



The  
**BULLETIN**  
of the  
**EAST GRINSTEAD**  
**SOCIETY.**

No.14

May 1974

T H E   E A S T   G R I N S T E A D   S O C I E T Y

The Society was founded in April 1968 to protect and improve the amenities of East Grinstead and its environs. The town has a long history and a unique architectural heritage, and represents a trust placed for the time being in the hands of our generation. It should be our concern to ensure that such contributions as we in our turn make are worthy of the past and a fitting bequest to the future.

The Society arranges regular meetings for talks, discussions, films and visits to local places of interest. It produces a Bulletin of its news and articles of local interest three times a year. In May 1969 it produced a special report on the High Street Conservation Area which was well received as the basis for formulating future policy. In 1972 it held a well attended Local History Exhibition and in 1973 an exhibition, 'Discover Your Town', looking from the present to the future. It is also very active in making representations to the local authorities on planning matters. With the re-organisation of local government its importance as a local watchdog can only increase.

MEMBERSHIP

The strength of such a society lies in the extent to which it can be seen to represent public opinion: the larger its membership the greater its influence will be. The subscription is 75 n.p. p.a. (additional members in the same family 25 n.p.), to be renewed on 1 January every year, except by those joining at or after the previous year's A.G.M. Subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer, Barclays Bank, East Grinstead.

If subscriptions have not been received by 31 January reminders will be sent. If they have still not been received by 28 February final reminders will be sent in May instead of the Bulletin. If there is still no response membership will be cancelled.

The Society is registered as a charity. A copy of its constitution is available on request to the Secretary or Treasurer.

PRESIDENT        I.D.MARGARY, M.A., F.S.A.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman        M.J.LEPPARD, M.A., Sackville School, East Grinstead.  
 Vice-Chairman  
 Treasurer      R.G.COOPER, Barclays Bank, High Street, East Grinstead.  
 Secretary      Mrs J.CREIGHTMORE, Owletts House, Hammerwood Road,  
                   Ashurst Wood (Forest Row 3566)

R.H.ADDERLEY; C.W.GOOLDEN; Mrs K.INGWERSEN; D.G.Jefferies (Meetings Secretary); C.W.LEWIS; S.PAGE, R.I.B.A.; Councillor Mrs T. VALLANCE; P.D.WOOD.

PUBLICATIONS

Matter for the Bulletin should be sent to Mr M.J.Leppard, Sackville School, East Grinstead, from whom also the Society's publications may be obtained (see list on p.10).

Unsigned contributions are the work of the Editor and officers. Opinions expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of anyone but their authors.

CORRESPONDENCE

Applications for membership, subscriptions and notices of change of address should be sent to the Treasurer, suggestions for the Society's activities and all other correspondence to the Secretary. Details of the Society's current programme and a statement of its objects with form of application for membership may be obtained from either.

EDITORIAL

Your Committee and Editor have decided to end the experiment of issuing occasional Newsletters, for they have not proved so convenient to produce as expected and attendance at meetings appears to have suffered from lack of separate notice. Please note that all correspondence concerning the Society's publications should now be addressed to Mr M.J.Leppard, Sackville School, East Grinstead.

OFFICERS

The Committee appointed the following in November:

TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mr R.G.Cooper, Barclays Bank, High Street (27555)

GENERAL SECRETARY: Mrs J.Creightmore, Owletts House, Hammerwood Road, Ashurst Wood (Forest Row 3566)

MEETINGS SECRETARY: Mr D.G.Jefferies, 36 Portland Road (24775)

CHAIRMAN: At the Committee meeting on 17 April Mr B.C.Thompson announced that he would have to relinquish the Chairmanship on taking up a post in the North in May. The Committee elected in his place Mr M.J.Leppard, who took up the post of Head of the Divinity Department at Sackville School at the start of the Summer Term and hopes to move into the town soon. Our very sincere thanks to Mr Thompson for his enthusiastic leadership and willing giving of so much of his time to promoting our concerns.

M E E T I N G S

WATERMILLS were the subject of a fascinating illustrated talk by Mr B.Woodrow, the enthusiastic founder of the Haxted Watermill Museum, on 21 November. All who have not yet done so are urged to visit Haxted which is on the Lingfield - Edenbridge road.

RYE AND WINCHELSEA were lovingly described and illustrated by Mr W.H. Dyer on 6 February.

ASPECTS OF CONSERVATION AND URBAN DESIGN, with a particularly extensive range of illustrations, was the subject of Mr D.Langridge's well attended talk on 20 March.

NEXT MEETING: 8 p.m. on Wednesday 22 May, Small Parish Hall: MEMBERS' MEETING, in the sense that everyone is asked to bring some object, picture, document or thought of local interest and to spend a few minutes sharing it with his fellow-members. No-one will be forced to contribute, nor will 'expertise' be looked for, but we believe that many members have some souvenir or memory or concern of local interest that others would be glad to share.

SUMMER OUTING: A Saturday visit to Lingfield is being prepared.

THE COMMITTEE met on 7 November, 5 December, 23 January, 6 March and 17 April. Next meeting: 5 June.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions were raised to 75 n.p. p.a. (extra members in family still 25 n.p.) at the Extra-ordinary General Meeting on 21 November and were due for renewal on 1 January, except by those who joined at or after our last A.G.M. Paid-up membership is now 243.

COVER PICTURE

The cover picture shows the North side of the High Street in 1864. In the foreground is Haywards printing works, referred to on p.9.

