

**More protection for Ferring's Historic Buildings**

Arun Council has moved to give more protection to 'buildings and structures of character'. A policy statement in its new Local Plan says they must be protected against adverse development and the Council has sought the help of local organisations to draw up a list, parish by parish, of buildings (other than those already 'Listed' by the Dept of the Environment) which should be safeguarded in this way. The criteria are not only historical – modern buildings are to be included if they are of architectural merit or make a distinctive contribution to the street scene.

The History Group worked with the Parish Council and the Conservation Group to produce a list of 32 houses and structures in Ferring, ranging from 18<sup>th</sup> century cottages which ought to be on the Statutory List, to a 1930s house in a self-consciously 'modern' style and including the machine gun emplacement on the beach. Now we await Arun Council's investigation and decision on the list we have submitted.

We already have 21 buildings on the Statutory List – all Grade II, apart from St Andrews Church. For the record they are: *Church Lane*: St Andrews Church, The Ramblers, Holly Lodge, Church Cottage, Evergreen & May Cottages; *Ferring Lane*: Elford House, Clematis & Jasmine Cottages; *Ferring Street*: Smugglers Cottage, Smugglers Annex, Yew Tree Cottage, Rose Cottage, Vine Cottage & Landalls; *Ferringham Lane*: Barn (Ferring Carpet Company), Home Farm House and Home Farm Lodge, Home Farm Cottages; *Langbury Lane*: South & North Hangleton, Inglenook & Hangleton Cottage; *Sea Lane*: East Ferring House, Bramble Cottage. The further 32 buildings are mainly outside the Conservation Area. We shall let you know the result in due course.

**A Saint in Ferring**

There can be no doubt that Richard, Bishop of Chichester 750 years ago, and later canonised, paid several visits to Ferring; not only as spiritual leader of its church but as Lord of the Manor. Legend has it that he performed one of his miracles here but the story seems to be open to different interpretations.

Kath Worvell's research on St Richard and his likely effect on Ferring in the 13<sup>th</sup> century will be displayed in Ferring Library from 30 May. The full text will be available from Kath at a cost of £2 to cover photocopying. This display will coincide with the celebrations within the church and the procession of the St Richard icon through the Village, on its way to Chichester, taking place that weekend.

**..And a few sinners**

Mary Bennett – brawling and fighting in the churchyard on Sabbath Day (1613) .. Richard Wrenne – notorious absence from church (1628) .. Elizabeth Springe – incontinency with Arnold Ditcher (1617) .. Joanna Skimpinge – appointing a banquet and meeting upon the Sabbath Day .. Alice Tearle – is a scold of her tongue (1600) .. Agnes Barne – most shamefully using of her husband from tyme to tyme (1624) (Extracts from Church Court records relating to Ferring)

## **FERRING DYNASTIES (2) - The Watersfields**

The Watersfield (or Watersfeild) family were prominent residents of Ferring in Elizabethan and early Stuart times. The baptisms of Thomas Watersfeld's youngest two children Agnes (1558) and Alice (1559) are among the first entries in the Parish registers and Thomas and his wife Joanne are frequent godparents in baptisms between 1558 and 1562. We know from Thomas's will made in 1570 (one of the longest in the Ferring archive), of a nephew Thomas (whose estates he was looking after), other children of his brother and sister, and three other children of his own – William, John and George. In the will, William was bequeathed land and rents in Goring; John (the eldest son) was the main beneficiary; and George (at Cambridge at the time the will was made) was left other land in Goring and £20 at the age of 21, with a guarantee of his student fees and expenses in the mean time. In due course he became Vicar of Ferring.

John married Agnes Page in 1571, just after his father's death, and the couple went on to have ten children baptised at Ferring church. He was probably the 'John Watersfield, farmer of Ferringe' whose burial was recorded in 1594. She was certainly a widow by 1609 when she made her will (again, a long and informative one).

