

FERRING HISTORY MAGAZINE

2019



Cover story

by Ed Miller and David Garnett

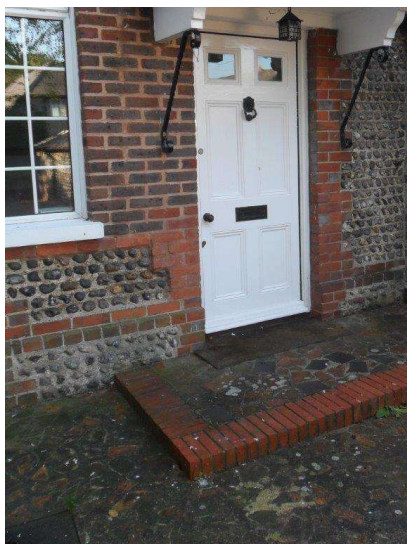
Our front cover is a reproduction of one of the earliest photographs taken in Ferring. We know that it is Ferring because of the handwritten caption, which also gives the date – 1863. But who are the people in the photograph, and where in Ferring was it taken?

Are they visitors having their photograph taken ‘At Ferring’, or are they Ferring residents having their photograph taken by the visitors? We do not know, but there are some clues. First, this is one three photographs we have captioned ‘At Ferring’ 1863 or 1864. Each shows a different group of people. This argues that that these are pictures of people *in* Ferring, taken by the same visitors. There are further clues in the photograph itself: the lady is elderly and frail-looking, not likely to be travelling. She looks at home, and so does the man – formal clothes notwithstanding (respectable folk would always put on their best clothes for a photograph in Victorian times – it was a serious business).

Now in 1863 there were only a handful of people of the upper-middle class judging by the 1861 census, and the only couple that fit the bill are the Vicar, Henry Dixon and his wife. His wife Ann. He was 63 and she was 61. She died in March 1864. We have no authenticated portrait of Henry but there is a portrait of his brother, Frederick Dixon (left), a geologist and health pioneer in Worthing, and there is a persuasive resemblance.



And the location? Presumably the Vicarage. It cannot be Ferring Grange because there is brickwork around the door – and the Grange was built of stone. The old vicarage is now Barberry Lodge, and adjoining it is Glebe Gate (right).



David Garnett believes the photograph was taken in front of the doorway of Glebe Gate. He says, ‘The brickwork to the right of the door is the same. To the left, all different -- now the wall is mostly bricks which could/must have happened when the window was installed. But above the window lintel the wall is still flint, and the bricks either side of the door are different. There's now only one doorstep, but the ground level could/must have risen when the area in front of the step was paved’.

Have we solved the mystery?

FERRING HISTORY MAGAZINE

Journal of the Ferring History Group. Compiled by Ed Miller: EdMiller43@msn.com No. 5

Editorial

Our Group goes from strength to strength: with our 130 subscribers, and many others who drop into our meetings as visitors, we have one of the most well-supported local history societies in Sussex. The year 2018 has been dominated by the centenary of the end of World War I, and we marked it with an extra presentation, on the impact that war had on Ferring. From that well-attended meeting and the sale of our 'Ferring War Memorials' booklet, we were able to send a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion.

But we tried, as usual, to cover many centuries and many localities of Sussex history. As we do on our web site, in this magazine and in our programme of meetings, walks and visits in 2019. We like to get feedback from Group members: in particular, suggestions for future coverage; articles for publication in this magazine would also be most welcome.

FATAL ACCIDENT IN LANGBURY LANE

by Ed Miller

Driving along Langbury Lane, one is hardly aware of crossing the Rife, a few yards east of the junction with Highdown Way. In earlier centuries, there was a bridge here, where the Rife now runs in a culvert under the road. A Manor Court record of 1599 refers to *unum pontem voc Waresbridge iacend in langborow street* (a bridge called Waresbridge, lying in Langborow Street) and orders the tenants to repair it.

It was the scene of a fatal accident in 1603. An Inquest recorded that a labourer, John Robinut, was getting water in a 'watercart' at 'Weres Bridge' in Ferring. He fell from the cart, from the movement of the horse in the tail of the cart and broke his neck, dying immediately. As the Custom of the Manor demanded, the instrument of death, in this case the horse and cart, were 'deodands', forfeit to the Lord of The Manor (i.e. the Bishop, Anthony). They were sold on his behalf for 44s 8d. Robinut's burial is not shown in the Ferring Parish Registers so he probably lived in one of the other local villages.

Langbury Lane and its bridge over the Rife must go back to the Middle Ages. A 5-acre field called Langeburg is included in a survey of the Bishop's estate in 1330. As noted before in this magazine, 'Langeburg' is a puzzling name: it might mean 'long barrow' (grave mound) or 'towards the hill' (like Highdown Way). 'Deodand' is from the Latin for 'to be given to God'.

ARUNDEL BRIDGE

by Adge Roberts

The bridge over the Arun has been replaced several times in the long history of the town. The first masonry bridge was built in 1724. In 1831 this narrow bridge had cantilevered footpaths added to both sides. In 1935 it was replaced by the present bridge. But traces of the earlier work remain, and Mark Phillips and I turned up an interesting remnant last August, in the garden of Pound Cottage, Queens Lane, just below the bridge.

This stone gatepost has one inscription on the shaft 'James Teasdale Architect 1831'. Just above this inscription, and scratched into the front edge of a built up capping, it says N.Holland March 1971. We knew that Neil Holland was an Architect who was doing work at Pound Cottage at that time and it was he we think that installed this gate post, recycling the main shaft which had been used 140 years earlier. There can be no doubt that it came from the bridge.

In fact it was the commemorative stone, for the 1831 improvement to the bridge, surmounted by a lamp, probably oil originally but later gas. How did it get into the gatepost of a cottage in Queens Lane?

Following the alterations of 1831, the now redundant original parapet walls of the 1724 bridge were almost certainly dumped in the council yard in Queens Lane (now the garden of Pound Cottage) some of which has been recently rediscovered. The engraved post may have also been dumped there in 1935 when the current bridge was built and was found by the architect Neil Holland while carrying out other work at this address and reused as a gate post which fact was commemorated by scratching his name and date in the mortar of the "home made" capping.



This post is almost certainly the one installed on the bridge in 1831 carrying the lamp post, when the extended footpaths and handrails were added to the 1724 bridge. More remnants could be buried on this site which yielded more worked stone work (as yet not positively identified) in our dig of 9th May 2018. According to a former town resident (born 1905) this was the site of a council yard; the ideal place near to the bridge to "lose" unwanted stone work. Many of the other stones found were of a shape and design that meant they would have been ideal as coping stones, suggesting that they may have been the coping stones from the parapets of the 1724 bridge (assumed to have been in stone work) which would have been demolished when the new foot paths and parapet railings were installed in 1831. No old photos have thus far shown that these "coping stones" were installed in conjunction with the new hand rails.

The stone pillar (gate post) was originally situated on the *upstream lamp-post on the left bank*. ie by the Wattle house or South Jubilee Gardens. This information came from a copy of Sussex Notes and Queries, dated May 1971. Information from old photos of the bridge tell us that the inscription faced down Queen Street.

Two other remnants of the earlier bridges were incorporated into the fabric of the 1935 bridge – one a contemporary inscription in rather unscholarly Latin, commemorating the construction of the first stone bridge in 1724; the other a stone bearing the mysterious inscription 'BE TRUE AND BE JUST IN ALL YOUR DEALINGS'. This refers to a scandal about the financing of the 1831 alterations, when the burgesses of Arundel thought they could take advantage of recent legislation about the surpluses of local savings banks, and persuaded the Arundel Savings and Improvement Bank trustees to hand over £592 to pay for the alterations. One of the trustees, Thomas Henty, fought hard against this misuse of the bank's money, in public meetings and then in the courts and it ended with the Mayor and his two colleagues having to pay for the work out of their own pockets. The 'BE TRUE AND JUST..' stone was the Mayor's 'revenge'. How he managed to get it built into the bridge is a mystery. It was refitted into the new bridge, in the same position in 1935 and is still there.

Henty had his own good reasons for pursuing this case: he was one of the partners in another bank in Arundel, one of the six eventually owned by the Henty family.

FERRING'S PRIVATE SCHOOLS

by Ed Miller

As early as the 1580s there was a schoolmaster in Ferring (we know this because they appear in a list of Licences covering 1583 to 1635. One of them was Thomas Hider who was identified as the writer of several wills for Ferring residents, in the 1590s and up to his death in 1606. But by 1640 the Churchwardens report said 'we have no schoolemaster'.

Some teaching may have been given by Ferring clergymen in the 18th Century: there was a Sunday school in 1844 with a paid teacher and 12 pupils. The vicar was obviously instrumental in setting up the first Village School in 1873 by the National Society for Promoting Religious Education, which aimed to set up a church school in every parish.

