

NEWSLETTER of the Ferring History Group Issue 20: January 2014

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Editorial

This editorial is written at the end of October 2013, for the 2014 edition of the Newsletter. We have brought the Newsletter year into conformity with the Membership year, running from January to December. We have also introduced more photographs, and modified the cover pages. We hope you will find it an improvement. We are also introducing a Members' Questions feature, where we hope to answer any questions on Ferring's history. Here are a few questions that we have been asked in 2013:

I have recently moved into Viceroy Court in Ferringham Lane: What was there before the flats? The flats were the first building on this site, in the 1960s. Before that the land was unused but had been part of Home Farm, owned by the Henty family in Victorian times and previously leased out by the Bishops of Chichester, who were given this land by Saxon noblemen in the 8th Century.

Was G A Hen3ty, the writer of adventure stories, related to the Ferring Hentys? Yes, he was the cousin of the Edwin Henty (1805-1890) who ran the Henty estate for 60 years.

Did the Vikings get to Ferring? There is no record of them doing so. The Viking raids and settlements were mainly on the east coast of Britain. Sussex was under the protection of Alfred the Great. There was one Viking raid on Chichester but nowhere else in West Sussex.

Was there any fighting in this area during the English Civil War? Hardly any in Sussex, which was strong for Parliament. But Arundel Castle was besieged twice and badly damaged.

Ferring in 1911

by Ed Miller

A picture of Ferring in 1911 is quite easy to compose. We have the 25 inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map of that year, a Land Tax valuation report of 1910, Kelly's Directory for 1910 and, most importantly the 1911 census return. Putting these sources together, we can take the walk the census taker took on 3 April that year. Most of the buildings he recorded are still there.

Looking at his schedules, he clearly started just south of the railway crossing on the west side of Ferring Street. His first house was Lilac Cottage, an impressive flint-and-thatch building cottage, now the site of Pump Court. He then looked at Landalls and Woodbine Cottage (now the short terrace of houses opposite the village hall) and Rose Cottage (still there, gable end to the street). Landalls was a large house, incorporating the village shop – Wessons. Woodbine Cottage housed a bootmaker (who doubled as an Assistant Postman). He walked down past what we now call the village green but was then an enclosed field belonging to Glebe Farm, crossed the road (Ferring Street – there was no Rife Way) , past the barn (now the Barn Surgery) and came to Dairy Cottage (demolished, along with its milking sheds, in the 1930s and eventually replaced by Regency Court).

He then crossed back again and listed the Vicarage (now Barberry Lodge) with the Rev Arthur Dean, vicar since 1888, his wife and daughter and three servants. This brought him past Bushby's Cottage (later Yew Tree Cottage) where the wife of Charles West lived. Charles was butler to the Hentys and was at Ferring Grange on census night. Next was Smuggler's Cottage, where a branch of the Penfold family lived. At the corner, he listed

Evergreen Cottage, where two families of Henty's farmworkers lived, then across the road to what we now call the Old Cottage, then up the drive to the Grange, taking in Grange Cottage, where Henty's coachman lived, and another cottage behind it with more Henty staff.

Church Cottage, in Church Lane, was occupied by a shepherd; then to Ramblers where a bootmaker lived, and Holly Lodge, the Post Office, home of the Tourle family. Then came the three big houses – The Grange, with five servants living in but no Hentys (Edwin was staying with his sister in Patching that evening, and Mrs Henty has not been found anywhere in this census), St Maurs (now Greystoke Manor) with Manley Power, retired Tea Planter from Ceylon, and The Farmhouse (Home Farm House) with Mrs Roberts, 'Gentlewoman'. The next two houses are not named but are probably the Old Flint House, in the still unmade section of Church Lane, and Home Farm Cottage.

That was the core of the village, and known as 'West Ferring'. The census-taker probably took the Little Twitten footpath to 'East Ferring' because he then worked his way down Sea Lane (then called East Ferring Lane) down from the White House (where the junction with Midhurst Road is now), taking in West Lodge (the gatehouse of the drive to Goring Hall), Manor Farmhouse (demolished around 1960) and, crossing the road, East Ferring House and the half-dozen cottages either side of it (most of them still there).

Next he went back to West Ferring and walked up to the Gatekeeper's Cottage, and, crossing the line, called in at the New Inn (renamed in 1928 'Henty Arms'). After Elford House, where the Curate, the Rev. Algernon Chester, lived in some style, he was in a more-or-less separate hamlet, 'Franklins Green'. Here was Franklands Farm (occupied by part of the Penfold family), Franklands House (now Franklands Manor, but originally 'The Carpenter's Arms') occupied by a Lloyds Underwriter, and Franklands Cottages. All still there.

Now he probably took the long walk along the unpopulated Littlehampton Road until he came to the other hamlet, 'Hangleton'. This comprised a farmhouse (now an equestrian centre) and farm cottages up Hangleton Lane north of the junction, and Hangleton Farm and farm cottages (still there) south of the junction. At the bend the road became Langbury Lane but there were no houses along it in 1911.

This left just two isolated old farmhouses – 'Woodlands' and 'North Down', both still there, on the other side of Highdown. The total population was 256 – just 12 more than in 1901. It was still 256 in 1921, a few years before the developers began the village's transformation.

