

Polishing up the Pill Box

Ferring Parish Council have decided to try to acquire the Pill Box on Patterson's Walk, and to conserve it as one of the village's historic buildings. The owners, Arun District Council, have already recognised it is such but are unlikely ever to do anything to improve its appearance or restore it anything like the way it looked in 1941 when it was built as part of the coastal defences against a still-possible German invasion. Last year, the Parish Council had the graffiti cleared off and a plaque set up recording what the structure is (not obvious to the unhistorical eye) and why it is important (not clear to most people under 60). But it still looks rather unprepossessing.

The main problem is the rendering of the surface, which tends to disguise its function, but not in the way it would have been camouflaged in 1941. Then the fact that the entrance has been bricked up and, again, roughly rendered over. Then the same treatment given the gun ports. Plus the fact that soil has been piled up in front of the doorway reducing the apparent height to that of pigmies. All this could be remedied at little cost. Arun DC will be glad, no doubt, to hand over the structure for a purely nominal sum and the building work does not look difficult. The difficulty is in deciding how far to go.

It is not practicable to open it up and leave it open – because of all the obvious and inevitable misuse; but conceivably it could be fitted with a solid and vandal-proof door and opened up once a year, or on special occasions for visitors. Similarly, the gun ports could not be left open because of what might be poked down them. But they could be fitted with some metal blocks that could be easily removed from the inside. The inside could be furnished with some benches and a table with some 1940s paraphernalia – a steel helmet, gas mask, ration book, army greatcoat etc. One could go further and get a model of a machine gun of the type the infantrymen manning this pill box would have had in 1941. The outside could be painted in some appropriate camouflage (but oddly, enough, they were often disguised as beach huts – and that would defeat the object of the exercise). All this gets more expensive and complicated but not beyond the Parish Council's means.

Another idea has been to furnish it as described and then seal it up as a time-capsule, to be opened in another 65 years, or 165 years. What a history project this would make for Ferring Primary School – pupils cadging relics from their grand-parents (or perhaps great-grandparents) – writing up the history, witnessing the sealing and so on.

Perhaps one way and another we might have to brick up the doorway up in front of but we could recess the bricks to give a better impression of the entrance. Perhaps we should build a blast wall in front of the entrance. Perhaps we could recess the brickwork in the embrasures to show more clearly what they were for. Perhaps we could have the (imitation) barrel of a machine gun pointing out to sea.

What do our members think? I am coordinating this scheme for the Parish Council, and I would be glad of your ideas. – Ed Miller

Ludicrous circumstance at Worthing

The Coast of Sussex, (Parry 1833) quotes, (p 355) a local newspaper of 1807: 'A most ludicrous circumstance happened lately at Worthing, which has caused much merriment. About the time of the Brighton races the bellman of Worthing gave notice to the inhabitants and visitors in that town that a lady had lost a wig, coming from Broadwater, and that the restorer of it was to be handsomely rewarded: but nothing was heard of it at that time. About a week ago, a bird nest was discovered in a tree, in a meadow between Broadwater and Worthing: some young gentlemen climbed the tree for the nest and disturbed a magpie, [whose nest] to their great surprise, proved to be the identical wig that was lost, with nothing in it but the maker's name sewed in the inside.'

On p 370 Parry says: 'The direct road from Worthing to Arundel is about ten miles but contains not a single object of the least interest'. *Castle Goring? Highdown Hill?*

Ferring churchyard –earliest foundations by Kath Worvell

When were the earliest burials in Ferring churchyard? The earliest headstones are from the 18th century but we know from Ferring wills that people in the 16th century specified that they be buried there, and, no doubt, the burial ground is as old as the church – or possibly older. Hilary Lees in her book *'Exploring English Churchyard Memorials'* suggests that the earliest preaching crosses established by itinerant clergy may well have formed a focus for burials.

In Ferring, the latest graves in Highdown's Saxon cemetery roughly correlate with the 765AD Charter setting up a 'monastery'. There is no further evidence for a monastery as such but the 791AD Charter donates a small piece of woodland to 'the church of St Andrew at Ferring'.

Those later graves on Highdown contained bodies laid out east-west, in the Christian tradition, so there had to be a reason to abandon the old burial ground. There probably was a settlement down on the coastal plain at this time (after all, Roman remains have been found as far south as St Malo Close). The coastal strip below Highdown was marshy but there was a better drained gravel bank running through what is now the village centre. And there would have been more travellers along the east-west route than north-south over Highdown. Is it possible that an itinerant 'preaching cross' group or individual set up a preaching 'station' where the church now stands?.

