, in addition to the training her had done with witness. He was absolutely splendid, and one of the most competent people witness had had under him

for a long time. He had made eleven absolutely perfect landings right off. He left his Aerodrome at six o'clock on Tuesday evening to do another hour and a quarter to finish his time. The machine he was using was the one on which he had done his first flight alone. He had previously made a flight of forty-five minutes duration on it, and when asked how the machine had been flying he replied, 'Top hole!' Witness himself had also flown the machine, to make absolutely certain that it was in good condition. He regarded the deceased as

Quite an Exceptional Pilot

and the make of the machine was one of the safest it was possible to have. Deceased was in sound health, as far as witness knew. Witness had seen the machine since the accident but it was impossible to tell what had really happened, as everything was in such a twisted mass. He had two mechanics and also a Sergeant present who saw the deceased start on his flight, and every precaution that could be taken to prevent an accident had been taken.....

..... FRANK HILTON, a fruitgrower of The Cottrels, Angmering, stated that he saw the accident. The machine was coming from Sthe north-est to the south-west, and gradually came down from a height of two hundred and fifty feet to one of about one Shundred and fifty feet. The engine was then making a cracking noise, but nothing unusual. At this moment the machine took a nose dive down into a field on Ecclesden Farm, and almost simultaneously the man jumped clear of the machine and fell to the ground. Witness at once ran to the spot. He could distinctly hear the heart beat, but in his opinion the man was dead. He never moved nor spoke. Witness afterwards helped to remove the body to Hangleton Farm.

Not strapped in

Asked by the CORONER if the deceased was strapped in, Lieutenant Stewart [said no] .. he always advised his pilots not to strap themselves in, as in the event of an accident he considered they stood a better chance. The funeral took place at Shoreham.

MICHAEL TEMPLE

by David Garnett

On Saturday, 27 October 1928, *The Times* published a brief obituary: ‘Mr Michael Henry Temple, author, journalist and naturalist, died on Thursday, at Ferring, Sussex, at the age of 66. The eldest son of Mr Charles Temple, of Douglas, Isle of Man, he went up to Keble College,

Oxford, and took his degree in 1884. He was at one time on the staff of the *Globe*, and was known for his studies of Nature and rural life.’



Michael Temple (pictured left) was a journalist and author, writing both fiction and non-fiction. He also wrote leaders for *The Globe*, a London evening newspaper, and book reviews for *The Referee*, a weekly sports paper of which he was the literary editor. Among his own books were *First Steps to Fly-Fishing* (1924) and *Shallowdale* (1922), a novel about life in the Yorkshire Dales. His final book was *The Gytrash of Goathland and Other Yorkshire Legends* (1928), which may have been written while he lived in Ferring. Earlier that year, he was advertising for domestic staff, reply address Meadway (now 17), West Drive; but by the time of his death, he was at the White House on Sea Lane, which was the farmhouse of East Ferring Farm, demolished in the 1950s.

Although Michael Temple's books are forgotten, his journalism and reviews long gone, he is still known for devising, in 1899, a famous chess variation. He named this *kreigspiel*, which is German for wargame. In the 19th century, the German military practised battle tactics on huge boards where, as in a real war, the two sides did not know the exact position of their opponent's forces.

According to Herbert Jacobs, a member of the Knight-Light chess club in Fleet Street: “One day Temple came in and said, ‘I’ve got a war-game for you.’ Then and there he set up the boards, and explained *kreigspiel* to those present.” As in regular chess, the aim is to checkmate the opponent's king. Sitting back to back during a game, both players have a board with only their own pieces on it. An umpire has a third board on which he duplicates both players' moves, and he tells them if it is “legal” or “illegal” and also when an opposing piece is captured — but the players have to calculate which piece has been taken and deduce where the others may be. Sometimes known as blind chess or war chess, *Kreigspiel* became very popular in the early part of the 20th century, later being played by the Bletchley Park codebreakers. The game still has its aficionados and can be played online.

The creator of *kriegspiel* lies in the furthestmost north-east corner of St Andrew's churchyard, his memorial inscribed: ‘In bright memory of Michael Henry Temple, barrister at law, 1921-1923, resident in Ferring 1927-1928.’

DECEMBER 1916 – END OF AN ERA

by Ed Miller

On Christmas Day 1916 a long chapter in Ferring's history came to an end. Edwin Henty, who owned two-thirds of all the land and buildings in the parish, died after a short illness, aged 72. He was the fourth generation of the family that had dominated Ferring since the 1780s, and he had no children. His widow had little interest in the estate and put the southern 267 acres up for auction less than five years later – the northern half was sold by her executors in 1930.

Edwin (junior) was born at Ferring Grange, one of four children of Edwin Henty senior (by this time a successful banker as well as landowner), and (apart from his time at Rugby School) lived there until his marriage in 1875. His bride was the splendidly named Georgiana Alma Laura Henrietta Elizabeth Somerset, a grand-daughter of the Duke and related to the Somersets of Castle Goring. It is not clear what career he was pursuing in his 20s but was probably involved with his father's bank, at first in Horsham and then managing the new Crawley branch of the bank. In 1878 he moved to Ifield, near Crawley, to a house called 'Deerswood'.



He stayed in Crawley until his father's death in 1890, having had a new house built in 1882, 'Goff's Hill', now housing the Crawley museum. His mother continued to live at Ferring Grange and in 1892 he moved into 'St Maurs', now Greystoke Manor, where he stayed for nearly ten years before taking up residence in the Grange, four years after his mother's death. The portrait above is in Worthing Museum, date and artist unknown.

There is no evidence that he took any particular interest in the 500 acre-estate he had inherited. The farms were run by tenants and he simply collected the rent from these and the many houses he owned in the village. His father and grandfather had carefully built up the estate over the previous century but Edwin jnr made no acquisitions – indeed he sold off some small sites. His main business interest was the family bank, with its six branches in West Sussex. When the Henty Bank was bought out by the Capital and Counties Bank in 1896, Edwin was appointed a Director.

