

The Group makes History

We had three excellent meetings during the winter: a well-illustrated talk on the Shelley family, a very enjoyable Christmas social (with a guest appearance by the Ferring Mummers) and a gripping account of Sussex during the war. But we continue to do some useful research, and one important piece of work has been the revision of some draft material written some years ago for the next volume of the Victoria County History of Sussex. This will cover Ferring, Goring, Angmering and East Preston among other local areas, and should be published by the end of the year.

For each village, after an introductory section, the material is set out under 'Land holdings', 'Economic History', 'Religious History', 'Education' and 'Local Government'. It draws on many of the sources we already knew of, but includes other sources like the Church Commissioners and the Public Record Office, and adds a considerable amount to our knowledge of Ferring's long history. There were some obvious mistakes in the draft – including a supposed location of a water mill on Highdown Hill - but we were able to use our local knowledge to correct these and other less obvious mistakes which have been repeated from earlier histories. We hope we have avoided these mistakes being perpetuated in what will be regarded as the definitive history of this part of Sussex.

It was also good to see Joyce Cooper's display of her research on Ferring in the early part of the war, in the Library during the VE Day anniversary. One aspect of this – the bomb that killed two people in Sea Lane Gardens – is detailed later in this Newsletter.

What happened to Thomas Watersfield?

by Ed Miller

Thomas Watersfield (the younger) was the second son of John Watersfield and Agnes Page, born in 1578/9. His father, who died in 1594 (no will found), was the eldest son of Thomas Watersfield, who inherited the lease of the manorial estate, and presumably the manor house, in 1552. Thomas senior's will (1570) speaks of the house in which he lives being divided into two thirds for his son John and one third (including the great chamber and kitchen), as well as a similar division of his 'farm in Ferring' (that is, his lease of the estate), for his widow. John married Agnes the year after his father died and presumably occupied the rest of the house when his mother died. Agnes's will (1609) leaves the bulk of her estate to Thomas, her eldest surviving son, but bequeaths to her other children certain items which are to be found in 'the painted chamber' and 'the little chamber'.

Thomas was now the head of a family of wealth and influence in Ferring, with family connections in Goring and other neighbouring parishes. He married Mary [presumably around 1609] and had two daughters (Marie 1610) and (Martha 1611/2) baptised in Ferring church. Mary died two weeks after Martha's birth. Six years later he married Katherine Parsons, who already had three children (one named Katherine Patching, which might suggest that this was her third marriage). She died in 1635; coincidentally,

his younger daughter, Martha died a few days later. His elder daughter, Marie, had married Will Hewling, Gent., at Ferring in 1632.

Thomas was a Churchwarden in 1638 and was either executor or witness to many wills (up to 1640). On 2 May 1637 he married again, at Coombes parish church, a Dorothy Fisher from Shoreham. In October 1638 the Court Roll records him as acknowledging and pledging fealty to the new Lord of the Manor (Brian Duppa, who had just succeeded as Bishop of Chichester). There is no record of his presence in Ferring after 1640 (he is listed as an absentee from the manor courts of June and December 1644), although his lands are mentioned in court rolls (as if he were still alive) up to 1647. He is not listed in the Protestation Return of 1641/2, which again indicates his absence from the village.

His name is also on the 1647 Parliamentary Survey of the manor, in the preliminary pages, as the leaseholder (the only leaseholder mentioned, and therefore presumably leaseholder of the manor house and demesne lands) and also as one of the copyholders. The version of the Survey that survives is a transcript made in 1699/70 and it was edited to bring the distribution of holdings up to date at that time. In the body of the document, Thomas Watersfield's copyholds (25 acres at North downe, and four cottages plus 12 acres elsewhere) are set out in full but with a note that they 'now' belong to others. However, the leaseholder (again, the only one, and this time explicitly of the manor house and demesne) is shown as William Westbrooke. We also read in Dalloway that the Parliamentary Commissioners sold the Grange or manor house to Thomas Watersfield in 1647 for £824, and that the manor was sold to Anthony Stapely for £671. Stapely was styled as Lord of the Manor in the manor courts from 1648, and it would have been a sensible move for Watersfield to have bought the freehold of the manor house if he already had the lease but the price seems high and I have found no contemporary document showing Watersfield's ownership of the manor at this time.