Did this first receive a preacher, followed by a burial spot, followed by the church established by 791?

THOMAS COOPER'S INVENTORY

Thomas Cooper was the tenant of the Manor House and 'Ferring Farm' in the 1740s, until his death in 1751. He was clearly a very well to do farmer, as his Inventory, recently transcribed by Jennifer Baker, demonstrates;

A True and perfect Inventory of all and Singular the Goods Chattels Rights and Credits of Thomas Cooper late of Ferring in the County of Sussex and within the arch Deaconry of Chichester Yeoman Deceased. Taken valued and appraised the 23 Day of December in the Year of our Lord 1751. By John Weller, William Penfold and William Mardinor as follows:

[Farm stock and equipment, valued at £901 9s]:

One Colt, Eighty Ewes, Eight Young Beasts, Four Oxen, Four Fatt Beast, Five Calves; One Waggon, one Roller one Ladder; Hay in the Fatten Hovels, Pease in the South Barn, Tares in Ditto and Ricks, Oats in Ditto, Wheat in the East Barn, Barley in Ditto, Wheat in the Parsonage Barn, Barley in Ditto; Winnowing Tackle, Cribbs and Backs: Eight Cows one Bulb, Four Hogs in the North Barn Gates, Ten working Oxen; Wheat at the North Barn, Barley at Ditto, Pease at Ditto, Winnowing Tackle at Ditto; Ox Yokes and Cribs, Three Harrows Two Plows Cuppled etc; Sixty Fatten Sheep, Two Plows at the Upper Ground, One Hundred and Three Sheep at the Hill; Four Dung Carts, Two Waggons, One Pipe, One Drag Harrow, one pair of Rods; One Plow, Three Fatt Hogs; Twenty Bushel of Wheat, Nine Bushel of Oats, Nine Bushel Buck Wheat Ditto, Twenty Four Bushel of Oats, One Quarter of Tares; One Rake, One Wheat Rick and Frames, Eight Shills and One Sow, Forty Four Sacks; Six Cart Horses and Harness, One Sow and Six Piggs, One Colt; Three Harrows, Three Horses and Two Colts; Four load of Seed Wheat, Carrying boot load of Dung, Sh[.]ing of 35 Acres, Sowing, Plowing and Harrowing of 56 Acres for Wheat; Prongs Shovels and Spads, One wheel Barrow; Fifty Wattles, Furze fitt to cutt.

[Household furniture and effects, valued at £350 7s]

Kitchen

One Long Table and Form, One Round Table, One Dresser and Shelves, One Clock and Case, One Jack with Lines and Weights, Nine Pewter Dishes, Two doz. Pewter Plates, One Case of Shelves, One small Case of Shelves, Tongs and Bellows, One Warming Panne, Rosting Irons, Two pair of Pott Hangers, One Cleaver and Spit, One Small Cupboard, Two Pair of Brass Candlesticks, One Box Iron Two Heaters, Two small tables, Two arm'd Chairs and other Chairs, One Pestle and Mortar, One Quart Mugg, Two Pint Muggs, One large Stone Pott, Two Iron Candlesticks, One Candle Box, Two Window Curtains'.

And so it goes on through the house, to the Brew House, the Milk House, The Bake House, the Hall, the Parlour, the Kitchen Chamber, the Hall Chamber, The Parlour Chamber, The Maid's Chamber, the Old Chamber, the Cellar, and the Garrett, listing everything of value for the probate.

The lists include some puzzling items (what is a Heever, or a Cheese Hoop?) but give a very good idea of how the land was farmed and how the household was run. It also shows how the house was laid out – with all the various living and sleeping accommodation and all the housekeeping rooms. This, in fact, is the last picture we have of the old manor house before the Henty's rebuilt it in Victoria's reign.

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STILL IN FRANCE

As the nation remembers the 90th anniversary of the opening of the Somme offensive on 1 July 1916, in which 140,000 British and Dominion soldiers were killed, we in Ferring should remember one of those listed on our War Memorial – Reg Hoare - who died in those battles. Kath Worvell did the research.

Rifleman Reginald A Hoare, 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade died on 1 September 1916, aged 21. His parents lived at Hangleton, and he volunteered for the Army having worked as a stable boy at The Acre, in Boundary Road, Worthing. Joan Hoare his last surviving sister (he was one of 12 children) left Ferring only recently, and remembers how he used to play his violin, with others on the pavilion at the end of Worthing Pier.