The children of John and Agnes were as follows: Agnes (1572), Joanne (1573), John (1575), Suzannah (1576), Thomas (1578/9), William (1582/3), Beniemin (1584), Daniell (1586), Elizabeth (1587/8) and Sarah (1589). The will refers to John and Elizabeth as deceased. Thomas married Mary [...] and had two daughters, Marie (died young) and Martha. William married Mary Eagar in 1613 and had four children baptised at Ferring church: Barbara (1618), Marie (1623), John (1627) and Elizabeth (1633). In 1637 Barbara married John Westbrook of East Ferring House. She died in 1657 and there is a record of a memorial tablet (no longer visible) in Ferring church to her as the wife of John. There are no more mentions of the Watersfield family in Ferring after this date.

### **Watersfield properties**

The will of Thomas Watersfeld (d.1570) refers to a considerable estate, including his 'farme at Ferringe in the w[hi]ch I nowe dwell in', including a house with a 'great chamber', and land in Goring. He also leaves nearly £200 in legacies. The 'Glebe Terrier' of 1635, listing all the plots of land where the Vicar was entitled to the 'tythe of corne' (the hollybreads), includes plots on the land of Thomas Watersfild (gransdon of the above) on 'north downs', at his 'Chantry Barne', and two acres to the south of his house. There is another list of hollybreads ('a noate of all the holibreds') in the Parish Register, not dated (but probably 1606-1609), which has a similar list for 'Widow Watersfeilde', for which she is assessed at 6d, one of the highest assessments in the parish. The will of Agnes Watersfield, widow, (d 1609), daughter-in-law of the elder Thomas and mother of the younger Thomas refers only to land in Rustington and Godalming which she leaves to her younger sons. There is no direct reference to the Ferring estate but there are legacies of over £250 and a bed in 'the painted chamber' and another in 'the little chamber'. Agnes was a widow for 15 years and the assessment almost certainly refers to her. Kerridge & Standing argue that the house in question was the (West Ferring) Manor House, and this is probably the case. It was certainly a very substantial house, with 'stone wals and pals' around its grounds.

The survey of the manor carried out in 1647 shows Thomas Watersfield as a recent leaseholder of the manor (perhaps up to 1641) In the sale by the Parliamentary Commissioners following this survey, Thomas Watersfield bought the manor house for £824, and Anthony Stapely bought the manor lands for £671. After the Restoration the Bishop recovered the manor and leased it out to William Westbrooke . Thomas Watersfield may or may not have been compensated.

He owned other land (as a Copy holder by inheritance), in any event. The 1647 survey shows this as 'North downe' (25 acres), and four cottages and 12 acres in another holding. After he died his daughter Martha claimed (from his widow – his third wife? - Dorothy), in 1651, the tenancy of one tenement and a yardland called Philpotts (a later deed identifies this as the North down), and the four cottages, and then passed all the property to her husband Will Harling (or Huling).

The 1635 Terrier shows three hollybreads belonging to Thomas's brother William, one them being an acre north west of his house. From the boundaries described, Kerridge and Standing identify William's house as (East Ferring) Manor Farm. William's daughter Barbara (d 1657) married John Westbrooke in 1637 and on the death of William in 1649 she inherited the property. At her death, in 1657 it would have passed to her husband (d 1666) and thence to the Westbrooke family. A John Watersfield became the tenant of a cottage by the churchyard in 1636 - this could hardly be her brother , as is said in *Ferring Past* because he was only 9 years old.

### **The Church and the Community**

The Watersfield family were closely bound up with the parish church. Thomas (d 1570) sent his youngest son George to Cambridge, where he was still a student in 1570, and only eight years later he was inducted as Vicar of Ferring, and remained in that post until his death in 1599. His nephew Thomas (b 1578) was a Churchwarden from 1607 and at various dates until 1638; William (b 1582) from 1625 at various times up to his death in 1649.

The Watersfields were witnesses or overseers to a large number of wills in Ferring, which is consistent with their status as prominent land owners and churchmen.