The Church Bell

A recent note in the Parish Magazine about repairs to the housing of the bell at St Andrew's led History Group members *Jane and Paul Hayman* to investigate its history. The bell is inscribed 'Bryanus Eldridge Me Fecit' (Bryan Eldridge made me), with the date 1652.

We know that from the 16th Century to the end of the 18th Century there were several bells at the church but not hung in a belfry. During the early part of this period the Churchwardens had to make a regular 'presentment' to the Archdeacon, answering various standard questions about the state of the building, church equipment and conduct of the vicar. In answer to one asking about the state of the steeple, the Churchwardens wrote 'We have no steeple. The bells are hung in a frame in the churchyard and always have done so'. The bell frame in the churchyard, then with three bells, was noted by an anonymous contributor to 'The Sussex Topographer' journal in 1790 but by 1802, when a sketch of St Andrew's was published in 'The Gentleman' magazine, the present bell turret had been installed. There would only be

room for one bell and we might presume that the best of the surviving bells was taken from the churchyard frame.

This is borne out by a record of the Consistory Court in November 1792 ‘granting a faculty or licence for selling two bells belonging to the Parish offering. And for appropriating the money arising out of such sale .. in and of the expence in building a tower and hanging therein the largest bell, as ... promoted by William Henty, Churchwarden ...’. This was only the first of many ‘improvements’ to the church promoted by the Henty family after their arrival in the village in 1786.

Jane and Paul tracked Bryan Eldridge down. His family had a bell foundry at Chertsey in the 17th Century and did large business in Sussex during the whole of that period. The first bell founder was Richard Eldridge, whose bells are dated from 1592 to 1623. His son Bryan was also a bell founder whose name is on some 40 bells in Surrey and Sussex but he died in 1640, and the creator of the Ferring bell was Bryan’s son, another Bryan. Bryan II worked mainly in Sussex but also in Coventry, and in Kent. He and his younger brother William worked together on bells for Lancing and Portslade in 1660 and 1661, and when Bryan died, in Chertsey 1661, he left ‘unto my loveing brother ... all my working tooles, implements and utinsels thereunto belonging, and my furnaces’.

The 1790 writer pointed out that there probably had been a conventional bell tower at some stage because of the large buttresses to the west end of the church, suggesting some heavy weight to be supported. This remains a mystery. The church shown on the coastline map of 1588 (for defences against a Spanish invasion) does have a steeple but all the churches on the map were shown by the same graphic, so this is not conclusive.

The Latterday Hentys

William Henty obtained the lease of the Bishop’s estate in Ferring in 1786. He passed it to his son George who died in 1829. It was held by George’s son Edwin, first on lease and then freehold until 1890, when it passed to his son, Edwin junior, who held it until his death in 1916. Edwin junior had no children, so the estate was held by his widow until her death in 1928. As we know, the southern half of the estate was sold for development in 1923 and broken up in 1924, and the northern half sold by Mrs Henty’s executors in 1930.

That, however, was not quite the end of the Hentys. George’s brother Thomas Henty founded a dynasty in Australia, George’s sons took over his brewery in Chichester (which continued into the 1950s) and Edwin junior’s brother Arthur (born and buried in Ferring) had children whose descendants are still with us. Two of them came to Ferring in the summer of 2103 as guests of the History Group.

Arthur was the younger brother, born in 1848 at Ferring Grange. He followed very much in his brother’s footsteps – both were sent to Rugby School, both worked in (and became Directors of) the Henty Bank, both were officers in the Volunteer Battalion of the Royal Sussex Rifles, both magistrates and Deputy Lieutenants. Arthur was married in London but he and his wife lived principally at Broadwater Hall, Worthing; and then, by 1916 moved to Oaklands Park in the centre of Chichester (the house is still there, part of the University complex) where he died on 29 December 1936. Oddly, though, he was buried in Ferring churchyard – where he had not lived for at least 50 years.



The following information comes from Quentin Goggs, Arthur's great-grandson. Arthur and Louisa had six children- Edith Maude, Adeline Blanche, Arthur Frank was born in 1878, Charles Henry, Bertie, and Edwin Claude. The young Arthur went to Rugby School, and then into the Army. He was wounded in the Boer War; and went through a difficult period of recovery. He re-joined his regiment in 1914, and died at the battle of Loos in 1916. Edith married Cyril Dodd. They had four children, Monica, Nancy Alexandra, Cyril; and Nancy Winifred. Cyril married three times and finally in 1934, in Salford, to Gwen.

The only child, by Gwen, was one Cyril Nicholas Dodd, later to be changed to Henty-Dodd, and finally to Simon Dee, the disc jockey and chat show host of the 1970s. He changed his name to include Henty in order to inherit some money from that side of the family; and took the pseudonym Simon Dee, because he thought Nicholas Henty-Dodd was not a suitable name for a disc jockey. After working his way through three fortunes, two inherited and the other earned, he died in straightened circumstances on 30 August 2009 in Winchester. He had a full page obituary in the Times.

Adelina married The Reverend William Matthias Goggs in 1901 at Broadwater Church, Worthing. She was known throughout her life as Grousie because her birthday was on 12th August, the start of the grouse shooting season. They had two children, Quentin's father, Arthur Bernard born 1906, and Peter born and died in 1914. Adelina's only son, Bernard, married Quentin's mother, Elisabeth Crampton, in 1936. Edwin Claude married Muriel Anna Bell Simpson in 1911. She was a close relation of the Bell family who invented the telephone.

