

Ferring History Group



Ferring Grange

Newsletter

Issue 12

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Cover Photographs by Frank Leeson

Ferring's First Blue Plaque

A couple in St Aubins Close, South Ferring have applied for a Blue Plaque to be put up on their house in memory of an Antarctic explorer who spent the last years of his life in Ferring. He was Leonard Hussey, who was with Shackleton on his famous expedition of 1914-17 when their ship Endurance was crushed in the ice, and stayed behind on Elephant Island when Shackleton made his epic journey across the Antarctic Ocean to South Georgia in an open boat, to organise their rescue.

Hussey was the meteorologist on the expedition, which set out from England just as the war broke out. The ice was particularly bad that year and it was not long before the ship was held fast in the rapidly-freezing channels between the ice floes. This was no problem in the short term because the expedition could continue over the ice, using the ship as a base. Unfortunately, the ice pressed harder and harder against the ship and smashed it up beyond any repair. They were then marooned and the only hope of rescue was to make contact with the nearest inhabited land, some 800 miles away. Using the ship's boats, Shackleton moved the whole crew to the nearest (ice-covered) land, on Elephant Island and took three men with him on the almost hopeless voyage to South Georgia. Leonard Hussey was one of the party left behind.

Hussey had plenty of time to study the Antarctic weather but also entertained the 'shore party' with his banjo. Shackleton had already paid tribute to the beneficial effect on morale, when they were leaving their wrecked ship. 'We must have that banjo, if we lose all our food. It's vital mental medicine.'

Shackleton did rescue them, of course. On their return to Britain, Hussey and others joined the war effort, Hussey as an army officer on the Western Front and in North Russia along with Shackleton himself. He kept in touch with Shackleton after the war, editing the account of the polar expedition ('South') that his old 'Boss' had drafted.

Shackleton invited Hussey to join his next expedition in 1921, as Meteorologist and Assistant Surgeon (Hussey having qualified as a doctor in the meantime). This turned out to be Shackleton's last, he dying from a heart attack on South Georgia. Hussey took charge of the arrangements, bringing the body homewards until instructed by the family to bury him on South Georgia.

Hussey then took up his medical career, and became a GP in London for the next nine years. In 1940 he volunteered for the RAF (knocking on 50) and was posted to Iceland, as a Senior Medical Officer and gained the Military OBE and was twice mentioned in dispatches. He went back to General Practice, in Hertfordshire, retiring in 1957. He was a key figure in the Scouting Movement in Hertfordshire for the next few years and retired altogether to Ferring in 1960. He died in 1964.

Worth a Blue Plaque? I think so. The History Group was consulted and the Committee said 'Yes!'. As we go to press I have been told that the Blue Plaque has been agreed.

OUR AGM

In August we held our sixth Annual General Meeting, with Joyce Cooper in the Chair. We have maintained a good membership still over 100 subscriptions paid and good attendances at our meetings so much so that we have transferred into the large room in the Village Hall. Joyce referred to the sad death of Kath Worvell earlier in the summer, and recalled how they had started the Group following the Millennium celebrations and the village's History Week.

We elected Joyce as President in place of Kath, and Adge Roberts as our new Chairman. Ed Miller remains as Secretary but Tony Hayes said he needed to step down as Treasurer because of increasing commitments elsewhere. We therefore need a replacement Treasurer, and if anyone would be prepared to take on this job (which is not very demanding), please speak to a member of the Committee. Other members elected were Pat Attree, Penny Maisey, and Keith Richards (who is going to organise some walks for us). Ron Winton was elected but has since had to step down, so again we need another volunteer to help run the meetings and other activities.

MANOR RECORDS OF EAST FERRING

by Ed Miller

I said in an article in the last Newsletter that no records of the manor court of East Ferring had been found, or any records of copyhold tenants, and that manor may always have consisted of just one farm. This tended to bear out the sniffy comment by the earliest historian of Ferring, Dalloway, writing in 1830: 'the manor, or reputed manor, of East Ferring'. However, only last month I found some East Ferring Manor Court papers in West Sussex Record Office, bundled with some from 'Ferring & Fure' in an uncatalogued box of documents transferred from Worthing Library in 1976. These at last give some substance to East Ferring manor.