### **CLOVEN FOOTED BEASTS**

It is difficult to believe that as late as 1930 the ancient tribute of the 'heriot' was cited in a land transaction in Ferring. But it is there, in one of the last entries in the 'Court Book' of the Manor of Ferring, when the Executors of Mrs Henty paid off the Ecclesiastical Commissioners (on behalf of the Bishop, still the Lord of the Manor) for the 'extinguishment of the Manorial incidents' on Yew Tree Cottage in Ferring Street. The 'Quit Rent' was set at one penny, and the 'Heriot' as 'the best cloven footed beast'. The Executors paid £48 11s 6d as compensation for the surrender of the mineral and sporting rights. *Ferring Past* says the cottage was then sold to the longstanding tenants. It had been originally called 'Bushby's Cottage'.

The 'heriot' goes back before Norman times, as an obligation of military service, but came to be a payment in kind due from a landholder, to the Lord, on his death and the transfer of the property to his heir. By the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was usually, the 'best beast' of the landholder's stock (or financial

equivalent). 'Beast' usually meant cattle, Later, evidently, it became necessary to specify what sort of 'beast' was acceptable – no pigs, for example.

The Manor Court dealt with most transfers of land, and particularly with 'copyhold' land, held on lifetime leases transferable to the heirs or purchasers on payment of certain dues - 'quit rents', heriots etc. The transfer was entered on the Court Roll, and the new owner was given a copy of the entry. The Ferring Court Rolls from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century onwards are in the Chichester Record Office. Before 1734 the records are in Latin (except during the Commonwealth Period).

The Manor Court met twice a year, at Ferring Manor Place (afterwards replaced by 'The Grange') with the Steward presiding. A small group of Ferring copyholders and other landholders would attend as the 'homage', or representative body of those owing allegiance to the Lord. The other owners, who theoretically had to attend too, were 'amerced' or fined one penny for neglecting their 'suit of court'. Outside these periods land transactions were entered into the records 'out of court'. Until the latter 18<sup>th</sup> century, at least, the Court had other important duties, including the appointment of certain local officials and the regulation of farming practices.

These duties gradually fell away but control of land by the Manor Courts only came to an end as a result of the reform of property legislation in Victorian times, and finally in the Law Of Property Act 1922. Copyhold was abolished, and by 1922 the only manorial rights left were over mineral extraction and shooting. These too were subsequently 'extinguished' by payments like the one for Yew Tree Cottage – and this was not the last entry in the book – that came in 1935, with a similar buying out of the 'manorial incidents' for one of the cottages in Church Lane.. This time there was no mention of beasts or hooves, cloven or otherwise.

## **TURNPIKES**

There was a large audience at our February meeting for Caroline Adams' talk on the 'West Sussex Turnpikes' - the development of the roads that became the 'A' roads that we know today. Before the 1750s there were very few good roads in the county; the parishes were responsible for their upkeep but had few resources to maintain them. The solution was privatisation – better roads and new roads in return for tolls. The word 'Turnpike' originally applied to the barrier at the toll gate – a revolving drum of spears or pikes – but came to mean the roads themselves. West Sussex was one of the last counties to adopt this system, and although many companies (Turnpike Trusts) were set up, some for just a few miles of road, they all ultimately failed to provide an acceptable service or satisfy their shareholders and by 1885 they had all been wound up. When the roads were taken over by the County Council (formed in 1888) they were in a disgraceful condition, not much better than the muddy tracks of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Caroline Adams illustrated her talk with slides of old maps, account books and photographs of the toll gate cottages from the County Records Office, where she is a Senior Archivist. Many of these cottages still survive, on roads all over the county, some incorporated into other buildings.

The Gate Keepers were poorly paid, and there was much temptation to pocket the tolls. One famous Gate Keeper used to conduct the business from a nearby pub, inviting the carters to hand over the toll at the bar and then join him for a drink. Asked why he had so little revenue to pay the company he said most of the traffic must have taken a short cut across the fields.

