

Ferring History Group



Newsletter

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Cover Photograph - See Page 6

Back Cover Photograph by Frank Leeson

Historic buildings to be protected

Arun District Council have now decided which buildings 'of historic or architectural interest' they will treat as worthy of protection against hostile development. There are over 1300 in Arun as a whole and 17 in Ferring. These are in addition to the 'Listed Buildings' protected under national legislation.

The History Group, in conjunction with Ferring Parish Council and Ferring Conservation Group submitted a long list for consideration. In the end we got just over half of our suggestions approved.

For the record, our Listed Buildings are: St Andrews Church, The Ramblers on the edge of the churchyard, Holly Lodge, Church Cottage, Evergreen Cottage and Maytree Cottage in Church Street, with Smugglers Cottage and its Annex, and Yew Tree Cottage round the corner in Ferring Street; Rose Cottage, Vine Cottage and Landalls opposite Alldays; Elford House, and Clematis and Jasmine Cottage further up Ferring Street in North Ferring; Home Farm House, Home Farm Lodge, Home Farm Cottages and the Barn used as a carpet warehouse, all in Ferringham Lane; South and North Hangleton, and Inglenook and Hangleton Cottage, all in Langbury Lane; and East Ferring House and Bramble Cottage in Sea Lane.

The 'Local List' now adds to these: 15 Chalet Road; The Old Flint House, Church Lane; Grange Cottage, Church Lane; Phoenix House, Ferring Grange Gardens; Franklands Green Cottage, Ferring Lane; Gatekeeper's Cottage, Ferring Street; Barberry Lodge, Ferring Street; Glebe Gate, Ferring Street; Barn Surgery, Ferring Street; Greystoke Manor, Greystoke Road; Highdown Hill Cottage, Hangleton Lane; White Cottage, Hangleton Lane; Pill Box, Patterson's Walk; Random Harvest, Sea Lane; Myrtle Cottage, Sea Lane; The Henty Arms; The Tudor Close.

This status gives much less protection than that of 'Listed Buildings' but it means that the preservation of the building and its contribution to the amenity of the local area is one of the considerations to be taken into account in deciding planning applications. Their historical value varies: some, like White Cottage really ought to be on the statutory list; others, like the Tudor Close are of no great antiquity, and 15 Chalet Road is very self-consciously modernist. But they are all of interest and deserve to be cherished. I wonder how many History Group members could identify them? – EM

Roman Remains discovered in Littlehampton

As we go to press, I hear of excavations at Littlehampton General Hospital, now being demolished to make way for the new Arun Community Hospital. Roman burial urns and an irrigation ditch have been uncovered, and it is planned to have an archaeologist on site as other areas are excavated. An update will be given at future meetings.

Don't mention the War ..

by Ed Miller

But how could we not, on 3 September, at the exhibition and party for the war time children of the village? The event was inspired by Jim Jenkins whose family lived for many years in Sea Lane and who attended the VE Day children's party 60 years ago. He sent the picture to the Worthing Herald and asked if any of the other children would join him in a reunion in the Village Hall on the 66th anniversary of the outbreak of war.

Our Chairman made the arrangements and organised a display of wartime material and a suitable food and drink for a 1940s tea party – shrimp paste sandwiches, jelly and blancmange. And some 16 of the wartime children turned up, most of them now living far from the village. We had Vera Lynn (on a CD), Union Flags, many old photographs and many old stories of everyday life of that era. I hope to persuade these veterans to make a permanent record of their memories.

The afternoon was well supported by our members who were *not* here in 1945, and the evening finished with another showing of the splendid films of the village made by Mr Claridge in the 1930s, and presented by his son Geoffrey – himself one of the Ferring wartime children.

