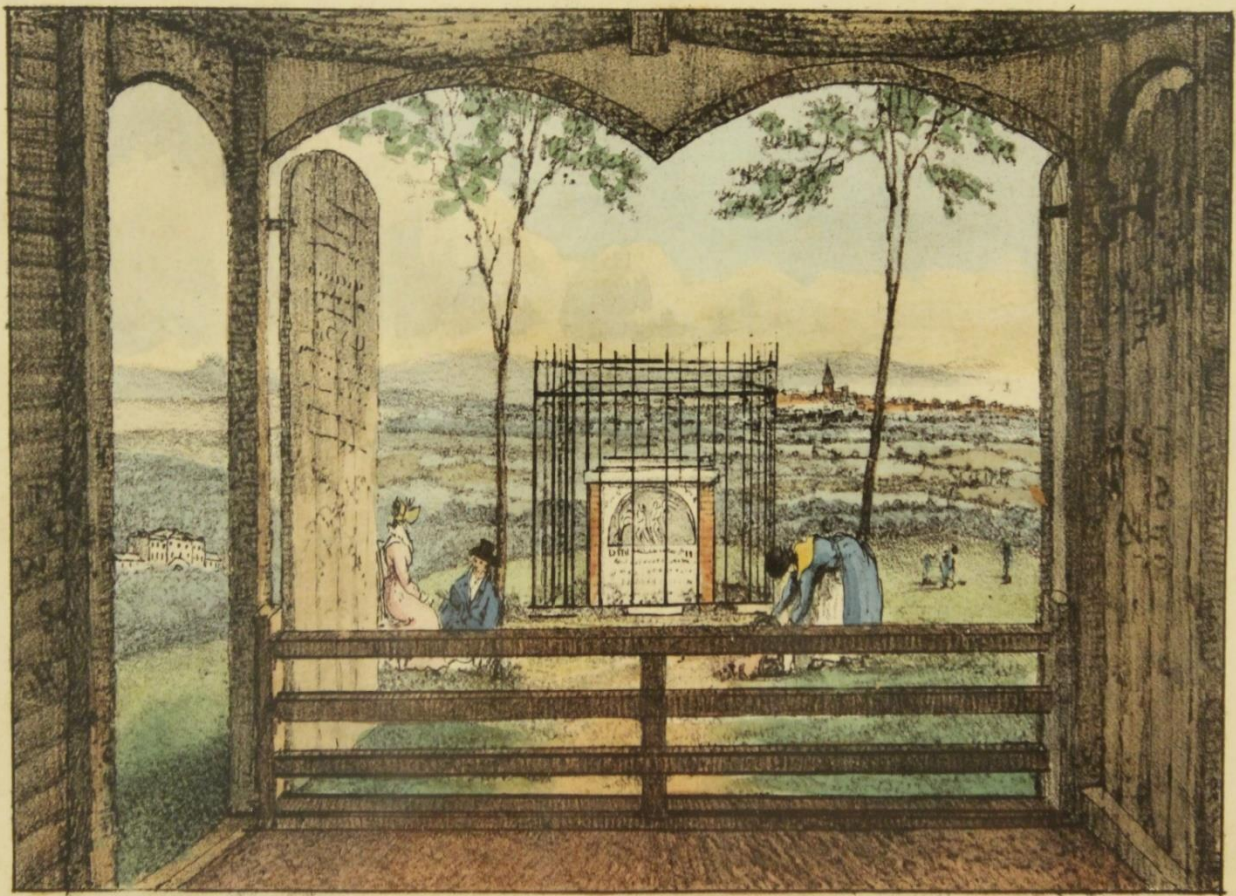


FERRING HISTORY MAGAZINE

2018



Drawn & Pub by J Rouse

99

The Miller's Tomb in 1825 by James Rouse

(with thanks to Worthing Museum)

From Fox-Wilson: The Story of Goring and Highdown (Goring Book Association, 1987):

‘On the west end [of the Tomb] is a relief sculpture of Death running away from Time. Death is holding Time with one hand by the right shoulder, the other hand holds a Time Glass. Around the figures are these two passages:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
but to keep his commandments is holiness to the Lord.

Death why so fast. Pray stop your hand
And let my glass run out its sand:-
As neither Death nor Time will stay,
Let us implore the present day.
Why start you at the skeleton?
‘Tis the picture which you shun:

In life it did resemble thee,
And thou, when dead, like that shall be:-
But tho’ Death must have his will,
Yet old Time prolongs that date,
Till the measure we shall fill,
That’s allotted to us by fate.
When that’s done the time and Death
Both agree to take our Breath.’

**

Cover Picture: "W view of Worthing from the Miller's Tomb, Highdown Hill" by James Rouse, 1825

Plate XCIX in The Beauties and Antiquities of the County of Sussex: Forming a General Illustration on One Hundred and Forty-Nine Spirited Lithographic Views from Original Drawings Taken on the Spot of its Ecclesiastical and Castellated Remains; Accompanied by Historical and Explanatory Notices, written, illustrated and published by James Rouse in 1825. Reproduced by permission of Worthing Museum and Art Gallery.

See David Garnett’s article: Highdown and the Miller’s Tomb, pages 19 – 24.

FERRING HISTORY MAGAZINE

Journal of the Ferring History Group. Compiled by Ed Miller: EdMiller43@msn.com No. 4

Editorial

This is the fourth edition of the Magazine in its new format. Inside you will find reports of some of the meetings and walks we have had since November 2016, our programme for 2018, and many original articles on aspects of the history of Ferring and one or two other places in West Sussex.

The year 2017 was a good year for us in many ways. We had some excellent speakers and outings and our membership rose to 130. But there was a sad note in that we lost our Chairman, Eileen Godfrey. She had only been Chairman for two years but had been a stalwart member of the Committee for some years before that, and had given us a very good presentation on Religious Controversy in Sussex. She was always energetic and enthusiastic and remained cheerful right to the end of her last illness. We shall miss her.



David Garnett took over as Chairman and Stephen Webbe has joined the Committee.

The Centenary of the end of the First World War is very much with us and there are several relevant articles in this issue but, as usual, we try to cover a wide range of Ferring's history. Our featured article this year is David Garnett's essay on The Miller's Tomb, an early painting of which is on our front cover. The Tomb and the Miller's Cottage, up on Highdown, where he spent his widower years were just yards inside Worthing but his windmill was well within Ferring, and he lived up in Hangleton, and then in the village, all his married life. He is one of ours.

ALL CLEAR FOR THE LAST AIR RAID SHELTER

by Ed Miller

In 2005 the late Joyce Cooper, another past- Chairman, researched and wrote an article for our Newsletter, about the only High Explosive bomb that fell on Ferring in World War II, killing two residents and injuring two others. The incident took place on the night of 9 March 1941 and completely destroyed a bungalow named 'Byeways', in what is now Sea Lane Gardens. Mr and Mrs Mulkani were killed, a visitor was injured and the Mulkani's 16 year-old daughter was trapped under the rubble.

Eventually the rubble was cleared and another house built on the site, so there is no trace there now of the bomb damage from 1941. However, a very substantial relic of those times has just come to light in a neighbouring garden - a very well-constructed air raid shelter, hidden for years by shrubs and other vegetation.

Ferring was never a target for the Luftwaffe but it was common practice for bombers that had been raiding London, or Portsmouth and Southampton, to clear their bomb-bays over the south coast before returning to their airfields. Ferring had several loads of Incendiaries dropped on it, presumably for this reason. The village had its own Air Raid Precautions team, with instructions on how to deal with these smaller munitions, and some houses, at least, had Anderson shelters in their gardens – just arched sheets of corrugated iron, sunk into a pit, bolted at the top and covered with earth. But the Mulkani's neighbours had seen the terrible destruction at Byeways and evidently wanted something that could stand up to a blast like that.



What they had built for them was a concrete shelter, walls some 6 inches thick, with only the doorway above ground and steps leading underground. Back in August, with the owner's permission, I went down the steps and, with a torch, saw at right-angles to the steps, an underground room, some 8 feet by 6 feet, big enough to accommodate two sets of bunk beds. The walls were skimmed with plaster and there was a ventilation shaft in the roof.

It was all very clean and tidy, and dry, but the floor was strewn with pine cones and other plant debris blown in by the wind. There was also



what I took to be the ribs of a broken umbrella but turned out to be the rib-cage of a fox: in fact there was the whole skeleton, still covered in skin but with very little flesh. On one wall was a large, well-drawn shield, with a lion rampant and a falcon.

Who lived here during the war? Who had painted the heraldic device? I am still trying to find out. Is this the last garden air raid shelter left in Ferring? Probably. In Arun? In Sussex? Do any of our readers know?

DAVID LINDSAY 1876-1945

by David Garnett

A number of writers have lived in Ferring at various times (Michael Temple, for example, see *Ferring History Magazine* 2017), the most famous of whom was probably J. B. Morton, best known as "Beachcomber" of the *Daily Express*, who lived on Sea Lane for many years until his death in 1979. But the author who has had the most literary significance and influence was certainly David Lindsay (pictured left), who lived in Ferring from 1928 until 1938.