### **BRAMBLE COTTAGE, SEA LANE**

*One of the oldest cottages in Ferring has been studied by architectural historian Annabelle Hughes. This article is adapted from a detailed report she made on the cottage earlier this year.*

‘The cottage lies parallel to Sea Lane, orientated north/south, the roof gabled at each end with internal end [chimney] stacks. It is built in coursed flint with brick dressings, the flintwork on the front being nicely knapped. The roof is thatched, the front entrance is central. On each gable can be seen the bricks for the earlier roof line, which extended down over a single-storey outshoot along the western elevation. The outshoot is now double-storeyed, with a dormer.

*After discussing the pattern of joisting, and other internal features, including the surviving bread oven, she comes to the following conclusions..*

This cottage was built with end stacks heating two ground floor rooms, three first floor rooms of which one at least may have been heated from the beginning, and a single-storey outshot with a catslide roof that contained the service rooms, such as scullery and pantry. The thatch would have been deeper [than now] and in the more traditional local style.

It is possible that the original first floor access stair was within the central bay, set back from the ‘lobby’ entrance. Alternatively it could have risen in the south-east corner. The ground floor rooms would have corresponded with kitchen and parlour, each with ‘chambers’ above, and there was also a ‘chamber over the entry’.

There are some anomalies in the construction, most notably the style and scantling of the joisting to the first floor. It is more usual to find squared off timbers, the joists let into the girders. The knapped flintwork of the front façade could be either the original distinction of the ‘public’ face of the building, or a later ‘face-lift’.

The most significant change has been the creation of an upper storey to the outshoot and the alteration of the roof pitch to accommodate this. When this was done, the thatch was still laid and tied in the traditional way. It is very likely that the first floor was re-joisted at the same time, which would account for the similarity between the rafters and joists, and the ‘eccentric’ style of the joisting.

From a sequence of ownership established from the court records, the cottage was built by 1657, but not earlier than 1635, and the construction would suggest a dating not long before 1657. The Hearth Tax of 1670 was on only two hearths, so either both those at first floor were later, or there was some miscalculation.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century James Terry raised money by a mortgage to the Coates of Storrington, and when he defaulted, the property passed to Thomas Coates. This could suggest a period of poor maintenance, so that when Edward Coates inherited in 1754, he needed to invest in a major programme of repair and alteration. This is the most likely point in the sequence for the re-roofing and re-joisting, as it was divided into two occupations by 1839, and probably soon after 1806, and was not restored into one until c.1930.

*Frank Leeson adds: 'The cottage was last re-thatched c.1972, by a Mr Jarvis. 'Magpies' house was built in the former garden and stables area of Bramble Cottage in 1993'. Can any churchgoer tell us if things are any better 400 years later?*

## **GLORIOUS GOODWOOD**

The 1 November meeting enjoyed a talk by Cynthia Bacon – a guide at Goodwood House – on 'the people and the treasures' of that stately home.

Originally a hunting lodge for the Charlton Stag hunt, the house was bought by the Duke of Richmond in 1697. Richmond was one of the many illegitimate sons of Charles II, and his mother was showered with gifts by that merry monarch which provided the basis of the family fortune. The 10<sup>th</sup> Duke still lives on the estate but it is his son, the Earl of March, who now lives in Goodwood House itself.

The estate has many interesting buildings, including the 'Shell House' built in 1739 and decorated with 500,000 shells. The glory of Goodwood is, however, its paintings, furniture and porcelain. Much of the latter was acquired by one of the ducal line, in 1765, when he was briefly Ambassador in Paris (one reason for the brevity of his tenure may have been his refusal to speak French, although he could do so very well). Fifty years later, another Duke and Duchess of Richmond gave the famous Ball in Brussels two days before the battle of Waterloo.

Cynthia Bacon showed an excellent series of slides, told many anecdotes about the house and the family, the horse racing, and more modern attractions, and invited the Group to come to Goodwood for one of the 'Connoisseur Days' put on by the guides.

## **WHERE THERE'S A WILL**

Frank Leeson and Ed Miller, with the help of several other Group members, have now completed the decyphering and transcription of all the 'Ferring' wills in the County Record Office. They are now on Ed's computer and will be put onto a CD ROM, with copies for the Record Office and Worthing Local Studies Library.