Mid-Georgian Ferring

The Georgian period (1714 – 1830) is quite well documented in Ferring; we have wills, inventories, manor court papers and some of the leases in the Record Office. But no one has written a clear account of the population and property of the village at this time. We know that the old 'demesne' estates were leased to the Westbrook family from shortly after the Restoration to at least 1736, and then to the Colebrook family. James Colebrook was a wealthy landowner who had bought the manor of Kingston and East Preston in 1722. As with this property, he leased the Ferring estate, which he called 'West Ferring Farm', to a local farmer. *Richard Standing* has recently transcribed one of these leases, from some original documents in private ownership, which sheds some light on the management of the estate in the time of George II:

William Cooper Tenant to West Ferring Farm per lease dated 6th Aug 1740 for 21 Years from Michaelmas 1739 at £160 per annum. The Tenant to have 1000 Faggots. 100 Poles and 1000 Stakes out of the Wood called High Down. Tenant to pay for Cutting and Faggeting, to have Rough Timber for Repairs, and to keep all the Premises in good repair at his own Expence. A reservation of the use of the Hall, Parlour, Cellar, two Chambers and Stables. Also to allow House Room and find a Court Dinner, Hay, Corn etc for the Bishops Steward, being allowed 4 Guineas per annum by the Landlord for the same. And to find the Landlord with what Pidgeons he shall use at 12s per Dozen.

There follows a schedule of all the land involved, the names of the fields usually as in the Tithe Survey a century earlier, but a few using the names in the 1625 survey, and what we now know as the Rife is referred to as Kingston Brook. It all adds up to some 288 acres, with another 27 acres of wood and coppice on the north-east slopes of Highdown Hill kept in Colebrook's own hands. The farmland consists of mainly arable fields south of the manor house, meadow along the Rife, more arable on the lower slopes of Highdown and 70 acres of 'sheep down' on the upper slopes. The manor house is described as *A House three Barns a Dove house Stables and other Outbuildings together with the Garden and Orchard 2a 0r 0p.*

The document then notes:

Out payments from this Farm payable to the Bishop of Chichester

*20 Quarters of Barley according to the Market at Chichester the
Saturday before L Day at an Average about 2s 3d per Bushell £18*

<i>due 1st of May</i>	<i>10 Quarters of Wheat Sup. 4s per Bushell</i>	<i>£16</i>
	<i>Money Rent due quarterly at St John Baptist</i>	<i>£13 6s 8d</i>
	<i>Two Court Dinners</i>	<i>£4 4s</i>
	<i>Total Out payments</i>	<i>£51 10s 8d</i>

There is also a separate lease of the land and tithes belonging to the Prebend, one of the cathedral clergy who acted as the Rector, or Parson, of the parish (the vicar resident in Ferring was his deputy and had a separate holding of land, and the minor tithes).

Said Cooper Tenant per Lease dated 16th July 1741 for 19 Years from Michaelmas following at £75 per Annum to a Barn Stables Dovehouse 9 Acres of Meadow, 3 Acres of Comon Field Land, And also all the Tiths of the Copyholders in Ferring and 1/3d part of the Great Tiths of the Freehold. And the Tith of the last Farm held per this Tenant to do all all repairs being allowed Rough Timber.

There is much interest here. Colebrook has let out nearly all the land but keeps control of the woods behind Highdown, and the main rooms of the manor house. He is probably retaining the woods for sporting purposes (they are referred to as 'The Parks'), and the use of the manor house for his occasional visits with sporting guests. The tenant (named here as William but in subsequent documents as Thomas Cooper) has also to accommodate the Manor Court twice a year, and provide the Steward and others with a Court Dinner. The house is clearly a substantial one, and has an orchard, as shown on the plan of the 1625 survey (there was no orchard in 1840 – only a rookery, and the house was said to have been 'much improved').

The farm is obviously profitable. Colebrook gets £160 a year rent from his tenant, and only pays out less than £52 a year. His tenant had the farm for at least ten years and he died a rich man (we have Thomas Cooper's will and inventory). The prebend estate is also profitable: Colebrook gets £75 a year, but pays less than £24 a year to the Prebend. Note that some of the payments to the Bishop are still in kind – a relic of the mediaeval system. Note also the continuing significance of pigeons, or doves, as a source of food.

Following Cooper's death in 1751 both estates were let to a Henry Postlethwaite, on new 21 year leases. The inventory of Cooper's goods lists their location in the various rooms and outbuildings of the manor house and is full of fascinating detail. The Colebrook family held the lease from the Bishop until 1772. It was then taken up by John Bagnall, then the Shelley family, who leased it to William Henty in 1786. Henty then acquired the principal lease direct from the Bishop and the family eventually bought the freehold – and stayed there until the 1920s.