Born in London in 1876, he worked at a Lloyd's underwriters for 25 years before enlisting for war service in 1916. Aged 40, he was given an office job with the Grenadier Guards. The same year he met and married his wife, 18 year-old Jacqueline Silve, and in 1919 they moved to Cornwall to pursue Lindsay's ambition to become a writer. The following year his first and most famous novel was published.

This was *A Voyage to Arcturus*, a title which makes it seem like a pulp science fiction novel instead of the intense metaphysical fantasy that it is. (Lindsay's preferred title was *Nightspore*

in Tormance, which may have given the book more literary credibility but was rejected by the publisher as too obscure.) The philosopher Colin Wilson called it "one of the greatest books of the twentieth century" and both J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis acknowledged Lindsay's influence on their work.

The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography states: "Most of Lindsay's novels had difficulty finding publishers, were poorly reviewed, and sold badly." He published three more books

during the 1920s but, according to the introduction to his posthumously-published novel *The Violet Apple*, Lindsay “suffered from increasing financial stringency” and so in 1928 he bought a house in Ferring . . .

With his wife and two daughters, Lindsay moved to ‘Greenways’, located at the end of a 200 yard driveway off Sea Lane. Built c. 1926, it stood on its own, in large grounds — but they were sold for housing in the 1960s, and the drive became Greenways Crescent.

In October 1929 the family moved again, this time to ‘Meadowbank’, less than 150 yards away. In his book *The Life and Works of David Lindsay*, Bernard Sellin wrote that in Ferring, “life was much more relaxed” and while his wife “looked after the kitchen-garden”, Lindsay “devoted himself to the maintenance of his flower beds, He loved, pansies and lupins.” While living in Ferring, David Lindsay published his novel *The Devil's Tor* (1932) and also worked on his final, unfinished book *The Witch*.

In 1938 “financial stringency” was the cause of the Lindsays moving home again, this time to Hove, where his wife supported the family by taking in boarders. ‘Meadowbank’ was sold, to become Ferring Health School. This was one of a number of small private dame schools in the village, the word ‘health’ in its name probably referring to the benefits of the seaside air.



The photograph of the school shows that ‘Meadowbank’ was a fair size and, although there is no current evidence to support this, it is entirely possible that Jacqueline Lindsay ran their home in Ferring as a lodging house to finance her husband's struggling writing career. They had originally met at a literary club in London and, according to Bernard Sellin, without his wife's encouragement “Lindsay would never have written a single line”.

Like ‘Greenways’, ‘Meadowbank’ stood on a drive off Sea Lane. This later became the northern part of Sea Lane Gardens, and the house was demolished and the site developed. It seems that ‘Greenways’ may soon meet the same fate, as it now stands empty on a substantial piece of land and is unlikely to survive into its second century — unlike David Lindsay's masterpiece, *A Voyage to Arcturus*, which is still in print in Britain, the U.S.A. and in several translated editions. Only 600 copies of the original edition were sold. They now change hands for up to a thousand pounds.

David Lindsay died in Shoreham in 1945 and is buried in an unmarked grave in Lancing. His last, uncompleted novel *The Witch*, written in Ferring, was finally published 30 years later.

* * *

With thanks to Murray Ewing and www.violetapple.org.uk Drawing of David Lindsay by, and with permission of, Garen Ewing.

FERRING DEAD REMEMBERED IN NEW ESTATE

by Ed Miller

Our Group joins all the other village organisations every Remembrance Sunday to lay a wreath on Ferring's War Memorial. This year is the centenary of the Armistice that ended the First World War and no doubt more residents than usual will be there to pay their respects. The



names of the five villagers who were killed between 1914 and 1918 will never be forgotten but they have been given a new currency in the names of the roads on the 'Greenside' estate, the 40 new houses off Littlehampton Road.

The developers asked Arun District Council, Arun asked Ferring Parish Council and the Parish Council asked us for names that could be commemorated in this way. We gave them the five names, out of which they have chosen four. Kilham Way is named after George Kilham, who died in the Second Battle of Ypres 1915; Winton Close, after John Winton, also at Ypres; Reginald Court after Reginald Hoare, killed on the Somme in 1916. All three were young farmworkers who had volunteered for the army. Bennett Gardens is named after William Bennett, a 38-year old Royal Marine then serving on a warship off Scotland, sunk with all hands in 1915. The fifth casualty was William Bagot-Chester, a career army officer who would have known little of Ferring: his father, the Curate, had only moved to this parish a few years before the outbreak of war. ; In 1914-18 this land was a market garden – one of many in the Worthing and Littlehampton area.

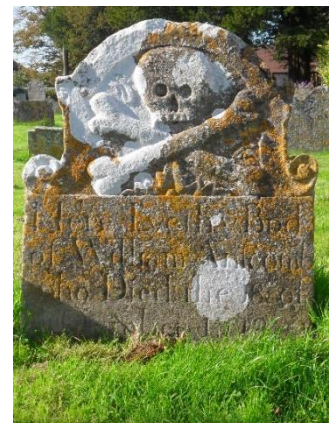
'Greenside' probably takes its name from 'Greenyer's Field', as it was known immediately before the development. Greenyer was a local businessman who owned the field for a period but the site was known in the 1970s as 'Old Barn Nurseries'. It was still a nursery in 1984 but became derelict and was the subject of various planning applications over the next 30 years. All these were refused, as the area was part of the Strategic Gap between Ferring and East Preston, but the arrival of the ASDA superstore next door made this little pocket of the Gap difficult to defend and eventually, on appeal, permission was granted for the estate.

THE PIRATE'S GRAVE AND THE FARMER WHO LIES IN IT

by David Garnett

2018 is the 300th anniversary of the oldest gravestone in St Andrew's churchyard. Its face patterned by lichen, its carving worn away by the ravages of the wind and rain and frost, the inscription reads: "Here lieth ye body of William Anscomb who died the 18th of October 1718 aged 53 years." With its skull and crossbones emblem, this has been known to generations of Ferring children as the pirate's grave — but the motif is in fact an old Christian symbol of mortality.

There are older memorials within St Andrew's itself, where the most wealthy and influential parishioners were buried in family vaults



beneath the church floor; but the inscriptions on these tombs have been worn away over the centuries, and there is only one with a legible date earlier than the Anscomb stone: “Here lieth ye body of John Snelling, deceased December ye 13th 1679 and in the 61 year of his age.”

There is no William Anscomb included in the parish records as having been baptised at St Andrew's church, but there is a marriage listing for Ann Gratwicke and William “Anscom” on 20 December 1716. Then, on 18 October 1718, the death is recorded of William “Anscomb” — but when probate was published on 29 October 1718, the name of the testator was given as William “Anscombe”.

Three centuries ago, when very few people could read or write, there was no standard spelling even for common words. A good example of this is in the epitaphs quoted above, where the same word has two different spellings: “ye” (pronounced “the”) and “the” itself. The same surname could easily be spelled differently: Anscom, Anscomb or Anscombe. When a gravestone was needed, the vicar would ask for the name of the deceased to be “sounded” and he would write it down, then copy it and the inscription for the stonemason to carve.

Further church records are held in the cathedral archives at Chichester, and these include the marriage license of “William Anscom of Ferring, yeoman, widower, & Anne Gratwick of Steyning, widow” (28 November 1716). More can be learned from Anscomb's will, written when he was “sick and weake in body but of sound and perfect mind & memory” in which he divided his estate between his “dear & loving wife Ann Anscome” (a fourth variation of the spelling) and his three daughters and three sons.

There are no further Ferring parish record entries for Anscomb (with any spelling) after the one in the burial book. No one else in the family was baptised, married or buried at St Andrew's, which means none of them could have lived in the village for any length of time, if at all. Ann/Anne either moved away after the death of her husband, or else her surname changed when she married again.

Stone memorials were uncommon in small country churchyards before the eighteenth century, and it is unlikely that there were many earlier gravestones in St Andrew's. At the time Anscomb was buried, many graves would be unmarked, others might have a simple wooden cross which would soon rot away. Gravestones were very expensive, but his wealth is proved in great detail by “An Inventory of the goods & Chattells and personall Estate of William Anscome”.

He owned cattle, sheep, pigs, two waggons, one harrow and an “Old Plow”, barns full of hay, wheat, barley and oats, as well as all his household possessions. The first item on the probate list was “Wareing Aparrell & Money owing him” (£47/0/0d) and the last was “Old Lumber & things forgotten & unseen” (£1/0/0d). These gave a “Totall Summe” of £425/12/6d — and the heirs of such a prosperous farmer could well afford a handsome memorial.

Ferring churchyard holds countless graves, most of them unmarked and unrecorded. Although burials have taken place there for over a thousand years, much of the area around the Anscomb memorial shows no evidence of this — apart from the undulations in the ground. Over the years, gravestones inevitably tilt and fall. Some are removed, some placed against the churchyard walls, and others slowly sink beneath the earth.

While so many headstones have been lost and forgotten, the main reason the Anscomb one has survived so long is because of its size and shape. It is relatively small, only 28 inches high by

23 inches wide, but at four inches it is also very thick. Such proportions give the stone a low centre of gravity and more stability. Even so, it now leans slightly backwards and, in time, it too will fall.

Until then, for a short while before noon, whenever the sun is shining it creates spectral shadows in the lettering whereby William Anscomb's epitaph can still be read as clearly as when it was carved three hundred years ago.