The Record Office collection comprises thousands of registered copies of wills that were granted probate by the Chichester Consistory Court in the years before 1853 (when the probate service was centralised in London) plus hundreds more original wills. They are all on microfiche or microfilm but the actual documents can be seen where the photographic version is difficult to read. The probate copies are bound into volumes, the original wills are loose sheets (on paper of all shapes and sizes) in folders by Deanery (Ferring was in Arundel Deanery). There is an index (of sorts) showing the 'home' parish of the person making the will, and since Kingston was part of Ferring parish until the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century one has to separate out the purely 'Ferring' wills. There are 125 of these, beginning with that of John Andro in 1541. In addition, there are three wills in the Record Office at Kew (from the Commonwealth period) and possibly others in the Canterbury registry.

All are in manuscript, of course, and the further one goes back the more difficult the handwriting, the spelling and the vocabulary, and the task really does become 'decyphering'. Some words and phrases remain a mystery but

much has come to light about the villagers, their relationships, their household goods, their trade and farming equipment (and livestock) and their psychology – in the way they expressed themselves and the bequests they made. Occasionally, they mention names of fields or areas within Ferring such as Hangleton, Franklands and East Ferring, but there is rarely any bequest of land or farms or houses which would enable us to link particular families with specific locations. This is because land and buildings were passed on to the next generation not by will but by application to the Manor Court.

One of the mysteries about these wills is by whom they were written (the registered copies were transcribed by the clerks in the Consistory Court). A handful of wills mention the writer (he is awarded a few shillings ‘for his paines’), but the only writer we can clearly identify is Thomas Hider, a schoolmaster, who died in 1606. Before the 19<sup>th</sup> century, few others in the village, apart from the clergy, would have been able to write (most of the testators and witnesses had to make a mark in lieu of their signature). The wills follow a common form and use legalistic language but one doubts whether most of the testators would have used solicitors to do this for them. In most cases the will were made when they were terminally ill (a common opening is ‘I, Etc Etc , being sicke in bodie’). So how was this done? Perhaps it was the vicar, or one of the churchwardens. Closer study of the handwriting of the original wills may throw more light on this.

### **WEST FERRING MANOR: LEASEHOLDERS AND FARMERS**

The Domesday survey shows that the Bishop of Chichester was the Lord of the Manor of ‘Ferringes’, and held it as a demesne. Part of the manor was held by Ansfrid, presumably as a sub-tenant, and by the 17<sup>th</sup> century this holding was being described as the manor of East Ferring, and the main manor as that of West Ferring.

The Bishop continued as the Lord of the Manor of West Ferring at least until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and continued to have the freehold of most of the land (in conjunction with the Church Commissioners) until the mid-Victorian period. According to auctioneers who sold the Lordship on behalf of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in the 1990s the Lordship was in the hands of Sir John Shelley in the 1770s and sold to William Henty in the 1790s. But that is wrong: the Bishop was always the ‘Lord’ . True, the significance of ‘Lordship’ had become rather nominal by this time – what counted was ownership, by leasehold or freehold, of the land, and it is not too difficult to trace this tenure from the Elizabethan period to modern times.

The Manor of East Ferring is more sketchily recorded. *The Topographer* (1790) says ‘it belonged some time to the Westbrooks ... and is now the property of Wm Richardson, of Findon’. Three generations later, *Castles & Mansions of Western Sussex* (1876) says ‘the manor or reputed manor .. . was held under the Bishop by Wm Westbrook in 1698, and continued in the possession of the Richardsons until the present century when it was sold to Mr Henty and others’. It is not referred to *as a manor* in any Ferring wills, and there are only a few records of any East Ferring manor courts from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. However, ‘East Ferring’ is often named as a distinct location within the parish of Ferring.