Pavilioned with splendour

Jackie Marsh-Hobbes, a Guide at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, gave the Group on 19 August an excellent presentation on the history and architecture of the building.

The original building was a farmhouse, acquired by the Prince Regent in the 1780s and redeveloped first as an elegant 'Georgian' pavilion in 1787 by Mulholland, then in the 'Indian' style by Nash. In fact it is a real hotch-potch of styles. The Prince continued to use it when he became George IV, and so did his brother William IV but a few years into Victoria's reign it ceased to be used by the Royal Family – Albert disapproved of the vulgarity of the building and its associations, and Victoria did not like the exposure to the day-trippers which the new railway brought to this once-quiet seaside town. Albert had Osborne House built as a more dignified replacement.

At this point the Pavilion was stripped bare of all its furniture and fittings, which were taken in 143 waggon loads to Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. In 1849 the buildings were about to be demolished when the Town Commissioners, the forerunners of Brighton Council, decided to take it on. It was reopened in 1851 as general public venue. The magnificent interior was gradually restored, using some of the original furniture returned by the Queen, some reproductions and some material from other old houses. In 1914 it was used as a hospital for Indian soldiers serving in France, and has had many different uses since – conference centre, ball room and museum.

Much damaged in the hurricane of 1987, the Royal Pavilion has since been fully restored to its Victorian splendour and receives thousands of visitors every year from all over the world. Jackie Marsh-Hobbes' slides included many of the hidden treasures of the Pavilion, including the tunnel

which George IV had built to enable him to get from his apartments to the public buildings unobserved and the staircase behind a concealed door giving access to the bedrooms of his lady guests.

The Stapley family

Anthony Stapley was the owner of the demesne lands and Lord of the Manor of Ferring from 1648 to 1655. As noted in our previous issue, he was a Colonel in the Parliamentary Army, and one of those who signed the death warrant of Charles I. What exactly was his connection with Ferring and what else is known about him?

The excellent *Dictionary of National Biography* says he was baptised in 1590 at Framfield in Sussex, and grew up in Patcham (now a suburb of Brighton). He married into the Goring family, and became the Member of Parliament for various Sussex constituencies from 1625 until his death. He was a Puritan, and campaigned for church reform.

When the Civil War broke out he was given a command in Sussex and was made governor of the garrison at Chichester. He quarrelled with the Parliamentary General, Sir William Waller, and gave up his command, but was obviously well-thought of by Cromwell. He continued in Parliament after 'Pride's Purge' (of the unreliable elements in 1648), was selected as one of the judges in the trial of the king, and as one of the members of the Council of State in February 1649. In that capacity he was made Vice-Admiral of Sussex in 1650. He was also one of Cromwell's Council of Thirteen in 1653, and a member of the first protectorate parliament in 1654. He was buried at Patcham on 31 January 1655.

His eldest surviving son, John Stapley, was no staunch republican. He was involved in several royalist plots in the closing years of Cromwell's protectorate. He was discovered but saved his life 'by means of abject apologies to Cromwell, and by implicating his co-conspirators', says the DNB entry. Despite this disloyalty, he was created a baronet by Charles II at the Restoration, and Anthony Stapley's corpse did not suffer the indignity of many of the other dead regicides (being exhumed and then hanged).

We do not know how Anthony Stapley came to be the Lord of the Manor of Ferring. When the Bishop of Chichester's estates were sold off in 1647, Stapley may have bought the Ferring property purely as a business venture. The Lordship presumably went with the freehold, and the authorities would have been very happy with the sale to such a staunch parliamentarian. There is no evidence that Stapley ever visited Ferring or showed any particular interest in the manor, which was administered, as usual, by the Steward. By 1657 it had passed into the hands of Henry Scrace, so it is likely that John Stapley had sold it on his father's death. John Stapley was lucky again: his father's estates were not confiscated (as those of other regicides were), but he would have lost Ferring in 1660 because it had to be restored to the Bishop. However, his luck ran out in 1701, when he died, without any surviving sons, and his baronetcy was extinguished.

