

MAKING HISTORY IN THE NATIONAL PARK

The Public Inquiry on the proposed South Downs National Park opens this month. Despite our County Council's opposition to the principle of the Park, there is little doubt that the Park will be established. And despite our District Council's objection to including Highdown, it seems likely that the boundary will take in at least the upper slopes. Over in Worthing it seems likely that Highdown Gardens and the woods on both sides of Titnore Lane will also be included. But a number of local groups are calling for the boundary to be pushed out just a little more to include the southern slopes of Highdown and the house and parkland at Castle Goring.

We know that Castle Goring is not threatened by the West Durrington development – the house is a listed building and the planning brief requires the parkland to be left undeveloped. But all local groups are convinced that it would be safer within the National Park.

The house seems to have been neglected since 1939, and the park looks a little sad these days but the whole ensemble was highly valued in the 19th century. The *History and Antiquities of the County of Sussex* (Horsfield 1834) recorded:

'Castle Goring, built on an elevated site in the northern division of this parish [i.e. Goring], is of considerable size and singular style of architecture, combining the Gothic and the Grecian in distinct fronts. It was erected by the late Sir Bysshe Shelley Bart. And is now the property of his son Sir Timothy Shelley' .. 'The mansion is a noble one, containing many handsome apartments. The south front is of Palladian architecture, with an elevation of considerable beauty, greatly resembling a villa in the vicinity of Rome. The north front is a modern Gothic structure; the architecture very correctly preserved. The north-east aspect presents a pile of building resembling, in a considerable degree, Arundel Castle. High Down Hill is partly within the demesnes attached to this capital mansion ; and the woodland scenery around it is in the highest degree pleasing.'

The lower slopes of Highdown Hill are less distinguished but also of historical importance. The area under discussion is bounded by the A 259 and the Angmering By-Pass. Up on the hill we have the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman finds and across the by-pass we have the recent finds of the same periods at Bramley Green. These early inhabitants would certainly have farmed these fields too and the Saxons whose first cemetery was at the top of the hill whose church was down the hill at Ferring by 791 must have farmed them too. Certainly Hangleton Lane and the other tracks running north and south were the mediaeval drove roads up and over the Downs. 'Richard de Hangleton' was mentioned as having a 'cot' in the 1379 Custumal [account of manor services and customs] and the farmland at Hangleton Lane is mentioned in the 1635 survey of the special tithes in Ferring - one of the houses referred to probably still survives (now 'The White Cottage').

Both Hangleton Farm and 'Lower Ecclesden' Farm were well established by the 18th century. What was the Hangleton farm house has an inscription

over the door dated 1734 and two of the barns are of at least 18th century origin. All this - the archaeological potential, the field patterns, the surviving buildings, the undeveloped farmland - would be at risk if it were left outside the protection that the National Park offers. The Public Inquiry will consider these boundaries in March.

LEST WE FORGET

The Storm of War – 1914

The local church magazine covered a number of parishes in 1914 but Ferring had its own page. This is what it said in September 1914:

When our last Magazine copy was sent to the printer we were at peace, and everyone was thinking of summer holidays and pleasant sea-side trips, now we are in the midst of war, and such a war as no one of our generation, or indeed of several past generations have ever known. Such is the simple and terrible fact that has to be recorded in this month's parochial page. A month ago there appeared the first symptoms of trouble, but that little cloud like a man's hand overspread the heavens., and has burst in a storm of war which is enveloping the whole of Europe.

We all understand now that we could not with honour or with safety stand neutral. The war has been forced on us. All classes and condition are trying to rise to the occasion, ladies asking What can I do to help? '.

It went on to ask for 'those already serving to be remembered in your prayers:

Philip Candy (Cadet HMS Monmouth); Frank Hunter (Midshipman HMS Africa); Charles Lower (Mechanician HMS Dreadnought); Jesse Hoare (HMS Venerable); Richard Bennett (AB); Peter Tourle (Carpenter HMS Cochrane); John Winton (2 Yorkshire Regt); Arthur Winton (2 Yorkshire Regt); Charles Gordon of Kingston Manor (Capt with Cavalry); Walter Bagot-Chester (Lt 2 Gurkha Rifles); Albert Orchard (RAMC); William Orchard (Royal Horse Artillery); William Wood (1 Royal Fusiliers)'.