Edwin Claude and Muriel had only one child, Barbara, born on 26th December 1912. Barbara trained as an architect, and in 1937 married one of her fellow architectural students, Digby MacArthur Dent. He came from a distinguished naval family, and though he had trained as an architect, joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on the outbreak of war. He was killed on 10th September 1943 on board the minelayer, HMS Abdiel. They had three children, Michael, Alison and Richard. After Digby's death Barbara, known from childhood as Puffin, had to bring all three of them up herself. Michael Dent now lives in Toodyay, Western Australia. His daughter, Angela also lives in Western Australia.

Quentin Goggs, great-grandson of Arthur Henty, now living in Wiltshire, and Angela Pankhurst, great-great great granddaughter of Arthur, from Australia, both contacted the History Group in the Spring of 2013 and we arranged for them to meet (for the first time in many years) at the Henty Arms. Both were thrilled to see the many traces of their ancestors which still survive in Ferring – Ferring Grange, where Arthur grew up and, not least, the family graves in the churchyard and monuments in the church.

We understand that a great-great-grandson of George Henty (the second of the Hentys to lease the Ferring estate) was a distinguished ecclesiastical lawyer – Jonathan Henty, now retired and living in Petworth. He and some of his children, more Hentys, are still with us.

Arundel's Industrial Past

by Adge Roberts

On 29 September some 14 members gathered in the Lido car park for my Industrial Heritage walk. If you would like to have gone but were not able to make it – read on.

From the car park we viewed the much-modified oast house, built in 1789 for George Puttock, whose old cottage still stands adjacent to it. The footpath took us into Queen Street where we saw the huge swathe of the street that had been occupied by the Swallow Brewery, and how three of a terrace of adjoining cottages had been demolished to allow the building of

the Arun Cinema. This in turn was lost to a Texaco garage and the site is now occupied by a block of flats. We crossed the road and into Queens Lane to the old cattle pound and then into Fitzalan Road, to the rear of the site of the Swallow Brewery where we saw the remains of the brewery chimney and another associated building. I showed a picture of the site from 1895 with three or four men sitting atop the chimney.

Back into Queen Street and to the town bridge, where I recounted the history of this structure, with the help of old photographs. This is a good spot to show the development of the town across the river, including the story of the enormous sub-post office, and of the Port of Arundel. I told the story of brig *Ebenezer* (a regular visitor to Arundel) built by Robinsons of Littlehampton and sunk by a German U Boat in WW1, and of the fire that destroyed the corn store.

We then went into River Road, to see both sides of what had been Bartlett's Steam Mill (for grinding corn) and how it was developed into apartments by a local builder. Further on was site of Stedman's blacksmith shop. As we passed the Old Salt House, built about 1800, I explained that it was used to store meat and fish preserved in salt. On the other side of the river was the old slaughter house.

We then entered the area that was once the Nineveh Shipyard where vessels (up to 200 tons) were built over a period of some 350 years till the end of the 19th Century. The ship yard became a steam powered timber mill, and was still steam powered in the 1930s. A narrow gage railway carried timber to and from the river. During WW2 they produced material for the war effort, including. parts for Motor Torpedo Boats, and tent pegs. The site's last commercial use was by Hago Wire Works.

Next to the office of the then River Board and its boathouse across the road. We saw the huge site of the Eagle Brewery and heard the story of the old *Jolly Sailors* beer house and the attached lodging house (known as Rat's Castle) and the nearby house of ill repute. Up Arun Street. and into Tarrant Street where I pointed out the two adjacent pubs, the *King's Arms* and the *Queen's Arms* . We saw the face of the Eagle Brewery buildings including the office and the pub, *The Eagle*. Next was yet another pub, the old *White Horse* where the dancing bear was housed.

We then arrived at the one time printing works of Mitchell's, which became the West Sussex Gazette (now in Portsmouth) and I was able to show photos of the works entrance and the old shop front in the High Street. I also pointed out the old Candle Factory and the Bacon Smokehouse before arriving at High Street, where I gave some of the history of several of the important buildings including the Norfolk Hotel, the *George Inn* and the *Crown Inn*, as well as Penfolds, Agricultural engineers and Paines the ironmongers. There is indeed a rich industrial heritage in what we all think of as a small market town

Remembering the First World War

Frederick Grout, market gardener of Ferring, served in WW1 as Stretcher Bearer in the 8th Royal Fusiliers. He was one of 9,000 British soldiers captured during Battle of Cambrai, November 1917. We have his personal account of his time as a Prisoner of War, written on 10 October 1967, a few days before his death, aged 75. This is the first part (edited slightly by Ed Miller, for easier reading).

I will start by the Battle of Cambrai where I was captured. The Battle of Cambrai was a big mistake like a lot more of them - just a big waste of men. It was a big tank do - the first use of the Whippet Tank and the big Brass nobbs wanted to show off with their big noisy toys. Well, in my opinion it was a washout and for the lads in the trenches, they were badly let down by not being relieved and having to fight far too long

Well my part in it was Stretcher Bearer (SB) and as we moved in overnight we were given a point to meet the Medical Officer (MO) after the tanks moved in and made a hash of things. I was one of four SBs so I was useless on my own, as I soon found out. For when it was time for us to move I said, 'Come on we had better get going, for someone will want us'. So I went off but the other three did not follow (Cowards).