The first is in a late 17th Century hand, beginning 'Manerium de East Ferring. Memorandum of the Entrys of the Profitts of the said Mannor ...as they are entered on the back of the purchas deed of the same mannor'. It then lists various dues that were currently being paid and those that had been paid from 1627 to 1682. All of these seem to relate to freehold land. The 'purchas deed' may well have been drawn up before 1627 and these revenues listed on the back later - the other, more obvious interpretation, that the manor was sold some time after 1682 is unlikely because the third document implies that William Westbrooke was Lord of the Manor in the early 1670s and his daughter had the manor in 1706, so there would not have been a sale in 1682. A purchase before 1627 is much more likely - the Glebe Terrier shows that his wife's family had the manor house (later Manor Farm) in 1635.

The second is a standard note of Court proceedings dated 1706. The Lord of the Manor is Mary Westbrooke (daughter of William Westbrooke and inheritor also of the lease of the Ferring & Fure manorial estate), the Steward is John Foreman and there is a Jury (albeit of only two

But the business transacted is trivial: six 'free tenants' are fined heavily for not attending, another acknowledges that he holds his house and an acre of land from the Lord of the manor, for which he pays a peppercorn rent and owes 'suit of court and service'. Another holds a house and a malthouse on similar terms.

The third is another memorandum, headed 'Maner. de East Ferring', dated 1708, affirming the seaward boundaries of the manor as from Ferring Lane end (i.e. Sea Lane) to a ditch bordering Sir William Goring's land, two furlongs to the east (i.e. the present parish boundary) from the recollection of 'ancient inhabitants of the parish' and the 'freeholders and tenants' who have 'trod the Bounds together'. This is a preliminary to confirming the Lord of the Manor's right to wrecks cast up on the beach, citing precedents going back over 30 years.

We then have four other records of court proceedings, in 1721, 1740, 1758 and 1779. In all cases they are about getting land owners to acknowledge their duties to the Lord or Lady of the Manor, and to pay trivial dues. Some landowners were censured for failing to attend the court and, after warnings, were fined for contempt.

These seven records were folded together, wrapped in an old deed relating to property in Steyning, and seem to represent attempts by successive Lords of the Manor (all descendants of William Westbrooke) to secure their rights to the rather paltry revenues available. The first document indicates that these had not been levied regularly in the 17th Century and the other documents show that despite the Lord of the Manor's best efforts the tenants were reluctant to attend the Court (or in two cases determinedly contemptuous of it) and contrived to evade the 'heriot' (feudal due) of handing over the 'best beast'. In most cases they said they had no beast and in one case a cow was offered which died before it could be collected. Perhaps the most valuable income was from the occasional wreck.

The Richardsons, who had inherited the manor from the Westbrookes in 1735, had much other property in Sussex, perhaps never lived in the East Ferring Manor House (or Farmhouse), and eventually sold the land (and presumably the Lordship) to David Lyon. Curiously though, two of them were buried in Ferring Church, so that if the Lordship of the East Ferring Manor was worth little in financial terms it had an emotional value as the home of their ancestors.

FERRING'S RESIDENT POLICEMEN 1946 - 1970

by Joyce Cooper

At the June 'Find Your Family' session in the Library, I had a visit from the daughter of Ferring's first resident policeman. This brought back many memories, for the last one of his ilk was a good friend of mine, and a very active member of FADS.

Frederick Turner was the first. His daughter, now married to David Toley and living in Ferring, put me in touch with him. In a long phone conversation, he gave me a wealth of information about Ferring just after the war.

He had been demobbed in November 1946 and immediately joined Sussex Police. Ferring was in the Worthing Rural District Council area at that time and had been without a PC for several months. Jack Marsh had left the Force to become a Barman at the Henty Arms, under F E Newman. Fred Turner was posted here, and the Force acquired a house for him and his young family, in Downview Road, where they remained until he was posted to Chichester as a Detective Constable in 1950.