FERRING IN 1718

by Ed Miller

Three hundred years ago, the calendar year started on 25 March and finished on the following 24 March: the change to 'January – December' came only in 1752. This survey of Ferring follows the 'Old Style' dating.

Six baptisms and four burials were recorded at St Andrew's Church, but there were no marriages that year, or for another four years after that. The Vicar was William Allbright. He had been in post for two years and continued until 1766: a 50-year record never equalled in Ferring (or, probably, in Sussex, although the Vicar of Highfield, Oxford, had served 60 years by 2017).

The main business of the community was, of course, farming, with crops on the land in the south and east of the parish, sheep on Highdown and cattle in the meadows along the Rife (known simply as 'the brook' or 'the stream'). There is no record of any fishing.

Most of the land was held on 'copyhold' – an inheritable, undated lease with few obligations – from the Bishop, but the largest farm was on a 21-year lease, usually renewed but with particular conditions and a variable price. In 1718 the lease (of some 300 acres) was held by Mary Westbrook, whose father and grandfather had held it since the Restoration. In the north-west of the parish, on the other side of Highdown, the Shelley family had a freehold of 160 acres; in the south-east, either side of the lower end of what is now Sea Lane was a separate freehold of 240 acres owned by Mary Westbrook and farmed as copyholds by a few local families.

That freehold constituted the Manor of East Ferring, which had separated from the Bishop's Manor of West Ferring during the Middle Ages (the two together constituted the endowment of 'twelve hides' from Osmund in 765). Mary Westbrook was the Lady of the Manor (and also of Goring Manor) and her Steward administered the copyholds and presided over the Manor Court. The Court records that have survived indicate that the tenants did not take the Court very seriously. In 1706, for example, there is a Jury (of only two landowners) but the business transacted is trivial: six 'free tenants' are fined heavily for not attending and another acknowledges that he holds his house and an acre of land from the Lord of the Manor, for which he pays a peppercorn rent and owes 'suit of court and service'. Another holds a house and a malthouse on an annual rental.

The jurisdiction of the Bishop, and his Steward, in West Ferring was much more important. Mary Westbrook's lease specified many obligations, including that of providing '*House Room and find a Court Dinner, Hay, Corn etc, for the Bishops Steward*', for the Manor Court. That court regulated the transmission of the copyholds, tenants' obligations such as the maintenance of fences and ditches, the right to cut down trees for timber and much more besides. Business could be done 'out of court' but the transactions had to be registered, and the fee paid, at the next Court.

The six baptisms were of Elizabeth Haselgrove, Elizabeth Masters, John Pannet, Jane Martin, Thomas Bodger and Thomas Holyday. Elizabeth Haselgrove probably died in infancy because her mother and father had another child baptised as Elizabeth eight years later. Elizabeth Masters was buried three weeks after her baptism. John Pannet fared better, living to the age of 42. He was part of the family that owned East Kingston Farm. There is no further record of the other three children baptised that year.

Apart from William Anscomb and Elizabeth Masters, the burials were of William Shelley (evidently a child, and no relation to the land-owning family) and William Leggat. He, like Anscomb, had been a farmer, although on a smaller scale. His probate inventory survives, and in it we can see only a few agricultural items (one hog, one pig, ten geese, three gates (side frames of a waggon) and three prongs (pitchforks)). He had the usual domestic equipment, including a spinning wheel, brewing apparatus and churn for making butter, but most of the £26 probate valuation was for his two beds and bed-linen, two tables and table-ware, seven chairs and kitchen equipment. He was, presumably, retired from farming and we know he was a widower because probate was granted to his brother Thomas, and the parish register shows, two years earlier, the burial of 'Elizabeth, wife of William Leggat'.

PHILIP CANDY, MIDSHIPMAN RN

by Stephen Webbe

Of all the memorial tablets in St. Andrew's, Ferring none is more moving than the one dedicated to the 15 year-old Philip Candy by his grieving parents, John and Emily Candy.



Candy, who grew up in East Kingston House across the Ferring Rife, was a Royal Navy midshipman who died aboard the armoured cruiser HMS Monmouth in the Battle of Coronel off the coast of Chile on November 1st 1914.

In 1912, when just short of his thirteenth birthday, Candy joined HMS Conway, a cadet school ship moored on the Mersey off Rock Ferry in Birkenhead. Two years later he went on to the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth and when it was ordered to war in 1914, he was one of 10 cadets assigned to HMS Monmouth and promoted to midshipmen.

Hauled out of the mothballed Reserve Fleet, the elderly Monmouth steamed out of Devonport on August 6th 1914. Just under three months later the 13-year-old cruiser, weakly armoured and poorly armed with 6-inch guns, was fighting for her life some 40 miles off the town of Coronel in central Chile as part of the 4th Cruiser Squadron under the command of Rear-Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock.

Cradock, whose force included HMS Monmouth, the armoured cruiser HMS Good Hope and the light cruiser HMS Glasgow, had been ordered to hunt down the Imperial German Navy's East Asia Squadron. This was commanded by Vice-Admiral Maximilian Graf von Spee and consisted of the armoured cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau with powerful 8.2-inch guns and the light cruisers Dresden, Leipzig and Nurnberg. Joining battle in heavy seas, the British squadron found itself silhouetted in the afterglow of the setting sun, making it an easy target for German gunfire.

Gneisenau quickly went to work on the luckless Monmouth, several of whose hull-mounted 6-inch guns were swamped in heavy seas and rendered useless. With its third salvo, the German cruiser blew off Monmouth's forward turret. Soon Gneisenau had reduced her upper-works to

a shambles and both sides of the ship were in flames. Minutes later Monmouth yawed off to starboard, blazing furiously and listing dangerously to port.

At this point Nurnberg caught Monmouth in her searchlight and poured 75 shells into the crippled ship. Monmouth promptly turned turtle and disappeared beneath the chill Pacific with 734 officers and men, including Midshipman Candy. Scharnhorst then sent HMS Good Hope to the bottom with 900 souls including Cradock, who would later be accused of recklessly engaging a more powerful squadron.

Vengeance was swift and terrible. On December 8th 1914 the fast battlecruisers HMS Invincible and HMS Inflexible sank Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Nurnberg and Leipzig in the Battle of the Falkland Islands. Von Spee and 2,200 men went with them.

If John and Emily Candy thought their son had been sent to war in a dangerously obsolete warship and that, for Rear-Admiral Cradock, discretion should have been the better part of valour, they never said so. At least, not in public.

ROMAN SUSSEX

report by Ed Miller

Last November, Ferring History Group members heard a fascinating account of life in Sussex during the Roman Empire, given by David Rudling, Academic Director of Sussex School of Archaeology. He illustrated his talk with pictures of the many villas, farm steads and temples he had excavated.

One theme of David's talk was the continuity of everyday life and the acceptance of Imperial rule rather than any resistance to an army of occupation. Farmers and peasants continued to live in 'Iron Age' round huts for many decades, most of them far from the only town (Chichester) where a more 'Roman' way of life was carried on. It was not even clear, he said, whether there was any opposed landing of Roman troops in 43 AD, either in Kent or in Sussex. One account has the army being invited in, to support one side in the tribal wars.

Fishbourne Roman Palace belongs to this early period, a vast group of buildings occupied by a British king, Togidumnus, supported by Roman troops in nearby barracks at Chichester Harbour. Stane Street was the road the Romans built to link the army and local officials in Chichester with the Imperial capital at London (the A29 still follows this route).

David Rudling said the most obvious benefit from being in the Roman Empire was the end to tribal fighting and lawlessness. In these new conditions, and with new technology, agriculture flourished, and those who were doing well out of the system (not necessarily Italians, or even continental Europeans) built farmsteads and larger complexes (villas) in the Imperial style. He showed just how many had been located and excavated in east and west Sussex. Bignor was one of the largest, and had been well preserved since its discovery and excavation in the 1820s.

He told us we should think of the villas, farmsteads and temples as 'Romano-British' rather than Roman, and should note that the influence of Rome continued for decades after the Imperial army left in 410 AD. One example of this is the range of coins found in the Patching Hoard, discovered in 1997, including those of the emperor Severus in 461 AD. This is well after the date given for the arrival of the Saxons, and the first burials in their cemetery on Highdown.

In fact, David Rudling said, there is probably some continuity between the Roman remains on Highdown (the bath house), the Romano-British Patching Hoard and the Saxon camp and cemetery, all within half a mile of each other. The bath house may have been associated with

a villa on the slopes of the hill (which archaeologists may one day uncover) or with a more scattered settlement around the Iron Age fort on the summit.

MUNITIONS ON THE BEACH

Sussex Daily News reported in its 14 March 1894 edition that the previous Sunday a Whitehead Torpedo was washed up on the beach near Sea Lane, Ferring. It was seen by a coastguard and recovered. It was believed to come from the Royal Naval Base, Portsmouth.

Robert Whitehead was a Lancashire engineer who worked in Italy and the Austro-Hungarian Empire and developed for them the first self-propelled torpedo.

He then sold the invention to all the world's navies, including Britain's. The torpedo was used as a weapon to be launched from fast surface boats, long before submarines were developed.