I found the MO and he asked me where the others were and he said ' Find someone to help, but before he could say any more a German shell got us and when I came to, I saw the MO had a nasty wound in his neck. But I was lucky - a nasty smack on the wrist, and the MO was being treated by the

RAMC so was in good hands. I found another chap to help me as one cannot use a stretcher on your own, so we got moving and the first one we found was a chap with his brains blown out. We could not do anything for him, so off in search for others. What a do! We were in the open and the other lads were in the trenches all around. Well it was some time before we found another. This chap was in a German trench with a shattered leg so I made him as comfortable as we could and started to get him to the 1st CCS (Casualty Clearing Station) when the Germans started to straffe us- so not so good and that chap was blown off the stretcher and in his place was mud.

Well I searched for him but could not find him. I looked down dugouts that had been filled with Poison Gas. So we got going back where we started from and the shells were coming over faster

I found the other three and they (cowards) had not moved out so I had a job to control myself. Anyhow I said nothing or reported nothing so we joined the Company. I was just tired out but the other three were fresh. Well Jerry was just pounding us, and one of the cowards was wounded, but I got the stretcher in a hole and lay down exhausted. Then we moved to another part and then we had it, for Jerry made a counter attack. So, plenty to do and all had enough, but no relief. Well, there was an officer and men lying in no man's land. They asked for volunteers to go and get them in. So I was one that went, three trips and got back OK. Some job - but no VC for that.

Well the night before we were captured I just could not care what happened. I laid the stretcher out and tried to get a little sleep but soon came along the Sergeant. He said, 'What are you doing here?' I said, 'Trying to sleep. Where are all the others?' They had been relieved for half an hour. He said, 'I am glad I found you', as I was the only stretcher bearer left, and no MO. I had the lot to do. Well, as we were going back to form the Company we saw Germans going along at the back of us. I said, 'I don't like that', for they had got through. They got the artillery before they got us, we soon found out.

When we joined the Company I had a lot of wounded to see to down the dugout. Well, in the morning the Sergeant said, 'I am going up to relieve the gunners; will not be long'. And what next? He shouted, 'Come up. Jerry is over'. But where the wounded went I did not know. I went up and a square-headed Jerry aimed straight at my head but I just moved it over and the bullet went over my shoulder. And before he got another one up the spout, I got away But what a brazey do! One of the officers said, 'Give me a rifle. Shoot the lot'. I told him to B... well keep quiet or we all will be done in. He said, 'Send a rocket for artillery'. I said, 'Too late for that'. I think he had our rum inside him.

Well as Jerry got us lined up, for searching of course, hands up, the big square-head came along and cut a lot of lads' wrists. There again I was lucky. Well, then we were marched away, thrashed with sticks. I was beside the Sergeant when he was shot through the chest, so a near miss for me. I tried to help him but could do very little and was driven off him. I often wondered what happened to him but I don't think he got over it; so a sad end to my best pal. Sergeant Sams was his name, acting Sgt Major. The officers had a good thrashing as well.

His narrative continues with forced marches to various prison camps and a very hard time working (unwillingly) for the German war effort until the end of the war and his repatriation. We shall publish the second half in our 2015 edition.

Unrest on Highdown

In 1830 Sussex was one of the centres of the 'Swing' Riots by agricultural workers and Edmund Bushby was hanged for setting fire to a hay rick in East Preston. Agricultural wages continued to fall and in February 1834 five farm workers from Tolpuddle in Dorset were arrested for trying to form a Trade Union. Next month they were sentenced to seven years transportation. On 6 November 1834 the London Standard published the following report of strike action in Goring, *forwarded to us by Richard Standing*:

Rising of Agricultural Labourers (from the Brighton Gazette)

The spirit of discontent among the rural population of this county has, we regret to find, already commenced in this neighbourhood. The price of wheat having declined to the ruinous sum of £9 and £10 per load, the wages have in consequence reduced, though not by any means in proportion to what flour can now be purchased at, and it is a fact that 10s a week at this time will buy more provisions than 12s would at the same time last year. On Monday last the farm labourers in the parish of Goring struck for higher wages, and obliged those who were unwilling to follow their example to leave their work, using threatening language to enforce arguments; in consequence the ploughs and teams were all deserted, and it appears as if the principle of the Trades Unions was about being established, for a very large assemblage of the labourers took place upon High Down Hill, a commanding eminence, overlooking the parishes of Goring, Ferring, Angmering, Tarring, &c.

At this moment affairs assumed an unpleasant aspect; the farmers and occupiers immediately waited on Captain Pechell, at Castle Goring; and decisive measures were taken to frustrate any of the attempts that were made during the disturbances in 1831 and 1832. Warrants were issued, and informations taken against those who had forced others to leave their master's service and his property in danger, and the land occupiers have agreed to discharge all those who voluntarily absconded and joined the mob, and to call in aid and assistance from the adjoining parishes. The labourers, after meeting early on Tuesday morning, soon after separated, and it is to be hoped that the usual quiet will be resumed, as it is clear that the display of their meeting on High Down Hill, to cause the other parishes to join, proved a signal failure. The Earl of Surrey's corps of yeomanry, as well as the mounted guard, were all ready for giving assistance at a moment's notice, which gives great security to all property in that part of the country.