He did have other interests, however. He and his brother Arthur had been keen part-time soldiers in their youth and he reached the rank of Honorary Major in the Volunteer Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment, being awarded the Volunteer Decoration for 30 years' service. He was also a Magistrate for many years, a County Councillor for Ifield in 1890, a Deputy Lieutenant in 1902, and High Sheriff of Sussex in 1903.

Apart from this public service, he had a strong interest in antiquities (he became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries in 1896), and it was on his initiative that the first excavations were carried out on Highdown's Saxon cemetery in 1892. His workmen, planting trees on the hilltop, found the first bones and grave goods. Many of the finds were kept at Ferring Grange but disappeared after his death – no doubt others were sold by the workmen – but the remainder, chiefly from later excavations, are safely displayed in Worthing museum.

We know very little about his personality but he seems to have been a quiet, serious man, rather remote from his tenants and neighbours.

He died on Christmas Day 1916, having 'caught a chill' which had turned into bronchitis several days earlier. He left £143,000. There were no children of the marriage and his wife inherited all his property in Ferring. She lived on for another 12 years, having moved into what is now Greystoke Manor after she had sold Ferring Grange in 1924. It was only in 1928 that the village pub changed its name from 'The New Inn' to 'The Henty Arms' but exactly how this came about has yet to be discovered. The only evident memorial to Edwin Henty jnr, outside the graveyard, is Ferring Village Hall, built in 1924, whose foundation stone records that Mrs Henty built it in his honour.

WHY 'LANGBURY' LANE?

by Ed Miller

Most of the roads in Ferring were named by estate agents or developers - some with a distinct advertising message, like Ocean Drive, Foam Court Way, Downview Road, Green Park, Clover Lane and (later) Ferring Marine; others less imaginatively like West Drive, South Drive and Oval Way. Nearly all the pre-development roads have very straightforward names – Ferring Street, Church Lane, Sea Lane (previously East Ferring Lane), Brook Lane and Hangleton Lane but there are two puzzling exceptions. One was 'Herstlestreet Lane' (now Littlehampton Road) and the other was, and still is, Langbury Lane.

No one has any clue as to what or where was Herstlestreet, unless it might have been where they stored the hurdles (for folding the sheep, when they came down from Highdown to manure the arable land), and 'Langbury' is rather obscure too. The name is used in Flode's Survey of the manor in 1330, as 'Langeburg', applied to a piece of land of just over 5 acres, somewhere in the north of the Parish. We may take this to mean 'the long (or along), the mound'. The '-burg/-bury' element might indicate a burial mound or 'barrow', or a fortified place, but it might simply indicate a hill.

The only burial grounds (apart from individual Roman cremation urn burials) known in Ferring are the Saxon cemetery at the top of Highdown (abandoned about 650AD) and St Andrew's churchyard (after the foundation of the church in 765AD). Could there have been another, in the Langbury Lane area, where the dead were buried in the intervening period? Even if there were, it would only have been a 'barrow' if it was a domed structure, used for the burial of chiefs or nobles. There are no burials of this type on Highdown, despite the high status of some of the dead, as shown by their grave goods. They were all conventional 'dug' graves.

The 'fortified place' could conceivably refer to the Iron Age Fort on Highdown but the Iron Age was a good 1500 years before Flode's survey. Even if it was referring to a Saxon Camp on Highdown, that was still 700 years before Flode. There is no mention of antiquities on Highdown before the 19th Century.

It seems more likely that the '-burg/-bury' element refers to a hill, and the only candidate is Highdown – there could have been no other hill where the Rife flows through north Ferring. In the Domesday Book (1086) Ferring is shown as part of the 'Hundred' of Riseberg, and (again, for lack of other candidates) this has been identified as a reference to Highdown. It therefore seems reasonable to translate 'Langbury' not as 'the long burial mound' but as 'the long hill' (or even 'along to the hill': as we might say 'Highdown Way').

The only problem with that interpretation is that until the 1930s, the name 'Langbury Lane' only applied to the stretch between Ferring Street and the bridge over the Rife. The northern

stretch was known as the continuation of Hangleton Lane (and Hangleton Farmhouse and its cottages are still there). But roads, like houses, do change their names. 'Hangleton' means 'farm at the wooded slope', which clearly ties up with Highdown Hill Farm but in 1330 the farm might have been insignificant, and the 'long hill' a more important feature.

SPORT IN FERRING

report by Eileen Godfrey

At the May meeting, members had an opportunity of listening to three speakers who recalled the history of sport in the village.

Group Secretary Ed Miller began by relating an incident which took place in the reign of Elizabeth I in 1559 when a group of men were fined for playing bowls. Henry VIII had passed a law making bowls in public illegal and this law was still on the statute books. Incidentally, the list of offenders included John Lawe, the vicar of St. Andrew's church in Ferring.

In the Victorian era, there is evidence of cricket, fox and hare hunting and a census entry for a gamekeeper indicates that gentlemen also took part in shooting. It is also known that the Henty family who lived at Ferring Grange, had a rookery south of their house. There was also an announcement in The Times in 1864 about a hare chasing event starting there.

An advertising feature in 1937 announced that there was squash being played at Ferring Grange which by then was a hotel and of course, golf was played at Worthing. In 1928, The Times reported that the Crawley and Horsham hounds had chased a fox from Castle Goring to Highdown and the following year, a billiard room was built next to the Village Hall. There is a commemorative stone set in the wall giving such details which can be seen today.

It was difficult to form teams for such games as football and cricket in the first quarter of the twentieth century as the population was only about 250 but the 1931 census shows that the population had increased to 795 as developers built bungalows for those who wanted to come and live in a select area by the sea. By the 1930s there were two informal recreation grounds, one behind the Village Hall which was used by permission of the farmer who owned the land and one on the Vicar's glebeland. There were various unsuccessful attempts to buy land for an official recreation ground both by the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council. The Vicar offered some of his land but a decision was not made before the outbreak of World War II which meant that the plan did not go ahead.