There was certainly some private tuition going on in Ferring at this time. The Victoria County History volume says there were three 'dame schools' in 1818, 'one with 20 boys and girls in 1833, and two with 18 around 1846, up to 24 children receiving some schooling in 1851 and over 50 in 1871'. Jane Birt, aged 50, describes herself as School Mistress in the 1851 Census, and was still in the same occupation in 1861 and 1871. She may well have been involved in all these schools.. There were no schoolteachers listed in the 1881-1911 Censuses, other than Ellen Laker at the Village 'National' School.

Ferring Grange School opened in 1924 or 1925 by J Ridley Hooper, described as a 'Schoolmaster formerly of Charlecote School, Worthing'. Hooper bought it in April 1924). It was a preparatory school, where the boys wore Eton collars. It was gone by June 1927

Tudor Close Preparatory School opened in 1935, in the buildings that had been converted to a house and music room by Walter Rubens in 1925. The proprietor was Mr Noel Cooke. Its advertisement in the 1935 Parish Magazine said it 'Prepares boys between the ages of 6 and 14 for the Public Schools and for the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. Boys receive a thorough grounding in a wide range of subjects and the instruction throughout is individual, particular attention being given to nervous and backward boys'.

One of the pupils was the youngest son of Haile Selassie, the 'Emperor of Abyssinia', (modern day Ethiopia) who came to Britain in 1936 when the Italians overran his country. He stayed at Warnes Hotel for several months before buying a house in Bath. Prince Saleh Selassie was born in 1932 and the school accepted pupils from the age of 6, so he might have enrolled in 1938. Certainly, a former resident recalled the excitement in the village during the war years when the exiled Emperor of Abyssinia visited Ferring with his entourage to attend a school play there.

At some stage during war (probably after Dunkirk) the school closed down and the buildings were occupied by Canadian soldiers. It is listed in the 1946 Street Directory but had certainly closed by 1948.

Ferring Health School is shown in the 1934/35 Street Directory as 'Widdicombe, Ferring Health School – Miss Crawford', She advertised in Ferring Parish Magazine, in January 1935: 'Boarding and Day School for Children 2 -14. Preparation for Scholarship Examinations. Modern Education. Inclusive Terms. Tuition, Swimming, Net-Ball, Dancing, Gymnastics, included in School Course'

'Widdicombe' was a private house in West Drive, somewhere between the north and south entrances to Oval Way, the middle house of three in that frontage according to Kelly's Directory for 1935. In the 1932/32 Street Directory it is occupied by someone else but Miss Crawford is at 'Westfield' three houses to the south, in the same road, as a private resident.

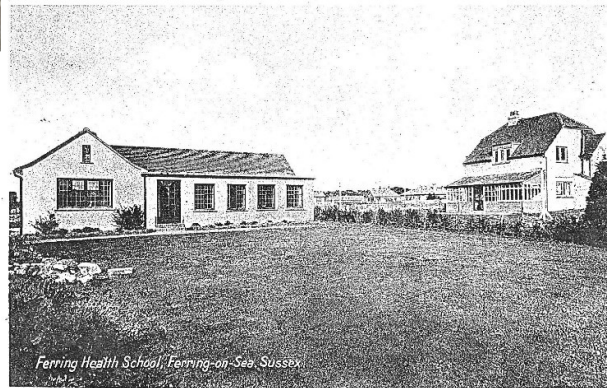
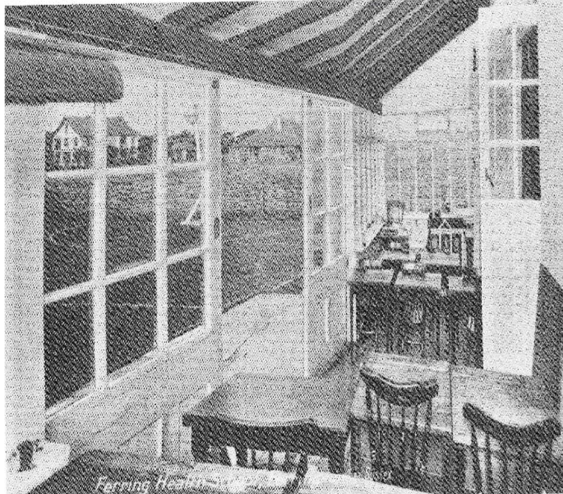
The reference to 'Health' was no doubt to attract parents with children with health problems who were thought to benefit from the sea air and outdoor exercise.

In January 1936 the school re-opened 'in spacious premises at Minnehaha, Ocean Drive'. (Ferring Parish Magazine). It was shown there in Kelly's Directory for 1938..

By 1939 it had moved to Meadowbank, Sea Lane, Ferring, and was still there in December 1941 (FPM), having escaped any significant damage from the bomb which destroyed the nearby bungalow in March 1941. It was up the long drive from Sea Lane (now Sea Lane Gardens, (north)). There is no mention of the school in the 1946 Directory and in the 1948 Directory, Meadowbank was in private occupation by the Westwater family,



We have three photographs of the school but none of them relate very clearly to the footprints of the buildings in West Drive, Ocean Drive or Sea Lane shown on the 1932 or 1943 Ordnance Survey 25 inch map,



These photographs appear to be of the same premises: the conservatory (left) belongs to the house on the right. Can any of our readers identify the buildings?

(later identified as West Drive)

Trevandrum House School for Girls was a house in Ocean Drive, operating in 1929 and 1930 but it does not appear in the 1934 directory.. **The Sheen School for Girls** was in West Drive (the section later named Upper West Drive). It was advertising in the Parish Magazine in 1940 and 1941 and was listed in the 1953 Kelly's Street directory of 1953, showing Mrs G Walker ARCM as the principal. These were very small establishments, at the teachers' homes.

Erin

In 1929 Miss Stella Turnbull a recently retired teacher, bought 'Erin', the house immediately east of Willow Cottage, Beehive Lane and took up teaching and coaching to supplement her

pension. She was a Graduate of London University, in Biology. She did not advertise, or list



herself as a teacher or the house as a school, but she had numerous pupils and in 1932 had a schoolroom built in the garden. She was well connected: her sister had been a 'nanny' in the family of Col. Joey Legh, Equerry to the Prince of Wales. Her school continued into the late 1940s, and it seems that Miss Crawford worked there as an Assistant after her own school closed (c. 1948).

Erin and its schoolroom

WHEN NAPOLEON THREATENED SUSSEX

Report by Stephen Webbe of Helen Poole's talk at our February 2018 meeting. (abridged)

A full report is in the Subscribers' Pages of our web site: ferringhistorygroup.co.uk

With the benefit of hindsight, Napoleon seems to us a rather short, comical figure in an absurd hat. But the people of Sussex regarded him as the devil incarnate and thought he might arrive at any hour. As a result, defences went up at vulnerable points on the Sussex coast and troops from across the country, including local militia and volunteer forces, were deployed to resist a French invasion.

With a French invasion looming, the roads and lanes of Sussex appear to have been full of marching infantry and clip-clopping cavalry, often accompanied by horse-drawn wagons piled high with stores and ammunition. The troops needed housing and, as Poole explained, barracks quickly went up at Brighton, Blatchington, Southwick, Steyning, Shoreham, Worthing, Ringmer, Eastbourne and Seaford.

One of the best known were Brighton's Preston Barracks on the Lewes Road. Built in a fetching Regency style in 1793, they housed artillery and cavalry units and included stables for up to 1,000 horses. Equally well known were Chichester Barracks, built between 1795 and 1813 and designed to accommodate 1,500 men and prisoners from the Peninsular War.

In Lewes, as Poole observed, troops were billeted in pubs before barracks housing 1,000 men went up in 1796. The barracks in Steyning which were built in 1804 were sufficient to house up to 1,000 troops at any one time. Apparently, over thirty-four regiments were stationed in the village during the Napoleonic Wars.

But fortifications would be needed if Napoleon wasn't to strike deep into Britain and display the tactical brilliance that was to make him the greatest military commander of all time. The best known were the famous Martello towers, 74 of which were built from Folkestone to Seaford between 1805 and 1808.



Martello Tower at Seaford, now Seaford Museum

By 1829, eight years after Napoleon had died on St. Helena, 103 Martello towers would stretch from Aldeburgh in Suffolk to Seaford in east Sussex.

Each Martello tower was 30-foot high with 13-foot thick walls. Manned by one officer and 24 men and sited roughly 600 yards apart, they covered likely landing beaches with a roof-mounted 24-pounder cannon. Although never tested, they would undoubtedly have taken a heavy toll of any French troops attempting a landing.

As Poole explained, by far the largest fortification erected in Sussex during the Napoleonic Wars was the Eastbourne Redoubt. Built in 1805, it now houses the museum of the Royal Sussex Regiment. The part played by the 35th Foot's 1st Battalion in the Battle of Maida on July 4th 1806 is not forgotten. The British victory was one of the most complete of the Napoleonic Wars and is commemorated today in London's Maida Vale.