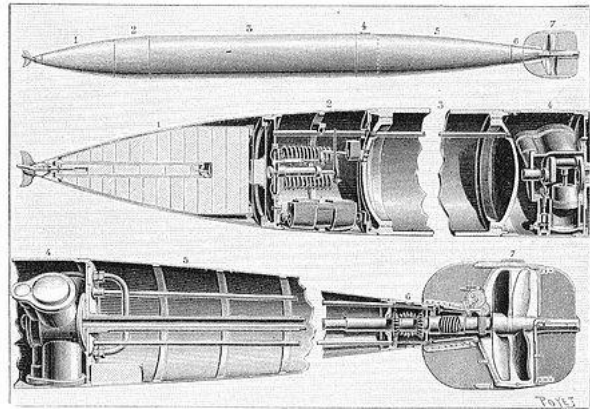


Fig. 1. — Torpille automobile Whitehead. — 1. Nagasia. — 2. Chambre à secret. — 3. Réservoir d'air comprimé. — 4. Chambre des moteurs à air comprimé. — 5. Flotteur ou chambre de flottaison. — 6. Mécanisme de commande de rotation des hélices. — 7. Hélices et gouvernails.

Illustration from *Wikipedia*

FERRING'S FIRST SHOP

by Ed Miller

The photograph below, taken in the 1920s, was long thought to be of Ferring's first shop – but this is probably not the case. Wesson's shop at Landalls Cottage, on the east side of Ferring Street was certainly there long before any of the shops on the west side but it was not the earliest. That title probably belongs to 'The Ramblers', the house in Church Lane that backs onto the churchyard.

Sidney Wesson, a widower, and his son Harold, are listed in the 1901 Census as living at 'The Shop' and give their occupation as Bakers. Sidney married again (to Martha) and in the 1911 Census the



couple and four children are living at the shop. Harold, now married, is living in 'Lilac Cottage' a few yards up the road (now demolished) and gives his occupation as 'Grocer's Assistant. No doubt bread was still a large part of their trade but the shop had by then become a general grocery store. It was still functioning in 1948. The photograph, with Martha at the door, must

have been taken between 1926 and 1929 because it was for only that brief period that the village Post Office was located there. In the 1911, 1901 and 1891 Censuses the Post Office was in Holly Lodge, in Church Lane.

It is doubtful whether Holly Lodge was ever a shop. In all three of those censuses the occupier of this house was a carpenter and wheelwright – first Frederick Horner and then Peter Tourle. Mrs Horner was the first postmistress, and, no doubt in her time, Mrs Tourle was the one behind the counter: the Post Office was a sideline.



Holly Lodge around 1900. The sign over the extension says 'Post Office'.

The 1891 Census lists the house opposite (The Ramblers) as 'The Old Post Office', and this is borne out by the 1886 Street Directory which gives Mr Winton as the Post Master. The 1881 Census gives his wife's occupation as 'Grocer's Assistant'. Going further back, an 1872 Directory names Thomas Winton as 'Shopkeeper and Post Office'. It also names a Mr Cranstone as a 'Shopkeeper' – there is no address but we know that William Cranstone acquired Landalls Cottage in 1864.

William Cranstone married Eliza Moore between 1851 and 1861. They are both listed as 'Bakers' in the 1861 Census but Winton and Cranstone were shown as 'Shopkeepers' in the 1862 Directory. Thomas Winton, in The Ramblers, goes right back to 1851 as 'Shopkeeper' and to 1855 as Shopkeeper and Postmaster. The 1851 Directory also lists Mrs Eliza Moore and



Church Lane around 1900, with The Ramblers on the right

Mr William Roots as 'shopkeepers'. The 1851 census shows Eliza Moore (unmarried) as a 'Grocer and Baker'. William Roots was shown in that census as a 'Woodman', probably living north of the railway, but we have no other information on him.

The earliest reference however, is to Thomas Winton, described as a Shopkeeper in the Parish Register entry for his son's marriage in 1840. We know he was living at The Ramblers at this time and it therefore most likely that The Ramblers was a shop in 1840, and the earliest shop

in Ferring. The 1841 Census describes Winton as Agricultural Labourer, and it may therefore have been his wife and daughter that ran the shop.

Thomas Winton had an earlier career as a Smuggler. He gave evidence at the trial of George Henty in 1818, and under cross-examination admitted that he had himself been involved in a smuggling transaction. His grandson, John Winton, a few weeks before he died in 1941, was interviewed by the Worthing Herald. Winton recalled stories his father had told him about his family's many smuggling enterprises and one suspects that not all the trading in Ferring's first shop was above the counter.

REWRITING HISTORY

report by Ed Miller

Our Chairman, David Garnett, gave a talk in St Andrew's Church in July about the work he did to produce the new edition of the church guide book. He said there were quite a few errors in the previous editions and some new material had come to light.

There was little doubt about the origins of St Andrews: the land grant of 765 for the support of a Minster, the much smaller grant of a piece of woodland in 791 'for the church of St Andrew in Ferring', and the replacement of the small wooden Saxon church by the stone Norman church in 1120. More than a century after that the church was substantially rebuilt – the chancel was enlarged, and the north wall of the nave was replaced by an arcade. Pevsner's 'Buildings of England', published 50 years ago gives the date of 1250.

After that the picture becomes confused and unreliable. We were invited to comment on the revised edition of Pevsner, to be published this year. The draft referred to, 'the Early 13th Century chancel with fragments of a group of shafted east Lancets, brutally cut into by a three-light window c. 1422-23 when Thomas Harling made a bequest for "new construction" of the nave'. David said he had pointed out the inconsistency between nave and chancel.

There was no record of any further rebuilding but in 1790 an article in 'The Topographer' said, 'From the inward structure of the church, and from some flinty masses that still lie at the west end no doubt it once had a steeple which was destroyed by accident'. The earliest picture we have of the church is a drawing by James Lambert in the 1780s (featured on the cover of Issue No.3). It has no tower, steeple or turret but it does show the outline of a doorway on the outside of the porch, and there is still today the outline of a doorway on the inside of the porch. These walls are massive – could they have supported a tower? The churchwardens over the years gave conflicting answers to one of the regular questions the Archdeacon asked them – what was the condition of their steeple. In some years they said it was in good condition; in other years they said they had no steeple – the bells hung on a frame in the churchyard. One churchwarden said in 1613 that the bells had hung in the churchyard for the last 50 years

We know at least that there were three bells on a frame in the churchyard in 1792 because the churchwardens applied for a 'faculty' to sell two of the bells and use the proceeds to hang the third bell in a turret to be built on the roof of the nave. This was done, and all subsequent pictures of the church show this new feature. The bell that was retained is still there, inscribed 'Bryan Eldridge 1651'.

The memorials in the church are all 17th, 18th and 19th Century: we have little idea of what was there before, although wealthy parishioners were being buried in the church from at least the 15th Century. At any time before the Reformation there would have been large wall paintings of scenes from scripture but no trace of them has been found. The largest memorial, to one of the Richardson family, is no longer on view. It used to be behind the pulpit but may have been distracting as it was 'a life-size figure of a nude man'. It seems to have been moved to the back of the nave and is probably still there, hidden by the organ.

The only addition to the memorials in the 20th Century has been the War Memorial and the board listing all the Vicars. But that has mistakes in it: 'Arthur Owen' should be 'Owen Arthur', and 'Simon' in 1250 is very doubtful – the Simon who sheltered St Richard when he was deposed by the King was almost certainly Simon of *Tarring* (easily misread as 'Ferring'). It is impossible now to compile a definitive list. Although the Parish Registers, which begin in 1558, show that some Vicars had very long tenures - 30, 40 and even 50 years, there are some periods, such as the 1650s when it is not clear who was the Vicar and who was just a 'Minister of God's Word' who was taking the services.

Data on Vicars before 1558 is very limited but there are several who should be added to the board. From various sources we know that in May 1373 Walter, Vicar of Ferring, was excommunicated at the King's request for not paying his taxes (6s 8d – 33p in decimal currency). Before him was Robert de Walton, and after him William Noion in 1388 and Thomas Huling in 1406.

David said he had been curious about the Vicars of the 1920s and 1930s. Was the Rev. Thomas Jellicoe related to the WW 1 Admiral of the Fleet? Yes, they were brothers. What did the H stand for in 'H Copley Moyle'? His full name was Vyvian Henry Copely Moyle but he did not use his first name, perhaps because it was the name of his father, also a vicar but one who served two jail terms for forgery and fraud. When Stuart Morgan wrote in his book, 'Music in the Village' Church', about 'the problem of a small country church where there is little musical talent available', did he mean us? No, he was referring to his next church, in Dorset.

David said there were many puzzles about the church – did or didn't it have a minstrels' gallery? - and its ancient clergy, and he had had to leave most of them unresolved, but more information would no doubt come to light and appear in a future revising of the guide book.

ROMAN BATH HOUSE ON HIGHDOWN

by Ed Miller

David Garnett has written in these pages about the excavations on Highdown, from the 1890s onwards, which revealed the large Saxon Cemetery. Some of those excavations also examined the ramparts of the Iron Age fort and the marks of round huts of the earlier, Bronze Age inhabitants. The 1939(?) and 1947 excavations focused on these earlier features. Less well known are the excavations of 1937 and 1938 of a Roman bath-house 500 yards to the west. Fortunately, they were well reported in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* v. 80 [1939].