Ferring's Recreation Grounds

The 1930s was a period of great interest in physical recreation – but not in Ferring, where various attempts to create public recreation grounds were defeated by wrangles over money.

It was only in 1948 that the first land was acquired with this purpose in mind – what soon became known as 'Little Twitten'; the area we call the Village Green was part of a large parcel of land acquired by the District Council in 1946, for housing, and not confirmed as a recreation ground until 1963; the 'Glebelands', south of Rife Way was bought in 1953, under the Physical Training and Recreation Act.

The story began in 1934 when the Parish Council was offered three fields comprising 13 acres 'liable to flooding in winter' (identifiable as land either side of the Rife, near Ferring Country

Centre). The Council agonised over the cost and narrowly decided to buy but there were objections, which were upheld by a Ministry of Health public inquiry in 1935.

In 1937 the Trustees of the Village Hall offered the Parish Council 'some land east of Ferring Grange Hotel' for £1,000 (what we now know as Little Twitten). Again the Council agonised – it would cost another £800 to lay out the field as a recreation ground. Some of the unwilling councillors demanded a poll of all the parish electors and the result was to reject the purchase. The Parish Council formally voted against the purchase in February 1938. The Vicar then offered to dispose of part of his Glebeland – farmland north of the Vicarage and west of Ferring Street – for a recreation ground of 8-10 acres. But now the Parish Council passed the problem to Worthing Rural District Council, asking them to acquire the land.

Worthing RDC did approach the Vicar, and then the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, about acquiring the whole 18 acres of Glebe, and negotiations continued into 1939. Then came the war and the idea was dropped but at the war's end there were great pressures for new housing programmes, and in 1946 the land was acquired 'for the purposes of the Housing Acts'. In fact, no houses were built until 1954-57, and then only on the north-west margins; meanwhile, most of the land was leased to a local farmer, probably for grazing. But part of it was used for a football pitch, and in 1953 the swings and see-saw were moved from Little Twitten to their current position.

The RDC had acquired Little Twitten in 1948 by compulsory purchase (the owner having refused to negotiate) for use as an open space but it was some years before it was laid out as such. The Parish Council insisted that the land should not be cleared or laid out if any part of the cost was to be levied on Ferring ratepayers. The RDC refused this condition and threatened to ask the Government for permission to sell it off. There was then a stand off but in December 1950 the Parish Council called for a Public Inquiry, which concluded that the cost should be borne by the RDC. The layout went ahead and by 1952 Ferring Cricket Club was using the ground, and children's playground equipment was set up in one corner.

Meanwhile, the owner of the land south of the Glebeland, a Mr Malcolm, had been asking the RDC to buy his three fields (some 9 acres) to add on to their Glebeland site. This they did in 1953, using their powers under the Physical Training and Recreation Act, but initially left it let to A P MacIntyre, who was growing strawberries on it. The original Glebeland now came under more pressure for housing: private developers were asking to buy land 'surplus to the council's own housing requirements' and the roads were being laid out on the Meadow Road estate. The Football Club, feeling they were about to be squeezed out of the Glebelands, pressed the RDC to lay out one of Malcolm's fields as a pitch and allow them to build a pavilion there. This the RDC agreed in the summer of 1954, agreeing that this new recreation ground be called 'Glebelands'.

This was not quite the end of the story because the RDC wanted the rest of Malcolm's Land for housing. The Parish Council became increasingly concerned about the reduction in open space being planned for the two sites. Estate roads had been laid out on the original Glebeland and named Meadow Way, St Maur's Road, St Andrews Close, 'Osmund Close' and 'Glebe Way' (later Rife Way) in December 1954, and now the area south of the estate was under threat of development. On 8 March 1956 the Parish Council offered to buy from the RDC the remaining two fields of Malcolm's Land but the solution came in a ruling from the Ministry a week later; Malcolm's Land had been acquired for recreation purposes and all housing development had to take place on the original site, except for the small piece of land set aside for the village green.

This, more or less, is what happened; the RDC built 30 houses between 1954 and 1957 and, after much agonising about how the rest of the houses could be built, sold the rest of the old Glebeland site at auction in 1963. It was bought by Wimpeys, who built what came to be called the 'Glebelands' estate. The three recreation grounds were taken over by Arun District Council

in 1974, and remain in their ownership – although the new ‘Glebelands’ is managed by the Parish Council.