The last mention of him in the Court Rolls is in October 1651 when his daughter Martha claims, as his heir, the copyhold of Philpotts (tenement and yardland) and the four cottages (named as Martin smyt, Cannings, Jordans and Emmots). These properties were also claimed by Dorothy during her widow's bench. Martha was granted the reversion which she then transferred to the tenancy of her husband. Will Huling sold them soon after.

It seems that Thomas Watersfield was alive in 1647 but not in 1651. There is no trace of his will, probate account, or probate inventory. His burial must be entered in a Parish Register somewhere but it is not in Ferring, Goring or Coombes. He might well have moved away when he married for the third time, letting out all his properties in Ferring. There is an entry in the Court Roll of 13 April 1643 that he, and others, 'let out their land but whether they have a licence or not we know not'. What happened to his fortune? Who took over the manor house? Was he perhaps on the wrong side in the Civil War? One of Ferring's mysteries that may never be solved.

Not one of those passing Fads

by Pat Attree

Ferring Amateur Dramatics Society (FADS) is now in its 75th season, which will culminate in an Anniversary Production in May 2006. It was on 1 April 1931 that a handful of people met together to discuss forming a Dramatic Society. The annual subscription was fixed at half a crown, and the first production was in June of that year – a one act play, with only two performances. From these modest beginnings, FADS quickly built up a programme of more ambitious plays, always performed in the Village Hall, until the outbreak of war. The last production of the 1930s was ‘Marry at Leisure’ in June 1939, performed on the newly-rebuilt stage, and right on cue the next production was in the month the (Japanese) war ended in August 1945 – ‘Tony Draws a Horse’.

In those early days, Bob Crowder handled the lighting and stage management, and Peter Tourle designed the sets. Both continued with FADS for many years, and many other veterans were still around in 1991, when we held a 60th Anniversary Party – Reg Tourle, who appeared in a play in 1933, Ronald Sambrook, Molly Dean and Patsy Reid (nee Harrington), Barabara Tilley (still with us), Frank Whitbourne, Mike and Jean Smith (nee Loe), and Henry Clarke.

History of Goring Hall

by Kath Worvell

Now a private hospital, the origins are relatively recent and emanate from the development of Worthing in the early 19th century. It cannot be seen in isolation from the economic development of this part of Sussex – stimulated largely by the Industrial and Agricultural Revolutions (*although a better term would be ‘Evolution’*). But just as important was the patronage of Brighton by the Prince Regent from the late 18th century.

The 18th century saw England prospering from industrial development which opened up overseas and colonial markets. This gave rise to the rapid expansion of London as a centre of commerce and a draw to impoverished and surplus agricultural labour. Within the metropolis a massive increase in population stimulated the demand for food supplies.

The Sussex Plain was very well placed to capitalise on that demand. Good flat fertile land with good access to local ports, Shoreham and Littlehampton - and from the 1840's the beginning of a rail network to ensure quick access to the London markets. Sussex boomed!

Add to this the insalubrious state of the cities and any successful entrepreneur invariably established himself as squire of a country estate. Swinging Brighton under the patronage of the Prince Regent by 1820 was the social focus not only for the flamboyant Court but also the ‘nouveau riche’ entrepreneurs of this type.

The Lyon family stemmed from a 14th century baronial heritage: they married with the Bowes family in the early 18th century, creating the Bowes-Lyon family of the late Queen Mother. [No convincing family tree has been produced]

David Lyon, senior, is described as a merchant living in Portland Place, London and Jamaica. This would indicate that he was engaged in the ‘triangle’ of trading which carried manufactured goods from the ports of

London, Liverpool and Bristol to West Africa, replaced the cargo with slaves transported to the West Indies which then brought sugar and cotton back to the English ports.

Britain abolished its slave trade in 1807, and slavery in Britain and its colonies abolished in 1833. However, it had continued in rival colonies. The competition was unsustainable so that compensation of £6m was granted to merchant interests in this country. At that time Jamaica was still holding 335,000 slaves so that the proportional handout to Lyon was undoubtedly generous. The Lyon family sold up and pulled out and it was undoubtedly this accrual of assets which gave them their affluence.

It would appear that David Lyon senior held land in Sussex as early as 1820 when he is said [probably wrongly] to have built Highdown Towers. David junior was born in 1794. He seems to have inherited in 1835 and promptly purchased the Manor of Northbrooke at Goring from William Westbrook Richardson. This included of course, all the manorial land. The manor house was undoubtedly little more than a modest farm so was immediately demolished to be replaced on a more prestigious site nearer the sea at Goring – the present site – in fashion no doubt by the prestigious building of the Shelleys at Castle Goring nearby (and only recently completed), and following the lavish re-building by the Duke of Norfolk, at Arundel, a mere farmhouse could not suffice!