The manor of West Ferring is not generally so named in the documents – the name used is either ‘Ferring and Fure’ or simply ‘Ferring’, but the first detailed map we have, dated 1621, does seem to show an estate excluding most of the fields either side of Sea Lane. The Bishop always leased out his manorial demesne: *Castles & Mansions of Western Sussex* says Thomas Walwayne held it in 1535, and this is presumably the Thomas Woolwyn or Wolfyn recorded in the Lay Subsidy of 1524/5 as one of the two highest payers, and who wrote his will in 1543. A little later, the lease was probably in the hands of Thomas Watersfield, who died in 1570 (judging by his will, probably the biggest landowner in Ferring, and certainly the owner of a large house). John Watersfield then succeeded, and his widow Agnes (died 1609) is recorded as having the highest assessment for ‘holibredes’ (special tithes). Her son, Thomas Watersfield (1578/9-1650?) inherited most of this property (as shown in the 1635 list of holibredes), and in the 1647 survey of ‘Ferring and Fure Manors’ he is listed on page 2 as leaseholder. In an updated (1700) version of the document it gives William Westbrooke as the only leaseholder – as that of ‘Ferring Mannor’. The 1647 survey was on behalf of the Parliamentary Commissioners, in order to sell the Bishop’s lands.

The outcome was that the Commissioners sold the manor and demesne lands to Anthony Stapely and the house to Thomas Watersfield. During the Commonwealth period Stapely presided over the Manor Court. Later however the manor was restored to the Bishop of Chichester and he sold the lease of the house and the manor lands to John Westbrooke. On John’s death in 1666 it passed to his son William. It evidently continued in the Westbrooke family and Mary Westbrooke, spinster had it in 1734.

It then passed to the Richardson family (to whom the Westbrooks were related). The next leaseholders were the Colebrooke family – first a ‘Mr Colebrooke, who became immensely rich on the South Sea Stocks’, then his son Sir James, and then his brother Sir George ‘who by a monopoly of hemp, lost his great fortune’. James had it in 1744, and had as his tenant at ‘West Ferring Farm’ Thos Cooper. Cooper was a very wealthy farmer who left an estate of over £1500 when he died in 1751. Cooper was also the tenant of Parsonage Glebe Lands, and had ‘the Great Tythes of all Copyhold land in Ferring’. He had a 21 year lease on the farm, ending in 1760.

*Castles & Mansions of Western Sussex* says ‘the trustees of Sir James Colebrooke sold it in 1772 to John Bagnall, ..who transferred his purchase to ..Sir John Shelley, by whom a lease for three lives was obtained from the Prebendary of Ferring in 1776. Sir John Shelley’s son transferred it to William Henty. *The Topographer* says Mr Henty was in possession of the manor in 1790, and ‘occupies the old manor house here’. *Castles and Mansions* says George Henty (William’s son) in 1796.

The records of the Manor Court survive from the 16<sup>th</sup> century until the final theoretical transactions in the 1930s. Until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century the main business was the transfer of ‘copyholds’, that is land held from the Lord of the Manor for a nominal payment renewable on inheritance or sale of the land. The legal title to the land was the entry on the Court Roll, and the owner was provided with a copy of the entry (hence ‘copyhold’),



## **FERRING'S PUBS**

Ferring is unusual in not having a pub, or village inn, in the centre of the village. The Henty Arms, at the junction of Ferring Lane and Langbury Lane, is somewhat north of where one might expect to find the village pub. Nor is there any trace of an inn within the Ferring Conservation Area around Church Lane and Ferring Street in any of the maps and transcripts of the Manor Court records and wills in our archive.

The Henty Arms goes back a long way, however. It was built some time after 1837 (because it was not shown on the 1837 Tithe Map) but before 1866 (because it was on an 1866 map). It was only named 'The Henty Arms' in the late 1920s, but the connection with the Henty family was there from the beginning. The land it stood on (known as 'Kents Croft' in 1837) was a piece of grazing land owned by the family (they owned at least a third of Ferring by this time), and the pub was probably built by the Henty & Constable Brewery of Chichester. It was not always called the Henty Arms, however, only taking that name in the late 1920s. Before that, it was called 'The New Inn', for reasons explained below.

Looking at the building now, one can see that the original structure has been extended. On the 1866 map of the Henty estate it is shown as having two symmetrical wings projecting towards Ferring Lane. The northern wing has since been extended sideways (and back, to form the dining room).