In 1946, this piece of land was bought by the District Council – but for housing. In the event, houses were built only on the western part. The eastern part was left undeveloped and today this is the Village Green. After the war, the District Council bought the land adjacent to Little Twitten, which became the cricket ground and Malcolm's Field (now Glebelands, which became the football ground.)

Tennis was played at various private houses but an advert for a house in Beehive Lane tells us that it had five hard tennis courts close by. These belonged to Ferring Tennis Club, formed around 1930. There have been rumours that Fred Perry played tennis in Ferring but Ed had a



Ferring Tennis Club, Ferring-by-Sea, Sussex.

copy of a very courteous letter from Fred himself who had been asked about the truth of this. Although he knew of the annual tournaments that had taken place, he politely pointed out that he had usually been out of the country at the time. By 1935, tennis was well established and 150 spectators watched the Australian Davis Cup Team play an exhibition match at Ferring Tennis Club.

Ed's talk included details of people who had Ferring connections. It is well known that the Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII, who abdicated to marry Wallis Simpson, visited Ferring for holidays with one of his mistresses and played golf in nearby Worthing. Godfrey Rampling who won a gold medal for athletics at the 1936 German Olympics, lived in Ferring. So too, racing cycle designer Claud Butler, and Canon Reeves who was not only military chaplain and geologist but also Chairman of Ferring Football Club and staged bowls matches in the Vicarage garden. Another resident in Ferring was Anne Wisdom who lived at Honeysuckle Cottage. She was a rally driver who partnered Pat Moss in Monte Carlo motor rallies.

Stanley Jenkins (recently deceased) came to live in Beehive Cottage in the 1970s. He demolished the house next door and laid out a tennis court. He became Chairman of the Ferring Sport & Leisure Association and did much to promote sport in the village, but his efforts to establish an indoor bowls centre came to grief, as he recounted in his book *The Ferring Saga*.

Ed's research resulted in his discovering evidence of cricket being played at Highdown in 1797 – The Yeomanry v Sir Cecil Bishop's Team, with lunch being served at The Lamb, Angmering. In the 1860s the young curate, the Revd. Morres played in the Ferring team against East Preston. Edwin Henty's niece, Agnes wrote in her diary in 1864, "*Watched match between Kingston and Ferring!*" In those days, cups would be awarded to the winners.

Members also heard from Cricket Club Chairman Rob Miller about how cricket had developed in the village. Before the outbreak of war, cricket was played on the ground behind the Village Hall. After the match, tea was served in the Hall and if that was not available, at 55 Ferring Street. No cricket was played during World War II and the first peacetime match was played on ground at the back of Milbury House, loaned by Mrs Guest.

Little Twitten has been in use since the early 1950s when the pavilion was an adapted disused railway carriage, to which a pitched roof had been added. That has now been restored to its former glory and can be seen on the Bluebell railway. The cricket Club used an oak tree on its tie reminding people of the tree on their pitch. In the 1950s, Jimmy Edwards brought the Handlebar Club cricket team down to Ferring. Many will remember the moustachioed comedy actor and many local players added moustaches to their visages in honour of the well-loved performer. After matches, the teams would head for the Club's unofficial H.Q., the Greystoke Hotel.

A cricket fixture list for 1962 includes the name of Mr Sieff of Marks and Spencer fame who is noted for saving from closure the small bank which was then in South Ferring. This fixture list indicates the up-market social aspect of cricket in that year. Teams which played in the village included the Bank of England, Trinity College Dublin, Guys Hospital and St. Thomas's Hospital. However, the fixture list of 1968 tells us that more local teams were playing against Ferring. There is mention of such teams as those from East Preston and Patching. Rob pointed out that the copy of the fixture list he had, had belonged to his grandfather, Sidney Avron, (Committee Member) who had marked the card with the results for each match. Rob pointed out that the present pavilion dates back to 1992 and was extended in 2012.

Members then listened to a contribution from Deane Culver, Chairman of Ferring Football club. In the 1930s a village team played in the Worthing & District League but during the war, this was suspended. Deane mentioned a letter which was sent out by Edward Hill, in 1954 to all Ferring residents announcing that a football club was to be formed again and young and older members would be welcome. Any playing members had to live between Goring Station and Angmering Station. Often there was conflict between the cricket club and the football club for use of the Twitten but within a few years, the team moved to Glebelands where they built a pavilion.

At first, the team played in the Worthing League but in 1965 they were promoted to the Sussex County League, winning two trophies. Exactly forty years later, they repeated the same success, again winning two trophies. Deane's father recruited players from among pupils at the school which used to occupy Goring Hall. These were youngsters of all nationalities.

In 1981, the Football Club raised £7,000 for a new club house which was ceremoniously opened by Jimmy Melia, the Manager of Brighton & Hove Albion F.C. Unfortunately, in the 1990s the Club began to decline but since the year 2000, Deane has revived the Club and next season, they will be sharing their premises with the newly formed Worthing Youth Team.

A general discussion followed and many facts and figures were contributed from the audience. Pat Attree reminded members that one important fact should not be omitted from the History of Sport in Ferring: at one time, there was a Ladies' Cricket Team playing in Ferring!

FERRING'S RIDING OFFICERS

by Ed Miller

Stories of smuggling in the 18th and 19th Centuries invariably glamorise the perpetrators but in reality these were usually violent criminals who were prepared to maim and kill to carry off their tax-evasion schemes. Much braver were the men of the scanty Revenue service who had to confront, often single-handed, large numbers of ruthless men carrying clubs or pistols.

In the 18th Century the Riding Officers were the landward side of the preventive service – the seaward side were the Revenue Cutters. The Riding Officers' job was to patrol the coast on



horseback, look for goods (usually spirits) being landed and then intercept the smugglers. They might be able to call on the boatmen of the Revenue Cutters, if they happened to be onshore, or the dragoons (but

there were likely to be ten miles away, or more): more often they were on their own. Many of them were killed or badly injured by the smuggling gangs.