The Price of Peace

Ferring's War Memorial was erected soon after the war ended (does anyone know exactly when, and who unveiled it?) on a piece of land owned by the Henty family and conveyed to the new Parish Council in 1921. It bore the names of two of the above, plus another three. This from a population (men, women and children) of 250.

John Winton was killed in the Second Battle of Ypres 1915

Walter Bagot-Chester died of wounds in Palestine 1918

W A Bennett (RNR) was sunk with *HMS Ramsey*, off Scotland 1915

Reg Hoare (Rifle Brigade) was killed on the Somme 1916, having been mentioned in dispatches a few days earlier.

G Kilham (King's Royal Rifles) was killed in the same battle as John Winton in 1915

Philip Candy, aged 15, went down with the *Monmouth* at the Battle of Coronel in 1914 and is commemorated on the memorial at Kingston.

Kath Worvell has researched all these servicemen and her report is given in the 'Millenium History' in Ferring Library. It makes fascinating, and poignant, reading.

OUR AUGUST MEETING

We must apologise to those who came to our August meeting to hear a talk on the Building of the Brighton Pavilion. Our speaker, booked in the normal way, did not turn up and despite phone messages, e mails and a letter from me *never did get in touch to explain what happened.*

Kath Worvell came to the rescue with a scintillating talk on St Richard of Chichester, based on the material she had recently exhibited at Ferring Library. She explained the background to Henry III's refusal to accept Richard's appointment as bishop and his 'exile' in Tarring. When, with the Pope's help, he was admitted to the bishopric his first task had been to raise money for the Crusades, and it was on one of these fundraising trips that he died at Dover. After his death he probably raised much more money for the Cathedral, as a saint with a shrine that could compete with that of St Thomas at Canterbury. It was as part of the dossier for his canonisation that his 'miracles' were written up, but the depiction on his memorial tablet in Chichester, of a miracle performed in Ferring is much later and of no historicity whatsoever.

Earlier, at the AGM, Kath had stepped down from the Chairmanship and Joyce Cooper was elected to take her place. Ed Miller and Tony Hayes continue as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Adge Roberts has now joined the Committee.

THE WATER HOUSE

The records of the Manor Court in Ferring continue to yield interesting details. There is a more or less complete set of 'Court Rolls' (the official note of each session, on two or three pages rolled up into a little bundle) for the 1640s and 1650s, and because we have a very good set of wills and probate inventories from this period it is not difficult to identify the tenants whose land transactions were being discussed. The main business was the legal transfer of property on death (or occasionally sale) but the Court also dealt with the maintenance of bridges, ditches, and in the case below, fences.

4 April 1649

We present the fence of Richard Benet from the north east corner of angilton mead to Thomas Holdens water House to be mended by May Day uppon the penelty of tenn shillings one acre head

These penalties were rather steep: an 'acre head' was presumably the short side of an acre strip (traditionally 22 yards by 220 yards) but Richard Bennett could afford it.

The Bennett family had Hangleton Farm (on the west side of what is now Langbury Lane) from at least 1635, and continued there until the 1880s (the old farmhouse still survives). Richard Bennett's will does not survive, but his Probate Inventory (1654) does, and he was clearly one of the richest farmers in Ferring. The 1635 Glebe Terrier shows that his estate included land on the east side of the lane and running up to the Littlehampton Road. Hangleton Mead (meadow) was the area north of what is now Downview Road, divided among various tenants, so the fence in question (no doubt to keep Bennett's animals from straying) must have run from Highdown Close south west to Langbury Lane, marking the boundary of Bennett's land. That field boundary is still there on the 1837 Tithe Map, and on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map, along with a footpath along the field edge. That footpath is still there.