Goring Hall was completed by 1840. That he could buy into a buoyant market, indicates Lyon's level of wealth. His land-owning neighbours to the east were Samuel Henty of the Manor of Field Place and William Olliver with a modest farmhouse at Courtlands. Samuel is described as 'yeoman and corn merchant'. Yet such sons of the earth were being outpriced. Thomas Henty despite a prospering Bank holding in Worthing and his own farm in Tarring, realised the competition would be too great to accommodate his seven sons so dispatched them, and then followed himself, to Tasmania.

In 1838, Lyon bought East Ferring House, (which in 1835 was described as derelict) with East Ferring Farm, and Manor Farm, from William Westbrook Richardson giving him the ownership of what is now the Goring Gap. The lands (87 acres) were leased to John Cortis, already a substantial local landowner.

But the bubble soon burst. Victoria on ascending the throne in 1837 was indifferent to Brighton and outraged by its lascivious life-style and the royal patronage was lost. The Brighton Pavilion was sold off to the local Corporation some decades later.

But what was the extent of the Goring Hall estate? The land ran north of Littlehampton Road (*where Northbrook College now stands*), down Sea Lane Goring and along the beach and north along Sea Lane Ferring. In addition, 30 acres of Highdown Hill were in his holding, including the miller of Highdown's cottage. The estate also held lands in Patching.

The environs of Goring Hall he laid out as a Gentleman's pleasure garden, with lawns, greenhouses, orchard and woods, the whole property extending down to the beach was surrounded by a 6ft high wall. Ornamental drives to Goring and Ferring Churches and down to the sea were established and are still preserved today as the Plantation and Ilex Way.

Every model estate had to have its church. But romanticism was not the only concern. Purchase of the right to appoint the Vicar, (the Advowson) ensured that no inflammatory doctrines could take hold in the parish. David Lyon held the patronage of Goring Church.

This he extensively restored therefore in 1837. Family tombs are still apparent in the churchyard.

The Lyon family retained ownership of the estate for approximately 100 years, but rarely seem to have lived there. Censuses during the 19th century only show domestic staff holding the fort. Of course, the censuses may have been undertaken when the family were away for 'the season'. But more likely once the sophisticates of London moved on, the poor sewerage and threat of Worthing cholera may have been the property's death knell as a society venue.

The press reports of the fire of 1888 gives the Hall's incumbent Major William Lyon as bedridden. The Hall was rebuilt within a year with, it is reported, even staff's belongings fully insured. The Hall is now finished in brick however rather than the original stucco.

David Lyon is reported to have been alive as late as 1864 with William as his only stated son. William himself had three sons who are recorded. But little else is known about the family. From 1908, the Hall is let out and eventually, 1938 is sold off as a Boarding School with 800 acres of the land going for residential development (Hesketh Estates) . The tower of the Hall was removed during this occupancy. Only World War II, and the later planning legislation, stopped further residential expansion throughout the Goring Gap.

The right to appoint the vicar was returned to the Bishop of Chichester in 1934 by the last surviving heir, Mrs. Joy Lyon.

Post war, the school continued until its demise in the 1980's (Bob Monkhouse was one of its pupils). Derelict, much of its valuable furnishing was stolen. Despite considerable local concern regarding access, Goring Hall became a private hospital in 1993.

AIR RAID VICTIMS IN SEA LANE GARDENS

by Joyce Cooper

My old neighbour Mr Maunders, of 'Byeways' in Sea Lane Gardens, told us soon after we arrived in Ferring, that his house had been built on a bomb site, the scene of the only air raid on Ferring. No one else seemed to have heard of this bomb, and we treated it as a piece of hear-say (like many war-time anecdotes). The years passed and the story remained in the back of my mind: I sometimes recounted the story to friends, who generally attributed it to my gullibility or vivid imagination.

But at the History Group's last meeting, the speaker (from the West Sussex Record Office) told a similar story, although he did not have the details to hand. So, on my last visit to the Record Office, I looked up the ARP Reports Book, and there it was. On Sunday 9 March 1941, a bomb had indeed fallen on Ferring, at map reference 533 214, resulting in two dead and two injured. This proved to be 'Byeways' and Mr Maunders was right.