Another major feat of Georgian military engineering, as Poole told her audience, was the Royal Military Canal designed to stop Napoleon in his tracks should he invade over the flat, wide beaches of Romney Marsh. Stretching for 28 miles and running from Shorncliffe in Kent to the River Rother in Rye (and later on to the cliff defences at Hastings), it was the brainchild of Lieutenant-Colonel John Brown, the Commandant of the Royal Staff Corps. The canal was only part of it. There was a tow path on its southern edge and an earthen rampart and military road on its northern side.

Defenders braced for the French onslaught from behind the rampart while reinforcements, stores and ammunition reached them along the military road and canal. Started in 1804, the Royal Military Canal was finished in 1809.

As Poole noted, all these defences were backed up by a militia of local seafarers known as "Sea Fencibles" who were raised in 1803 to protect the coast from Selsey Bill to Beachy Head. Besides crewing various small armed boats they manned watch towers, signal towers and coastal batteries. There were 300 Fencibles and 45 boats at Brighton and smaller detachments at Newhaven, Seaford, Shoreham, Worthing and Selsey.

Napoleon planned to invade Britain in the winter of 1803-4 and he assembled an army of some 200,000 men in Boulogne who were to be shipped across the Channel in some 1,500 small craft. According to Poole, Boney once dismissed the English Channel as "but a ditch" which "anyone can cross who has the courage" and declared: "Let us be masters of the Straits for six hours and we shall be masters of the world." But the invasion flotilla proved to be next to useless when it was tested and there were many drownings. Napoleon's batty plan to use troop-carrying balloons, which Poole mentioned with a hilarious illustration, came to nothing.

Admiral Earl St. Vincent well understood how the navy's wooden walls protected Britain from Napoleon's lust for conquest and glory. Poole recalled, that when the distinguished commander was First Lord of the Admiralty he told the Board of Admiralty: "I do not say, My Lords, the French will not come; I only say they will not come by sea."

Had Napoleon risked an invasion, Ferring would have been ready. We know from the 'Defence Returns' of 1801 that there were 54 men and boys in the village armed with flintlocks and pikes

ready to do their duty. If sorely pressed, one imagines they would have fallen back on Highdown Hill, and, in a last glorious stand on its summit, sold their lives dearly.

POLING AND ANGMERING ROMAN VILLA

by Ed Miller

Last June, Adge Roberts guided us on a walk around Poling Church, the Manor Farm, and the site of Angmering Roman Villa.

Poling (population 174)) is a very picturesque village just south of the A27 before the Arundel flyover, accessible by only one road, a cul de sac (although footpaths lead east and west from the village to Angmering and Lyminster). It was looking at its best on this sunny afternoon, as we met in the lane that leads to the ancient parish church of St Nicholas.

English Heritage lists the building as Grade I, saying, 'Chancel, nave with south aisle, south porch and west tower. The nave is Saxon. Part of one of the original wooden shutters has been preserved. The south aisle is 1190-1220 circa, the chancel 1380 circa, the tower 1420 circa, the south porch 1830. Unrestored medieval church with a particularly good tower'.

We saw all this, and other interesting features like the Saxon font and the mediaeval iron poor box, and the modern font cover and reredos behind the altar. The graveyard too was very interesting – among the 18th Century headstones was one for Colin Cowdrey, cricket star of the 1950s (he married the daughter of The Duke of Norfolk: they lived at Angmering Park, and this was their parish church).

We then looked at Manor Farmhouse, just to the east. Adge told us that parts of the present building are C17th, the rest Georgian, and there is a deed of 1679 in the West Sussex Record Office in which Sir Charles Shelley mortgages: 'Poling Farm with the manor house, barns, stables, buildings, yards, gardens, orchards and 173 acres' for £600. The manor is not separately recorded in the Domesday Book, the settlement probably falling within Lyminster or one of the Angmering manors at that time, but 'Poling' is another of those Saxon place names ending in 'ing', denoting 'the people of'. Unlike most of these 'ing' names, in this case the other half of the name does not refer to an individual (like 'Ferra') but to 'pales' (stakes, palisades or fences) but it is difficult to say whether they were stakes for supporting houses built over wetlands, 'palisades' for defence, or fences for any other reason.

Continuing eastward, along the footpath known as 'Brook Lane' we crossed 'the Black Ditch' stream which marks the boundary with Angmering Parish. This stream must have been much wider and deeper in Roman times and may have been used to transport the building material for the Villa, which lies under the field south of the footpath. The footpath may have been a Roman road. The Villa was a very substantial establishment, with many outbuildings – including a bath house. There is a very good account of it, by Neil Rogers-Davis, on the Angmering Village web site - [.angmeringvillage.co.uk/history/villa.htm](http://angmeringvillage.co.uk/history/villa.htm)

THE OLD GATE POSTS

by Ed Miller



Driving through Alderney Road and St Helier Road, one hardly notices these two old timber gate posts. If you walk along there you will see them better, and wonder what they are doing in the middle of a modern housing development. They are in fact, rare survivors of farming on this western side of Sea Lane.

The posts are for the farm gates into what was known in Victorian times as Upper and Lower Greatman's Field, originally part of the Henty's 'Home Farm'. In the 1840 Tithe Redemption schedules the field was 'arable', and it no doubt continued to be under wheat or barley until Mrs Henty sold the farm in the early 1920s. This field was sold to the Hon. Lionel Guest (Churchill's cousin) and his wife Flora in 1923. The couple bought a good deal of south-west Ferring, sold much of it on to other developers and built houses on some of it to sell for themselves. But they retained some fields, including this one, for Flora Guest's 'hobby farm' – a few Jersey cows for milk, and some chickens.

Lionel Guest died in 1935 but Flora continued to live here, in the house they had built for them in Sea Lane ('Wookyi-Tipi') in 1922, until just before her death in 1965. Developers bought the fields of the 'farm' (abandoned in the 1950s), the track up to the farm gate became Alderney Road, and the other roads of the 'Channel Islands' estate (Guernsey Road, St Helier Road, etc.) were laid out and covered with bungalows. 'Wookyi-Tipi' was demolished shortly after Mrs Guest's death, replaced by the flats of St Aubins Court.

The 'Channel Islands' theme must have originated with Jersey Road, laid out and built upon in the 1930s, on land sold by the Guests. But why 'Jersey Road' in the first place? Possibly because of Flora Guest's hobby farm, with its Jersey cattle.

THE FIRST DAY-TRIPPERS?

By Ed Miller

Could the first visitors to Ferring have looked like this? Two pieces of shin-bone found at Boxgrove, only 16 miles from Ferring, suggest this might well be the case.

Excavations in a sand and gravel pit in 1993 revealed those remains of a hominid – a different species of man, older than the Neanderthals and similar to 'Heidelberg Man'. From this single broken bone, experts worked out that he (or possibly she) was around 50 years of

age, powerfully built, nearly 6 feet tall and weighed about 14 stone. A few years later, archaeologists working there found 'human' teeth. Flint tools were found nearby, and cut marks on animal bones, show that 'Harry Heidelberg', as we may call him, was human enough to cut his meat, and probably hunt it too.



Drawing by John Shibbick (National Geographic Magazine)

The remains date from half a million years BC, and are the earliest hominid fossils to be found in Britain. This was a time between Ice Ages, when the climate was warm and there was still a wide land-bridge in what is now the Dover Straits. This must have been how Harry's people arrived from northern Europe (and ultimately from Africa and the Middle East). Boxgrove is at the foot of the South Downs just north of the A27, on the way to Chichester. Half a million years ago this edge of the Downs was a line of chalk cliffs running eastwards to Arundel and Highdown, looking down on a wide, flat 'raised beach'. This was not a beach of sand or flint pebbles but part of the sea bed that had risen up millions of years earlier and was now overlain with marsh, grassland and shrubs. Animals like rhinoceros, bears and wolves roamed this sub-tropical landscape and if Harry was a hunter, or even a scavenger of dead animals, he may well have travelled 16 miles along this coastal strip to find his food.

The Heidelberg population in Britain must have been small (these are the only fossils that have been found), and it may not have endured very long. The next Ice Age would have extinguished it or driven it back over the land-bridge to northern Europe. There is evidence of Neanderthals in later inter-Glacial periods but for long periods up to the end of the last Ice Age about 12,000 years ago, Britain was uninhabitable.

The flint tools found below Highdown are considered to the Neolithic (New Stone Age), about 5,000 years ago, well after the last ice sheet retreated from Britain. These people presumably also came across the land-bridge, which lasted until 8,000 years ago.