But what of Thomas Holden and his Water House? At the south-eastern end of the modern footpath, the Rife makes a sudden turn southwards. Here until the 1930s there was a pond, and 'Hangleton Cottages' (66 & 68 Langbury Lane) still stand a few yards to the south. The cottages are certainly 18th century, possibly earlier, and are described in the 1840 Tithe Settlement as a single cottage and garden of 1 rood and 17 perches. This is somewhat larger than Holden's property (the 1647 Parliamentary Survey of the manor says 'Thomas Holden .. hath one cottage with one hundred feete of land in length and thirtie in bredth ..') but the Court Rolls and other documents show that this is the same property, possibly enlarged by the Bennetts when they acquired it at the end of the 18th century. It is not clear, however, whether Holden's house was the 'Hangleton Cottages' building or an earlier building. It must have stood beside the pond to justify the name 'Water House', and 66 & 68 Langbury Lane may not be quite close enough. *Ferring Past* (p 81) surmises that the Water House stood behind 70 and 72 Langbury Lane but associates it with a different owner. Could there have been two, and the Court Roll was specifically identifying the one that belonged to Holden?

Holden had acquired this property (and a larger property including Church Cottage) by his marriage to Ann (Agnes) Hatcher but he seems to have been very wealthy in his own right. In his will (1657) he describes himself as a 'Fellmonger' (dealer in sheepskins and hides) and he leaves property in Broadwater, Sompting and East Preston, and over £500 to his sons and grandson, quite apart from what he leaves to his wife. He was also a generous man, leaving twenty shillings 'to the poore people of the parishe of Ferring'. Let's hope he enjoyed his house by the water.

AN ORAL HISTORY OF FERRING?

History deals with records of the past, and our interpretation of them. Archaeology deals with the material evidence of 'pre-history' – the era before written records; 'history' with documentary records. Until recently, these records have been the written, printed, or illustrated material in Record Offices and private collections. Researchers have studied them and produced their chronicles and interpretations, from which 'general' historians (writers or academics) have produced overall histories of a particular eras or countries. But much local history is based on 'oral' history – the spoken testimony of people still living, including the re-telling of recollections from several generations before. Thus it was that John Winton, speaking to a local newspaper in 1941 was able to recall authentic stories from before 1820 about smuggling in Ferring.

The great difficulty about oral history is that it is extremely perishable. Unless the story is passed on to the next generation it is lost for ever when the storyteller dies. Some local history groups have made a determined effort to recall these memories – by talking to older people in the community and tracking down local newspaper interviews with local celebrities. The Angmering Society has done a splendid job in collecting memories of their village (name of publication- available from the compiler Neil Rogers-Davies phone no; price). Could we do the same for Ferring?

There are a few people still living in the village who can remember the 1930s. One former resident now living in Rustington can, I am told, remember sailing toy boats on the pond where the Village Hall now stands. Others will have stories told by their parents and grandparents (which could get us back

to Victorian times). We must get these memories on record. Would any members like to join me in an effort to tape record the memories of some of our elderly residents, and to track down some of those who no longer live in the area? We could aim to record everything up to the Coronation in 1953.

THE CANAL

The Group travelled from Chichester to Ford on 9 May – by canal. It is a difficult trip these days, considering that the waterway was closed in the 1830s and the canal bed has been almost completely built over and for some stretches all that remains is a line of darker coloured vegetation. But in 1823, when it opened, the Portsmouth – Arun canal was the latest thing in inland water transport, enabling the coastal trade to reach deep inland and via the Arun and Wey, to reach London without braving the Channel and the Thames Estuary.

All this was explained, with the aid of a 27 feet long map and dozens of his own slides, by local Industrial Archaeologist ‘Adge’ Roberts. The canal was a glorious failure, having been planned during the Napoleonic Wars as a way of avoiding enemy warships in the Channel. By the time it was finished the war was long over and the merchants were quite satisfied with the coastwise traffic so that the canal, in all its 15 year life only attracted 23,000 tons of freight, barely more than the amount forecast for the first year. Its most famous cargo was the regular consignment of bullion destined for the Royal Mint, and guarded by redcoats on the deck. The investors lost thousands, and quickly fell into disuse, any prospect of its revival being killed off by the coming of the railways a decade later.