The Diver who saved a Cathedral

Report by Ed Miller

The Group had a fascinating presentation at its May meeting, from Bryan Day, great-grandson of the man who saved Winchester Cathedral from collapse. He was William Walker, a diver, who rebuilt the foundations of this 12th century building which were ten feet under water.

In 1905 the Cathedral Architect reported that unequal subsidence had caused cracks 9 to 10 inches wide were appearing in the walls. The ancient, inadequate foundations were giving way and urgent work was needed to prevent a collapse. On investigation by civil engineers, it was found that the peat and gravel layers some 25 feet below the walls had become thoroughly waterlogged and building any longer without very



could not support the massive substantial reinforcement.

The only way to rebuild the shaft, tunnel under the walls, and start laying building up there was no way of stopping the depth of up to 13 feet of water, laid as a dry mix, in bags, by a

foundations was to sink a remove all the loose material courses of concrete. However, water rising up again: with a the concrete would have to be diver.

The man they sent for was experienced ex-Royal Navy and weighing 14 stone, he weighed another 14 stone. Walker worked for six hours a day, for six years, to get the job done. It took him an hour to get into his diving outfit and another hour to take it off. He had breaks during the day but took off only his helmet, for food, drink and his pipe.

William Walker, a very diver. A big man, six feet tall worked in full diving gear that

Soon after the work was finished and the Cathedral made safe and put back to normal appearance a thanksgiving service was conducted there by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the presence of the new king, George V, who presented him with a silver rose bowl, and later made him a Member of the Royal Victorian Order.

Walker died a few days before the end of the First World War, during which he carried out much important work in raising wrecks and strengthening docks. He had been working hard, under water, just a few days before but fell victim to the 'Spanish Flu' epidemic which killed thousands at that time.

His achievements were celebrated in a BBC programme and, after a long struggle with the cathedral authorities, a fine statue of Walker was placed in the building in 2001

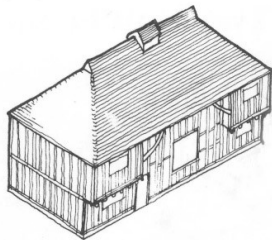
Walnut Tree Cottage

The Ferring boundary, as we know, extends a good 200 yards east of Sea Lane – a quarter of the way into the Goring Gap. Until 1938 that Gap ran right up to the railway line – there was no Goring Way, and roads like Midhurst Drive and Singleton Crescent were not built until the late 1950s. The land formed part of the Goring Hall Estate, put together by David Lyon in 1840 but was divided into an arable farm based on Manor Farm just off Sea Lane and a dairy farm based on buildings near Goring Station. By 1901 this was known as Walnut Tree Farm, and the farm cottage stood at what is now 2 Chatsmore Crescent. Michael Harrison, now living in Oxfordshire, grew up in that cottage and has written a fascinating account of its history. The following extracts are from his full report, in Goring and Worthing library and www.mjfhl.demon.co.uk/walnuttreecottage.html



Walnut Tree Cottage stood about 50 yards south of Goring railway station and on the east side of Goring Street. It was demolished in 1958. Architectural historian David Clark has said that from a study of the photograph the end-stack looks like part of the gable wall, and as the front part of the building has been rendered it may be timber framed (the rear has no rendering and is flint construction). The disposition of doors and windows and the position

of the ridge stack are odd. Overall this suggests that the building may have medieval origins particularly as the south door is off-centre. The tight placing of the upper windows under the



wall-plate suggests that this was the only reasonable position when a floor was inserted into a previously open hall in the style shown in the drawing.¹ That there were two staircases suggests either that there were floored wings at either end of the hall (hence the need for two) or that one derived from the usual division into cottages in the 19th century. If this is right, there may be a lost bay to the left, and one entered via a passage with a large hall to the right and a high-end parlour

with chamber above at the far end. When the hall was floored, a stack was placed at the high end of the hall, also heating the parlour.

¹ The sketch of a hall house above is reproduced by kind permission of Professor RW Brunskill, author of *Vernacular Architecture, an Illustrated Handbook*

In 1839, the earliest record available, Thomas Manfield Halliday was identified as the owner, the cottage being occupied by Thomas Belchamber. It might be reasonable to assume that Halliday owned the farm as a whole. He came from Petworth, and also owned land in Thakeham and Washington. Two years later, the 1841 census revealed that Thomas Belchamber was in occupation. He was aged 55 and was born in Littlehampton. He was living with his children Maryann, Charles, and Sarah. By 1851 the census revealed that Belchamber, then recorded as age 62, was farming 25 acres and employing seven labourers. He lived in the cottage with his wife Catherine, aged 51, and daughter Sarah, aged 24. Richard Howell, who did the research, says that seven labourers seems a lot just for 25 acres. Perhaps he had some other occupation, as did many small farmers. In confirmation, the Post Office Directories of 1851 and 1855 list Thomas Bellchamber, farmer and beer retailer and



William Carpenter, bricklayer, who was to have a long association at this address.

The photograph, left, was taken from Goring Street. The entrance to the farm and part of the farm buildings can be seen on the right.

By 1861 the Belchamber family had gone and the cottage was occupied by William Carpenter, builder, with his wife Ellen 49, son Frederick 21, builder, and James Kruger 25, lodger, described as independent: just a few years later in 1867 Kellys Directory listed Charles Carpenter, bricklayer, and William Carpenter, bricklayer. Carpenter was still there in 1871 but by then he had lost his wife, for he is described as a widower. By 1891 Carpenter is still based in the cottage and he is now aged 78. He is described as a farmer. Perhaps Carpenter's son took over the running of the building business and his father looked after the farm in his retirement – at 7 ½ acres it does not seem to have been a very big farm but perhaps he kept a few cattle and sold any surplus milk around the neighbourhood. Of course, Worthing was expanding rapidly at that time so there would have been a ready demand.