The story is told in 'Fairweather Eden' by Michael Pitts and Mark Roberts, who carried out the excavations. Roberts also published a long, learned paper for the relevant academic journal but 'Fairweather Eden' is a good story about how the archaeology was carried out as well as an explanation of what they found. The book can be reserved from Ferring Library, or on the West Sussex Libraries site: westsussex.gov.uk/libraries.

HIGH SALVINGTON WINDMILL

by Ed Miller

A visit was arranged for 8 July to be shown over the 18th Century windmill off Furze Road, High Salvington. This coincided with the Mill Trust's annual fête, so there was plenty to see after the tour of the mill, including Sompting Morris Dancers doing their display.

The present mill dates from around 1750 but there are records of a mill being here in 1615. It was abandoned as a working mill in the 1890s and served as a tearoom for many years until it



The Mill in about 1883 (from: highsalvingtonmill.co.uk)

was bought by Worthing Borough Council in the 1950s and partially restored. In 1987 it was badly damaged in the 'Great Storm' and was taken over by the present Trust, who put the mill back into full working order and whose volunteers have maintained it ever since. It can still grind corn, whenever the wind is strong from enough, but because of the development and trees that have grown round it the wind has to be a Force 5.

This was (and still is) a post mill, meaning that the whole body of the mill hangs from a central post and has to be turned into the wind for the sails to catch it and rotate. The massive weight of the mill could be turned by hand, at the end of a very long pole. The sacks of grain were hoisted up to the grinding floor by rope and pulley and tipped into a hopper that fed them to the grindstones. These stones could be adjusted by a system of levers to produce a finer, or more coarse, meal. The flour then entered a series of chutes, down to the lower floor, where it was bagged up.

The mill is well worth a visit and is open on various Sundays during the summer. The easiest way to get to it is from the A27, eastwards; turn left up Salvington Hill and right at Furze Road

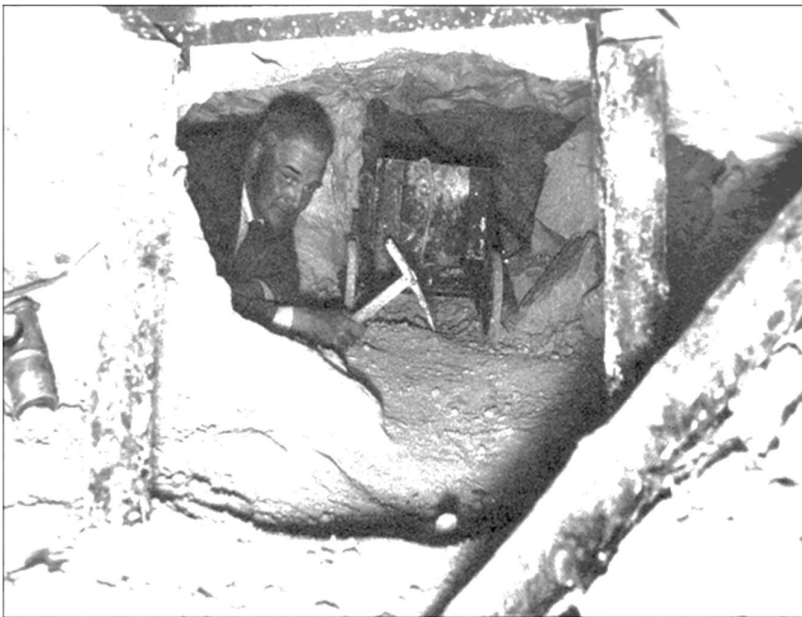
JOHN PULL – WORKING CLASS HERO

by Stephen Webbe

A working-class hero in genteel, conservative, ever-so-slightly toffee-nosed Worthing? In a prim resort where the cultured retired took tea at Fuller's, bought water colours at Aldridge's and gave the fleshpots of Brighton the widest possible berth?

Not unexpectedly, Worthing's man of the people was no socialist firebrand or militant trade unionist. He was a friendly, affable postman with a love of archaeology. Indeed, such was his passion for archaeology that for almost 40 years he dug deep into the chalk of the South Downs to reveal the secrets of Neolithic Sussex. His name was John Henry Pull and he would go on to become one of Britain's most remarkable amateur archaeologists.

Although John Pull died almost 60 years ago in circumstances that have lost none of their horror, he's virtually unknown in Worthing. The town's museum and its resident archaeologist, James Sainsbury, tend the flame of his memory, but Pull has yet to be honoured with a blue plaque on St. Elmo Road where he lived. At our May meeting Sainsbury introduced us to the long-forgotten in a lavishly-illustrated talk entitled "John Pull and Britain's First Industrial Landscape."



John Pull at work, with collar and tie

John Henry Pull was born in Arundel on June 25th 1899, the son of Albert Pull, a foreman at Arundel Castle. At school he won competitions for writing and he delighted in drawing and painting wildlife. He served as a private in the Rifle Brigade in the First World War and fought on the Western Front where he was gassed and captured by the Germans. Somehow managing to escape, he was hidden by the Ursuline convent at

Mons in Belgium. "He kept in touch with nuns for the rest of his life," Sainsbury told his Ferring audience. After the war John Pull worked as a gramophone and record salesman, postman, and security guard in Worthing.

As Sainsbury made clear in his talk, John Pull is chiefly remembered for his work on Blackpatch Hill, a site of Neolithic flint mines three miles west of Cissbury and one mile southeast of Harrow Hill that's visible from Long Furlong. Pull was only 23 years old in 1922 when he noticed a cluster of some 100 craters there. With the help of the Worthing Archaeological Society he began excavating one of the shafts. Blackpatch would keep him busy for the next 10 years.

As Sainsbury told his listeners, the South Downs above Worthing contained one of Britain's largest and most important flint-mining centres in Neolithic times. "For a thousand years there were over 600 flint mine shafts above what would become Worthing," he explained. Four of Britain's 14 confirmed Neolithic flint mines - Blackpatch, Harrow Hill, Church Hill in Findon and Cissbury - are to be found within seven miles of the centre of Worthing. Thought to date from the 5th millennium BC as well as the 4th millennium, they represent some of the oldest mines in Europe. "They are certainly the earliest industrial landscapes in Britain," Sainsbury declared.

He explained that the South Downs were heavily forested in Neolithic times and that, before the advent of metal, Neolithic man needed a steady supply of axes, adzes, knives and chisels if the woodland was to be cleared and crops planted. Archaeologists think that Neolithic man went to the trouble of digging down to seams of flints because, unlike the weathered flints on the surface, the subterranean ones were far less likely to crack.

Pull and his friend Cyril Sainsbury (no relation to James!) worked on the Blackpatch site until 1932 and, according to James Sainsbury, opened at least nine shafts. These revealed a network of galleries and yielded red deer remains such as antler horns for prying flints from chalk and shoulder blades that doubled as shovels.

As Sainsbury related, they also cleared four flaking floors where flints were worked with a hammer stone and polished with sandstone and discovered what they maintained were the miners' dwellings. These consisted of a number of shallow depressions containing pottery, flint flakes and implements - axes and scrapers - along with sandstone rubbers, animal bones and burnt flints. They also examined 12 barrows or burial mounds containing cremations and inhumations. One collection of cremated bones was accompanied by a flint axe, knife and scraper.

Sadly for Sussex archaeology, the Blackpatch site was ploughed over in 1950 or thereabouts. Regrettably, as Sainsbury explained, Pull found it impossible to get his early excavation reports on Blackpatch published by the Worthing Archaeological Society. His humble origins seem to have offended a supercilious society which considered him impertinent for daring to trespass where only the archaeological establishment was fit to tread. Its message seemed to be: Sussex flint mines are no place for the proletariat.

Pull's chief tormentor was the bespectacled doyen of Sussex archaeologists, E. Cecil Curwen. The son of the distinguished archaeologist Eliot Curwen, he had been educated at Rugby and Cambridge and was a member of the society's Earthwork Sub-Committee. Although the sub-committee recognised the importance of Pull's work, it flatly refused to publish it under his name. When Pull expostulated, the Society refused to publish it at all. It then refused to allow him to lecture on his Blackpatch activities.

It was hard to believe that the Worthing Archaeological Society could behave any more offensively. But in a supreme act of spite it then proceeded to publish Pull's work under Curwen's name. Pull was so disgusted that he resigned from the society. As a result the snub, Pull published most of his results in local newspapers and later brought out a well-received book on his Blackpatch excavation entitled "The Flint Miners of Blackpatch."

After finishing their work at Blackpatch, Pull and Cyril Sainsbury moved on to investigate the flint mines of Church Hill which lie about 1,000 feet south-west of Findon Church and one and

a half miles due west of Cissbury. Church Hill, as James Sainsbury told the Ferring meeting, is thought to be the oldest flint industrial site in Britain dating back to 4,000 BC. In digs that lasted from 1933 to 1939 and from 1946 to 1952, Pull and his companions cleared shafts, pits and flaking floors at the site and discovered scrapers, knives and saws in the process. One of Sainsbury's most arresting illustrations showed a flint blade inserted into the prong of a red deer antler that came to light in a Church Hill shaft. The team also examined numerous barrows. Sainsbury noted that Barclay Wills, the great authority on Sussex shepherds, assisted Pull in his Church Hill excavations. Like Blackpatch, the site was subsequently flattened by heedless ploughing.