The Sussex Canal Trust has traced the route in great detail, still marked by a number of bridges and embankments, and has excavated some of the lock installations and other stonework. Adge Roberts showed that most of the route is still available to walk as a footpath, and invited members to go and see for themselves one of West Sussex’s real historical curiosities, set in a very attractive landscape. He doubted whether it would ever be restored but enough remained to provide a fascinating glimpse into the engineering and logistical problems of a great West Sussex venture.

ARUN CHURCHES AND TARRING

Two of the Group’s outings during the Summer had a pronounced ecclesiastical flavour. The first was to three ancient churches in the Arun Valley – at North Stoke, South Stoke and Burpham. The second was to Tarring – to the Archbishop’s palace and the Fig Garden associated with St Richard. Kath Worvell was the guide on both occasions.

North Stoke and South Stoke are two tiny communities on either side of a big meandering loop of the Arun, two or three miles north of Arundel. Downland farming villages like this must have been bigger a thousand years ago when the original (mainly Saxon) churches were built, and prospered in the middle ages when most of them were enlarged. South Stoke church certainly predates the Norman Conquest. Built of flint, the nave and sanctuary are 11th century, with the tower and porch some 200 years later. It was heavily restored in the 19th century and the wooden-tiled steeple was added at that time. In more recent times these cedar tiles have been a great

favourite of woodpeckers and large dummy birds have been attached to the tower to scare them off.

North Stoke is close to the track of a minor Roman road, where it forded the Arun, and the settlement may be Saxon but the church is definitely Norman, probably a 12th Century nave with 13th Century chancel and 14th Century transepts. No significant restoration was carried out and there are many interesting mediaeval features – fragments of wall paintings, stained glass and ornamental corbels. Nairn and Pevsner's book on the buildings of Sussex says the inside of the church is 'a wonderful atmospheric blend of white, yellow and faded red'.

Burpham is back on the right bank of the Arun, halfway back to Arundel. The high bank of the river here was developed as a fortified area in Alfred the Great's system of defences against the Danish raiders in the 9th century. The Group looked over the still-steep slopes down to the river before looking in the parish church. Parts of the church are certainly Saxon but we do not know whether they go back as far as Alfred. This is another fine church, with striking individual features like the cross vaulting in the chancel, and the low window that (according to tradition) allowed the inmates of the local leper colony to see the services without risk of infecting the congregation.

Our second outing was to Tarring, on 5 July – the one day in the year when the 'Archbishop's' fig garden is open to the public. Tarring High Street with its well-preserved 16th century houses was a real surprise for many of us – so close to Ferring but off the beaten track. Here too was the Archbishop's Palace, dating from 1250 but heavily, and in places clumsily, restored. The association with Canterbury is real enough; this was a 'peculiar' – a detached part of that diocese – and the story that St Richard took refuge with the Rector of Tarring when he was excluded from Chichester by Henry III is very plausible. But the legend of Thomas A'Beckett planting the nearby Fig Garden is much more fanciful, and St Richard's miraculous regrafting of the trees after the deer had been browsing on them (and their flowering and cropping a few weeks later) requires a mediaeval faith or credulity.

The Fig Gardens were certainly thriving in the mid-18th century and were part of the subsequent 'Worthing tourist trail', which took in Highdown and the Miller's tomb. They survived more or less intact until the 1980s, when Worthing Borough Council granted planning permission for a small housing development there and the gardens were divided up among the houses. The largest area is the garden of an early 18th century house now called 'Bishop's Garth' (i.e. garden) and there are certainly a dozen or so very healthy looking fig trees there now, with or without saintly intervention. Thanks, anyway, to Mr and Mrs Warren, who now own the house and made a very good presentation of this historic venue.