In Ferring, the Land Tax records show a Riding Officer in post between 1789 and 1804 – a Hugh Foster from 1789 to 1792, Walter Broad from 1793 to 1794, and William Walder from 1797 to 1804. The tax was on official salaries as well as property and levied at (generally) four shillings in the pound. The Riding Officer's salary was shown as £60 a year (comparable with an Army Lieutenant), and the tax to be paid was £12. None of these men were from known Ferring families: the policy was to post strangers to the coastal towns and villages, and to rotate them quickly, so as to minimise the opportunity for corruption or intimidation. Nevertheless Hugh Foster may well have settled in Ferring after his retirement: he was buried there in 1808, at the age of 80 (his tombstone can still be seen), and his (much younger) wife in 1825.

There are several records of confrontations with smugglers in Ferring, from 1712 right up to 1839. In an engagement between the custom-house officers and upwards of sixty armed men in 1720, William Goldsmith, the custom-house officer, had his horse shot from under him. In the 1790s (the *Worthing Journal* reported recently) 'William Walder was on patrol in Ferring when he encountered ten men on horseback loaded with contraband. Walder fired a shot in the air and ordered them to stop, but they immediately pulled out their bludgeons from under their coats and beat him in a most violent manner until he lay almost lifeless on the ground, after which they rode over his body several times and endeavoured to make their horses trample him. As they passed, each man gave him a violent blow with their clubs, so that his head was

cut open in four places and his body so beaten and bruised his life was in danger. His Majesty's Customs offered a reward of £1,000 for information'. Unlike Hugh Foster, William Walder did not retire to Ferring.

GEOFFREY CLARIDGE 1933-2016

We were sad to hear of the death of Geoffrey Claridge in August. Geoffrey was one of our Honorary Members, whom we know best for his compilations and presentations of the amateur cine film sequences shot by his father, Francis Claridge, in Ferring in the mid- to late-1930s. But there was a lot more to Geoffrey than that: he was a first-rate architect and designed some notable public buildings, and churches, in West Sussex. One of his first notable pieces of work, while still a student, was the Second World War plinth added to Ferring War Memorial in 1949. Geoffrey's grandfather, a builder, moved to Ferring, to one of four bungalows he had built in Ocean Drive, in 1929. Geoffrey's parents came to live in one of the others in 1931, and Geoffrey was born in 1933. His father was an Estate Agent, and his grandfather built, and his father sold, a dozen or more houses in Ferring in the 1930s. His father also handled dozens of holiday lets. He was also a keen amateur film maker and recorded some interesting and amusing aspects of Ferring life.

We showed some of these film sequences, which Geoffrey had edited skilfully from many scraps of fragile film stock, and supplied with a perceptive commentary and period background music, at our February 2015 meeting. Geoffrey was to have presented the films, and other memories of Ferring, in person, but he was already quite ill and was unable to travel – but the films, and the notes Geoffrey sent, spoke for themselves.

Geoffrey attended Ferring Health School, then the Tudor Close School, then briefly Goring Hall, before transferring to Worthing High School. He later began his architectural studies at Worthing School of Art. He married Jill London, who was born in Ferring in 1935. Her father kept the Chemist's shop in South Ferring, which is now Southern Decorators Ltd. They moved to Worthing when they got married in 1955 and subsequently moved to the Chichester area, where, after writing to every architectural firm in Sussex, he found a post with the architects S K Roth. He stayed with the firm all his career, ending up as a partner.



Geoffrey Claridge loved Ferring, loved to share his memories and his photographs, and loved to keep up to date with news of the village he had left some 60 years ago. His memorial service in Chichester cathedral attested to the high regard in which he was held all over the County. [EM]

From the combined Parishes Magazine, December 1913

FERRING.

ON the Wednesdays in Advent there will be the usual special services at 7 p.m., at which the following clergymen have kindly consented to preach :—

December 3rd.—Rev. E. D. BEWLEY, B.A., Priest
Vicar of Chichester Cathedral.

December 10th.—Rev. W. F. PEARCE, M.A.,
Prebendary of Highleigh.

December 17th.—Rev. F. W. BOOTY, M.A., Vicar
of Arundel.

On Christmas Day, which falls this year on a Thursday, there will be two celebrations of the Holy Communion, at 8 a.m. and 11.

The collections will be given to the Nursing Association, and there will be no sermon at the morning service.

It is with the most profound regret that we record the loss the Church has sustained by the death of Prebendary Barwell, so long our neighbour at Clapham. He came into the Diocese forty-nine years ago, as Vicar of Southwater, and was preferred to the Rectory of Clapham by Lady Burrell in 1873, and to this was added the adjoining living of Patching in 1888. He was one of the first Prebendaries nominated by Bishop Wilberforce, and also served the offices of Rural Dean and Proctor in convocation. Eight years ago, when in a good old age, he relinquished active work, resigned his livings and other offices, and spent the remainder of his life at Betchingley, in Surrey. He was a devoted and successful parish priest, much beloved by his people, by whom and by an unusually large circle of friends he will long be remembered and mourned. He was laid to rest in the grave yard of the parish he served so long and faithfully, on Thursday, November 20th, and the large congregation, drawn from the surrounding parishes, testified to the respect in which he was held. The Clergy taking part in the funeral service were the Dean of Chichester, Canon Deane, Prebendary Palmer, R.D., Rev. W. B. Ferris, R.D., Rev. J. B. Orme, and the Rector of the parish, and in the congregation were Canon Masters, Rev. J. P. Fallows, Rev. G. R. Leefe, and many others who desired to pay a last mark of respect to one who was universally beloved and honoured.

An accident happened at Ferring on Saturday, November 8th, that, but for God's mercy, might well have proved fatal. Two cottages in Sea-lane are inhabited by the Munery and Freeman families, and in the garden at the back there is a well, covered by

a lid that should always be shut down when water is not being drawn. This precaution was omitted on the day in question, and little Joseph Freeman, aged fifteen months, who has only just attained the art of walking, managed to toddle to the well and tumbled in.