Promotion continued and he progressed through Midhurst, Petworth, and Chichester again, now as Det. Ch. Inspector. In 1966 he became Det Superintendent for West Sussex CID and in 1970 achieved the rank of (uniform) Chief Superintendent for the Chichester Division, where he remained until his retirement in 1976.

Among his memories of Ferring was an incident in 1949, where a young child, living opposite Fred in Downview Road tried to cross the railway at the style crossing in Langbury Lane and was killed by a passing train. We have a photo of him inspecting the scene. Some names he recollected were unknown to me Hellyer Taxi in Ferringham Lane. Palumbo, a City financier, at the Sea End of Sea Lane, and Jeffard, Squadron Leader, in Littlehampton Road. If anyone can add anything about them, please let me know. [a Geo Hellyer in Malcolm Close 1972 (Kelly's) - Ed]

The last resident policeman in Ferring was David Atkinson, a colourful character, who was married to Eileen, and lived in the Police House (now a private property), just behind the present Police Office, on land previously occupied by Lilac Cottage, where the Tourle family once lived. Dave joined FADS on his arrival and, was very soon, in April 1967, taking an active part, in all senses of the word, as Victor Parker, in 'Goodnight Mrs Puffin', produced by Paul Bernon. I was there but merely as a maid. From then on, Dave took part in almost every production (nine of them), notably as the Vicar in 'Murder at the Vicarage', where he was the Vicar, and I Miss Marple.

He was a popular figure in the village, but few knew that he spent a good deal of his time, when he should have been riding round on his bicycle deterring villains, hidden with his bleeper on in the FADS property store at the bottom of my garden! A good place to learn his words for the next play. His career at FADS culminated in being awarded 'BEST ACTOR' for his part as Nicholas in 'Devil May Care'. Soon after this, we accompanied Dave, Eileen, Julie and Robert to Southampton to wish them 'bon voyage' on their emigration to Australia. He had a weakness for my mother's mince pies: we actually sent some back to Australia when his wife came to visit us. He is as full of beans as ever and still visits us when on holiday in Britain.

After Dave left, the police house was sold but the police 'presence' was maintained with the building of the present police office in the facade garden. But what a divergence - the first resident officer becoming a Chief Superintendent in West Sussex and the last a swimming pool contractor on the other side of the world.

For a few months in 1830, Kent and Sussex were ablaze with burning hayricks and barns as impoverished farm labourers terrorised their employers in protest against the installation of threshing machinery. Intimidating letters were signed by 'Captain Swing', a mythic figure whose name implied that lynching of the exploiting farmers would be next on the agenda. That is the legend of agricultural Luddism, as told in many books and articles about this period. But like most legends it does not quite represent the truth.

The Swing Riots were a nation-wide phenomenon and may well have had that character in East Anglia, the Midlands and other areas, but in Kent and Sussex where they began, the incidents were less dramatic: no one was lynched or otherwise murdered, only 155 people were charged with offences and only six of them were executed. Not all the incidents were to do with the introduction of threshing machines, not all the victims were farmers, nor was the name of Captain Swing used in many of the documented cases. All this emerges from a new publication *Captain Swing in Sussex and Kent* by Mike Matthews, published by The Hastings Press at £7.99.

Matthews starts with the standard work on the subject *Captain Swing* by the marxist historians Eric Hobsbawm and George Rudé 1969, but has read widely and done his own research in the Sussex and Kent material. This includes newspaper reports of the time (such as survive) and the private correspondence of one of the leading magistrates in Kent who was also a Member of Parliament involved in a legal struggle to suppress the riots. He makes the point that many reports would have been suppressed for fear of spreading the riots, and others crowded out by other news, so it is difficult to gauge the real extent of the disturbances in these two south eastern counties.