TRAMS ALONG THE FRONT

Have you heard about the plan to run trams along Patterson's Walk? No, there is no planning application in at the moment but a hundred years ago this was a serious proposition. A Private Bill was being promoted for Parliamentary Approval to extend the tramline then running from Hove to Shoreham another 10 miles or so east, through Lancing, Worthing and Ferring, to Littlehampton. The *Hove, Worthing and District Tramway* was to run on a 3 foot 6 inch track all along the shoreline, with a

branch circuit around Worthing. The Ferring section was to be single track with several passing loops, only 20 feet from the High Water mark. No stops were indicated but presumably it would have been possible to flag the trams down. The plans were deposited with the Clerk of the Peace at Lewes in 1902, and are now in the Record Office at Chichester (QDP/W220).

The plan shows the ownership of all the land over which the track would pass. In Ferring, the field north of Marine Drive (there was no road there then) belonged to William Lyon, Sea Lane belonged to the East Preston Rural District Council. The rest - of course - belonged to Edwin Henty.

Other public transport schemes which never came to fruition included three proposals for a Turnpike across South Ferring. The 1834 one was worked out in great detail, with a map and schedule showing the ownership of the land over which it would pass. The route was, roughly, along the line of Ilex Way (not yet constructed), down Sea Lane (then called Ferring Lane) and turning right just north of Beehive Lane, continuing across the Pantiles, through Ferringham Way to the Rife, and across to Kingston. Even then, most of the land was owned by the Hentys. (Papers in WSRO).

STANMER AND FALMER

On 21 September the Group made its last excursion of 2003, to Stanmer Park and Falmer village, just outside Brighton. The hamlet of Stanmer goes back to Saxon times but had been insignificant until the Pelham family took over the manor in the early 18th century and built Stanmer House. When they became Earls of Chichester they began to live in real style, creating a large park, Home Farm and an estate village. In 1838 they rebuilt the church, which had been largely destroyed by fire the previous year. The Earls were succeeded by the War Department in 1939 and in 1947 Stanmer Park was acquired by Brighton Council. On a beautiful late-summer day the park, pond, cottages and agricultural museum were being enjoyed by dozens of local families.

Falmer is another hidden treasure of this area behind Brighton. We were given a personal tour of the 14th century tithe barn by Eric Huxham who still farms the land. The barn has been recently re-thatched in Sussex long straw (imported, along with the thatchers, from Poland) and the roof is a masterpiece of mediaeval construction. Some of the timbers are even older, having been re-used, from trees which started growing in the year 800. The Rev Andrew Robinson gave us a personal introduction to St Laurence Church, rebuilt in 1812 in an interesting pre-Gothic revival style, and to the life of the parish today.

FERRING AT WORK, 1957

A copy of the Parish Magazine from 1957 (seen in the WSRO Cuttings File –Ferring) carried advertisements by the following local businesses. Only two seem to be trading under the same name in 2003, though others have continued under different names.

Does anyone remember them all?

E Jenkins & Son, Sea Lane. Haulage, Agricultural Contract Work etc

Ferring Estate Office (W F Pleasance)

Ferring Electrics Ltd (H Jackson 2, The Pantiles)

Beresfords (The Corners Stores and The Car Park Store)

Jack Robins, Gents Hairdressers, 5 Sea Lane

Victor, Ladies Hairdresser (by War Memorial)
 Findlater Mackie & Co Ltd Beer Wines and Spirits 1 Ocean Parade
 AA MacDonald, Hardware etc, 8 Onslow Parade
 Louise (Wools etc), 10 Ocean Parade
 Marsh's Stores, Grocers
 P A Tourle, Builder and Undertaker
 Hamlins (Drapers etc), opposite War Memorial
 J D Taylor, Chemist, The Pantiles
 Brook Lane Garage
 Ferringham Car Hire Service
 G Prosser, Greengrocer, The Pantiles
 T H Wilson Grocer 3 Onslow Parade
 A E Broadway, Butcher, 9 Sea Lane
 Garden House (Teas, Luncheons etc), Ocean Drive
 Ferring Nurseries
 A M Gale, Confectioner and Tobacconist
 White Heather Café, 4 Onslow Parade