The fall to the surface of the water was eleven feet, and this gave him time to utter a shriek. The mother heard this, and promptly gave the alarm of "Baby's in the well!" The first to come to the rescue was Mrs. Munery, who, with great presence of mind, seized one of the poles, used for hanging out clothes to dry, and, leaning down the well, managed to get the fork at the end of the pole under the child on its coming to the surface for the second time, and to support it with its head above the water. In this way she undoubtedly saved the child's life, for in another minute he would have been drowned.

The next to arrive was Mr. Fuller, who brought a ladder and let it down. Unfortunately it proved too short, and when it rested on the bottom of the well only four rungs were above the water, and there seemed no chance of rescuing the child.

A carter named Edwin Brewer, in the employment of Mr. Penfold, was, however, passing with his team, and came to the rescue. He is a powerful man and, seizing the well rope, he swarmed down it. Unfortunately when he reached the ladder he tried to stand on it, but it slipped aside and down he went into nine feet of water.

The commotion thus caused was nearly fatal to the luckless babe who had another plunge to endure. Brewer then pulled himself up by the rope, got hold of the child, and eventually, standing on the ladder, managed to pass it up to Mrs. Munery, and Mr. Fuller then wound up the well rope with Brewer holding on to it, and he thus reached the top in safety.

So all ended well, and even the ladder has since been recovered.

Great credit is due to Mrs. Munery for her presence of mind, and to Brewer for his courage in risking his life for the chance of saving another. The baby certainly does credit to Sussex. The shock of the fall and the plunge into the water from a height of eleven feet would alone have been too much for many children. But little Joseph is evidently a philosopher, and the next day he was running about as if nothing had happened.

Subscriptions are invited towards a testimonial to those who saved the child's life, to be thus divided—two thirds to Mr. Brewer and one third to Mrs. Munery. Towards this fund the following have each given half-a-crown: Mr. Henty, Canon Deane, Mr. Manley Power, Rev. A. Bagot Chester, Captain Heaton Ellis, R.N., and Anon.; Mr. E. Miles, 1s.

BRIGHTON'S WEST PIER

report by Eileen Godfrey

Seaside piers definitely appeal to the British! Members were reminded of this by Dr. Geoffrey Mead who gave an interesting talk on Brighton's West Pier at our February meeting. After the



Pavilion, the ruined West Pier is the most photographed feature in Brighton so even after its demise, it still holds a fascination. Piers, said Geoffrey Mead, started off as a landing stage, and developed into a place for people to promenade, show off their best clothes while they 'people-watched'. Gradually it became a place for entertainment and also where one could buy trinkets and ice creams all making it part of our seaside heritage.

Many Sussex towns had connections to historical events such as Chichester and Arundel but Brighton had none with which to attract visitors so it made sense to develop the town as a place where people would gravitate to take advantage of health benefits being offered by 'doctors'. After the Civil War, health spas grew up at various coastal towns such as Margate and Scarborough and gradually became places of enjoyment, money making and eventually dens of iniquity! Originally, Brighton had been a port for getting to France but more and more people began coming there to see a doctor, and not to bathe in the water, but to drink it! An up-market retail trade developed and also libraries and dancing schools which equipped their clients for the many social occasions.

Geoffrey Mead displayed some old photographs of Brighton as a fishing port and somewhere where food would be brought in by boat. As the town became fashionable in the late 18th century, people would promenade on the banks of the Old Steine, a stretch of green with a stream running through it. At other times, they would sit on the beach among the fishing boats.

The first pier built at Brighton was near where the Sealife Centre now is. This was a chain pier which was approached by a long impressive drive. It was opened to paying visitors in 1823. Kiosks were sited at its various towers and the pier head was at the end. It was somewhere where you could feel as though you were at sea but without the seasickness. King William IV would visit Brighton, and go on the pier. Being an old naval officer, he would pretend to be on the deck of a ship with a telescope, and go up to people and say "I'm the King." Of course nobody believed him.

The Chain Pier closed in 1896. The ruins of two kiosks which were at the entrance to the drive still exist. Meanwhile, the pier at nearby Worthing had opened in 1850. The piling was made of wrought iron encased in cast iron to make it durable in the sea. More importantly for Brighton, the West Pier was opened in 1866. Despite it being a drizzly day, the Mayor and other dignitaries were there together with a military band and a cavalry unit.

The pier was actually constructed in Glasgow and brought by boat around the coast to Shoreham. At first, the residents of nearby Regency Square feared that the pier would attract the 'riff raff' so a charge of 2d was made and that meant a higher social class of people were attracted to the pier which became one of the important attractions in the town, where people indulged in promenading and mild flirting. The design included steps part of the way down the pier but it was soon realised that this excluded invalids so ramps were built either side of the steps. At night it was lit by gas lights on twisted stands with seats either side.

By the 1880s, promenading on the pier had been replaced by entertainment. At first a Winter Gardens had been built only to be replaced by a theatre ten years later. There was so much activity on the pier that it developed into a community. In 1881, the West Pier Master, Captain Poland, seemed more like the Mayor of a small town! People could enjoy a trip to Boulogne on the steamer Brighton Belle. The escapologist, the Great Omani, often performed on the West Pier as did a Professor Doughty with his performing dogs. Photographers and fortune tellers also established themselves on the Pier. This was the most prominent pier in Brighton at the end of the Century, the Palace Pier (now 'Brighton Pier') having opened only in 1899.

The twentieth century saw activities such as roller skating and car racing, but further development was stopped by the outbreak of World War II. A section was removed to hamper possible invaders, and defences were built on the beach. There was a revival post-war but by 1960, the whole construction was looking a little tired and in 1972, the southern section was closed. A couple of years later, the whole thing looked more like a haunted house. Hope was in sight when the pier became a Grade 1 listed building but in a great storm on 29 December 2002, part of the concert hall collapsed and three months later the Pavilion was destroyed by an arson attack. Shortly after, the Concert Hall was deliberately burnt down. Support from English Heritage and £30m. lottery funding which had been promised, vanished into thin air. We are left with a fragile shell of the southern end of the pier to remind us of its former status as the most prestigious pier in Brighton. The West Pier Trust hopes that one day a new West Pier will be built, not in the old style but possibly in a contemporary design which would reflect its past grandeur.