The name 'The New Inn' suggests a previous inn somewhere else in the village and there are several clues to its whereabouts. A Sale Catalogue in the West Sussex Record Office, for a barn and five acres of land in Ferring is advertised as to be held 'at the Sign of the Carpenters Arms, the house of the Widow Holden' on 8 March 1783. John Holden, had bought a small plot of land at Franklands Green in 1751, and one year later a house was built there. John Holden's son was a carpenter, and in due course his widow, Sarah, inherited the property. Their son sold the house in 1797 to a brewer called Francis Sandham. The house was what is now called 'Franklands Manor', in Ferring Lane just south of the A259. In 1830 Sandham's executors sold the land and buildings to Edwin Henty. The deeds do not refer explicitly to an inn but it may well be that Henty kept the old inn going until it was superseded by the 'New Inn' some ten years later. Franklands Manor looks rather large for a village inn but might have been appropriate for a 'Posting House' on the Worthing – Littlehampton Road, as suggested in 'Ferring Past' (although that would be only a few hours journey even in 1783).

The 'Tudor Close' is of course, a modern pub in an older building - although the building is not that old. The claim that it was mentioned in the Domesday Book is a complete fantasy: there is not even any building shown on the 1837 Tithe Map, or the 1866 Henty Estate map, or the 1874 Estate map but what appears on the 1899 Ordnance Survey map is described in the 1921 Sale Catalogue as "Two Five-bay Fattening Sheds to tie 13 head. Three-bay Open Shed and Loose Box; Large Barn'. It was converted to a residence in 1928 and in 1935 it became the Tudor Close preparatory school.

Among its pupils, around 1939, was one of the younger sons of the Emperor of Abyssinia, who came to watch his son in the school play. The school moved out shortly afterwards the buildings were used by the Army (and later, we are told was an Officers' Mess for the Canadians stationed in this area. The pub was opened in 1947. The full conversion to the present 'public house and restaurant' was somewhat later.

As they say in all the best research reports, *more research is needed in this area*. Would any member like to join me in some work at the bar? I am sure Vernon at the Henty Arms could tell us more about the long history of that pub, and the manager of the Tudor Close should be able to tell us when it opened, and what it had been immediately before then.

## **SUMMER AND AUTUMN PROGRAMME**

### **Meetings**

Following our 9 May meeting on the Chichester-Arun Canal, we have:

Mark Nash, a descendant of John Nash, the architect, on **Building the Brighton Pavilion** (7.30pm, 15 August). The talk on Smuggling in Sussex has had to be postponed but we are glad to welcome back Geoff Meade on 7 November (7.30pm) with a talk on **Sussex Landscape and History**. Geoff gave us an excellent presentation on the Sussex Coastline two years ago. Meetings are now being arranged for 2004.

### **Visits and Walks**

- Guided walk to Highdown, looking at historic features of the landscape. Sun 25 May 1.30 from Village Hall or 2pm from Highdown Car Park. The hill walk will be for a gentle 2 miles, says our guide, Chairman Kath Worvell.
- Walk round South and North Stoke churches and Houghton on Sat. 14 June. Car sharing. Please contact Kath or Ed if you would like, or can offer, a lift. 1.30pm from the Village Hall
- Visit to Tarring – church, historic High Street and Archbishop's House. Again, car sharing, 1.30pm from the Village Hall.
- Falmer and Stanmer. Sun 21 September. For details phone Ed or Joyce Cooper

### **Research**

Our Archives are growing. Latest additions are photocopies of all the Probate Inventories for Ferring, Ron Kerridge's working papers for *Ferring Past*, Frank Leeson's file of photographs of Ferring's historic buildings, and a CD version of a classic 'encyclopaedia' of 17<sup>th</sup> century household items, farm equipment, clothing and much else. Ron Kerridge has also kindly given us a microfiche reader. All our material, and equipment is at the disposal of any members who would like to start a research project. Frank Leeson and Ed Miller spend most Fridays at the Record Office in Chichester (where they are currently examining the Court Rolls) and would be delighted if any other members would like to get involved.