The ARP log showed that at 2.05 the report came in of one 'High Explosive bomb' at this map reference. One minute later the Ambulance service was alerted. A fire had

started but this was extinguished at 22.33. At 1 am the report came in that there were two dead and two injured. At 04.05, the log says, the fire broke out again, but by 04.52 it was under control. The last entry is at 09.35 'Demolition of dangerous building proceeding'.

Further research showed that the house had been rented by a Mr Mulkani, from a Mr Fielder (although a Mrs Sidley was named as the owner. Mr Gopal Mulkani and his wife Carmen were the two fatalities. We do not know much about this couple – except that he had a Hispano Suiza car, which was damaged in the explosion and towed away to East Preston Fire Station (I wonder why?).

Other salvage reports and bomb damage claims included a portable typewriter, belonging to a lady 'who visited Mrs Mulkani at week-ends', reported missing but eventually found 'in a repairable condition'. A Mr Poore, 'house furnisher' of Notting Hill Gate put in a claim for 'furniture on loan from me'. The house was completely demolished and the estimated cost of rebuilding was assessed at £800. In addition to that, the cost of 'filling in a very large crater immediately adjoining the house on the West side' was assessed at £70. A last, and very interesting point is that the former occupier, Mr Fielder, was claiming compensation based on the value of the property as if his plans for improvements, submitted in 1934, had been carried out. But as far as I can see, the plans had not actually been implemented.

Ed Miller writes: This was a period of heavy air raids on London, Portsmouth and other cities. Presumably the raider was emptying his bomb load before returning to Germany or occupied territory: Ferring would not have been a worthwhile target.

Ferring Dynasties III - The Westbrook Family

by

Ed Miller

There are several monuments in Ferring Parish Church to the Westbrook family, and to their relatives by marriage, the Richardsons. Who, exactly were they, and when did they own the Manor House?

John Westbrook married Barbara Watersfield (daughter of William Watersfield) at Ferring in 1637. There was a large Westbrook family in Godalming at this time and their oldest son William Westbrook was born there in 1638. There is only one mention of Westbrook in the Ferring Court Rolls before the Civil War (in 1646, when 'Mr Westbrook' is listed among the tenants), and they may not have settled here immediately - we know that John's youngest son, Richard, was also born at Godalming, in 1651. Evidently there were other sons because on Richard's memorial tablet the Latin indicates that he was the *youngest* son of John Westbrook. John Westbrook is described there as 'Armiger' or 'Gentleman'. He was buried at Ferring in 1666, named as *Captaine* John Westbrook (he had been a captain of Militia, in Surrey, for the Parliamentary Army. His wife was buried in Ferring in 1657, and a floor-stone which was on view in the church in 1790 was inscribed for her, with an additional dedication to John.

His eldest son William was well established in Ferring in the 1670s, and may already have had the lease of the Manor Place and its estates. A copy of a lease of 1682 survives, showing William having surrendered an existing lease and being granted another, on the lives of his brother Richard and two of William's daughters. He was involved in other local estates too. In 1671, at

the age of 33, he was the Steward of the Manor of East Preston & Kingston. In 1679 he was the Steward of the Manor of East Angmering. Finally in 1700 he became Steward of Ferring Manor, as well as lessee of the Manor Place and its demesne, and remained so until his death in 1702, aged 64.

By this time his brother Richard was dead, unmarried. His memorial tablet in the church refers to him as a merchant, who had been Consul at Cyprus for some 20 years. William renewed the lease after Richard's death, substituting a younger daughter, Phoebe, as the third 'life'. Presumably his daughter, Mary, took out a new lease on William's death but there is no record of it – only a lease of 1714 apparently renewing an earlier lease on the death of one of the lives. William had married Elizabeth Houghton in London in 1663. She died in 1694 and the memorial stone in Ferring church to them both bears an inscription in Latin that it had been placed there by their 'weeping daughters'.

Of these daughters, Mary died unmarried in 1736; Elizabeth married Thomas Andrews and died in or shortly before 1732. Phoebe's fate is unknown but the eldest daughter, Barbara (to whom he left copyhold land in Ferring, married John Minshull. It was their daughter Elizabeth Minshull who married Joseph Richardson, and produced a son who took the name of William Westbrook Richardson in honour of his grandmother and great-grandfather.