By 1901 William Carpenter was probably dead. The census of that year names the farm as Walnut Tree Farm and gives the occupants as Cornelius Mahoney 61, farmer from Co Cork, Ellen Mahoney 58 and son Joseph 26, worker on the farm. Mahoney's name finds a place in the 1905 Kellys Directory where he is listed as a farmer, but there is no mention of his wife and Mahoney is still there in 1914, according to the Worthing & District Local Directory. Indeed there is a still Mahoney occupying "Walnut Tree House & Farm" in 1926, but it is Mrs C Mahoney, her husband being presumably dead by then. This is revealed in a schedule within the legal papers relating to the sale of the Goring Hall Estate. A map details the fields leased by the farm, totalling 22 acres in all.

In 1931 the occupant was Walter Burton, bailiff to George Harrison² of Chatsmore House. The farm was run by Roderick Hartcup, dairy farmer but by 1938 Archibald William Palmer³ 'dairy farmer of Walnut Tree Farm' was living in the cottage. 'In 1942', (says Michael), 'aged 10, I moved into the cottage together with my parents. Our family had no connection with the farm, and by 1948 we had moved to Goring Way.

'Walnut Tree Cottage stood adjacent to Goring railway station, separated by a small field—just grass and weeds. The house stood at right-angles to the road. On its east side was an embankment built in preparation for a bridge over the railway, with work suspended during the war. The embankment now carries the A259, but back then the only thing there was a Bofors anti-aircraft gun: I, then a boy of 10 years, was ordered by the soldiers to keep well away.

'Frederick and Nellie Fowler moved into the cottage in 1949. He remained there until 1956. The last occupant of Walnut Tree Cottage was Frank Brook. He was there for two years until 1958 and the demolition of the cottage. In 1960 Chatsmore Crescent was built upon the track that led to the entrance to the farm and is now lined with new houses.

'The signal box by the crossing has gone, as have the cottages on the west side of the road. Now the whole country character of that part of Goring has completely disappeared. One thing remains, the lower part of Walnut Tree Cottage's flint garden walls which now front the flats of Campbell Court. They were originally some 10 feet high. We had many chickens which roamed the garden, and a good potato crop. The cottage was adjacent to the small dairy farm which had a field for the cows alongside Goring Street, reaching south to the main road. Often for breakfast I enjoyed creamy milk directly from the dairy'.

Ferring in the Forties

Report by Eileen Godfrey

The August meeting recently listened to Ed Miller's interesting talk of life in Ferring during the war and immediately afterwards. Development in Ferring had started in the village on land which had belonged to the Henty family but had ceased with the outbreak of World War II in 1939. These were mainly bungalows: there were also six large residences built on the seafront but Milbury House is now the only one surviving. Many people stayed at Ferring Grange Hotel to escape the London bombings. Some army officers also stayed there and just after the war popular dances were held there but a fire broke out in 1946, destroying a large portion of the building.

In September 1939 a temporary school was set up in the Village Hall to accommodate one hundred evacuees. The log book of that time tells of the difficulty in obtaining text books and the very cold winter of early 1940. Air raid drills trained the children to quickly go to the trench shelter at the back of the Hall. Most of these children stayed in Ferring just a few months, returning to their London homes when the expected air raids did not materialise, and after Dunkirk the south coast not the safest place to be when invasion threatened. Entrances to the beach were closed off and mines were laid in what is now Patterson's Walk. Troops were billeted in the Tudor Close pub and in empty houses, while the Bluebird Café became their canteen. In 1941 five soldiers and a machine gun were placed in the newly built pillbox on the sea front while the Home Guard assisted the regular army in patrolling the beach. Then Canadian troops arrived: many took part in the Dieppe Raid and D Day.

² Harrison had lived in this house, opposite the cottage, for many years and was farming 127 acres out of the Goring Hall estate within the Ferring boundary.

³ Palmer was also farming the arable land, out of Manor Farm, Ferring.

The *Worthing Herald* reported that training was taking place for fire watchers on how to use stirrup pumps. In March 1941, a High Explosive bomb was dropped on South Ferring, destroying a house in what is now Sea Lane Gardens, killing two and injuring another two. Many houses in the area suffered damage for which they claimed compensation after the war. A radar station on Highdown Hill was able to detect low-flying aircraft and ships at sea.

A few years ago, resident Ken Browne had discovered some amateur radio equipment in his loft. The wartime owner of his house was a radio ham who had been recruited by the Intelligence Service to listen to coded German messages which he would then post to Bletchley Park for de-coding.

The war over, social and business life began to return to normal, but food and other materials were still rationed and restrictions on building meant that pre-war plans for more housing developments were put on hold. The holiday trade picked up once more. People stayed at Greystoke Manor 'Country House' Hotel and Home Farm Private Hotel. Caravans on two sites and holiday bungalows were let out. Several tea rooms including the famous Bluebird Café, increased their trade. Postcards of the time tell us that holiday makers were engaged in tennis and riding as well as visits to the beach.