FERRING SMUGGLERS

The *Worthing Herald* has a very good regular feature on local history - 'Bygones' by Freddie Feest. In his 23 October piece Freddie wrote about smuggling in the Worthing area, and one of the sources he referred to was a John Winton of Ferring, whom the *Herald* had interviewed at the time of his diamond wedding in 1941. The old boy had said that during his grandfather's day everyone in Ferring did a bit of smuggling. He said they hide casks of spirits in the village pond, and that the farmers would hide bundles of silks in their barns behind the animal feed.

This got me thinking and I checked up on the Wintons. Yes, John Winton was married in June 1881, in Angmering. He was aged 40 in the 1901 census, a Farmer's Carter, living with his wife Charlotte and family in Sea Lane (his eldest son is one of the names on our War Memorial). The *Herald* got to him just in time - he died in November 1941. His father was Thomas Winton, a Grocer in the 1861 census (Agricultural Labourer 1841, Coachman 1851) who died in 1888. His grandfather was also a Thomas Winton, aged 60 in the 1841 census, an Agricultural Labourer. The Parish Register shows that he died in 1845, aged 69. This sort of discrepancy is not unusual, and his baptism is shown as November 1774. Obviously, the John Winton who was telling the smuggling story cannot have heard it direct from his grandfather, only second-hand from his father. Was this family story correct?

Almost certainly so. In 1818 there were two curious criminal trials: first George Henty was convicted of smuggling, and then his accusers were convicted of perjury. One of them was William Sowter, a farm worker from Kingston (and an ex-soldier wounded at Vittoria) said that early on 4 April 1817 he was present when over 300 tubs ('ankers') were landed at Ferring Lane End. It was between 5 and 6 am. There were several people there that he knew - 'Charles Hill (a well-known smuggler), George Anderson, Mr West and a man called Winton'. Some 150 of these tubs were taken to Henty's barn, a very short distance from his house. Sowter said Henty was at the barn while the tubs were delivered. Henty had an alibi but was nevertheless convicted.

In the perjury trial the alibi was proved beyond doubt and the Prosecution proved that other elements in the story were impossible. Winton was recalled, and said he had been involved in smuggling in the evening of that day but that Henty was not concerned in it.

John Winton's grandfather was 43 in 1817. He already had several children and John's father was baptised three months after this incident. No doubt he could do with the extra income. 'Mr West' was probably the father of the two West brothers living in Ferring in the 1841 census. The two accusers were not listed in the census – they had been transported to Australia, for life.

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

STIRRUP PUMP PARTIES IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Worthing Herald 14 February 1941: 'Over 100 people attended a stirrup pump party and firewatchers meeting in Ferring Village Hall last week' [Those of our members over 65 will know that the 'party' was no celebration, but a small team of residents trained to extinguish incendiary bombs with hand-pumped firefighting equipment]. The news item went on: 'They heard an interesting address by Mr Oates, Chief Warden for the Rural District in which he stressed the importance of everyone carrying their gas masks. The deputy parish head warden gave a general talk dealing with stirrup pump parties, incendiary bombs etc. Ferring now has 175 firewatchers [looking out for fires caused by air raids] and about 50 stirrup pump parties.'

These precautions had come rather late to Ferring. Firewatching had only started at the beginning of the year, well after the heavy air raids on London. The *Herald* reported on 17 January that the system was now 'well under way'. During the previous four weeks sandbags had been delivered to every house [for protection against blast] and 40 – 50 volunteers had come forward to be trained to tackle the incendiaries and a consignment of stirrup pumps was expected to arrive in the village 'shortly'. Mercifully, they would have very little use, in 1941, or later: only one load of incendiary bombs seem to have fallen on Ferring (Byeways, Sea Lane Gardens).