FERRING IN THE LAND TAX RECORDS

by Ed Miller

For most of the 18th Century, the only direct tax paid by individuals was the Land Tax, paid by owners of land or buildings at the rate of four shillings in the pound of the 1692 rental value. Income tax was only introduced, as an emergency, temporary, measure, in 1798. The tax records give a great deal of information about property ownership and occupation.

The records for Sussex are incomplete but there is a good run of documents from 1780 to 1832, and those for Ferring were copied and analysed by Frank Leeson 30 years ago. They list 29 properties, from the Bishop's estate leased out to Sir John Shelley, to the house in Church Lane now called Holly Cottage, and from 1789 to 1804 an official salary that was taxed on the same basis.

That official was the Riding Officer, whose role is discussed in another article in this magazine. The lands and buildings are not named but it is possible to work out the identity of many of them through the names of the owners and occupiers and valuations, linking them up with the changes of ownership and tenancies recorded in the Manor Court records, conveyances and the 1840 tithe assessments.

Sir John Shelley died in 1783, heavily in debt, and the family sold the lease of 'Ferring Farm', occupied by William Newnham, to William Henty, a Littlehampton farmer, three years later.

Its rental value in 1692 was over £163. The estate stayed with the Henty family until 1924. The Shelley family held on to North Downs, the farmland behind Highdown, until 1800.

Other significant land owners in 1780 were James Penfold (the long-serving Vicar), the Uwins family (who owned land in the village centre), Mr Cortis (East Ferring), Mr Bennett (Hangleton Farm), Mr Manning (Franklin's Green), William Richardson (East Ferring), and the Olliver family (John Olliver had Holly Cottage, George Olliver had what is now Elford House, Ferring Lane).

James Penfold's grand-daughter married William Henty's son George, and she inherited his properties so that by 1832 the Henty family accounted for nearly three-quarters of the taxable property in the parish. The Cortis and Bennett families had slightly reduced their holdings over these 50 years, Hugh Ingram had bought Franklins Green Farm and the Olliver properties were held by a descendant, Mrs Simmons.

The Land Tax records also show the 'occupiers' of the properties but these are likely to be the legal tenants of the holdings, not necessarily the inhabitants of the houses and cottages. Farm workers' cottages would not be individually assessed, just included in the valuation of the farm; and tenants could sub-let their properties without this being recorded. So it is that we cannot definitively say who was living in Maytree Cottage, Ferring Street in the 1820s. New evidence suggests that John Constable lived there for a time (see article on page 1). The record stops in 1832, in any case, and Constable lived another five years. So the Land Tax records are not a complete record but a very useful one of who owned what, and who the farmers were in those 50 years of late Georgian Ferring.

THE CORTIS FAMILY IN EAST FERRING

by Ed Miller

The Cortis (Curtis, or Curtice) family lived in Ferring, Angmering, East Preston and Goring from at least the 1630s until the beginning of the 20th Century. For most of that time they would have been described as 'Yeomen', or independent farmers. William Cortis, the last of the line, died in Ferring in 1904, and his wife six years later. The family farmed large amounts of East Ferring from the beginning of the 18th Century to the end of the 19th. The genealogy is difficult because so many of them were named 'John' or 'James' and the spelling of their surname was variable but the following account, compiled from parish registers, manor court records, wills and probate inventories is probably reliable.

A Thomas Curtise married Elizabeth Kewil at St Andrew's Church Ferring in August 1633 but the first member of the family we know very much about is **John Curtis (- 1706)** who had married Ann: two of their children were christened at East Preston in the 1680s.. He had freehold land in East Ferring and was a copyholder of Ferring manor, with 24 acres by 1699. He was elected Reeve in 1704. At that time he was copyholder of a yardland (about 30 acres) called 'The Butts' (fields butting on to Goring).

We have his will and probate inventory of 1706, which tell us something about his life and lifestyle. Including his freehold land, he had 42 acres under cultivation, and 57 sheep, plus a few cows and pigs. He lived in a substantial, well-furnished house, with a well-equipped kitchen and two large bedrooms. His goods and personal effects were valued at £208.

His son, **John Curtis (1688 - 1748)** inherited at the age of 18 (still under age). In 1710 he was elected tythingman and on 5 March 1712/13 he obtained a Licence to marry Jane Knowles of

Ferring, It is not clear where the marriage took place – it is not recorded in the Ferring Parish Registers – but a son John was baptised there on 7 March 1714/15. In the Rentals of the Bishop's lands of 1710 – 1715, John is shown as holding '*mess. 2 hort, 14 ac in East Ferring; 6 ac. voc. East fields; 1 cot and 6 ac East Ferring voc Plashes; Greatmans Close: [total] £51-00-00*' – a substantial estate (and this was in addition to his freehold of East Ferring Farm). The 'mess.' (messuage) may have been what was later called 'Homestead Cottages', opposite the Farm House, with two garden plots ('hort') and 14 acres attached; the 6 acres called East fields must have been in the Goring Gap. We do not know exactly where 'Plashes' was, but Greatmans Close was on the south west side of Sea Lane.

A John Curtice of Ferring, yeoman, married Alice Dawes of South Stoke in 1715/16, at South Stoke. The marriage licence refers to him as a widower. It is probable that this is the same John Curtis/Cortis who had married Jane Knowles, although there is no record of Jane's death, or that of her son, in the Ferring register. Alice Cortis, daughter of John and Alice Cortis was christened at St Andrew's Church Ferring in December 1716. The next six children, including sons George, John and James, were christened at Rustington, but the family seem to have moved back to Ferring by the time the youngest, Ann, was born in 1729.