Mary Westbrook made Elizabeth Minshull her heir, implying that Barbara (Westbrook) had predeceased her. Mary was only the lessee of Ferring Manor and the lease passed out of the family on her death but the Westbrook family actually *owned* East Ferring 'Manor' (which consisted of East Ferring House and 80 acres either side of what is now Sea Lane). This had come to them from the Watersfield family, William Watersfield's daughter Barbara having married John Westbrook in 1637. The property would have been inherited by their son William Westbrook and passed via his daughter Barbara (or possibly Mary) to Elizabeth Minshull, thence to her son William Westbrook Richardson (died 1771), his son William Richardson (died 1801), and finally to his cousin, another William Westbrook Richardson [who sold it to David Lyon of Goring Hall]. The elder WWR is buried in the church under a monument now hidden by the organ. The younger WWR (1788-1871) is buried in the big brown tomb just outside the church door. Thus ended over 200 years connection with Ferring.

AGNES HENTY'S DIARY, 1869

by Liz Agar (Melbourne)

My great grandmother Agnes Henty, daughter of Robert Henty and granddaughter of George Henty of Ferring, travelled to Sussex for the third time, in February to March 1869, again with her sister Josephine (Joey). In 1869 the Robert Hentys were still living at Rothley Temple in Leicestershire. (More details about Agnes' immediate family were given in an earlier Newsletter.)

Agnes, aged 22, and Joey, aged 30, visited their uncle George Henty and family at Northlands near Chichester for a few days, spent about four weeks in Brighton, and then visited their uncle Edwin Henty and family at Ferring.

Uncle Edwin and Aunt Laura had four children:

Laura Catherine (Laurie) born 1840, married to George Carling Joad (not seen this time)
Maria (Tee) born 1841
Edwin (Ted) born 1844 and
Arthur (Tot) born 1848.

At the beginning of this extract, the girls have just arrived from Brighton to stay with their Uncle Edwin and Aunt Laura.

FEBRUARY

23 TUESDAY

A.M. with Mr Henty, Minnie [1] & Joey to make a tour of the parish schools - Girls, Infants & [?]ing school and to see the Fisherman's Reading Room & Chapel under the arches. P.M. to say goodbye to Tanté [2] & packed. The Beckwiths called. Left Brighton by the 5.20. Very sorry to leave. Mr Henty escorted us to the station. Tee met us at Goring. Boys volunteering & not home till about 9. Found a letter from Rache [3] awaiting us.

24 WEDNESDAY

Wet. A.M. worked & talked. P.M. read "Goldulse"[?] with Tee & went for a walk with Tee & Joey. Played bisique with Tot after tea.

25 THURSDAY

Wet & dull.

P.M. into Worthing with Aunt, Tee & Joe. Went to the Bank, shopped & to call on Miss Borradaile. Played whist in the evening.

26 FRIDAY

A.M. talked & began East Lynne

P.M. drove to Arundel with Aunt to see a cook who missed her train so had an hour & a half to wait. Explored the Ch. & Ch. yard. Started to walk homewards while Aunt did her business & got about two miles on my way.

Mr Tribe & Mr & Mrs Bateman to dine, stayed till 12 o'clock! Tired.

27 SATURDAY

A.M. down to the sea with Tee & Joey. Very high tide.

P.M. not out. Read German with Tee. Looked in upon by a schoolfellow of Tot's.

In the evening Aunt read aloud the summing up of the Saurin [4] case.

28 SUNDAY

A.M. to Ferring Ch. Mr Bateman officiated.

P.M. to Goring with Aunt & Tee. Afterwards did the orchard & dairy with Tot & Joe.

MARCH

1 MONDAY

A.M. wrote letters & read "The Saturday".

P.M. read Goldulse[?] with Tee & to Goring with Joey to meet Charlie Aylmer (none of the others being disposed to come). In the evening played bisique with Tots.

2 TUESDAY

A.M. with Tee to Goring station to meet Miss Chomely who however didn't come; prolonged our walk to an hour & a half & had a jolly talk. P.M. not out; read East Lynne. After dinner played backgammon with Tee.

3 WEDNESDAY

Began an etching for Tot A.M.

P.M. drove to Worthing with Tee & Joe. Had 5 o'clock tea with Miss Holmes [5]. For a turn after we came back. Played backgammon with Ted in the evening.

4 THURSDAY

A.M. etched.

P.M. played croquet with Uncle Tee & Joey, between the showers. Mr Morris to dine.

Played whist with Uncle against Charley & Ted.