Our December meeting

The Christmas Special meeting will be on Friday 9 December. The entertainment will be provided by Lizzie and David Gilks with **Upstairs, Downstairs** and there will be another excellent buffet organised by Susan Miller. We cannot book the large hall for that evening so we are in the Club Room again, where accommodation is limited. We shall set out tables as we did last year, and the maximum attendance for comfort is 40. This means we have to restrict it to people who have paid their subscription for 2005/06, *and have made a booking*. Please book with Kath Worvell (248694). Please come in some element of Victorian/Edwardian dress or accessories, if you can, and please bring a table decoration (there will be a competition for the best in both categories).

The Moore Family

by Kath Worvell

On the west wall in Ferring Church is a brass memorial:

'In memory of John and Jane Moore who were married in this church on June 16th 1824 and lived together in godly love and honesty for 70 years and 249 days. John Moore died on February 19th 1895 aged 90 years. Jane Moore died on June 8th 1895 aged 88 years.'

This couple is known in family history circles for the unusual length of time they were married, and had 13 children of whom 7 were surviving at their parents' deaths.

The Worthing Sentinel recently noted the story but added the detail that John, a shoemaker by trade had also dabbled in smuggling.

The Parish Register (of christenings, marriages and burials), shows many members of this family although their degree of kinship is sometimes conjectural

They are derived from John, cordwainer (leather worker) and Jane of Ferring who lived in the last quarter of 18th century and into the early 19th. They seem to have had 10 children and at least 4 survived into old age. Others, probably the girls, are not recorded further - undoubtedly because they married out of Ferring. They appear to have lived at Landalls (opposite the Post Office) where as a widow Jane acquired (1824) a strip of land on which a privy and well was installed. They were succeeded there by their eldest son George, a carpenter, who held Landalls until 1864. John (of the memorial) was one of the youngest and married Jane Stallard in 1824. They seemed to have lived in Ferring all their lives. There is the inevitable record in the Parish Register of a new birth every one to two years until Jane was in her forties (and of infant and young deaths), and the family is in the census from 1841 onwards. These early censuses do not give addresses but in 1851 they are listed in the Franklins Green section, with their seven surviving children.

By 1901 (Census) however, the family is virtually extinct locally: the only one remaining in Ferring would appear to be the daughter, Charlotte Moore, now aged 70 and *'living on the parish'*.

[Ed Miller adds: Our cover photograph of the old couple was featured in the December 1987 edition of *Family Tree Magazine*. It was apparently taken on 6 September 1894, probably in the garden of Rose Cottage, Ferring Street, where the Moores were living at the 1891 census. The original is in the Royal Collection (we do not know who took it, or why) and the copyright belongs to the Queen.]

Sussex Windmills

Peter Hill took Group members on a lightning tour of the county, at their 13 May meeting, with an illustrated talk on The Windmills of Sussex. Milling with hand stones goes back many thousands of years, he explained but watermills and windmills were comparatively recent inventions. The great problem with windmills was keeping the sails (or 'sweeps', as they were known in Sussex) into whatever wind was available. This was originally achieved by turning the whole body of the

mill into the wind, the body being pivoted on a post held upright by trestles. In later types, only the top storey (the cap) turned, and the sails were kept into the wind by a weather-vane arrangement called the 'fan tail'. Tower Mills, with the cap mounted on a brick or stone tower could be built to a great height, to catch the best wind, and did not need to be on hill-tops. Smock Mills were all-wood, with the usually octagonal framework clad in wooden panels.

Peter Hill said the mills were all replaced by steam-driven mills, many at the ports because of the increasing use of imported grain but there had been at least 900 windmills in East and West Sussex – many of them replacements for mills which had blown down or caught fire. Scores of them survive today, some in ruins but many restored by private enthusiasts (like Paul McCartney's mill at Icklesham) or charitable trusts using volunteers (like his own West Blatchington Mill Trust at Hove). At Clayton Hill near Brighton, the famous 'Jack and Jill' mills were, respectively a post mill maintained by a Trust, and open to the public and a privately owned tower mill. He showed slides of dozens of mills that had been preserved, some converted to private residences.