Matthews writes in a lively style, and tells a good story but the stories do not quite fit the profile of the introduction of threshing machines, threatening letters signed by Captain Swing, burning of farmers' property and dreams of rural revolution. They are more about poverty during the long depression after the Napoleonic Wars, about low wages, unemployment, and spontaneous acts of revenge against agricultural employers or Overseers of the Poor.

The stories of the two Sussex men hanged for 'Swing' offences illustrate the point. Edmund Bushby of East Preston had rejected a low piece-rate for hand-flail threshing offered by the local farmer George Oliver, who threatened to use his threshing machine instead. Bushby was later overheard saying 'if I can't have my work by day, I'll have it at night', and there was circumstantial evidence that he and his brother stood and watched Oliver's haystack burn down. It is clear that he acted alone, or with his brother, as an act of retaliation for unfair wages, not as part of any 'Swing' campaign of machine breaking.

There is a good account of his hanging outside Horsham Jail on New Year's Day 1831. His last words to the crowd were ones of pious penitence, not revolutionary ardour. Tom Buffard was hanged on the same spot on 31 December of the same year, for setting fire to a barn at Battle. Buffard was innocent, it later emerged the victim of a frame-up by his principal accuser, who had quarrelled with the owner of the barn, his employer.

For all that, the stories presented here are graphic and compelling, and the economic and political background well sketched in. If the account does not quite bear out the book's subtitle 'Rural Rebellion in 1830', *Captain Swing in Sussex and Kent* is well worth the read.

FERRING'S CORONATION QUEEN

by Joan Quarry

I have in my possession the Worthing Herald's Coronation Supplement dated 29 May 1953. On page XVII, in the village news section, the following is reported.

Ferring: Television parties, organised by residents in their homes, will be a feature of the Ferring programme on Coronation Day [2 June]. But there is something different about the choice of a Coronation Queen at Ferring. The honour has gone to 73-year old Mrs Eliza Jenkins, one of the oldest residents, who has been associated with Ferring old village for many years. The choice is a popular one. On the following page there is a photograph of Eliza in her Elizabethan costume.

Hoping to find out more about Eliza I applied to our local historian Frank Leeson. He told me that the Jenkins family were living at Laburnham Cottages, Sea Lane at the time of the Coronation. Ed Miller then gave me the address of Jim Jenkins, one of Eliza's grandsons, now living near Chepstow, who had visited Ferring for the VE Day commemoration party last year. Mr Jenkins kindly sent me this account of 'Granny Jenkins' as she was fondly known.

'Granny Jenkins of Laburnum Cottage Sea Lane Ferring had 13 grandchildren living in Ferring about the time of the Coronation and she was a popular and active member of most of the Ferring organizations. So although, it was somewhat unusual for someone of her age to be crowned the Village Coronation Queen it was not all that surprising to the people of Ferring. As you have discovered her election attracted media attention and I have a photo published in "The Southern Weekly News" Friday 29th May 1953. .

'Eliza Jenkins (nee Standing) was born 2 March 1881 at Goring or Patching and was in Service at Myrtle Grove Farm, Patching when she married James Walter Jenkins at Patching church on 4th August 1902. By about 1910 the family was established in The Manor House (Manor Farm Cottages) which were on the South side of the entrance to Ilex Avenue. By about 1930 they had moved to Laburnum Cottages [a little further down Sea Lane, on the opposite side of the road]. They owned Laburnum Cottages, (I believe they cost £60) and a large plot behind Sea Lane and Beehive Lane on which Granddad used to grow flowers and vegetables which granny sold from the Cottage. My Dad had sheds and garages on the plot and used it as a base for his haulage and contracting business E JENKINS and Sons (Ferring) Ltd, which carried it on into the 1960's,



Eliza in her Elizabethan costume



WI entry for the Coronation procession

'Granny and granddad lived at Laburnum cottage until they died, in quick succession in 1955. My Dad, Maurice JENKINS, inherited the Cottages and granny's other properties in Ferring and it was he that went into partnership with others to demolish the cottages and construct [the southern part of] Sea Lane Gardens.'