Judging by Sainsbury's illustrations, Pull was never improperly dressed for archaeology. The dress codes of the day had to be maintained even when burrowing into a flint mine on the South Downs. In most photographs he's wearing a shirt and tie with a suit (often with a waistcoat) and a natty hat. In hot weather he removed his jacket and rolled up his sleeves but his tie often remained firmly in place. There was no excuse for slovenliness. His one concession to his calling was a pair of robust boots. Pull was an inveterate pipe smoker and, as numerous photographs indicate, his pipe was an ever-present companion.

On March 8th 1952 Pull and his colleagues began work on the Cissbury flint mine field which lay just outside the south-west corner of the famous Iron Age hillfort. Shaft 27 was their first target. At the entrance to a gallery leading off the bottom of the shaft they found a skeleton thought to be of a miner who had died in a roof collapse. But, as Sainsbury noted, Pull later concluded that the skeleton was that of a young woman, aged about 20, who was holding the remains of a burnt-out torch in her hand.

According to Sainsbury, it's not clear whether she was killed by a roof fall or tumbled into the workings. It's also possible she was placed at the gallery entrance as some form of sacrifice. Sainsbury remarked that one of the chalk blocks under the skeleton was stained brown. He thought it was probably iron oxide from the victim's blood.

Shaft 27's galleries also yielded a small fish carved out of bone known as the "ivory fish." Some experts have claimed that it looks suspiciously like a post medieval gaming counter. In another gallery off the shaft, Pull and his team found the incised drawing of a short-horned bull's head and facing it, that of a red deer. Sainsbury pointed out that the former appears to have a tether around its neck.

John Pull called time on his Cissbury excavations in early 1956 after a particularly cold winter. He had rejoined the Worthing Archaeological Society in 1947 and after a spell on the committee, was elected its chairman in 1952. The rancor of the Blackpatch years had ebbed away. But four years later Pull was dead.

As a postman and a civil servant he had been compelled to retire at the age of 60 in 1959. A few months later he got a job as a security guard at the newly-opened branch of Lloyds Bank in Durrington. Tragically, during an armed raid on the branch on November 10th 1960, he was murdered by a 20-year-old petty criminal called Victor Terry who shot him in the face with a single-barrelled shotgun. Pull was 61 years old. Found guilty of capital murder, Victor Terry was hanged at Wandsworth Prison on May 25th 1961.

Paying tribute to Pull in his Ferring talk, Sainsbury said his discoveries "are nationally significant. Much of what we know about the Neolithic Age is down to John Pull." He noted

that the genial archaeologist “left the majority of his collection to Worthing Museum on the condition it was used to educate the local people about their ancestors.” Asked about the John Pull display in Worthing Museum, Sainsbury replied: “It’s permanent and should be there for years yet!”

After James Sainsbury finished his talk, Richard Beales, a retired senior official with the Department for International Development and an amateur archaeologist took the floor. As a small boy, Beales had met John Pull. “He was well known for stimulating enthusiasm for archaeology among a wide range of ‘ordinary’ people,” he recalled. “Through a family friend I was invited to go down one of the flint mines at Cissbury that Pull had started to excavate in 1953. It was after the skeleton had been discovered there, so it must have been in the summer after the Coronation. I was 9 years old at the time.” Beales descended the celebrated Shaft 27. “Having climbed down the ladder, I met John Pull at the bottom and was encouraged to crawl through the galleries where he saw antler pick marks in the walls,” he told the Ferring audience. “This made a great impression on me, and stimulated a lifelong interest in archaeology.”

Beales brought a collection of flints with him to the meeting. “Pull encouraged me further by presenting me with some worked flints from his earlier excavations mainly at Blackpatch,” he



said. “They all bear dates, location and his distinctive JHP monogram.”

Beales told the audience that after 65 years he felt it was time the flints were returned to the Worthing Museum’s John Pull archive. Glancing over at Sainsbury he said: “I hope that James will accept them this evening and return them to their rightful place.” To loud applause, the flints were formally accepted for repatriation.

FERRING AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The Group put on an extra meeting in October, a presentation on the impact of World War I on Ferring. Ed Miller said the obvious impact was the absence of the 30 men from a population of 250 who were now in the Army or Navy. Some of them had a very hard time of it - four local men were killed, many others wounded and at least two taken prisoner – but life was hard on the home front too – fewer people to work the land, food rationing and blackout.

The outbreak of war in the first few days of August 1914 was sudden and completely unexpected by all but a handful of Ferring residents. Even those few who read the newspapers through July would have thought that the assassination of the Archduke in Bosnia, and Austria’s threats to Serbia were just another episode in the long-running story of tensions and rivalries in the Balkans which had erupted in two short, minor, local wars in 1911 and 1912.

Even the mobilisation of Russia (in support of Serbia) and Germany (in support of Austria) and then France (in support of Russia) would not have caused too much alarm – France had fought Germany in 1870, and Britain had remained neutral. What brought Britain into the war was the invasion of Belgium. Ed said this was not so much about the 1839 Treaty guaranteeing its independence (what the German Chancellor called ‘a scrap of paper’) but the prospect of German submarine bases in Antwerp, Zeebrugge and Ostende.

When Britain declared war on 4 August, Ferring already had ten men in the forces – regular soldiers and sailors, young men from large families who might have struggled to find work on the farms. Reservists were called up and the famous Kitchener poster appealed for volunteers. Many Ferring men came forward. In March 1916, because of the large losses on the Western Front) compulsory military service was introduced.

Ed went on to outline what happened to some of these soldiers and sailors. The first casualty was Phillip Candy, the 15 year-old son of the family who owned East Kingston Farm House, just across the Rife. For that reason his name is not on the village war memorial but is on the memorial within St Andrew’s Church, where the family continued to worship despite the creation of the East Preston and Kingston Parish in 1913. He had been a naval cadet and was serving as a very young midshipman on HMS Monmouth, sunk with all hands off the coast of Chile just a few weeks into the war.

The next three were close together in 1915: in April George Kilham was killed in the battle for Hill 60 near Ypres; in May, John Winton was reported as ‘missing believed killed’ in the same battle; in August, Corporal William Bennett (Royal Marines) went down with his ship in a skirmish with a German minelayer in the Firth of Forth. Kilham was 26, a 1914 volunteer, one of a family of farm labourers who lived in Franklands Cottages in Ferring Lane. Winton was 29, a regular soldier, whose family lived in the old Homestead Cottages, Sea Lane. Bennett was 39, a veteran of the Boer War who had transferred to the reserves in 1906, and was recalled in 1914. By this time he was married and actually lived in Goring but he had grown up in Laburnum Cottages, Sea Lane, where his mother still lived.

The next was in September 1916: Reg Hoare was one of a large family that lived in Hangleton Lane. He had an elder brother in the Navy, and he and another brother joined the Army in 1914,



The Hoare family just before the war. Four of the sons served in World War 1, and a fifth after the war.

with a younger brother joining the Navy when he came of age. After the war his youngest brother also joined the Navy. Reg was shot through the chest in 1915 but recovered and went on to fight in the Somme battles July - September 1916. He was given an official commendation by his Colonel for his gallantry in raids on the German trenches, but at the end of that battle was reported as ‘Missing, believed killed’.

The last casualty was not really a Ferring resident. Capt. Walter Bagot-Chester was a career officer in the Indian Army, whose father had moved to Ferring in 1907 to take up the post of Curate at St Andrew’s Church. Walter was in India at that time and

could only have seen Ferring on brief leaves (one of them certainly when his Gurkha regiment came to England before being sent to France in 1915). He was evidently a brave, hardworking officer – Mentioned in Despatches for his conduct at the battle of Loos, and awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry in Palestine, where his regiment ended up. He died of wounds at Gaza in March 1918.

These stories have been told before, Ed said, but less well known was of the service, capture captivity and final return of Fred Grout, a labourer on his father's smallholding in Langbury Lane who volunteered in 1914. After contracting 'trench foot' and dysentery in Flanders in 1915, he was sent back to England for hospital treatment and, spurning a 'cushy' job at the Depot, volunteered to go to the Front again. He went through the Somme and other campaigns and in 1917 became a Stretcher Bearer: plenty of brave sorties into No Man's Land to collect the wounded but, as he said, no medals. He was captured at the battle of Cambrai in November 1917 and spent the rest of the war in very harsh conditions working in a quarry.