The coastal plain of West Sussex was well endowed with windmills, as many contemporary road- and place names suggest. Highdown Mill, kept in the late 18th century by the famous John Olliver, and its 1830s replacement a few hundred yards to the west were of course up on the hill but there were also mills at Rustington, Angmering, Arundel and Littlehampton: sea breezes kept the sails turning just as well.

Peter Hill invited the Group to come and visit Blatchington Mill, where he would explain the history and technology of mills in more detail. We shall arrange this visit for some time in June 2006.

A Canadian Churchill on the Downs

by Ian Paddington

Nestling beneath the peace and beauty of the South Downs, and probably unknown to the many visitors and walkers enjoying the South Downs Way lies a sad relic of the Second World War. The story of how the rusting remains of a Canadian Mark II Churchill tank came to end its days in a corner of a field about a mile south-east of the Kithurst car park on the South Downs Way (map ref OS Explorer 121 073 122) is a fascinating piece of local history.

In the fraught days following the British military defeat at Dunkirk, the south coast of England was largely defended by the Canadian Army. In Sussex, Canadian units were based along the coast, including Ferring, and in the lead-up to D Day the South Downs were intensively used for battle training. In 1941 the Canadian Army Tank Battalion, later designated the Calgary Regiment, arrived at Seaford and were equipped with Mark I Churchill tanks, a British-designed and made heavily armoured infantry tank with parts of the transmission made by Ricardos of Shoreham. These replaced their French-made Renault tanks and in 1942 the Mark I was replaced by the Mark II Churchill. One of these was used by the Second Troop of A Squadron, the Calgary Regiment.

Later in 1942 this tank, among a number of unserviceable vehicles or 'deadheads' was dumped by the Calgary Regiment. Stripped of its guns, engine and transmission, it was handed over to the infantry as a target for their PIATs and other hand-held anti-tank weapons. The thick armour plate of the hull is still riddled with the small holes made by them. Until recently, the ull bore the painted blue square and numbers 175 in white of the Calgary Regiment.

After the war in 1946, ordnance clearing teams were ordered to make safe and dispose of all the items of military equipment and unexploded ordnance scattered in the fields of the

Kithurst/Springhill area of the Downs, north of Angmering. In what became known as the 'tank field' the Mark II Churchill met its end by being tipped into a nearby bomb crater.

The story is that in later years, a local farmer was regularly breaking his ploughshares on a heavy obstruction and investigated the problem. The discovery of the tank remains prompted a Territorial Army REME recovery unit in 1993 to rescue the Churchill from its chalky grave. Using heavy lifting equipment, and with great effort and dignity it was dug out and moved to its present location, only a short distance from where it was originally buried.

Since then the turret has disappeared, allegedly taken by a museum for its own collection. This left the inside of the hull open to the elements and the remains are slowly being destroyed by rust from the rain and, more critically, from the damp of the bare earth below. In view of the historical importance of the Churchill, its links to the Canadian Army, and in tribute to the magnificent rescue effort by the TA it is vital that this war relic be given some form of protected status and that basic preservation be undertaken to prevent further deterioration. Ideally, it could be transformed into a popular point of interest on the Downs for future generations.

I would like to thank Martin Mace for his excellent research material, especially his *Sussex Wartime Relics and Memorials* SB Publications, ISBN 1901 313018. Valuable help and information came from fellow walkers, particularly Keith McKenna of 'Footprints', who first led a group of us to the tank site. Among the group was John Brough who drove one of the famous Crocodile flame-thrower conversions of the Mark VII on D Day and beyond. His vivid description of life as a crew member brought the old Churchill back to life again.

We shall arrange a visit to this tank, with some of Ian's friends, in the Spring - Ed

Ferring's Cabinet Minister

Yes, we did have one ... The Rt Hon J H Thomas lived at Milbury House in his retirement. He was one of the leaders of the Labour Party in the 1920s and Lord Privy Seal in Ramsay MacDonald's 1929 Government. When that Government split in 1931 he remained with MacDonald in the National Government (as Dominions Secretary). In 1936 he resigned from what was now Baldwin's administration) after leaking part of the Budget. He appears in the 1938 Kelly's Directory as living at Milbury House, and gives that address in the 1940 and 1943 *Who's Who?* By 1946 he had moved back London, where he died in 1949.