Mr Jenkins also sent me a photograph of the WI entry for the Coronation procession, with a Jenkins Commer lorry providing the transport. Granny Jenkins went round in an open Riley car.

Coronation Day began at Ferring at 9.30 with a service in the Village Hall, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev W Reeves. In the procession almost every local organization was represented. It toured both North and South Ferring. A halt was made at the War Memorial for the raising of the Union Jack on the new flagstaff and Coronation Seats were presented to the village. Following the procession there was a 'comic football' match and then a Gala Dance at the Village Hall until midnight.

Wednesday June 3rd was Children's Day, with sports at the Recreation Ground. Four members of Ferring Junior Football Club gave a sports demonstration, and other attractions included a Punch & Judy, a free tea, and a 'secret event for mummies and daddies and sweethearts'...? On Thursday 4th June the St Andrew's Church Choir, conducted by Miss Edith Newson, presented a concert version of 'Merrie England' in the Village Hall.

Mrs D Hewitson, Eliza's eldest granddaughter, still lives in Ferring and remembers all the Coronation festivities with great pleasure. What a splendid week it must have been for everyone, young and old.

WHICH YEAR WAS THIS?

Onslow Parade

F E Town & Sons (Home Furnishers)
Office

Ferring Fish and Fruit Stores

Atzema's Chemists

F E Town & Son (Hardware)

White Heather Cafe

Wilson's Stores, Grocers
Furniture, etc)

Courtlands Ltd, Newsagents

J May, Butcher

and further down Ferring Street

Gift Shop, Fancy Goods and Post

Ferring Garden & Pet Supplies

E Milne, Grocers

Pegrums & Son, Bakers

J Ritchie, Butcher

F E Town & Son (Carpets,

Radio House

Rosebowl, Confectioners

United Counties, Grocers

Ferring Motors Ltd

Kath Worvell 1932-2006

Kath Worvell, a real 'pillar of the community' in Ferring, died on 5 July, aged 74 after a long illness. Tributes were paid to her by her family and friends at Worthing Crematorium at a funeral on 13 July attended by six parish councillors, the Chairman of Sussex CPRE, and members of the many village organisations she had worked with over the last 30 years in Ferring.

Originally from London, Kath Worvell came to Ferring with the Inland Revenue at Durrington, but then trained as a nurse, and became a Science Teacher at Boundstone School. From then on she launched herself into the Residents and Owners Association, the Youth Centre, the Parish Council, the Conservation Group and other local societies, 'usually ending up as Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer', as her friend Joyce Cooper said at the service, 'often at the same time'.

She also found time for academic study and obtained a Diploma in Regional History from Sussex University. Using that knowledge, she, together with Joyce Cooper, put on a programme of events for Ferring History Week for the Millennium celebration. Out of this came the Ferring History Group, of which she was Chairman and ultimately President.

She was an excellent local historian, thorough in her research, a natural communicator, and very resourceful in obtaining material for her talks and guided walks around Ferring and beyond. We shall miss her enormously, as will all the other organisations she had been involved with. But her influence was felt beyond Ferring, in her work for the CPRE, the Weald and Downland Museum and other county-wide organisations. EM.

HIGHDOWN HILL WALK December 2005

by Kath Worvell

(This was the last piece Kath wrote for the Newsletter. I could not find space for it last time but I am glad to reproduce it now EM).

Again well attended, the weather was mild enough to look again at this ancient monument and outline the varied history of the site.

New to this time however, were two features - some new seats placed by the Miller's Tomb and informally some floral tributes to past users. Whilst I personally have certain reservations about 'urbanising' a country landscape, it has to be admitted that now the Hill is designated as a part of the potential South Downs National Park, the seats are undoubtedly welcome to some of the many users who frequent it.

Unfortunately, the seats donated 'in memoriam' each possess a brass plaque a requirement I suppose that the National Trust has to accept as part of the donation. Personally however, I find this unacceptable. Firstly, the plaques mean nothing except to the few bereaved involved and secondly such sites are the prerogative of the living not the dead. Plaques merely turn such lovely sites into unacceptable mausoleums.