The story began in 1936 when a Mr W Frend made some trial cuttings about half-way down the west slope of Highdown, close to the Ferring-Angmering boundary and found some foundations of an ancient building and fragments of Roman pottery. He persuaded Worthing Archaeological Society to undertake an excavation, and the farmer, Jorian Jenks (a leading Blackshirt, rounded up in 1940), to allow them to do so.

What they found when they started the dig in April 1937 was the remains of a bath-house, with flint and mortar walls enclosing a cold bath, a hot room, a stoke hole for the furnace heating the hot room from below, and two large sumps - one for draining the water from the cold bath and one whose function was unclear. The inside of the walls was plastered and there were floor tiles in the cold room and pillars supporting what had been the floor of the hot room. When they went back in 1938 they found another hot room, apparently connected to the main building by a wooden corridor and two rubbish pits with Iron Age as well as Roman pottery and other domestic items. The items found in the main building and the sumps were definitely Roman, including a great deal of pottery fragments, iron nails and studs (from sandals) and two bronze surgical spoons.

The archaeologists believed the bath-house was built early in the Second Century (i.e. around 125 AD) and may have been attached to a villa just to the west but they did not have permission to excavate in that area. They also considered the theory that the track just north of the site, running from the top of Highdown to Ecclesden Manor House was a Roman road but when they dug a trench across the track they found no sign of it.

They ended their report with the hope that they could return and unearth the villa, or whatever building it was they found traces of, to the south and west of the bath-house. They never did return – and we can only guess what may lie there to be discovered. It would seem strange to have a bath-house high on the hill unless the users lived close by. If it was not attached to a villa it may, perhaps, have served a military camp. The old Iron Age fort may well have been used by the Roman army but there are no other signs of them in the hill-top excavations, and the bath house was not large enough for a military facility.

Will there ever be another dig? The land is in private ownership which is one obstacle but the main obstacle to archaeological excavations, anywhere, is lack of funding. Neil Rogers-Davis, Angmering's local historian, told me, 'Some years ago, I approached Archaeology South-East about the other Angmering Villa site – near the Poling boundary – but they said that they just did not have the money or resources to tackle further excavation there on what must be a very large villa next to that substantial bath house. They would only start excavation if they believed there was something of exceptional interest there or a housing development was going to be built on top of it! Probably the same criteria would apply to the Highdown bath house'

THE STREETS OF ARUNDEL

On 22 September, an Indian Summer sort of day, FHG members followed Adge Roberts on another walk in this historic town.

We met at the Museum, where he works as a volunteer, and Adge gave us a quick history of the town – always dominated by the castle and the river. The Arun was a very fast tidal river with a good depth that made Arundel a substantial port and shipbuilding centre until the end of the 19th Century. That trade had moved downstream to Littlehampton, which could cater for large vessels and had easy access to the sea. The castle had been besieged in the Civil War and had become very dilapidated until the end of the 18th Century when it was largely rebuilt as a stately home. The Dukes of Norfolk continue to own a great deal of land around the town.

Walking back to the river we saw the ruins of the Black Friars' priory and crossed the bridge, built in 1935, to replace an 18th Century predecessor, then back to the town quay and along River Road to the Nineveh Shipyards. Many of the old houses survive on the north side of the road, all with interesting histories – the riverside warehouses and yards have been redeveloped but a building that was once the Jolly Sailor pub and its neighbor, the Rats Castle (still so

named) have survived. The latter had been a lodging house for the sea farers that thronged Arundel. We then turned up the exceptionally wide Arun Street. Adge pointed out the houses that were once shops, and suggested the width of the street was to enable carts to turn round without unharnessing the horses.

We turned right into Tarrant Street, with the 17th Century Kings Arms pub on the opposite corner. Tarrant Street was full of interesting buildings with a part in Arundel's history. The Bay Tree Restaurant is the only surviving jettied building in Arundel and Belinda's next door is also of Tudor origin.



In Tarrant Street, the Bay Tree Restaurant - a Tudor building, once a slaughterhouse

We then turned right in the High Street and looked uphill to see what had been one the town's earliest inns (The George) where the Duke would meet with his Tory party members until in the 1780s he built the Norfolk Hotel. The square behind the War Memorial is the site of the last cattle market, and of the town pump and well (donated by an early Quaker c 1674) which was closed some 200 years later when it became contaminated with sewage. We moved on to the post office where the quality of the brick and timberwork was pointed out, and were then shown some almost-hidden parts of the main Black Friars ruins and then back to the Museum.

An excellent walk, with expert commentary from Adge. - EM

THE WINTON FAMILY

by Ed Miller

One of the names on Ferring's War Memorial is John Winton. John was 'missing in action, presumed killed' in September 1916, in the Second Battle of Ypres. His name is on the Menin Gate, as one of the 54,000 Commonwealth soldiers with no known grave. He was the eldest son of a well-established Ferring family.

Charles Winton married Sarah Hale at Ferring 1772. They had seven children christened at Ferring, of whom one was Thomas in 1774. Charles was buried at Ferring in 1825 at the age of 79. In 1808 Sarah Drewitt surrendered the copyhold property we now call the Ramblers to Thomas Winton. A few years later, in 1817, Thomas Winton was involved in a smuggling case: George Henty was convicted of organising the unloading of 300 tubs of gin and storing them in his barns. Winton said he was there and saw it happen. Subsequently George Henty



The Ramblers today

had the two main witnesses prosecuted for perjury and during that trial it was shown that Winton could not have been on the beach that morning, and he admitted that he had 'been concerned in a smuggling transaction on the evening of that day but Mr Henty had no part in it'. It would seem that Winton was well known as a smuggler and that there was a plot to incriminate Henty as a way of avoiding a heavy sentence in another case.

The copyhold tenancy of The Ramblers would normally have passed, on Charles' death, to Thomas Winton, who was his eldest son but, for some reason, James Winton is shown as the owner and occupier in 1837. However, Thomas (Agricultural Labourer) 60, his wife Jane 60, and a daughter Sarah, aged 20, lived there at the time of the 1841 census. Their son Thomas aged 20 and his wife Hannah, also 20, constituted another Winton household, probably at Manor Cottages. An entry in the Parish Registers for their marriage in August 1840 describes the elder Thomas as a shopkeeper.

The elder Thomas died in 1845 and in the 1851 Census his widow Jane (73), is described as 'House proprietor', plus Isabella King as a granddaughter and housemaid aged 15; and William Winton, a grandson, aged 7. The younger Thomas (33), an agricultural labourer in the 1841 Census is now described as a Coachman. He and Hannah have four young children – all still at Manor Cottages.

By the 1861 census Thomas the younger and his family (now 8 children) have moved into The Ramblers with Jane (now 83). Jane died in 1862 or 1863 and Thomas took over the copyhold. In the 1861 census Thomas is described as a grocer. In the 1871 census he and his wife Hannah have four children living with them. In the 1881 census Thomas is 63, described as a labourer, and his wife 'a Grocers shopkeeper'. Sons Frederick 29 and John 20, both labourers, are living with them.

In 1891 the son John is 30, an Agricultural Labourer, married to Charlotte 29; with Nellie 8, Minnie 6, John 5, Arthur 3, Winnie 3m, living at 2 Manor Cottages. A parlour maid lives with them, improbably entered on the Census form as their servant. The Ramblers is now occupied by the Saunders family. John 36 (bootmaker), Jane (nee Winton) is 38; the children Edith 8, and Ethel 4, William 2, John 5 months, plus Jane's brother Frederick Winton 40.

By 1901 John and Jane Saunders, William, and John jnr have been joined by Henry, 8 and Oliver, 5. The Winton family are now John, Farm Carter, 40; Charlotte 39; John 15 Houseboy, Arthur Farm boy 13, Winifred and Margaret (twins) 8, Robert 4, and Percy 1. Their address at the census is 1 Sea Lane - probably the old cottages opposite East Ferring Farm House (later rebuilt as 'Homestead Cottages'). The Manor House cottages were occupied by the Bennett and Fuller families.

By 1911 Jane Saunders was dead. John and his sons Thomas aged 20, and Oliver 15 were still living at the Ramblers. The Wintons were still at the Sea Lane cottage: John 50, Farm carter; Charlotte 49, Robert 14, Farm labourer, Percy 11, Cecilia 9. By this time, John and Arthur had joined the Army; they were both in the East Yorkshire Regiment. Arthur Winton had been badly injured in a lightning strike that killed two young men in 1907. They had all taken shelter under a tree at the entrance to the drive up to Highdown Towers. Arthur returned safely from the First World War but John was killed near Ypres in September 1916 (his name is on the Menin Gate). Robert and Percy served in the Navy.

John Winton senior seems to be missing from the village in 1920s but by 1931 he was back at Sea Lane, now in a bungalow called 'Peacehaven' just north of the Beehive Lane junction. He lived to a ripe old age, and celebrated his Diamond Wedding in 1941. The *Worthing Herald* interviewed him at that time, shortly before his death. He said that during his grandfather's day

everyone in Ferring did a bit of smuggling. They hid casks of spirits in the village pond, and the farmers would hide bundles of silks in their barns behind the animal feed.

Smuggling must have continued for many years after that, and must have been something of a family business for the Wintons because in that same interview John Winton told two stories about his father (Thomas) running from the 'Preventive Officers' and his mother hiding a cask of brandy under her skirts during one search of the house. This may have been in the 1850s, just before John was born. One wonders whether he still had any contraband in his grocery stock in 1861?