German PoWs in Britain were certainly better treated, mainly working on farms, but one local act of kindness badly misfired when a 16 year-old boy from Angmering was charged with giving (or, as he thought, selling) three loaves of bread to a prisoner working on one of the Ferring farms. The prosecuting solicitor said he should have refused and allowed himself to be 'throttled' rather than aid the enemy in this way. But the Chairman of the Magistrates took the view that the lad was 'a bit thick' and rather than send him to prison he simply fined him £2.

Ed said that although the fighting on the Western Front was less than 100 miles away, it would have seemed to the farm labourers of Ferring impossibly far away, and it would have been difficult for the soldiers and sailors who came back in 1918 and 1919 to talk about their terrible experiences. So the war was a profound dislocation in the life of that generation, whether they fought, or suffered as civilians, in the first of modern wars. Ferring was never quite the same again.

ANOTHER RELIC.... AND A MYSTERY

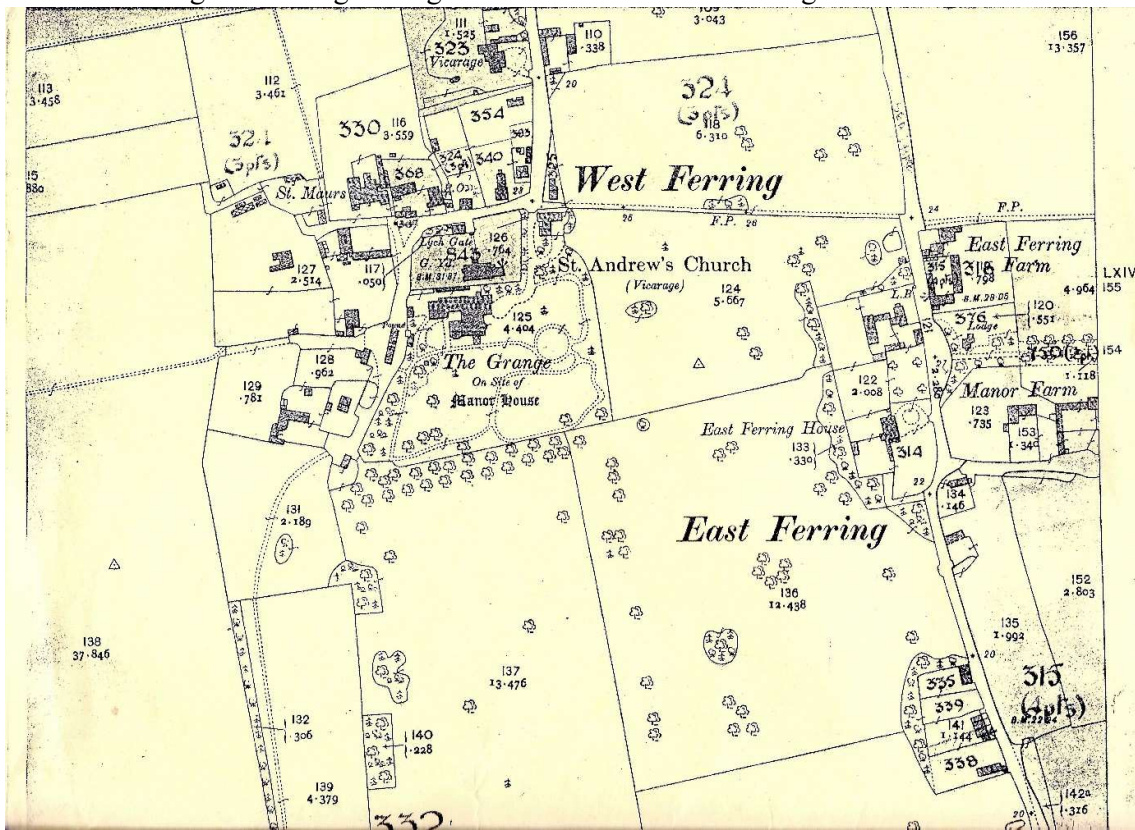


The southern corner of the Malcolm Close-Ferringham Lane junction is normally covered with overgrown shrubbery but when it is cut back an interesting relic is exposed – a 'kissing gate' in rusty old iron.

This was part of the iron-rail fence that surrounded the grounds of Ferring Grange in Victorian times and is seen on this 1911 Ordnance Survey map. The track that became

Ferringham Way comes up from the south, to the farmyard that is now Benton Weatherstone. There is no Clover Lane or Malcolm Close but the double line of trees separates the grounds

of the Grange from the field that later became 'Little Paddocks'. The solid line just north of the trees and turning north along the edge of Little Twitten Recreation ground is the old iron fence.



But where was the gate? It must have been at the south-west corner of the fence but did it give access to the grounds of the Grange or to the field to the south? The gate is probably indicated here as the short line projecting from the corner of the fence: if it were a gate into the grounds it would surely connect with the footpaths around the grounds. And on the 1876 Ordnance Survey map there is a track from the gate across the fields towards East Ferring.

But the orientation of the gate is odd. One normally walks into the gateway, swings the gate past, and continues out of the gate walking in the same direction. Here it looks like you walk into the gateway and come back the same way you went in. Can anyone offer a solution?

THE BISHOP'S OTHER MANORS

by Ed Miller

Ferring is listed in the Domesday Book (1086) as one of the Bishop of Chichester's manors, slightly larger than the present Parish, with arable land for seven plough teams, and 20 acres of meadow, producing an income of £7 a year. There is one 'freeman' holding about one eighth of the manor under the Bishop, and 34 families of villeins and other tenants with their own pieces of land but with obligations to do work of various kinds on the land owned directly by the Bishop (his demesne).

There are similar entries for another eight manors: Bishopstone, Henfield, Aldingbourne, Amberley, Sidlesham, Selsey, Wittering, and Preston. We know that the '12 hides that are called Ferynges' was granted 'for the building of a Minster Church' in 765AD and it is easy to see how this evolved into a manor in later years. But what of the Bishop's other manors? Where were they and how did he come to own them?

Four of them were in and around Selsey, where the bishopric was established around 680 AD. The King of the South Saxons, Aethelwealh, granted the Selsey estate to Wilfrid, the first bishop, at this time and a few years afterwards this was confirmed by Caedwalla, King of the West Saxons, who had conquered Sussex. Caedwalla added Sidlesham and Wittering in 683. Aldingbourne is only a few miles from Selsey and this was granted about the same time.

The other manors, as with Ferring, seem to have been grants of land for the building of churches. In 770, Osmund, king of Sussex, granted 15 hides in Henfield to the thegn Warbald and his wife Titburh, for the endowment of a church, and this corresponds to the Domesday manor. Henfield and Amberley are much further afield, and Preston (now a northern suburb of Brighton) and Bishopstone (near Newhaven) are at the other end of the diocese.

The oldest of them was Selsey. This was the Bishop's seat until 10 years before the Domesday survey. William I moved several Saxon bishoprics away from the villages and small towns in which they had been established, into larger, fortified towns associated with Norman power, like Chichester. In the case of Selsey there may have also been a problem with encroachment by the sea. The Bishop was compelled to give up this manor in 1558, in exchange for rectories and tythes. Similarly Sidlesham, given up in 1560, also West Wittering (referred to as Cakeham) but this was less profitable and remained with the Bishop until taken over by the Ecclesiastical Commission. The same applies to Aldingbourne. However, Preston was ceded in 1561 in exchange for Crown land.



The Courtyard of Amberley Castle (from the Amberley Castle Hotel web site)

Amberley Castle was built for the Bishop in the 14th century, replacing much earlier timber-framed buildings. In the early years of that century it became the Bishops' Summer Palace. It was not a 'castle' until Bishop Reade fortified the building in the 1370s, with a great gatehouse with battlements and a surrounding wall. After 1536 it was leased out to laymen. Aldingbourne also had an episcopal residence.

The Bishop occasionally stayed at Ferring too – and issued a number of documents from there in the middle ages. Presumably he stayed at a house on the site of the present Ferring Grange but this was probably a fairly modest house, usually occupied by the local clergy. By the 1530s

it was leased out, along with the Bishop's demesne, but the Manor Court continued to be held there until at least the 18th Century. The field to the south of the house was still called, in the 1840 Tithe Survey, 'Court Field'.

This brief survey shows the strong influence of the Saxon kings and sub-kings on the establishment of churches in Sussex, and of the manors that were created to sustain them. The Bishops of Selsey (later Chichester) in turn, exercised considerable powers over substantial areas of the county, as well as revenue from their demesnes, as Lords of the Manor. This power was exercised by their Stewards and the Manor Courts over which they presided, and lasted well into the 19th Century.

A ROYAL VIEW OF WORTHING

FHG Committee member Stephen Webbe found this gem from a British Library site. It's the eleven year old Princess Charlotte (the daughter of the Prince of Wales) writing to her tutor, the Rev. George Nott, to tell him about her trip to Worthing in July 1807.