James Cortis (1725 – 1790) married Sarah in Angmering in 1755. He bought what we now call 'East Ferring House' in 1775. He mentions three sons in his will – John and James (who were to share the inheritance but with the bulk of it going to John) and George - and his wife Sarah, still alive. She was born in 1720, daughter of John Edmunds, a butcher, of Angmering, and died in 1797. John was born in 1757 and James in 1761. James died in 1824, leaving 'East Ferring House' to his brother, John. .

John Cortis (1757 – 1838) now owned much of East Ferring. In his will he left large amounts of money in trust for his sister and nephews (he never married) with £100 for his surviving brother George. He left his 'household goods, furniture and effects, linen, plate, china, books, wines and liquors' to his five nieces. All his other property was to be sold and his nephew, another John Cortis, was to have the first opportunity to buy it. In fact it was bought by David Lyon, who was building up his estate in Goring and East Ferring. – his Goring Hall was completed in 1840.



This nephew **John Cortis (1793 – 1866)** was the son of James and Catharine. His brother George Cortis was born in 1794. The photograph (left) which turned up a few years ago, is inscribed on the back, 'John Cortis of Ferring who departed this life May 10th 1866 aged 73 years'. He had married Mary Ellis Peters, at Angmering on 27 December 1828. They had twin sons James and William Peters Cortis, christened at Angmering on 22 September 1829. John did not buy his uncle's estate but occupied it as a tenant of David Lyon (this is noted in the 1840 Tithe Redemption Survey). In the 1851 census he is described as a 'Farmer of 120 acres, employing four men and two boys'. He was still there in 1861 but by 1871 John was dead and William, still single at 41, was running

the farm, with his widowed mother as housekeeper.

William P Cortis (1829 – 1904) married Elizabeth Miles in 1874, in Angmering. She was born in 1832 in Angmering, and came from the prosperous Miles family who lived and farmed at Upper Ecclesden Farm. In the 1881 Census he is shown as a farmer of 250 acres (almost certainly at East Ferring Farm). In 1901 he was living in East Ferring Farm House, in Sea Lane, still described as a farmer (although probably no longer farming), born in Angmering. He died in Ferring in 1904. Elizabeth died there in 1910.

The Cortis estate today

The land they farmed had all been acquired by the Lyon family after 1838 but that on the west side of Sea Lane later came under the Hentys' ownership, and was sold for housing developments in the mid-1920s. East Ferring Farm, north of the Ilex Avenue and up to the railway continued to be farmed into the mid-1950s, even after Goring Way was built through it (1938), but finally succumbed to housing with the building of Singleton Crescent and Midhurst Drive. The only field left is the playing field of Ferring Primary School (1954).

CHARLES CONDER — IMPRESSIONS OF FERRING GRANGE by David Garnett

Lotherton Hall was once a country house but is now one of the venues of Leeds Museums and Art Galleries. Among its collection is a 20" x 24" oil painting entitled *Ferring Grange*; but instead of the house built in the nineteenth century by the Henty family, the scene is a landscape. The gallery catalogue says: "*Ferring Grange* might perhaps be described as an 'arcadian fantasy', in which a group of fashionably-dressed young women, one seated on a



swing and others playing croquet, are seen in an idyllic parkland setting." It is one of two Ferring paintings by the same artist.

That artist was Charles Conder, whose biography *The Life and Death of Conder* (by John Rothenstein, 1938) began with the words: 'Conder died in 1909. For a decade before his death and a few years afterwards he ranked high among the English painters of the age . . . After less than thirty years, he is almost forgotten.'

Charles Conder (1868-1909) was born in London, travelling with his family to India at the age of two, where his father was a railway engineer. His mother died there a few years later and Conder returned to England for boarding school. When he was 15 his father sent him to work as a surveyor with his uncle in Australia, which was where his interest in art was to develop. Conder may still be little known in Britain, but he is recognised as an important figure in the history of Australian landscape painting. He was a principal contributor to, and drew the catalogue cover for, the 1889 Impressionist exhibition in Melbourne. This was known as the '9 by 5' exhibition from the size of the cigar box lids on which all the paintings were done. One of his other works, *A Holiday at Mentone*, was chosen as part of the "Australian Painting Series" of postage stamps in 1984. Painted when he was 20, this was a beach scene, a theme to which Conder was drawn throughout his life.



Charles Conder by Toulouse Lautrec 1893

He returned to England in 1890, but only stayed for a month (his paintings during that time include *The Beach at Littlehampton*) before moving to France for several years. He was heavily influenced by, and well acquainted with, the Impressionists. A close friend of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, he became a member of the Académie des Beaux-Arts and enjoyed all that life in *fin de siècle* Paris had to offer.

In 1896, Conder moved back to England and took a studio in London, but he made frequent visits to Paris; and that was where, at the British embassy in December 1901, he married Stella Maris Belford. She was a Canadian, a wealthy widow two years younger than he was. Financially secure for the first time, Conder could concentrate on painting only what interested him. They bought a house in Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, and began to entertain — and Stella introduced him to the world of Edwardian society and of weekend house parties in the country. This was what may have brought the Conders to Ferring and led to the two paintings with *Ferring Grange* in the title. Neither picture is dated, but it is reasonable to suppose they were created out of the same visit. This would have been between 1902 and mid-1906, after Conder was married but before he was incapacitated by illness.

The Ferring Grange estate, owned by Edwin Henty and his wife Alma, covered most of the land between Highdown Hill and the coast — hence the title of the other painting: *The Beach, Ferring Grange*. The style of both Ferring pictures match the description of much of Conder's work, being "dreamy landscapes with opalescent skies, blossom trees and glorious seascapes in soft faded colours . . ." (From the exhibition catalogue *Charles Conder: Bohemian Spirit, Australian Impressionist*, Sydney, 2003. The exhibition was opened by Conder enthusiast Barry Humphries, who is the owner of the largest private collection of his work.)