John's youngest child, Cecilia (Cissy), revived the family's connection with retailing. She is listed in the Street Directories from 1946 as running a little shop attached to 'Peacehaven', known as 'The Wayside Stores'. It sold confectionery, fruit and groceries.

BEQUESTS TO ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

by Ed Miller

In the 15th and 16th centuries Ferring residents very often bequeathed small sums to their parish church, frequently in conjunction with similar sums to Chichester Cathedral. For example, Brian Davie, in 1558, left four pence to 'the high altar in Ferring' and 'two pence to the mother church of Chichester'. Such bequests might be for particular features like the candles for the altar, for projects like the repair of the bells, or for charitable funds such as 'the poor men's box'. Other bequests were really payments for services like the bells to be rung at the funeral or for so many masses to be sung for the testator's soul, or for burial inside the church. These provide much interest and illustrate aspects of church life that were felt to be important.

Even more interesting are the bequests by people who did not live in Ferring or Kingston. Many of these are listed in an old volume of the Sussex Record Society (1936) which can be found on its web site. Most of them turn out to be clergy who had served at Ferring earlier in their ministry. Thomas Harling of Pulborough left ten marks (£7) in 1442 for 'reconstruction of the nave', plus a new Missal and a silver-gilt chalice. In his case we know the connection with Ferring: he had been the Prebendary of Ferring, receiving the major tithes. Nicholas Meres was a priest in Patching but left 6s 8d to St Andrew's in 1553 so that he could be buried in the churchyard – we know he had been a curate there.

William Noion, Canon of Chichester, York and Lincoln left funds in his will of 1404 for a weekly dole to the poor, for one year after his death, in Ferring, Preston and Kingston, as well as in Haddenham, (Cambridgeshire) where he was Rector. He had earlier been the Vicar of Ferring (presented to the living in 1387). He also left - to the current Vicar of Ferring - a 'dossal (ornamental chair-back), and a bench from my hall'.

In 1414 William White of South Malling left twenty pence to the lights (candles) in front of the image of the blessed Mary. Even earlier, in 1382, Bishop of Chichester William Reed had bequeathed a chalice. Miles Hodgeson of West Tarring left twenty pence in 1516 and John Wall, Rector of Clapham left thirteen shillings and eight pence to the poor of Ferring, as well as twenty pence to the church in 1558. His will also says, 'I forgive the Vicar of Ferringe forty shillings of the £3 he oweth me for a gelding, and give him my rydyng frocke'. In 1550 John Shelley of Clapham left 26 shillings and eight pence 'to the buyldinge reedification and reparacons of the church at Ferring'.

In 1551, Richard Gibbon, rector of Eastgate, left the Vicar of Ferring, John Lawe, his 'chamflet froke' and his 'turkey frice gown' as well as four lambs. Lawe seems to have been a very well-respected vicar – he is mentioned in many of the contemporary wills. But what was his colleague leaving him exactly? These do not sound like priestly vestments.

FERRING IN THE EARLY CENSUS RETURNS

by Ed Miller

It was only from 1841 that the Census recorded inhabitants' names, ages, marital status, occupations and county of birth, all of great value to local historians and family history researchers, but the first three Censuses, in 1801, 1811, 1821 and 1831 did record population numbers, and other information of considerable interest.

From 1801 to 1811 the population of Ferring barely rose (from 238 to 243) but by 1821 it reached 285. It dipped back to 258 in 1831 and then reached 285 again in 1841 and 312 in 1851. In 1861 it fell back to 253 and never rose above 267 until the 1931 Census, which counted 795 inhabitants (reflecting the housing boom in South Ferring in the previous six years). A rise or fall of 10 per cent in ten years is not remarkable but why that spurt between 1811 and 1821 (17 per cent)? It was equally divided between males and females, so nothing to do with soldiers returning from the Napoleonic wars.

There was no increase in the number of households (the labour force required on the farms did not change). However, the parish registers show that there were only 41 deaths in that decade compared with 87 in the previous decade, while the number of births was slightly lower, indicating a substantial improvement in health and life expectancy between 1811 and 1821.

The 1801 Census gives details of land use. Ferring had 311 acres of wheat, 196 of barley, 125 of oats, 60 of peas and 70 of turnips (this category included rape but in Ferring it would have been turnips, grown mainly for winter feed for sheep). The remaining 300 acres included pasture, meadows and woodland.

The 1831 Census did note occupation or social status, although without individuals' names. Ferring had 5 farmers employing labourers, 44 agricultural labourers, 9 craftsmen or retailers, 1 'capitalist or professional', one servant and 4 'others'. The 'capitalist' was presumably Edwin Henty, as a banker, and among the 'others' would have been the Vicar, Henry Dixon. But this analysis cannot have included all the servants – there were 28 of these in the 1841 Census. Was their status thought to be negligible?

AT THE QUARTER SESSIONS IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY **by Ed Miller**

Two hundred years ago the local magistrates dealt with what was considered petty crime, the most serious offences were dealt with by judges in the Assizes, and the intermediate offences were tried before a panel of magistrates in county districts on Quarter Days. We have a record of some of the Sessions at Horsham and Petworth where Ferring men were convicted or sent for trial at the Assizes.

At Horsham, in July 1807, James Viney, a Labourer from Ferring, was convicted of stealing five hen's eggs (valued at 2d), the property of George Henty. Vinney had been committed in April (awaiting trial) and was now recommitted for one calendar month in the House of Correction and then discharged.

In July 1814 at Horsham, William Harvey, 40, a Mariner from Ferring, was charged with assaulting George Henty. He had been committed in May 1814. Recommited for 6 weeks and then discharged. He was described as '5ft 11ins high, stout build, fair complexion, dark brown hair, grey eyes, long face, the three first toes cut off the right foot. Born at Selsea Island'.

At one of the Petworth sessions in 1818, James Gibb, 22, a labourer from Ferring, was up for stealing one woollen cloak (2s) the property of Robert Bushby. He had been committed in

December 1817, and was sentenced to a further six weeks, in solitary confinement. Thomas Hayes, 28, a Mariner from Ferring (born and settled in Gibraltar) had been committed with him but was acquitted. Richard Hill, 26, another Mariner from Ferring, was convicted of stealing the cloak and a shirt (1s). Like the others he had been detained, awaiting trial, since December and like Gibb, he was given a further six weeks, in solitary confinement.

Also at Petworth, in 1824, Stephen Mitchell, 19, and John Nye, both Labourers from Ferring, were convicted of stealing one drake (1/-) and three ducks (3/-) the property of George Henty. Already detained for some months, awaiting trial, they were both sentenced to three months hard labour. Two further cases tried at Petworth were Michael Muschtan, 26, a Labourer from Ferring for stealing one grafting tool the property of Francis Bennett in 1826, was sentenced to seven days imprisonment, and Thomas Hills, another Labourer from Ferring, fined 10s in 1827 for making a bonfire in the street at Angmering on Guy Fawkes night 1826.

At first sight, Hills seems to have been treated leniently but the crime was really petty, and 10 shillings in 1827 was more than his weekly wage. He was also bound over, to keep the peace for a year, in the sum of 20 shillings. Also, he might well have spent three months in the House of Correction, awaiting trial. This was a grim institution – worse than the workhouse, if not quite so grim as the prison, and this was harsh punishment for high spirits on Bonfire Night.

BRIGHTON UNCOVERED

by Ed Miller

On a very warm Sunday afternoon in June, 13 FHG members met Geoffrey Mead (Sussex University) at Brighton station for a very interesting conducted tour of the area known as Montpelier, West Hill and Clifton Hill – mid-Victorian villas and elegant streets, built for the upper-middle classes of Brighton. Geoffrey, whose specialism is historical geography, was a mine of information and anecdotes about the district, the houses and the 19th Century inhabitants.

He explained first, the importance of the railway in Brighton's mid-Century development, and



1 and 2 Montpelier Villas

(Wikipedia)

how and why the station was built on the (then) northern edge of the town. The line had been built from Shoreham, allowing all the materials to be brought by sea and then by rail - and only when the station was built, linking up to the line from London at Haywards Heath.

Then he took us, just north-west of the station, down a typical Sussex twitten, of great age, and up toward Clifton Hill and Montpelier where large stuccoed three-storey

houses dominate the street scene. En route, we walked into St Nicholas' Church gardens - a

restored Norman church and a huge green space in the middle of the city. Geoffrey then showed us Clifton Terrace, built in 1846, a long line of grand houses overlooking the Gardens, and with sea views at the time they were built.

The most striking streets, with echoes of Regency style, were Montpelier Crescent and Powis Square – the latter, Geoffrey told us, often used for locations in period films.

We all knew Brighton, of course, but this walk opened up a part of the town that none of us had seen before. It is well worth visiting this Conservation Area on your own –and there is a good Wikipedia article ('Montpelier Brighton') giving good background.

Geoffrey does dozens of walks in and around Brighton, for which anyone can just turn up and join in. A list is on our web site.

HIGHDOWN AND THE MILLER'S TOMB

by David Garnett

Previous editions of *Ferring History Magazine* have referred to *The Topographer* magazine of September 1790, which included a piece entitled "History of Ferring, in Sussex" with its introduction: "Out of the stores, I am collecting from these parts for future volumes, I select for the present the following trifling article, Your Fellow-Labourer, S.S."