WOODLANDS – A very quiet corner of Ferring

Tucked up in the north-eastern corner of the Parish, and with a Patching postcode, is a pair of semi-detached cottages, 'Woodlands' and 'Keeper's Cottage'. Built in the 1860s, for agricultural workers on David Lyon's estate, they were occupied in 1881 by (respectively) a Huntsman and a Gamekeeper. The Gamekeeper was still there in 1891, and his successor in 1901 and 1911; the Huntsman had been replaced by an Agricultural Labourer in 1891, but in 1901 there was a 'Whip to Hounds' there. The Gamekeeper was presumably employed to look after the pheasants – even now, on the other side of Titnore Lane there is a pheasant-rearing pen and the woods all around are full of the birds. There do not seem to be any records of hunting in Ferring – the nearest hunt in 1921 was with the

‘Crawley Horsham and Southdown packs’ – but people rode considerable distances to take part in this sport (see for example Siegfried Sassoon’s *Memoirs of a Fox Hunting Man*).

The cottages are quite isolated from the rest of the parish, with only a long rough track linking them with Titnore Lane and the A27 junction. There is a small patch of grazing land to the north and south and woodland to the west behind them. Adjoining the house is Woodlands Stables, with some early outbuildings. In 1893 this was all went under the name of Woodlands Farm, and the farm stock was up for sale. The auction catalogue (WSRO SP1130) describes it as ‘near Patching Pond’ and lists the ‘Live and Dead Farming Stock’, along with 70 trees (mainly oaks). The livestock included 16 cows, 18 sheep, five shire horses and some bulls bred by Mr Lyon and HRH Prince of Wales (one wonders what part HRH played in this). The ‘deadstock’ included various arable farming equipment and some pheasant coops.

At first sight one would think the sale was taking place at what we now call ‘North Down Farm Buildings’ (as being very near Patching Pond, and on land more likely to support so much stock). Indeed this is the only mention of a ‘farm’ at Woodlands, although in 1891 the occupier of one of the cottages was described as an ‘Agricultural Labourer’ and 1901 one of them was a ‘Carter on Farm’. But North Down Farm was quite distinct (the land was owned by the Duke of Norfolk in 1840), the grazing land around Woodlands seems just about big enough to support the livestock, and the amount of timber quoted in the auction catalogue definitely identifies it as ‘Woodlands’.

Who bought it? We do not know. The land itself was not for sale, and it seems to have remained with the Lyon family until around 1920. Mr Fitzroy Somerset, who now owns it, believes it was around that time that his grandfather bought it from Lyon (probably via Sir Frederick Stern) to add to the family holdings in Clapham and Goring.

PROGRAMME FOR 2003/04

Research

Our research work continues, at West Sussex Record Office, Worthing Local Studies Library and other sites. Everyone is most welcome to join in. One source we have hardly begun to tap is the microfilm collection of local newspapers at Worthing. Ferring rarely made the headlines but usually earned a paragraph or two in the Worthing weekly papers, and an occasional piece in the Sussex Daily News. Would anyone like to help us do a systematic trawl of the period 1850-1950?

Visits and Walks

Kath Worvell will be conducting her New Year Walk (11 am from the Bluebird Cafe on 1 January). We expect to arrange a visit to St Mary’s, Bramber, and another to Poling, in the early Summer, and details will be given in the May Newsletter. Any further suggestions to Joyce Cooper or any of the Committee, please

Meetings (all Fridays):

We have squeezed in an extra evening meeting this Winter, for a special Christmas event

7 November (7.30): Michael Smith on **Smuggling in Sussex**

12 December (7.30): Lizzie and Tony Gilks present **A Victorian Christmas**

6 February 2004 (7.30): Geoff Mead on the **History of Agriculture in Sussex**

7 May 2004 (7.30): Neil Rogers-Davis on **Old Angmering**

13 August 2004: (AGM 7.15); 7.30: Dr Annabelle Hughes on **Timber-Framed Buildings**

5 November 2004 (7.30): Adge Roberts on **The Shelley Family in Sussex**