Other relatives have suggested that his father, who was a gardener on the Lyon estate, was very harsh but his mother very kindly. Certainly from the family photographs the children all seemed to be well fed and clothed, and from his letters home, he seemed to have achieved a high standard of literacy. It is probable that he had some training in the Rifle Volunteer Brigade (2nd Volunteer Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment) of which 'Squire' Henty was a Major.

The Somme campaign began on 1 July, with the aim of trying to push the Germans out of their well-entrenched positions on the Posi res Ridge. As in so many of the battles of the First World War, poor communications and inadequate information on the strength of the German defences, together with (at that stage) artillery ineffective in smashing down the barbed wire, meant that the British attack was very vulnerable to the German machine guns. The first day of the offensive saw 20,000 British dead, the worst ever day for the British Army.

Reg Hoare was 'Mentioned in Despatches' on 10 July and on 15 July took part in the battle of Delville Wood. Hoare's battalion was part of the Fourth Army under the command of Lt General Sir Henry Rawlinson. By 27 August, Delville Wood was in British hands but by 31 August attack and counter-attack had pushed the British back some 500 metres into the northern edge of the wood, to the trenches named as Orchard Trench, Pear Street, and Wood Lane. In the afternoon of 1 September, the 3rd Battalion was brought in to a further counter-attack. The attack was successful and Delville Wood retaken but with the loss of one officer, 31 other ranks and 167 wounded. One of the dead was Reg Hoare. His body was not recovered, and his name is on the Thiepval Memorial as one of the 43,000 with no known grave.

The retaking of Delville Wood prepared the forces for the staking of the village of Flers to the east, some three weeks later, but the campaign as a whole was officially recorded as '*one of heavy losses, great hardships and tremendous physical and moral strain for troops of all armies*' (The Somme: a Day by day Account: Chris McCarthy). The Somme offensive lasted 142 days and achieved a strip of territory approximately 20 miles wide and 6 miles deep. Lt General Rawlinson came home and went on to become the Chief of the Imperial General Staff. Reg Hoare still lies in France.

East Ferring Manor and East Ferring House

by Ed Miller

We talk today of 'North Ferring' and 'South Ferring', but until the 1930s these terms would have meant nothing to Ferring residents. The old distinction was between West Ferring and East Ferring. As place names they go back to 1261 (West) and 1379 (East) at least (*Place-names of Sussex*), and even the Ordnance Survey map of 1929 shows two settlements, East Ferring and West Ferring, rather than a single village of Ferring.

As Manors, they go back even further. West Ferring was usually known as 'Ferring and Fure' (incorporating the name of the detached portion near Billingshurst) or just 'Ferring' as in the 13th century Custumal (record of tenants' obligations and rights) and the Reeve's account of 1420. East Ferring was not a full manor: the Domesday survey says, 'Of this manor (i.e. Ferring) Ansfrid holds two hides' [perhaps 240 acres], half a plough team, and four bordars' [peasant families]. This was probably just a single farm, and although we read of Ansfrid's successors transferring

ownership of the estate there is no record of any copyhold tenants or any manor court being held. By 1577 it was very much associated with estates in Goring, Henry Goring being confirmed as owner in that year and as joint owner in 1617. The 1621 map of (West) Ferring manor implies by the fields that it excludes, that part of East Ferring manor lay east of what is now Jersey Road as well as east of Sea Lane to the parish boundary. It is not clear how far north the manor (or estate) extended.

It was at least as far as Manor Farm (just south of what is now Ilex Way). The name alone strongly suggests this but we also know that the farmstead, whose remains are still visible in the undergrowth south of the Ilex Avenue, was owned by William Watersfield in 1635, and through his daughter, by the Westbrook and Richardson families until the Victorian era, and that the Richardsons styled themselves as 'Lord of the Manor of East Ferring'. It is tempting to assume that East Ferring House, which we know to include parts of a 17th century house, was the manor house but this cannot be the case: it can be identified in the 1635 Glebe Terrier and in the Survey of the main (West) Ferring Manor in 1647, at that time belonging to the Snelling family.

If the ancient sub-manor was only 240 acres, it was no larger than most 17th century farms and only warranted a farmstead, rather than a mansion, as its principal building. Manor Farm House must have been that building. East Ferring House in its present, rather grand form dates only from the 18th century and, like East Ferring Farm, may only have borne that name in modern times, referring to its location in the hamlet of East Ferring. Sea Lane itself was called 'East Ferring Lane' as late as 1920.