But looking at the wider picture, it is reassuring to note how important Highdown Hill has been to users currently, recently and for centuries past. Overlooking the coastal plain, we know that the Celtic tribes stood within this landscape and placed oblation offerings to the river spirits within what we now term The Rife. These finds, some 3,000 years old, are now in Worthing Museum.

Perhaps these latest commemorations merely carry through the delight and awe from a long- treasured landscape.

We have been trying to think of a suitable memorial to Kath - obviously not a seat.

Victorian Worthing

An excellent series of lectures has been arranged by Worthing History Forum, in conjunction with West Sussex Library Service, on six consecutive Tuesdays, from 10am to 12 noon, starting 31 October, at the Worthing Library's Lecture Theatre. It starts with 'Scene-setting, sources and scandals' by Anthony Brook, and continues with 'Smugglers, bonfire boys and rough music' by Chris Hare, and another four lectures by well-known local historians such as Ron Kerridge, Mike Standing and Martin Hayes. Tickets from Worthing Library at £3 per session or six talks for £15.

Digging up the Canal

by Adge Roberts

My weekends are occupied with industrial archaeology and conservation along the route of the Portsmouth and Arundel Navigation., *writes our new Chairman*. I am currently involved in a major project on the site of the Stewart Bridge at Barnham Court Farm, Barnham, West Sussex. This was a swing bridge, one of 14 on the Sussex stretch of the early 19th century canal. Only one other complete bridge survives.

The site was excavated by the landowner, Bill Forse, in 2001 using a JCB, and the work was completed by hand by members of the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society. From the JCB dig, several coping stones were discovered in the canal bed, each weighing about half a ton: we decided that we would rebuild enough abutment walling to accommodate these stones. This we have now done, salvaging the bricks from four different sites on the canal (including some from the bed of the Banham Rife) having cleaned them all up and sorting into usable categories.

Having done that, we are now planning to recreate another swing bridge on the site, mounted on the original lower bearing and using as many original parts as possible. We already have three-quarters of one outer beam and about half of the other. These will be mounted on RSJs and the missing parts possibly reproduced in glass-fibre. We plan to reclaim an underframe from another bridge further west on the canal: the whole bridge is constructed on this frame.

The bridge will be some 30 feet long by 10 feet wide, weigh some nine tons, and be a working model. The outer beams bear the cast-in name 'Hollinsworth Bridge 1820' and come from one of the other bridges some 300 yards eastwards, having been recovered from the farm's old marl pit, where we hope to find some more parts eventually. The centre beams are the result of a real stroke of luck. Last October we were told of some more ironwork that had been found on another of the landowner's farms at Walberton. We chased off in a car and found two complete centre beams, all 32 feet of them, straddling a small stream, where they had been forming the basis of a bridge.

We would have taken them back on our shoulders but they weighed 18 cwt each and the four ends were buried in the ground, some of them encapsulated in tree roots up to four inches thick. We returned the following week: five of us descended on the site and spent 36 man (and woman) hours of very hard graft releasing them from their 40-year resting place. The following week the farmer's right hand man came out with the tractor/low loader, loaded them onto a trailer and took them back to Barnham Court

We then began to remove 40 years of heavy scale rust and concretion from the four buried ends the centres which were spanning the stream were in a very clean condition.

The work continues, to trace and restore (as far as we are able) this largely vanished canal, its bridges and its locks a commercial failure, but an engineering triumph, of long ago.