5 FRIDAY

Miss Sarah Chomley came to lunch. Etched A.M.

P.M. walked to Highdown Hill with Charlie, Joey & the dogs. Lovely day. Read German with Tee after we came in. Mr & Mrs Bateman called.

After dinner played Ted a return match in backgammon.

6 SATURDAY

A.M. wrote & worked. P.M. played croquet in a cold north wind: with Charley & Tot against Ted, Tee & Joey – beaten.

In the evening finished the backgammon match with Ted. Dreadfully beaten.

7 SUNDAY

A.M. to Goring with Aunt, Tee & Joey. Good sermon from Mr Scott, P.M. to Ferring, Mr Dixon preached, Afterwards for a walk with all the boys, Tee & Joe.

8 MONDAY

A.M. etched.

P.M. read German with Tee & for a walk with her & Joey.

Played backgammon with Tots after tea & won.

9 TUESDAY

Wretched day.

P.M. drove into Worthing with Tee & Joey; called on the Safes. Very seedy all the evening.

10 WEDNESDAY

Still seedy. Not out. Read German with Tee P.M. Marion & Agnes Stephenson arrived just before dinner. Mr Morris called. After tea played whist with Ted against Tot & Agnes.

11 THURSDAY

A.M. read the "Ch.'s Creed". P.M. etched & to the sea with Joey, Stephensons & Tee being lazy. After tea played whist with Tots.

12 FRIDAY

A.M. finished Goldulse & packed.

Left Ferring by the 2.12 train, very sorry to say goodbye to them all. Very jolly visit. Tee accompanied us to the station. Julia met us at Chichester; went on a farming excursion with her & Douglas [6]. Lovely P.M. Dined at Northlands, Walter being there [7]. Played battle. The boys in great force.

NOTES:

1. William Henty, son of Thomas Henty who went to Australia. He was Robert Henty's cousin. Minnie was his daughter Mary.
2. Agnes's Aunt Anne Henty, sister of Robert.
3. Agnes's sister Rachel
4. Mary Saurin entered Hull Convent but on finding she was made to do manual labour, sued the convent, claiming her fellow nuns were trying to drive her out and that she had been stripped of her dignity.
5. A Miss Holmes lived at 8 Bath Place, Worthing. (Kelly's Directory 1867)
6. Douglas Henty was the eldest son of George Henty, owner of the Westgate Brewery in Chichester. Douglas was Agnes's first cousin and Julia, nee Martin, was his wife.
7. Walter Henty, brother of Douglas.

If any readers of this extract can provide any further information about the various people Agnes mentioned, I would be most interested. Any comments can be passed to me through the Editor of this Newsletter, Ed Miller.

The Reeve's Tale

by Ed Miller

One of the characters in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* was a Reeve – an official of the Manor, responsible for collecting rents and payments in kind from the Lord's tenants and 'farmers' (that is leaseholders). Chaucer's Reeve was a sharp character who knew exactly what was due from each tenant. No one 'coud on him winne'.

Some 30 years after Chaucer wrote his tales, the Reeve of Ferring wrote one of his annual accounts. He was John Franklin, whose family (recorded in Ferring since 1327) gave its name to Franklins Green, and his account of 1431 has survived (Document ED 451 Lambeth Palace). It is written in Latin, and the extracts below are taken from my own (tentative) translation.

FERRYNG *The Account of John Francklyn reeve of that place from the feast of St Michael in the eighth year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth since the conquest to the same feast day then next following in the ninth year of the reign of the said King Henry for one whole year.*

Arrears *These amount to 39s 3d of arrears of his account up to the feast of St Michael just past.*

Total 39s 3d

Rent

Item: 16s 5½d received from the tenants of Ferryng to the feast of St Thomas the Apostle.

Item: 22s 4d received from the rents of the tenants of Fure to the same term day.

[and so on, up to each of the other three Quarter Days].

Item: 2d from a new rent of John Martyn paid for agreed terms.

Item: 2s from a new rent of John Caufyn for one messuage and one virgate of land paying to the term of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary and St Michael.

Item: 2s 6d from a new rent of John Wolvyn for a certain parcel of pasture of the western part of the lord's meadow part of the ox pasture paying for the usual term as in the Court Roll

Total £29 18s 5½d

'Farms'

Item: 20s received from the 'farm' of land and tenements formerly John Stokker's now belonging to Ada Perys holding for a term of 20 years as in the Court Roll nine years ago were paid to the terms of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary and St Thomas.