The beach painting is also oil on canvas. At 25" by 30" it is slightly larger than the other, and shows six women, all except one dressed in white or colourful outfits. The central figure, standing, is wearing a blue bathing costume, while the three reclining or kneeling on the sand are dressed less formally than the women in the parkland picture. A figure in a darker outfit stands in the background, seemingly a nursemaid holding a baby. In the forefront sits a woman in white, wearing an elaborate hat. From her clothing and posture she appears to be older than her more casually clad companions. Could she be Alma Henty . . ?

Born in 1854, Alma Henty would have been about 50 when the picture was painted, and it's entirely possible that Conder included his hostess in the scene. Alma and Edwin Henty had no children of their own, so identifying the younger women in the picture is very unlikely; but some of them may have been their nieces, with the child of one being held by the nursemaid.

Conder often painted a complete work in his studio, based on preliminary drawings. He is also reputed to have had an excellent visual memory. Sometimes he would have previously sketched just the background, adding figures to the final work wherever he thought necessary. At other times he painted what he saw before him and may have begun the parkland picture while in Ferring, painting directly onto the canvas as the scene unfolded before him. Out in the open in the spirit of the original French Impressionists, working quickly before the light changed, the rapid strokes of bold colours trapped a brief instant of time for ever. Only one person in the picture is looking outwards, her features basic brushstrokes because of the immediacy of the work. The three women in the foreground of the beach scene, however, have recognisable faces which Conder may have copied from his Ferring sketchbook.

The art historian David Rogers wrote of Conder: ‘ . . . in his later paintings of Ferring Grange and the Howe (the Oxfordshire home of Stella Conder's sister and her husband) where elegant ladies idle away the afternoons with tea and croquet he unwittingly captured the passing of an age.’ The *Belle Époque* which his work had celebrated was coming to its end, but Charles Conder did not live to see it. He died in Holloway Sanatorium, Virginia Water in Surrey of “general paresis of the insane” in February 1909. He was 40 years old.

The end of an era was also approaching for Ferring Grange and the last of the Ferring Hentys. Edwin died in 1916 and Alma followed in 1928, by which time most of the estate had been broken up and sold. There is a pre-WW1 photograph of the Grange in which a few forgotten croquet hoops are still on the lawn. Unlike Charles Conder's evocative paintings, the photo is without colour, without life, without the timeless Edwardian ladies for whom summer will never end.

* * *

It is not known what happened to the Ferring paintings when Conder finished them. *Ferring Grange* was acquired by the City Art Gallery, Leeds in 1934. *The Beach, Ferring Grange* was auctioned at Christie's in 1989, and its present location is unknown.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR 2017

Meetings: on Fridays in Ferring Village Hall

3 February: 19.00 - 21.30: Tony Pratt on the River Arun

5 May: 19.00 - 21.30: Chris Hare on Sussex Coastal Folklore

4 August: 19.00 - 21.30: James Kenny on Recent Archaeology in West Sussex 3

November: 19.00 - 21.30: John Vaughan on The Development of West Sussex Railways 8

December: 18.00 - 21.30: Social: Speaker to be arranged

Walks and visits (dates to be notified)

Bignor Roman Villa

Goring Hall and East Ferring

Victorian Brighton (with Geoffrey Mead)

Arundel lower town and Museum (with Adge Roberts)

RESEARCH

Researching your house, or Ferring ancestors? We can help. Like to do more general research on Ferring? We would welcome that, and help you get started.

LIBRARY

We have a good selection of old maps, street directories and a library of local history books which we can lend to our members. There are also back numbers of our Newsletter (2001 - 2014), with over 100 articles on the history of the village. We also have a database of copies and transcripts of relevant documents from Ferring's history, and a collection of postcards and other photographs of the village's more recent past. Have you got any photographs, postcards, maps, conveyances or other documents that we could copy, or books to donate to our library?

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Please visit our web site: www.ferringhistorygroup.co.uk where you will find more articles and photographs. And have we got your e mail address for reminders of meetings and other events, including those organised by other local history groups

FERRING-ON-SEA

FERRING-ON-SEA is situated on the South Coast about 60 miles from London, beneath the South Downs and within easy reach of Worthing, Littlehampton and Bognor.

This portion of the Coast enjoys the greatest number of hours sunshine in the United Kingdom. It is famous for its nurseries of grapes and tomatoes. Here palms grow in the open air, and Thomas à Becket planted fig-gardens which are still in existence.

FERRING-ON-SEA will appeal to all who appreciate the quiet of an old-world Sussex village, its quietude undisturbed by trippers and charabancs. Here, from windows flooded with sunshine, there is a view of both sea and Downs.



Ferring-on-Sea had 2,000 hours of sunshine during 1928—a record for the British Isles.

FERRING ESTATE LIMITED

SOCIAL AND OTHER AMENITIES

THE COUNTRY CLUB.

FERRING GRANGE COUNTRY CLUB, which stands on the old site of the bishops of Chichester, and is famous for its wonderful grounds, caters for the amusement of residents and visitors on the Estate.

GOLF.

LITTLEHAMPTON GOLF LINKS are within easy reach of FERRING and were patronised by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales when staying at FERRING last summer. WEST WORTHING LINKS are about four miles distant, and have two courses which go over and into the heart of the DOWNS.

TENNIS.

There are five hard Tennis Courts on the ESTATE, and grass courts at the COUNTRY CLUB.

BATHING, BOATING, AND FISHING.

This is excellent. There is a long stretch of delightful sand, sloping gently seawards, making for particularly safe bathing at all states of the tide and allowing of all kinds of sports on the sands when the tide is low.

RIDING

is provided by the COURT STABLES, and an excellent and exhilarating gallop may be had along the firm yellow sands.

MOTOR 'BUS SERVICES

to Bognor, Worthing and Littlehampton and the surrounding district.

TRAIN SERVICES.

Excellent TRAIN SERVICES to London and all parts from either Goring or Worthing stations.



The
Country
Club.