The second part of the report appeared the following month as "History of Ferring, with a Description of Heydown-Hill, in Sussex", the latter section of which gives an interesting perspective on what was even then a well-known local feature, the Miller's Tomb on Highdown. Here, reprinted for probably the first time in two and a quarter centuries, is the complete Description:

'This delightful hill is situate about half a mile from *Ferring*, and is in length from east to west nearly the same, but much less from south to north, The stratum of which it is formed is chiefly chalk, but yields a pleasant verdure, On its summit are the evident traces of a small encampment, formed by a single trench of earth thrown up. When, or for what purpose this was made, we will not pretend to conjecture.

Here once perhaps stood in battle array, a formidable body of Knights and valiant men in armour, brandishing their glittering weapons towards the ocean. But now remains only one solitary figure, and that of gigantic stature, clad too in a venerable coat of mail, with long and mighty arms outstretched, fighting with the winds. Such was the formidable figure with which the renowned *Don Quixote* is represented to have had a most desperate and laughable engagement. But to lay aside the language of chivalry and romance, this windmill here serves as a useful land-mark to navigators; the elevated site affording a most lofty prospect both by sea and land; the latter westward adorned with rich fields and innumerable villages, besides the loftier towers and spires of *Arundel*, *Chichester*, &c. while the Isle of *Wight* rises with great majesty out of the watery expanse, which is enlivened by the white and glittering sails that play along its surface. To the east the view extends along the shore over the churches of *Goring*, *Terring*, *Broadwater*, &c. and the harbour at *Shoreham*, to the white cliffs beyond *Brighthelmston*.

This part of the hill as far as the hedge eastwards, is in the parish of *Ferring*, and belongs to Mr. Henry, tho' the mill is still the property of Mr. Richardson, as before-mentioned. We come now to notice a modern curiosity, which is of a very regular nature, and attracts the attention of visitors from *Brighthelmston* and all the public places around. And travellers who are informed of it cannot fail to stop on their way to *Arundel* and *Chichester*, as the road passes very near the north side of this hill.

On the east side of the hedge is a neat tomb, surrounded with iron rails, having a small group of young beech and ash trees at each corner, upon a spot of ground, which the inscription says was "*to the will of God, granted by William Westbrook Richardson, Esq. And that in the year 1766, the tomb was erected by Clement Oliver, for the reception of his body, when deceased.*" Some notice has already been taken of this place, and the inscriptions printed in the *Brighthelmston Guide*, which therefore, tho' they are there very inaccurately copied, we shall not repeat.

About ten yards from the tomb on the side of the hedge, where other shrubs are planted, is an alcove variously painted, with emblems of Death. In this retreat the miller spends most of his leisure hours. It is also an agreeable resting place for those who walk hither from the adjacent villages, and a very convenient tea drinking box for company residing at Goring. There only want some good plantations to make it very charming. We had the good fortune to meet a small party from Little-hampton, together with the worthy Clergyman of a neighbouring village, whose polite attention, both then, and during the remainder of our stay in this County, I shall ever remember with gratitude and pleasure.

We now all walked to pay Mr. Oliver a visit, as is usual, at his residence, a small house, on the declivity of the hill, scarce a quarter of mile north of this curious monument. Besides some whimsical figures fixed to a tree or pole in the garden, and another short *Motto* over the door; here he has prepared a white coffin, on which are inscribed these words, *Memento mori*. It used to be fixed on castors, and wheeled every night under the bed of its intended possessor. But that ceremony is now dropt, and it hangs in one of his apartments, belonging to the mill. He is near 70 years of age and in pretty good health, but was rather surprised at his appearance, expecting to see quite a character both in figure and person, supposing that these awful preparations were the odd fancy of a droll jolly miller, who might be ambitious of ranking with his *brother* of *Mansfield*, and thus contrive to attract the notice of *Majesty* in a summer excursion. But as this would only be a mockery of what is most serious, tho' neither strong, active, not particularly chearful, a sincere Christian, and of an exemplary and charitable disposition.'

"Terring" is a variant of Tarring. "Mr. Henry" is a typesetting error and should, of course, be Mr. Henty — S.S. referred to "Mr. Wm. Henty" in the first part of the article, "who now resides in the manor house here, and was very civil and instructive". The "*brother* of *Mansfield*" is a reference to a folk ballad which inspired a satirical play "The King and the Miller of Mansfield" first performed in London in 1737, in which a "jolly miller" is knighted by King Henry II.

S.S. refers to inscriptions on the miller's tomb being "inaccurately copied" by another publication, but he was similarly guilty. He writes that "*the tomb was erected by Clement Oliver*" — but the name of the miller was John Oliver. (His surname is often spelled "Olliver", but the original inscription on the tomb was "Oliver". The parish records of Ferring and Goring include many generations of both Olivers and Ollivers.) It seems that S.S. copied the name from elsewhere, and from other "similarities" in his text the original source must be a volume entitled *Chronology: or a Concise View of the Annals of England (Wherein every particular Occurrence, from the Descent of Julius Caesar, to the present Time, met with in different Historians is accurately and alphabetically recorded, with the Date affixed; Also, an exact Chronology of the Lives of Most eminent Men, in All Ages of the World) Useful to all who are desirous of being acquainted with their own Country*, which was written by John Trusler and first published in 1769. On page 51, the author writes:

"On the road to Arundel there is an elevated spot called Heydown-hill, which serves as a land-mark to navigators, and affords delightful prospects both by sea and land. On one side of this hill is a tomb, surrounded with rails, and has a yew-tree at each corner. An inscription expresses, that in the year 1766 the tomb was erected by Clement Oliver, miller for the reception of his body, when deceased." Reverend Trusler then quotes extensively from the inscriptions, before continuing:

“The scripture sentences were selected by Mr. Oliver, and the verses are the production of his muse. About ten yards from the tomb, a variety of flowering shrubs are planted, and an alcove is here formed, which is painted with death's heads. In this retreat the miller spends most of his leisure hours. We shall mention another circumstance expressive of the whimsical disposition of this extraordinary character: he has prepared a coffin, on which is inscribed the words, *memento mori*; it runs upon castors, and is every night wheeled under the bed of its intended possessor. Mr. Oliver's residence is about a quarter of a mile from the tomb, on the declivity of the hill. Though he is upwards of sixty years of age, he is strong, active, healthy and chearful.”

Only three years after John Oliver built his tomb, it was already attracting visitors. The following year, 1770, William Challen painted this panoramic view from the miller's tomb. In the foreground is the tomb, to the right is the flint wall and hedging which forms the boundary between the parishes of Ferring and Goring, and on the extreme right is Highdown windmill.



William Westbrook Richardson, who gave the miller the land for his grave, died in 1771, aged 45, and was buried in the family vault in St. Andrew's Church, Ferring. John Oliver outlived him by more than two decades. He died on 22 April, 1793, some 27 years after beginning work on his own memorial. He was 84. Much has been written about the coffin “on castors”, the miller's own verses on the tomb and the summer house, how 2000-3000 people reportedly attended the funeral. Full details can be found in *The Story of Goring and Highdown* by Frank Fox-Wilson (Goring Book Association, 1987), which reports that John Oliver was born in 1709 in Lancing, where he later worked at the post-mill. In 1750 he took over the windmill on Highdown from his father, Clement Oliver.

Stories of John Oliver's involvement in smuggling grew more elaborate after his death; of how he signalled to ships at sea using the sails of Highdown mill. He was also said to have been buried face downwards, believing that on the day of final judgement the world would turn upside down and leave him the only one facing upwards. Such tales helped ensure that by the early nineteenth century “the *Miller's* tomb here attracts almost numberless individuals to the spot in the course of the year”. So wrote Richard Sicklemore in his *An Epitome of Brighton, Topographical and Descriptive, Involving its History from the Earliest to the Present Period (Together with the nature of its Air, Soil, Water, Local Regulations and Amusements, Remarks on Sea Bathing) Including Much Original Matter Never before submitted to the Public* (1815).

“From Brighton” wrote the author, “the distance is not so great, but it may be considered an agreeable

ride before dinner, and the rural beauties of the road thither, and the diversified prospects from the hill itself, are often inducive to such excursions.” He added “the mill, which is not only ornamental in its situation and useful in its design, but it serves as a valuable land-mark on the rippling world of waters.”

Both John Trusler and S.S. of *The Topographer* described an alcove “about ten yards from the tomb” where John Oliver “spends most of his leisure hours”, while Richard Sicklemore says: “About ten yards from the tomb there is an alcove, in which the miller delighted to pass many of his leisure hours; and which is now often devoted to the use of tea parties, whom exercise and the pleasures of curiosity entice to the spot. Boiling water, bread, butter and cakes, are supplied on these occasions, from that which was the miller's house, but, to avoid disappointments, tea and sugar should make part of the travelling stock of the visitants.”

The cover of this magazine is by James Rouse from his book *The Beauties and Antiquities of the County of Sussex: Forming a General Illustration on One Hundred and Forty-Nine Spirited Lithographic Views from Original Drawings Taken on the Spot of its Ecclesiastical and Castellated Remains; Accompanied by Historical and Explanatory Notices* (1825). Rouse wrote of the Highdown illustration: “The summer-house, whence this eastern view was taken, was built by the miller himself, who took an extraordinary pleasure in viewing the surrounding scenery from this spot; it contains many quotations from Scripture, and other inscriptions. He left £20 per annum, for keeping this summer-retreat, and the tomb in repair; and it is to be regretted that, with funds so ample, the former is already going to decay.”