Item: 26s 8d received from the 'farm' of land and tenements lately John Caufyn's paying to the same terms.

Item: 28s 4d received for a farm of land and tenements lately Roger Aleyn now belonging to John Atte Vicaryes holding for himself and his[heirs?] as in the Court Roll seven years ago paying for the same term.

[and many other holdings held on leases, by : William Ethyn and his [heirs], Thomas Franklyn, John Wolvyn jun., William Pekoc, Richard Gyles] Some field names are mentioned – Westacre, and 'Weyacre' on the eastern part of the Lord's meadow' but the 'farms' sometimes related to rights rather than land – as in 'the farm of rabbits - nothing this year because they remain in the hands of the lord for the lack of a farmer'.

Total £17 9s 4d

Produce of the manor: Item: Of 6s 8d from the farm of pigeons - nothing because it is owned as a farm with the lord's lands as above.

Item: produce of the lord's garden/orchard - there is nothing for the reason given earlier.

Item: sale of [brushwood?] - there is nothing this year. Sale of lopping of trees - nothing this year. 15d received for 5 capons in rent sold outside, 2s 8d received for 5 capons of rent sold outside at a price of 2d per hen. 5d received from 100 eggs for rent sold outside..

Total 4s 4d

Profit from land in the lord's hands Item: 4s received from the produce of one messuage and one farthingland formerly William Botlegh's in Ferynge called Wallyngforde currently in the lord's hands for the lack of a farmer as in the Court Roll.

Total 4s

Fishery: Of 12d [according to the custom] for the farm of fishery – nothing, for the lack of a farmer.

Total nothing

Sale of crops and stock: Nothing for the time of this account

Perquisites of the Court and Wrecks of the Sea.

Item: 8s received from the common fine at two Views of Frankpledge there a year. Item: 35s 10d received from perquisites of 2 views and 2 courts held there this year.

Total 43s 10d

'Sales on the account' Item: Two sheep above the account sold outside.

Total 2s 8d

Total receipts including arrears £52 2s 2½d

The account goes on to detail the Reeves expenses and other adjustments, giving a net figure of £24 11s 8½d. Nearly all of this has already been paid over to the Lord's Receiver, and so the account is balanced. On the 'Dorse' or back of the document are more detailed accounts of the corn and livestock. This includes 'Capons: Item: of three capons from the rent of the miller of

Grenedowne per year at the feast of St Michael ...', a very early reference to Highdown Mill.

I came across a typed transcript of the Latin in a large bundle of papers Ron Kerridge passed me recently – the working papers for the research that resulted in *Ferring Past* but I mean to track down the copy in Lambeth Palace Library, and see if I can decipher it entirely. As usual with these ancient documents, there are many difficulties – the mediaeval Latin, the abbreviations, and the handwriting, to name a few – but the information it contains about life nearly 600 years ago is fascinating.

Come down to Kew in Archive time

by Kath Worvell

Researching the casualties listed on Ferring War Memorial, it became apparent that research at the 'old PRO' war records was going to be needed. But the old Public Record Office is now known as The National Archive, and is at Kew, not easy to get to.

Taking advantage of a spare seat on the coach offered by our local family historians – I plunged with some trepidation into this vast complex of historical record. My previous attempt some years ago had been to say the least, intimidating and therefore met with only marginal success. The new building is very impressive and a joy - to pass by the waterfall, through the grand portal and into a very customer friendly atrium.

Pass obtained (*yes! do take some verification*), I had undertaken the routine introduction by staff to the catalogue – now very efficient on the Computer terminal. There is no longer the interminable queue to seek help. There are plenty of advisory staff available, not to actually do the research for you but point you to the correct path/channel.

Achievement? there is nothing like finding that reference which has puzzled the researcher to find it is on-line, on microfiche or on the original document!

Result: merely a taster of the information on several young men I was keen to research:

1/7/43: Colby Grange Base:

'An exciting night with 4 aircraft scrambled to intercept a raid on Grimsby. Visual contact made of Hun over target area but lost due to flares, Ack-Ack and searchlights. After having followed Hun down to 5000 feet, our pilot climbed to 8000 feet.....A.I. contact was made at a distance of about 2200yds and a visual obtained immediately afterwards. Enemy aircraft identified as DO217 and at once commenced violent evasive action. The Mosquito closed in about 500 feet and on the 2nd burst observed strikes followed by a huge flash from the starboard engine and volumes of smoke. The E/A continued diving and turning to starboard and our crew saw it hit the sea with a great splash. This is Sgt Lawrence's 4th Jerry and he is to be congratulated for his great airmanship and eagle eye.'