Known as 'Jimmy' Thomas, he made his name as a Trade Union leader during and after the First World War. Thomas was well-respected as the General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen but was not a great success as an MP or a Minister. He was much mocked for his pomposity and fractured English (the George Brown and the John Prescott of his day), but George V got on very well with him. At one point, Queen Mary had to ask Thomas to stop telling the King his outrageous jokes – George V was recovering from an operation and was laughing so much his stitches were coming undone. He seemed to have lived very quietly in Ferring, in retirement, if not in disgrace.

The Limits of Reform

by Adge Roberts

Local history research is not just a matter of poring over old documents. Committee members Adge Roberts is a great one for getting his boots on ...

In 1832 Chichester Corporation revised its boundaries so as to create a new constituency under the Reform Act of that year. – the law which began the long process of modernising and extending the basis of parliamentary representation. The new city limits were fully described in a schedule to the Act and were to be marked out on the ground by some 44 boundary stones of considerable size. Seven of these were located and described by a local historian in 1956 but I

always thought there were more to find and, two years ago, I started a comprehensive survey of this old boundary line to see how many of the 44 I

could locate. The 1st Edition of the 1:25000 Ordnance Survey map 1875 shows the boundary fixed in 1832 and the position of the boundary stones. With this, I began my search.

The St James's obelisk, opposite the junction of Spitalfield Lane and St Pancras, served as the starting point for the numbering. The obelisk had been erected in 1745 to commemorate the mayoralty of the Duke of Richmond, and the boundary inscription was added on the south face. Following the line north-west, I could see that nos. 2-10 had disappeared under a modern housing estates and the development St Richard's hospital and University College but I found no. 11 in a hedgerow in the college grounds. Nos. 12 and 13 have vanished without trace. No. 14 uses an existing monument to record the boundary, an obelisk which used to stand in the Barracks: I found it in Wellington Road. There is no trace of 15-17, or 19, but No 18 is still there, on the other side of the Broyle Road, and no. 20 is now in the Chichester Museum. Most of the rest are missing but I found nos. 28 and 29 in Sherbourne Road, nos. 35 and in Stockbridge Road and 37 on the canal bank near Padwick Bridge. Of the rest, only no.43 survives, in Cambrai Avenue, and in very good condition.

Possibly more will come to light – probably recycled; they would not be easy to destroy.

PROGRAMME

Our programme for 2006 is as follows:

Meetings (all Fridays):

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

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

18 August 2006: Kate Rose (Worthing Museum) on **Costume through the Ages**

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

15 December 2006: Christmas Social with Peter Hill

For 2007, we have 9 February: **History of Shoreham Airport**; 11 May: **Update on local archaeology**; 17 August: **Rustington - Farms to Flats**; 9 November: **Parham and the Pearsons**; 14 December: Christmas Social.

Walks and Visits

These are usually arranged at a couple of months notice, and details are announced at our quarterly meetings. Kath Worvell will do her guided walk on Highdown on 1 January and the Parson's Walk at May bank holiday. Going on from there we shall have the visit to West Blatchington Mill, the Churchill tank on Kithurst Hill, Steyning town and museum, and possibly others – including St Mary's Bramber, and Brighton Pavilion. There is no shortage of interesting venues.

Research

The articles in this Newsletter are all the product of work done by our members, using local records. There is a great deal to be done and one does not have to be very experienced to do most of it, or necessarily have to go outside Ferring. The Committee encourages all members to try their hand. A typical task would be to transcribe the Inventory of Thomas Cooper (From our photocopy), referred to in the article on Georgian Ferring, and set down some thoughts on what the lists of furniture, household and farming equipment tells us about his life, and the layout of the house ('Through the Keyhole' of Ferring Manor House in 1752). Please contact one of us if you would like to have a go

If you are receiving this in hard copy, have you got an e mail address? It would save effort and money if I could send you this, and reminders about events and subscriptions, by e mail. Just send me an email at EdMiller43@msn.com



Bramble Cottage, Ferring