The Gardener's Magazine and Register of Rural and Domestic Improvement, the first periodical devoted solely to horticulture, was published annually between 1826 and 1843, “conducted” by John Claudius Loudon. James Rouse had first published this illustration two years previously, with a poster titled *Description of the Celebrated Oliver, the Miller's Tomb, on Highdown Hill, Worthing*, sold as a guide to visitors. This included his original comment: “It is to be regretted that this house, his 'summer retreat' is suffered to remain in its present dilapidated state.”. In Volume 18, 1842, the “conductor” himself reported on his visit to “Heydown Hill” and wrote:

“The miller lived in a cottage a short distance from his tomb and this cottage has lately been rebuilt, and is now occupied by his aged sister-in-law and her daughter, Miss Oliver, to whom we are indebted for the following particulars. John Oliver, the miller was remarkably fond of the spot where the tomb is placed, and with the permission of his landlord, with whom he was on the most friendly terms, he built a summer-house there, and afterwards the tomb . . . In the summer-house the miller used to delight to sit and muse on the distant prospect, with his tomb in the foreground; and even after he became blind with age, which was several years before his death, he was led there every days by a little girl who read to him, and acted as his nurse. . .

“Being in very good circumstances, he left £20 a year to keep the tomb and the summer-house in good repair; but having left the funds which were to produce this sum in the hands of his grand-daughter, though this lady is said to have £300 a year of her own, yet not one farthing of the £20 has been expended on the summer-house or the tomb. In consequence of this neglect for upwards of forty-nine years, the summer-house is so completely destroyed, that not even a single brick remains; while the tomb, as will hereafter appear, is in such a state of dilapidation, that the whole of the inscription on it cannot be read. We purposely avoid giving the name of this lady, in the hopes that she will yet do her duty.”

But by then it was too late to save the summer house. The windmill had been destroyed in a storm in 1826 and its replacement was built further to the west. Known originally as Highdown New Mill, this later became Ecclesden Mill. By the 1871 census, the miller's house was called “Highdown Cottage” and occupied by Jane Olliver, aged 76, and two servants; this is the last known reference to the Oliver/Olliver family and Highdown, and Jane Olliver died in 1876. The cottage continued to be inhabited, and it was still shown on the 1932 Ordnance Survey map although it may have been unoccupied by then. It was later demolished, and all traces have

gone. All that remains of John Oliver is his grave: the Miller's Tomb.

The date of this drawing by Montague Penley (1799-1881) is unknown. To the right of the



tomb, lower down the slope, can be seen Highdown Towers, built (according to *The Victoria History of the County of Sussex*) in the 1850s. Sarah Cook, Curatorial Assistant at Worthing Museum Art Gallery describes the picture: “This is a pencil drawing heightened with body colour. It is signed in the bottom left corner: 'MP' and inscribed bottom centre with the work's title. This work was donated to the museum in 1980 by a Mr H. Day.” The drawing is kept in the gallery's reserve collection, to avoid fading in the light, and this is probably the first time it has been published.

This photograph was part of collection which included others dated 1863 and 1864, and is likely to be of a similar date. It shows that the miller's tomb was still a popular place for visitors, a dozen of whom can be seen in the photo — Victorian ladies in cloaks and long dresses, a gentleman in frock coat and top hat, children dressed all in white. John Oliver's home was frequently referred to as a “cottage” but the photo proves it was a substantial thatched building, two floors, two chimney stacks, a bay window, leaded glass — and it is likely to have been a similar size before the rebuild reported by John Claudius Loudon. This is almost certainly the first time the



photograph has been published.

All the illustrations, with the exception of the photograph, are reproduced by permission of Worthing Museum and Art Gallery.

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OUR PROGRAMME FOR 2018

Meetings in 2018: Fridays at 7.30:

- 2 February: Helen Poole on **Sussex and the Napoleonic Wars**
- 4 May: James Sainsbury on **John Pull, Sussex Archaeologist**
- 3 August: Malcolm Barrett on **A History of West Sussex Policing**
- 2 November: Geoffrey Mead on **Rye and Camber**
- 14 December: Social: with guest presenter (to be arranged)

Visits and Walks

Dates and details will be confirmed early in 2018 but we are planning visits to High Salvington Mill, and Broadwater Cemetery (which is, literally, full of Worthing history), and guided walks in North Ferring and Highdown, Littlehampton, Angmering and Poling.

RESEARCH

Researching your house, or Ferring ancestors? We can help. Like to do more general research on Ferring? We would be delighted to 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: **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?

PUBLICATIONS

We hope to publish a book in 2018 on Ferring in the 20th Century, and we are talking to the Parish Council about producing some Guide leaflets for Village Walks on Ferring's history and the buildings that still remain and the personalities who have lived and died here.

BREAD FOR GERMAN PRISONERS.

LITTLEHAMPTON PROSECUTION.

Harry Terry, 16 years, 9 months, of Angmering, was summoned at the Littlehampton County Petty Sessions for communicating three loaves to a German prisoner likely to facilitate his escape.

Mr. A. B. Dixon, of Worthing, appeared for the prosecution and said that proceedings were taken under Section 46a, of D.O.R.A. which provided that nothing should be given to a German prisoner that would facilitate his escape. The boy apparently gave or sold three loaves to a German prisoner. There was more than met the eye in the matter. He was informed by the military authorities that nothing was more dangerous in communication with German prisoners than to let them have bread, the best medium of all for concealing messages, etc. The Military viewed with considerable alarm German prisoners getting in touch with civilians for intelligence reasons. It was considered that there was a very great danger of information valuable to the enemy passing from camp to camp, and through repatriated prisoners to Germany. In the event of the Bench convicting the boy there would be extraordinary difficulty in giving punishment. If the boy had been a man he should have asked for imprisonment, without the option of a fine, but here was a boy, whose life he realised would be wrecked if he were sent to prison. If he were very heavily fined his mother would have to pay, and he realised the difficulty of adequate sentence.

Private Charles Fuller, Royal Defence Corps, in charge of German prisoners, said at 9.10 a.m. on September 5th he was in charge of five prisoners working at a farm at Ferring. He saw the lad put three loaves into a sack held by a German prisoner. He immediately went towards them and asked what authority he had for giving a prisoner these three loaves. He replied that he was not aware he was doing any harm. Witness told him it was causing him a lot of trouble. He made him take the bread back. The prisoner would have paid for the bread the defendant said.

To Mr J. A. Morris Bew (for defendant): Witness was about 25 yards from the German prisoner. He did not see the prisoner raise his hands in front of the boy. He must admit the boy was rather surprised. He could not say whether he was upset. The prisoner threw the sack into the ditch when he saw witness coming.

saw witness coming.

Inspector Thomas said on September 5th, he interviewed defendant at Angmering. Defendant said "I was delivering bread at some cottages on Mr. Lovey's farm at Ferring and as he was going towards the cottages I saw a German behind the hedge as though he were hiding from the guard. I had to pass close by him to go to some cottages and as I passed he said "some loaves." I took three loaves out of the basket and was putting them in a sack which the prisoner was holding up when the guard came along. The German threw the sack down and ran away. The guard asked my name and address which I gave, I then went about my work." He said in reply to a question that he had been warned by his master not to supply them with bread. The boy bore a good character, but was a little dull.

Harold Terry, the Square, Angmering, bread deliverer, said he was delivering at the cottages. He was leading the horse and a German prisoner came out from the ditch which was very deep. He threw his hands about and asked for some loaves. He got some out of the basket and was putting them in the sack when the guard called out. The prisoner tore off and threw the sack into the ditch. He got the loaves back. He let him have them because he was frightened.

To Mr. Dixon. He had seen German prisoners before, but had no dealings with them. He had heard of other boys having dealings with other prisoners. He expected to be paid for the bread by the prisoner, otherwise he would not have let him have it. He was trying to do the same as the other boys. In answer to the Chairman witness said the prisoner did not threaten him at all.

Arthur Meech, defendant's employer, said defendant was a very good boy, but rather thick. He believed he spent all his money on the house. His two brothers had died in France.

To Mr. Dixon. He had cautioned defendant.

Mr. Bew said there was the question whether three loaves of bread would facilitate the escape of prisoners. With regard to the boy he was a thick headed youngster suddenly confronted by a German prisoner, he had been cautioned, but like many other people, when their skins were in danger, took the easier course and gave up the loaves. Of course it was wrong, he should rather have been throttled than give them up. Most of those present were fathers and fond of their children, and he asked them that with their duty in executing justice to think of mercy.

The Chairman said that the defendant was young, and a little bit slow, and they would deal with him leniently and fine him only £2. They had reason to believe that there was a leakage and that had got to be stopped, and the next person who came to the Court would be sent to prison. They gave everybody fair warning that they would be sent to prison in future. They might pity a prisoner, but nobody need pity any German prisoner, they were not having a bad time. Bread was a means of communication, and as Chairman of the Visiting Justices at Portsmouth Gaol he knew what use was made of bread.