This East Ferring Farm, north of Manor Farm, may well have belonged to one of the Goring manors in the 17th century; by 1840 it was owned by David Lyon, who had recently bought it, along with other property including a 'Dwelling House with coach house, cherry orchard etc' (East Ferring House) from James Cortis. It may seem odd that there should be an 'East Ferring Farm' less than 100 yards from Manor Farm, but this farm need not have been very ancient, and its position right on Sea Lane makes sense for a modern (e.g 18th century) farm organised for a 'market' rather than a subsistence economy. Manor Farm lay further back from Sea Lane, and, if it was the basis of Ansfrid's estate, was probably there before there was a Sea Lane.

Ferring Past traces the ownership of East Ferring House from the Snellings of the 17th Century to the Cortis family and David Lyon, and points out that although the appearance of the house is Georgian, it contains 17th and even 16th century features. In 1910 it still belonged to the Lyon family (although none of them ever lived there). In the 1930s the last of the Lyons sold off Manor Farm, as well as much land adjoining it in Goring, to Hesketh Estates Ltd. They developed the housing areas around Sea Lane, Goring and set out a prospectus for a new estate on what is now the Goring Gap (see *Ferring and Goring in Pictures*: J Vaughan). Their plans were frustrated by the outbreak of war – the only remnant being the two roads laid out north of Marine Drive which, fortunately, lead nowhere. Since then, the ownership of the Gap, including most of the old East Ferring Manor lands, has passed from property company to property company, each waiting for the land to be released for housing. The old manor farmstead was demolished in the 1960s but, fortunately, East Ferring House survives, well-looked after, in private hands.

The Early Church at Selsey

Church Norton, which we are visiting next month, is a very important site in the history of Sussex. The small chancel stands on the boundary of an extensive earth work and the church complex itself is considered to be all that remains of the original Cathedral of Selsey. *Kath Worvell has studied the background:*

It stands on the banks of Pagham Harbour, now isolated but in the early 8th century possibly the tidal inlet to a prosperous trading centre. Comparing the current map with that of one of the earliest, dated 1587, indicates that some half a mile of land to the south and east of Church Norton has been lost to the sea. Its position now however is secure, although still coastal, tucked as it is behind the narrow shingle spit which still runs to the east on its southern boundary and 7m above sea level..

Wilfred's monastery

St Wilfred is credited with the first establishment of the See of Selsey here around 680 AD. Bede in *'Ecclesiastical History of the English People'*, written some 50 years later, refers to his arrival at Bosham, at an existing monastic settlement. This followed from his expulsion from his original See of Northumberland, to which he evidently returned five years later. It would have been odd if Wilfred had settled for a role in a small colony of Irish monks: he still had the authority and the mission of a bishop. And so, during his brief exile in Sussex, he started by establishing a monastery at Church Norton on 87 hides (1700 acres, the area deemed necessary to support 87 families). Most of these would have been slaves, whom Wilfred is said to have released from bondage. This was on land granted to him by King Althelwealth, King of the South Saxons. So his connections were already influential. .

The monastic buildings are represented in Lambard Barnard's large 16th century panel painting in the south transept of Chichester Cathedral – where Wilfred is *'interpreted'* as receiving the early grant of land from Caedwalla of Wessex. The hazy painting shows a separate bell-tower, perhaps an early form of defence or landmark from the sea. Caedwalla, King of Wessex had managed to wrest the See of Selsey by force and put it under the auspices of Winchester but some 20 years later it was returned to the South Saxons and Selsey's first true bishop Eadberht, Abbot of Selsey, was enthroned (705 AD)

Selsey established

It is suggested that the choosing of Selsey as the site for the Cathedral church was due to the poverty of the See and their lack of endowments when 20 years of exploitation by Wessex had left them derelict of either treasure or financial support. – the more prestigious and established Chichester being beyond their financial capabilities. What limited written work that is credited to the Selsey monastery is considered impoverished and illiterate.

Charters by rich Sussex noblemen in the 8th century relate to the foundation of churches and endowments at the Witterings, Henfield, Ferring, Stanmer, Bexhill and Peppering, in the Arun Valley. These were all initially independent of Selsey but by the end of the 8th century seem to have come under the auspices of the See – perhaps due to the invasion of the King of Mercia, Offa - a domination which lasted for 50 years.