In 1946, what is now the Village Green was acquired from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for housing but no housing was built for ten years and it became a much needed recreational area. Little Twitten was acquired in 1948 by compulsory purchase and eventually became a cricket pitch with a children's playground in one corner. What is now known as the Glebelands was still in private ownership and was not acquired by the Parish Council until 1953.

Ed said that farming was still important to the economy of the village. The Penfold family farmed the land that is now Ferring Country Centre. Mrs Guest, in the house called Wookyi-Tipi, kept a few cows and what is now Midhurst Drive and Singleton Crescent was all farmland. There were nurseries all along the Littlehampton Road, tomatoes from this area becoming famous throughout the land.



Tim Baldwin ended the evening by showing on the big screen a collection of postcards dating from the forties, including one of the police officer at the site of the railway tragedy. People in the audience recognised the scenes and buildings and were able to add more information about residents and events. Mrs Angela Horne (nee Benton) told us how her grandfather bought Home Farm and developed a building materials business, 'Edward Benton & Co.

Ltd', (now Benton Weatherstone Ltd) while Jim Jenkins related his memories of his grandparents' haulage business off Sea Lane. An old resident, Mr Duke talked about his grandfather planting the trees on Highdown before the Great Storm in the 1890s, his own memories watching gliders being towed over to Normandy on D Day and about the Ferring Grange fire of 1946, whose smoke and ruins he saw the next day.

The Sussex Bonfire Societies

Report by Eileen Godfrey

Keith Leech gave an interesting talk at our November meeting, on, appropriately enough, the Sussex Bonfire Societies. He explained how bonfires had always been part of celebrations in the Middle Ages when people were always glad to break the monotony of their hard-working lives. Religious feast days were not just for going to church but also for celebrating when fires were lit as part of the festivities.

Keith then gave a summary of the Reformation in order to show that there was eventually a decline in the celebration of religious feasts in England. Once Henry VIII had broken with Rome, subsequent monarchs established Protestantism. During the reign of Henry's young son, Edward VI, the new ideas from the Continent spread across the land and many Catholic practices ceased. His half sister, Queen Mary Tudor restored Catholicism for a short time and was responsible for the burning of people she considered heretics, seventeen being executed in Lewes. The next monarch, Elizabeth I was very much against any connection with the Roman Church because of fear of invasion from the strongly Catholic Spain and retaliated by the execution of many who refused to conform to the newly established Church of England.

After the death of Elizabeth, James VI of Scotland inherited the throne and became James I of England, the first of the Stuart Kings. It was during his reign that Robert Catesby led a group of conspirators in that famous incident we now call the Gunpowder Plot. The group enlisted the help of Guy Fawkes who had served as a soldier in the Spanish Netherlands and was considered an expert in explosives. They conspired to blow up the Houses of Parliament in the hope of restoring a Catholic monarch to the throne. An undercroft was rented in Westminster which actually reached under the House of Lords. It was here that sixty barrels were stored, each barrel containing one hundred pounds of gun powder.

The 4th Baron Monteagle received a letter warning him not to go to Parliament the next day. The wording made him suspicious and so the plot was discovered. All the conspirators were rounded up. Guy Fawkes and others were hanged, drawn and quartered. The 5th November became a national day of celebration with effigies of the Pope and Guy Fawkes being burned.

When the Puritan Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector of England after being instrumental in the execution of Charles I, he made great changes to English law, not allowing any celebration of religious feasts, including Christmas, but with one exception: England was to continue with the annual celebration of the execution of Guy Fawkes on the 5th November.

At the height of popularity, these celebrations were rowdy affairs. On one occasion, the Militia was called to quash them, as the authorities were worried about political unrest. This infuriated the locals who dressed up in smugglers costume with black and white striped jerseys and blackened face. Any witness asked to describe a perpetrator would say *"He was wearing a striped jersey and had a blackened face."* This is still a phrase used humorously in recent years.

Crime and Punishment

Richard Standing, the historian of East Preston sent us a note of these two newspaper reports:

Sussex Advertiser

Publication date: Tuesday 09 July 1844

West Sussex Sessions

Before Mr Sergeant D'Oyly

Stephen Mitchell, labourer, 39, charged with stealing, at the parish of Ferring, on the 29th day of May last, two hen's eggs, value 2d, the property of Thomas Trussler, his master. A former conviction was put in. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to four calendar months hard labour.

Sussex Advertiser

Publication date: Tuesday 22 October 1850

West Sussex Michaelmas Sessions

[Before R. Paine]

William Holmes (on bail) was charged with stealing on the 21st day of June last, at the parish of Ferring, half a bushel of boulders, value 1d, the property of John Eede Butt. Mr Johnson conducted the prosecution. One calendar month hard labour.