I doubt if current campaign reports are now quite so 'gung-ho' which indicates the more hardened reporting of a 4 year campaign, some 60 years ago. Archival reports of British casualties are always played down - reported as fact, without sentiment. Fortunately, (*if there is any fortune in war*), loss of life now is examined more critically. But the exercise puts personality on the mere stark lettering on the memorial. More to follow!

The Shelleys

The November meeting of the Group was as well attended as ever, and heard a comprehensive account of 'The Shelley Family in Sussex', given by Committee member 'Adge' Roberts, and illustrated with his own photographs of the many houses owned by the family over the last four hundred years.

The Shelley family was a real Sussex dynasty, established in the county since the 14th Century and owning manors, estates, farms and houses from Chichester to Lewes and Horsham to Haywards Heath. The poet, Percy Shelley, was a member of a minor branch of the family, based in Horsham. His grandfather was created a baronet ('of Castle Goring') only in the late 18th century; the Michelgrove branch counted their knighthood from the 14th Century. Another minor branch was based on Lewes.

Everywhere, the family left its mark; up to twenty houses that belonged to the Shelleys still survive. The best known, and most recently restored, is Field Place, near Horsham – where Percy was born in 1792. Many others – much altered from the 16th and 17th Centuries – are in good condition and several are now hotels or pubs bearing the Shelley name. Locally, of course, we have Castle Goring (although Sir Timothy Shelley, having built it, did not live in it for long) and the remains of one of their largest houses, Michelgrove, north-west of Clapham, off Long Furlong.

How did the family amass such a portfolio of property? Partly by judicious marriages – Percy's father married *two* heiresses – partly by having large families so that there were always plenty of heirs, and the opportunity to buy and sell within the family. No doubt lending money on mortgages and foreclosing them in hard times also played a part. However, not even the Shelleys could escape the fate of many other dynasties – dying out through lack of male heirs in the 19th century. None of the family remain in Sussex.

But Ferring had close connections with the family at one time. The Michelgrove branch took over the lease of the Manor of Ferring in 1776, but sold it to William Henty ten years later. In the 17th century they owned freehold 100 acres behind Highdown Hill and in the 16th century the Lewes branch had bought the tithe income from the Prebend estates, and thus were held responsible for repairs to the church.

FERRING'S REGICIDE – ANTONY STAPELY

When the Bishop of Chichester was removed by Parliament in 1643, along with all the other bishops, it was bound to follow that he would lose his episcopal property, including his Manor of Ferring and his demesne lands there. All the bishops' lands were sold over the next few years to finance the cost of the Parliamentary army and other expenses. In the case of Ferring we have a precise date for the presentation of the survey of the Manor, preparatory to its sale. The survey report is dated 8 June 1647. It indicates that the Bishop's lands were currently held by Trustees.

Dalloway says that the Manor and the Bishop's demesne was sold that year to Antony Stapely for £671 10s 9d, the manor house being sold separately to Thomas Watersfield. I have found no contemporary record of this but Stapely was certainly cited as Lord of the Manor in the court rolls of 1648 to 1656. He was succeeded briefly by Henry Scrace, until the Restoration, when the Bishop was reinstated. Scrace

is not mentioned in any reference books but Stapely turns out to have been a figure on the national stage. He was, for example, one of those who signed the death warrant of Charles I, and a member of the republican Council of State. More in our next edition.

PROGRAMME FOR 2005-06

Meetings (all Fridays):

13 May 2005: Peter Hill on **The Windmills of Sussex**

19 August 2005: Jackie Marsh-Hobbs on **The Royal Pavilion, Brighton**

11 November 2005: Ron Kerridge on **A History of Worthing**

9 December 2005: Lizzie and David Gilks with **Below Stairs**

10 February 2006: Alan Green on **Georgian Chichester**

12 May 2006: Rob Hutchinson on **The Archaeology of Sussex Churches**

18 August 2006: *To be arranged*

19 November 2006: Bill Gage on **Steaming through Sussex**

15 December 2006: Christmas Social

Walks and Visits

Monday 30 May 2005: Guided Walk round the village centre 11am.

Others to be announced at forthcoming meetings