Refuge from the Danes

The 9th century campaigns of King Alfred restored West Sussex to the Anglo- Saxon dynasty although it is probable that the coastal areas, e.g. the Isle of Wight, and possibly Selsey, were subject to frequent incursions of the Great Danish Army. It is likely that any local clergy sought refuge in the more fortified town of Chichester. For 200 years the diocesan records are scarce and intermittent and it may be that pillage of many local churches caused them to founder. The See itself seems to have been deprived of its supporting estates so that it had limited income on which to administer the area.

The See according to the Domesday Survey (1086) was one of the poorest in England having only 10 manors (Selsey, Sidlesham and East Wittering and further afield, Aldingbourne, Amberley, Ferring, Henfield, Preston, near Brighton, Bishopstone and Bexhill) and a total income of only £125 a year. These manors seem to have derived from local patronage given at some time to the See (in Ferring's case we know this was in 765).

But the 10th century also saw the revival of the Benedictine movement and a return to the original monastic philosophy of poverty and humility. Although no new Selsey monasteries are known of from this period, this influence must have caused a rethink of religious principles.

The Normans and Chichester

This was undoubtedly reinforced by the arrival of William of Normandy (1066) who instigated a new religious hierarchy and transferred the focus of the See to Chichester – since Roman times an established local ‘capital’. By 1100 some form of cathedral had been established at Chichester since Whitsuntide pilgrimages were taking place at which surrounding parishes brought their Pentecostal offerings, enjoyed the festivities and, most importantly expected the benediction of 400 days remission from sins!

Adapted from: *'The Bishopric of Selsey,'* by Susan Kelly in 'Chichester Cathedral: an Historical Survey': Ed: Mary Hobbs. Phillimore 1994

The Jupps at Rose Cottage

We featured the Moores at Rose Cottage in one of our recent editions, including the photograph taken about 1895 just before the old couple died. In the 1901 Census the house seems to be occupied by an elderly couple called White, with Ellen Laker, the village schoolteacher as a lodger. Next door in ‘Claystone Cottage’ are the Jupp family. In the Inland Revenue survey in 1910 the Jupps are certainly in ‘Rose Cottage’. On Rob Blann’s website: [www. PastTimesProject.co.uk](http://www.PastTimesProject.co.uk) there is a reminiscence by Barbara Jupp (born 1924) of her grandparents time in the house.

‘After moving to one other cottage, John and Mary Jupp, and their children Hilda and Horace, went to live at Rose Cottage, Ferring, where they remained for several years, John working as a gardener and carpenter. He was a member of the church choir and the local cricket club and a winner of awards for his vegetables at the local shows.

‘Rose Cottage had originally been built as two cottages and there were still two staircases, so from time to time part of the house could be conveniently sublet to swell the family's finances. Mary was also caretaker of the village school and this additional

revenue must have helped to pay for Nan's piano lessons.

'The water supply for Rose Cottage came from a well in the garden. Buckets were brought into the kitchen and allowed to stand overnight so that the sediment and, occasionally one or two inhabitants, could be allowed to settle.

'During a very wet period the house was flooded and the family had to retreat upstairs. Friends and neighbours brought food which was hauled up through the bedroom window. Grandma would have coped with cleaning up operations with her usual resourcefulness, but what a messy, unpleasant job it must have been'.

It is very striking how the same problems keep coming up in Ferring. Earlier this year there was also a serious flood outside and inside Rose Cottage. West Sussex County Council were baffled as to how the old drains ran.

The full version of Barbara Jupp's memories – and others regarding Ferring - can be found on the website. And Robb writes an excellent page of local history in the West Sussex Gazette every Wednesday. I thank him for permission to reproduce this extract.

OUR PROGRAMME

Our programme for 2006/07 is as follows:

Meetings (all Fridays):

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

9 February 2007: **History of Shoreham Airport** by Dave Dunstall

11 May 2007: **Update on local archaeology** by John Mills, County Archaeologist

17 August 2007: **Rustington – Farms to Flats** by Harry Clark

9 November 2007 **Parham and the Pearsons** by Caroline Adams WSRO

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 conduct her Parson's Walk on Monday 29 May (over footpaths to Kingston, leaving Village Hall car park 2 pm) and our coach trip to Church Norton and Boxgrove Priory (booking essential) on 2 June. Going on from there we shall also have a visit to the Churchill tank on Kithurst Hill (possibly incorporating a visit to Storrington Museum), one to West Blatchington Mill, and possibly others – including St Mary's Bramber, and Brighton Pavilion. There is no shortage of interesting venues. Please phone Ed Miller for details.

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 get involved Please contact one of us if you would like to do so.

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