He notes, 'Her attempt to spell "Arundel Volunteer Cavalry" is charming but her observation that all Worthing was "eliminated" is priceless!'



Charlotte in 1807

(Wikipedia)

"My dear Mr Nott, As you was so good to wish to hear about us when we arrived I will now tell you that we got safe & well to Worthing, but we never suffered so much from the heat in our lives. About 3 miles from Worthing we where met by the Arundel Voluntear Cavelry who escorted us to our gate & there we were met by all the regiment of the foot; in the evening all the Town was eliminated which was a great mark of respect to the King & Papa. I assure you we enjoy ourselves extremely, we have the full view of the sea from our windows & the breezes from it are quite refreshing. We have been twice on the sands but find no shells nor sea weeds worth picking up. [etc.]. [Worthing], 24 July 1807.

She wrote another interesting letter to Nott, during her stay in Worthing. She made a trip over to Arundel to see the castle and this is what she wrote on August 26th 1807:

"Arundel Castle...was very interesting to me from its being the place where Maud retreated when Stephen beseiged it & I was shewn the apartaments she occupied at that time. It is now inhabited by some German Horned owls & a collection of King Charle's breed of Dogs one of which I own I longed to have but the Duke is so selfish that he orders the Puppies to be killed rather than any body should have them."

Stephen writes, ‘Amazing that a child of eleven would know about King Stephen besieging Arundel Castle! (Perhaps Rev. Nott had given her a history lesson!) Actually, I think we know Maud better as Matilda. I wonder if she’s right about the Duke of Norfolk being a puppy killer! It sounds a bit drastic!’

Charlotte was the only daughter of the Prince of Wales (later George IV). She had a short life – married to Prince Leopold (a cousin) 1816 and dead 18 months later at the age of 21. Had she lived past 34, she would have been Queen (at her father’s death in 1830 it was his younger brother who took the throne as William IV). Leopold was chosen as the first king of Belgium in 1831 but he would not have been chosen had he been Charlotte’s Prince Consort, otherwise Charlotte would have been Queen of Great Britain *and* of Belgium. Not a very practical arrangement

THE WEST SUSSEX CONSTABULARY

report by Stephen Webbe

When Malcolm Barrett arrived to talk to us on August 3rd he came equipped with a veritable museum. There were truncheons and handcuffs, a pair of spurs, several whistles, and an odd shaped torch. What looked like a cutlass was actually a hanger that was etched with the words “West Sussex Constabulary No.3.”

For anybody who couldn’t remember just what the talk was to be about, (well, it was one of Ferring’s hottest summers!) the helmet and helmet badges gave the game away. The subject was the West Sussex Constabulary from 1857 to 1967. As Malcolm Barrett explained, in those 110 years the police went from dressing in serge frocked coats with belts and high beaver hats and walking everywhere to wearing snappy modern uniforms and helmets and driving Ford Lotus Cortinas and using new UHF radios.

And he should know. Barrett joined the West Sussex Constabulary as a Cadet Clerk in 1950 when he was 16. Starting in the Chichester CID, he later transferred to the Photographic and Fingerprint Department. Called up for National Service in the RAF in 1953, he rejoined the West Sussex Constabulary in 1955. By the early 1960s he had begun collecting all sorts of memorabilia associated with the Force including uniforms, photographs, documents and books

As Barrett noted, the Force’s first few chief constables had military backgrounds. On its creation in 1857, its first holder of the office was Captain Frederick Montgomerie, late of the 99th Regiment of Foot. (The hangers he acquired never seem to have been used so perhaps he never had to confront any serious disturbances.) Following Montgomerie’s untimely death in 1879, another former soldier became the Force’s second chief constable. Captain George Drummond, formerly of the 26th Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry, may have been a strict disciplinarian, but he was extremely popular and highly respected. When he stepped down in 1912 he was awarded the King’s Police Medal.

Another retired army officer, Captain Arthur Williams, took over from Drummond in 1912. He, too, was a strict disciplinarian and woe betide any member of the force, whether superintendent, inspector, sergeant or constable, who entered a pub except on duty. Williams was fanatical about sport and had his men playing football and cricket, performing various feats of athleticism and heaving for dear life in tug-of-war competitions. His successor, Colonel Ronald Shaw-Wilson had fought with the Seaforth Highlanders in the First World War and came to the job in 1935 having studied at the Indian Police College. He had extensive experience of handling increased restiveness in the British Raj.

Barrett spoke briefly about the 1884 riots in Worthing when the “Skeleton Army” took on the Salvation Army and its self-righteous campaign against the demon drink. Worthing’s truncheon-wielding constabulary could barely contain the unrest.

For a moment his reference to the “Shoreham Sub-Division Occurrence Book” for 1904 sounded decidedly unpromising. But when Barrett gave his Ferring audience a taste of its contents, it proved anything but dull. The entry for June 27th concerned Thomas Watson, a farmer of Old Salts Farm in Lancing. For selling a pint of new milk to a police superintendent which was deficient in fat Watson was fined 40 shillings. Then, in May the following year, a charwoman called Annie Breeden of Hove was apprehended for being drunk in charge of a four-year-old child. She was sentenced to one month’s hard labour.

Barrett revealed that the imperturbable West Sussex Constabulary was called upon when industrial unrest flared in the country. In 1921 some 90 men from the Force were drafted in to aid the hard-pressed Glamorgan Constabulary when coal miners in the Pontypridd area of South Wales went on strike. They even took a motorcycle and sidecar with them. It was a harbinger of the Force’s coming mechanisation. During the General Strike of 1926 another detachment of the West Sussex Constabulary was sent to Treorchy in South Wales and yet another dispatched to help quell disturbances in Derbyshire. Barrett told his Ferring listeners that when the West Sussex men left Treorchy railway station the strikers and their families joined them and the Glamorgan police in singing “Sussex-by-the-Sea.”

In the years before and after the First World War, the West Sussex Constabulary took a leaf out of the American law enforcement playbook and began to use bloodhounds. On one occasion, after a spate of rick fires lasting 18 months around Westbourne (on the West Sussex-Hampshire border near Emsworth), bloodhounds tracked a labourer back to his cottage. He confessed to arson and got seven years’ penal servitude for his nefarious activities.

Worthing’s very own Gladys Moss featured in Barrett’s Ferring address. She was the West Sussex Constabulary’s first Woman Police Constable who, after joining the Force in 1919, took up her duties at Worthing. She played a key role in the notorious Littlehampton “Poison Pen” case of the early 1920s when “obscene libels” and “vile missives” appeared around the town, and helped bring the miscreant to book.

Gladys Moss specialised in cases that involved women and children and as such helped investigate one of the most horrific crimes ever committed in West Sussex. That, as Barrett explained, was the murder of Vera Hoad, an 11-year-old girl whose body was found on farmland in the grounds of Chichester’s Graylingwell mental hospital. She had been raped and strangled. Her murderer has never been found. By all accounts, Moss was the first policewoman motorcyclist. She was trained in ju-jitsu and was no mean shot with a small-bore rifle. She retired in 1941 at the age of 57 and went to live on South Farm Road in Worthing. She died in 1964 and in 2015 a blue plaque was erected in her memory on the police station in Worthing’s Chatsworth Road.

Barrett observed that during World War II there were several murders in the county involving servicemen. After Canadian forces set up an encampment in the woods near Petworth House, one of the soldiers ran amok with a sten gun in a Nissen hut after an argument and killed 10 of his fellow squaddies. It fell to Petworth Police Constable Len Clausen to make the initial investigation. He said that the interior of the hut resembled “a charnel house.”

Barrett went on to mention the still unsolved case of Joan Woodhouse, the London librarian, who was found dead in the grounds of Arundel Castle in 1948 and that of John Haigh, the notorious acid bath murderer, who disposed of his victim at rented premises in Crawley.

He also touched on the case of Lionel “Buster” Crabb, the retired RNVR diver who secretly examined the hull of the Soviet cruiser Ordzhonikidze in Portsmouth’s Royal Navy dockyard after it delivered Nikolai Bulganin and Nikita Khrushchev to England in 1956. According to Barrett, it was said that Lord Mountbatten, the First Sea Lord, told Crabb that he was needed for a secret mission and that whatever he discovered would be shared with MI6 and the CIA. When a headless (and handless) body was found floating off Pilsey Island in Chichester Harbour the following year, the West Sussex Constabulary believed it might be Crabb’s.