Ron Kerridge

It was sad to hear of the death of Ron Kerridge last summer. Ron was co-author of *Ferring Past* and many other books on Worthing and other local history and gave three talks to Ferring History Group between 2001 and 2011. The last one was a very entertaining, but thorough, history of the with it through time. The learned but light-hearted, trusting (passing around the other rare items). Ron gave *Ferring Past*



Ron lived in Sussex all his life, and represented the county in athletics and football. He was a considerable athlete, having run over 100 marathons. Always interested in local history, he only took up formal study of it late in life, and in 1989, at the age of 52, he was awarded an MA in Regional History. This talented man is greatly missed. *EM*

penny and what you could buy approach was typical of the man: serious and witty, generous and audience valuable coins and us all his research notes for

life, and represented the county was a considerable athlete, marathons. Always interested in up formal study of it late in life, 52, he was awarded an MA in cheerful, friendly, modest and

Christmas Social and the Worthing Journal

Report by Eileen Godfrey

The Ferring History Group met for their Christmas Social when they enjoyed a festive buffet and a talk by Paul Holden, editor of the Worthing Journal. Paul recalled details of his time as a journalist in Sussex working on the *Sentinel* for the Argus. When this ceased publication, Paul launched a similar publication – and so the Worthing Journal was born bearing a title which had been in use in the 1930s.

This smart glossy publication has blossomed in the two years of its life. The ‘*Did You Know*’ section is popular, recalling past events from newspapers over 200 years. Present day events are recorded, including the Jubilee street party stretching from Heene Road to Splash Point. Although marred somewhat by the rain, this was an ambitious endeavour, organised by Paul himself.

Paul talked about his various initiatives including the annual 'Oranges and Lemons Flingathon' commemorating an event when the beach was covered with these fruits when a ship shed its load. A similar disaster in recent years resulted in tons of wood landing on our beach from the *Ice Prince*. Now the Mayor starts off the proceedings by hitting an orange with a wooden cricket bat! This event fund-raises for Laura Jones, our local teenager who has every chance of being in the next Paralympics; Paul also campaigned for the purchase of the flags we see fluttering on the seafront which were bought with the help of his readers. His other initiatives include the cleaning up of Worthing Cemetery, where many historically important people are buried and the campaign for a children's playground, eventually sited at the west end of the seafront. Paul is also passionate about the campaign to reinstate the term *Sunny Worthing* in advertising material to attract visitors to our town.

He said the decline in printed newspapers and journals because of the Internet and to some extent the public's reaction to the Leveson Report, put the future of journalism in jeopardy but at the meeting there was great support for this Journal as most members of the History Group already subscribe to it

A Slaughterhouse on Sea Lane?

By Ed Miller

The owners of East Ferring House showed History Group Committee members over their very old house last Summer. From the outside it looks like a typical Georgian gentleman's



house but inside there are obviously older features and there is a cellar which may date from the first Elizabethan era (who would rebuild a cellar?). At this time the house was known as 'Shamblers' and this suggests a slaughterhouse or butcher's shop. The cellar in this house has a large stone shelf along three walls and a drainage channel running from them and across the stone floor to an outside drain. Might this have been used for butchery or even the village slaughterhouse?

It is tempting to think so, although we know from Probate Inventories that many of the houses of that period had equipment for salting and preserving meat, and for laundry, and some had cellars where some of these items were kept. Unfortunately no inventories have survived for any of the owners of this particular house. Nor is any kind of butchery equipment, or anything to do with cattle farming, mentioned in any of the wills of three generations of the Snelling family who lived there all through the 17th Century. They were a wealthy family and very unlikely to have been running a meat business.

And where would their customers have come from? There were probably four or five tenant farmers with any cattle or sheep in Ferring in the 17th Century and they would have been perfectly capable of slaughtering their own animals. Some villagers with smallholdings, or 'garden plots', would have kept one or two pigs, and again would have been capable of killing them and cutting up the carcass. Farm labourers did not earn enough to eat meat on a regular basis.

The final objection comes from the subterranean location. How would anyone have persuaded cows to go down steps into basement? How would the floor have been kept clear of offal, blood and waste products? Who would want to live above such a cellar?

House names can be very meaningful for local historians but they can be very misleading too. The current name of this house suggests that it was the manor house of the old East Ferring Manor. But this is not so: this house was definitely in the main manor (West Ferring) and the manor house of East Ferring Manor was almost certainly the old Manor Farm House, on the other side of the road. The name 'Shamblers' may be equally misleading.

OUR HISTORY GROUP

Membership: Annual subscription £10 (£15 for a couple) gives free entry to the quarterly meetings, this Newsletter and e mail news of other events and other local history groups. Non-members pay £3 per meeting.

The Committee: Chairman – Tim Baldwin, Secretary – Ed Miller, Treasurer – Peter Bentley: other members – Adge Roberts, Hugh and Janet Faithfull, David Garnett, Eileen Godfrey. Volunteers to join the Committee are always welcome.

Meetings

13 December 2013: **Christmas Social**

7 February: **Life on the Mary Rose** by Trevor Sapey

9 May: **Trams in Sussex** by Ian Gledhill

1 August: **A History of Tarring** by Christopher Green

7 November: **The Gunpowder Plot** by Lizzie and Tony Gilks

12 December 2014 – **Christmas Social**

Other events: (details to be announced at meetings and by e mail: join our e mail list)

January – New Year Walk

June – another David Bone talk on gravestones and building stones in St Andrew's Church

August – Coach visit to Preston Manor (Brighton).

October – Broadwater Cemetery with Christopher Green

A full programme of meetings will be arranged for 2015.

Research: There is still a great deal to do to build up our knowledge of Ferring's past – from ancient times to recent decades. There is a great deal of material in the County Record Office in Chichester, but also in Worthing Library – especially 20th Century material in the form of old newspapers on microfilm, maps and street directories. If you would like to get involved, or if you would like some help in researching the history of your house, please contact the Secretary on 01903 502267.