EAST PRESTON & KINGSTON: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY, by Richard W. Standing (Published by Phillimore & Co. Ltd., 2006, @£18.99

Over the past 30 years or so we have become used to reading Richard Standing's A4 booklets on various aspects of East Preston and Kingston local history, while his analysis and maps of field names in the parishes of Poling Hundred (in the English Placename Society series), including Ferring, published several years ago has been a boon to local historians of the area, *writes Frank Leeson.*

It is pleasing, therefore, now to find that his researches have been published in handsome and ample hardback form by Phillimore's and illustrated by no less than 166 brilliant photographs and sketches. Several specially-drawn maps are also included in the text, one of the most interesting for us being a reconstruction of the Kingston Chapel area in 1630. There are also full-page end-paper street and field boundary maps East Preston at the front, Kingston at the back based on the 1759 James Colebrooke estate map and giving the field-names as they were in 1724-26 for both places. Details of rentals and surveys from 1602 to 1744, the 1780 land tax, and an inventory from 1691 are contained in an appendix.

The organisation of the chapters is thematic rather than chronological, with thirty pages devoted to farmhouses and farming life from medieval times up to the 19th century and ten to the Victorian village of East Preston and its houses. The development of the gentrified estates of the 20th century in both East Preston and Kingston Gorse is covered in two later chapters. There is a more than equal balance on the human side, with chapters on priests, the Poor Law, coastguards, schools, arts and crafts, social life and the two World Wars, for instance, all brilliantly illustrated.

For us in Ferring, the topographical interest is very much focussed on neighbouring Kingston, with which we share a common boundary in the Rife and the experience of loss of land due to the encroachment of the sea. As the author says, "In 1635 Kingston was a 'street village' in what is now Peak Lane, with a church at the south end where a lane branched across to the manor house." The latter at least still exists at East Kingston, though largely rebuilt in the 18th and 19th centuries, and reached via the remains of the lane on which stand near the sea the so-called Lighthouse Cottages built in the 19th century.

Ferring residents can easily walk to the old manor house area via the Rife bridge and to the Lighthouse Cottages along the seafront green skirting the affluent Kingston Gorse estate, built on land sold by Mr. Candy, who owned East Kingston Farm on the site of the old manor house. One can walk on, by both routes, to East Preston itself which is unusual in that there is no direct

road access from east or west except over the railway crossings, yet the village has invariably thrived in its isolation, although when it became the site of the Union Workhouse, serving an eventual 23 parishes, nearly half the population by 1801 were workhouse inmates. Little wonder, then, that in later days its gentlefolk inhabitants preferred to say that they lived at 'Angmering-by-Sea'!

OUR PROGRAMME

Our programme for 2006/07 is as follows:

Meetings (all Fridays, at 7.30):

10 November 2006: Bill Gage on **Steam Railways in Sussex**

15 December 2006: Christmas Social with Peter Hill (The Pharmacist's Tale)

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 (AGM 7.15)

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

14 December 2007: Christmas Social.

Meeting dates in 2008 are 8 February, 9 May, 15 August, 7 November: Speakers to be arranged. Plus our Christmas Social 12 December.

Walks and Visits

These are usually arranged at a couple of months notice, and details are announced at our quarterly meetings. We want to continue the 'Worvell Walks' and Keith Richards, who has joined the Committee is organising a New Year's Day, circular walk from Clapham to Patching and return, approx 2 hours. Meet at Clapham village car park adjacent the church at 11.0 am. Please provide own/ shared transport. Walk to be via footpaths, open field and will pass through each village 'This is a pleasant short walk', he says, 'with gentle slopes but may be muddy in parts: hence sensible footwear a chance to start the New Year in a healthy active way'. As usual a poster advertising the walk will be placed in each notice board nearer the time. Later in the year we shall have a long-delayed visit to the Churchill tank on Kithurst Hill and nearby Storrington Museum), and possibly others St Mary's Bramber, and Brighton Pavilion. There is no shortage of interesting venues. Please look out for notices or 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. One of our fairly new members, Tim Baldwin, has begun some interesting work on an Oral History of Ferring. Please phone Tim on 246868 if you have any memories of Ferring in the 1960s or earlier, or can introduce him to any one who does. And do contact one of the Committee if you would like to follow up your own interest in any Ferring subject.

E-Mail

If you are receiving this in hard copy, and you would be happy to receive it by e-mail (or to receive meeting reminders and other news by e-mail) please let me know and I will add you to our e-mail list.
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