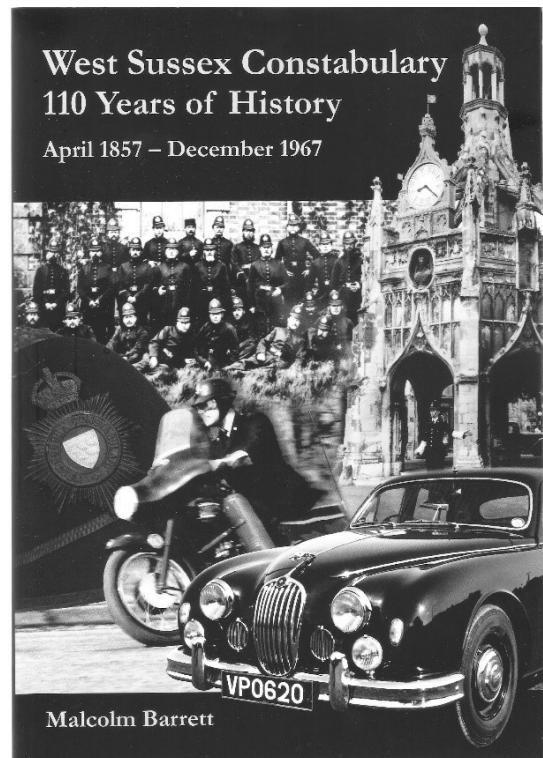
As a police photographer, Barrett had the unenviable task of photographing the remains at St. Richard’s Hospital in Chichester. It’s now though that (exotic theories apart) Crabb, who was neither in the first flush of youth nor in the best of health, died from oxygen poisoning, or possibly carbon dioxide poisoning.

Barrett ended his talk with the tragic case of the Iberian Airlines Caravelle that crashed on the southern slope of Blackdown Hill at Fernhurst in West Sussex on November 4th 1967 while flying from Malaga to Heathrow. Among the 37 dead was the English actress June Thorburn who was five months pregnant with her third child. To this day it’s unclear why the Caravelle was flying so calamitously low. The only explanation seems to be a disastrous misreading of the altimeters. The West Sussex Constabulary had the gruesome task of collecting the body parts from the Blackdown Hill crash site and Barrett and a colleague spent four days photographing the body parts.

It was a pity that Malcolm was not able to show any of the excellent photographs that illustrate the book he wrote on the West Sussex Constabulary in 2008. There’s a graphic story in his book that no talk on the illustrious West Sussex Constabulary should have been without.

That’s the one about a Heinkel 111 that was shot down off Selsey Bill in 1940 and the pilot taken to Chichester Police Station. “Unfortunately for him,” writes Barrett, “he gave a Nazi salute to Superintendent Savage [who] was known as being ‘savage by name and savage by nature.’” Barrett doesn’t mince his words about what happened next: “Superintendent Savage promptly laid him out with a left hook!”

A copy of Malcolm Barrett’s 350 page book, full of historical detail and modern anecdote, is now in the History Group library, available for loan at any of our meetings.



THE ST ANDREW'S WAR GRAVE

Captain John Edmond Gordon (1887-1942)

by David Garnett

In Spring 2018, a plaque was placed on the church wall by St Andrew's lychgate: *At this location there is a Commonwealth War Grave*. The grave is that of Captain John Edmond Gordon.

It is the closest memorial to the door of the church hall. Instead of the familiar Portland stone, the headstone consists of a rough-hewn Celtic cross on a granite base with the inscription: "In precious memory of my beloved husband Captain John Edmond Gordon of Kingston Manor, Vth Dragoon Guards & Royal Sussex Regt. Died on active service August 2nd 1942."

In 2015 Ferring History Group published a booklet entitled *Ferring War Memorials*, which detailed all the servicemen whose names are listed on the village war memorial and the plaque within the church. Peter Handy researched and wrote the section on World War Two. This is what he said about Captain Gordon:

Royal Sussex Regiment, formerly 5th Dragoon Guards. Born 9th June 1887. Died 2nd August 1942. Son of Colonel Charles Vincent Gordon and Frances Edith Gordon, and husband of Emma Florence Gordon, of Kingston Manor.

He gained the rank of Captain in the service of the 5th Dragoon Guards. He fought in the First World War between 1915 and 1918 and suffered from the effects of being gassed. In the Second World War he joined the Royal Sussex Regiment Home Defence Battalion and was given command of forty-seven men to guard the petrol base near Chichester, which provided fuel to the airfields in the area. He was also engaged in troop training in Brighton.

Captain Gordon died in Brighton Hospital on 2nd August 1942, aged 55, while on active service. He is commemorated on the war memorial at Ferring and on the Paget memorial in East Preston Church.



The memorial stands close to a number of other Gordon family graves, including Captain Gordon's parents. His mother's maiden name was Olliver, who as an only child inherited her parents' home — Kingston Manor.

Until it became part of "East Preston with Kingston" in 1913, Kingston was within Ferring parish, and the Olliver family had a long association with St Andrew's. There are numerous Ollivers buried in the churchyard, and the name appears on several memorials and brass plates within the church itself — including the stained glass west window: "To the glory of God and in affectionate remembrance of George Olliver of West Kingston born 15th Decbr 1799 died 20th May 1861. This window was dedicated by Fanny his widow A.D. 1862." George and Fanny Olliver were Captain Gordon's maternal grandparents and are also buried nearby, close to the west window.

The Gordon family was Scottish, and their ancestral home was Abergeldie Castle, in Aberdeenshire, where they had lived in since at least 1482. In 1848, however, they moved away when the 15th Baron of Abergeldie leased the whole 12,000 acre estate to Queen Victoria. The same year the royal family also leased the 50,000 acre Balmoral estate, which borders Abergeldie on three sides. Prince Albert bought Balmoral four years later, and the royal family continued to lease Abergeldie until 1970.

After an absence of over 120 years, the Gordon family left Kingston Manor and returned to Abergeldie Castle. By that time Captain Gordon's son, John Seton Howard Gordon, had become the 21st Baron of Abergeldie.

At the foot of Captain Gordon's grave is the Latin inscription: *Omnia Vincit Amor* — Love Conquers All.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR 2019

Meetings in 2019: Fridays at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall

1 February 2019: Ellen Cheshire - Sussex and films

3 May 2019: Adge Roberts – A short history of Littlehampton

2 August 2019: Sylvia Endicott - Butlins and Bognor

1 November 2019: Trevor Povey - Shoreham's Maritime History

13 December 2019: Social – Guest speaker to be arranged

Social: Friday 13/12/19: To be arranged

Visits and Walks

Dates and details will be confirmed early in 2019 but we shall be offering our usual programme of guided local walks and visits a little further afield.

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. As a member you have access to many more than the 'public' pages. 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 early in 2019 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.

FERRING-ON-SEA.

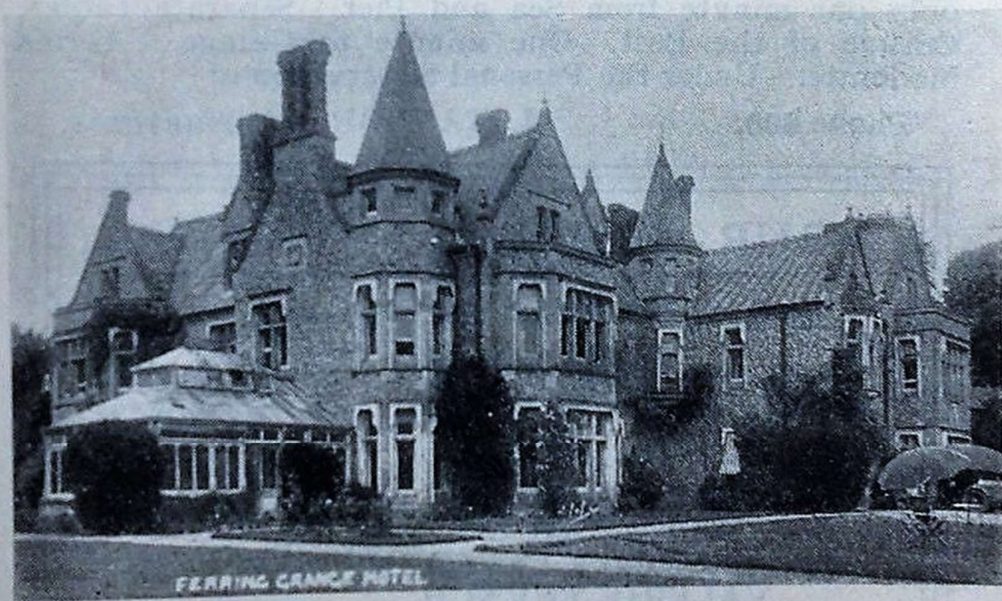
Among the holiday resorts on the West Sussex Coast there are a number of small places, as yet hardly known, but with attractions which, on a proportionate scale, bid fair to rival those of the large towns. Of these Ferring takes high place, if only by reason of the delightful Hotel which now occupies the mansion of Ferring Grange, for here the comforts of a modern hotel, amid charming grounds, are allied to the delights of a coast that is still secluded. Dances, &c., are organised from time to time by the Ferring Grange Country Club, which has its headquarters at the Ferring Grange Hotel.

FERRING-ON-SEA.

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