A C T I V I T I E S

1974 EXHIBITION: This year's Exhibition will be of old-established local industries, from Monday 22 July to Saturday 27 at a place to be arranged. Offers of material (objects, pictures, documents, recollections) and assistance with manning the Exhibition to its organiser, Mr C.W.Goolden, 'Top End', Felcourt (Dormans Park 274), or to Mr P.D. Wood, 29 High Street. In the past the Society has gained a great deal of favourable publicity from its exhibitions but it must be emphasised that they do not run themselves and that every member should try at least to volunteer for an hour's stewarding. Further details at our next meeting.

LISTED BUILDINGS (see Bulletin 11, p.9): After wide-ranging discussion of a large number of buildings we have recommended to the Department of the Environment the listing of 39 High Street (18th century brick walls, fine contemporary chimney stack, panelling), 90 High Street (characterful lock-up and police house, c.1830), Green Hedges Cottage (?18th century, town's first cottage hospital and nation's fifth) and the 'Bowbells' milestones. We have also drawn the Department's attention to the merits of 43-49 High Street (?17th century, good Victorian shopfront), 55-59 High Street (old bits), 1 Church Lane, 7-13 Ship Street, King George's Field Water Tower (c. 1910, notably early re-inforced concrete), Playfield Water Tower (1914), Cemetery Chapels (1869), Frampost (18th century), Barton St Mary (1906, Lutyens) and Cluttons Offices (1903).

TREES: From the suggestions received at and after the last exhibition we recommended to the U.D.C. the planting of trees at Wray Close, Woodbury Close, Radio Centre Car Park, Christopher Road next to Telephone Rental House, Cranston Road/Blackwell Road junction, West side of Vicarage Car Park, edge of Playfield opposite school, King George's Field (by buildings and along path), Lingfield Road Recreation Ground and Cantelupe Road in front of office blocks.

CONSERVATION AREA: We have suggested to the County Council the extension of the Conservation Area to include Hermitage Lane as far as the Hermitage, 7-15 Ship Street and the Rocklands site (College Lane/Lewes Road junction).

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH: The Society has agreed to frame the aerial photograph used at our last Exhibition and to present it to the Public Library.

REMINISCENCES: Nearly all copies of the Society's recent booklet of Reminiscences have been sold, making a small profit to be put to the cost of future publications, but orders may still be sent to the Treasurer (20 n.p. + 4 n.p. postage). The volume has been well received and we are flattered by an attempt to copy it at Seaford.

NEXT BULLETIN: Our next Bulletin will appear in September and will include a review of W.H.Hills's History and a memoir of the author. Contributions to Mr M.J.Leppard, Sackville School, by 19 July.

THE HERMITAGE: At a special meeting on 17 October between some of our Committee and the Hermitage Action Group it was resolved to support the Group in its plans for the communal use of the buildings and immediate surroundings. The project has since been adopted by a housing association and recommended to the Mid-Sussex Council by the U.D.C. Further information from Mr S.Page, 2 Bedford Terrace, Tunbridge Wells.

MEMBER'S LETTER

A COVERED MARKET?

After all the discussion about the covered swimming pool what about a covered market? The Saturday market is very popular but could possibly be better if covered. What about using the new Queens Walk (to Sainsbury's) for market stalls?

B.C.THOMPSON

EAST GRINSTEAD'S HISTORIANS (continued)

Our last two Bulletins have carried a review of J.C.Stenning's Notes on East-Grinstead in Sussex Archaeological Collections, vol.20 (1868) and an account of earlier work on the town's history. The next development came in 1885 with the fullest local guide ever issued, W.R.Pepper's History and Guide to East Grinstead and Its Environs (reviewed below), and a new edition of J.C.Stenning's Notes, revised and enlarged by Alan H.Stenning of Halsford and published at the Sussex Advertiser Office, Lewes. It omits the illustrations and subsidy lists but reprints Stenning's text with additional scraps of information, including recent public improvements, and a map.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND ITS ENVIRONS

by P.D.Wood

This little history and guide was published by Farncombe & Co. of Lewes, proprietors of the East Grinstead Observer. Most copies were paper covered but some were bound in green cloth with title and drawings of local features blocked in black and gold. There are numerous drawings by Pepper in the text, of considerable topographical interest.

The historical content is not of great value. Most of the material can be found in a fuller and more accurate form in Stenning's Notes or Hills's History of East Grinstead (1906), although the occasional snippet is both unique and valuable.

The author's style is repellent; the reader is constantly assailed with bad puns, inverted commas, exclamation marks and quotations inset in small type. It is all as arch and tiresome to read as our present day smart journalism will be in another hundred years.

The real value of the book is not so much in what it tells us about the past as in the light that it sheds on the attitudes and environment of 1885 from the numerous advertisements, from Pepper's drawings and from the author's asides. On Blackwell Hollow: No more 'enjoyable place for a stroll on a summer's evening can be found ... . The Local Board would render good service in providing a few gas lamps, especially when it is not moonlight.' On Ash-down Forest: 'It seems sad, when we pause and look round upon the vast expanse of uncultivated ground, that it should not be put to some more useful purpose.' In praise of the Local Board: 'The roads are undergoing a careful supervision; a water cart is in constant use during the dry days; the pavements are to be put into thorough order'; the drainage 'culminates in a Sewage Farm, where excellent results are realized.' There are many tales of local characters and many subservient references to local landowners.

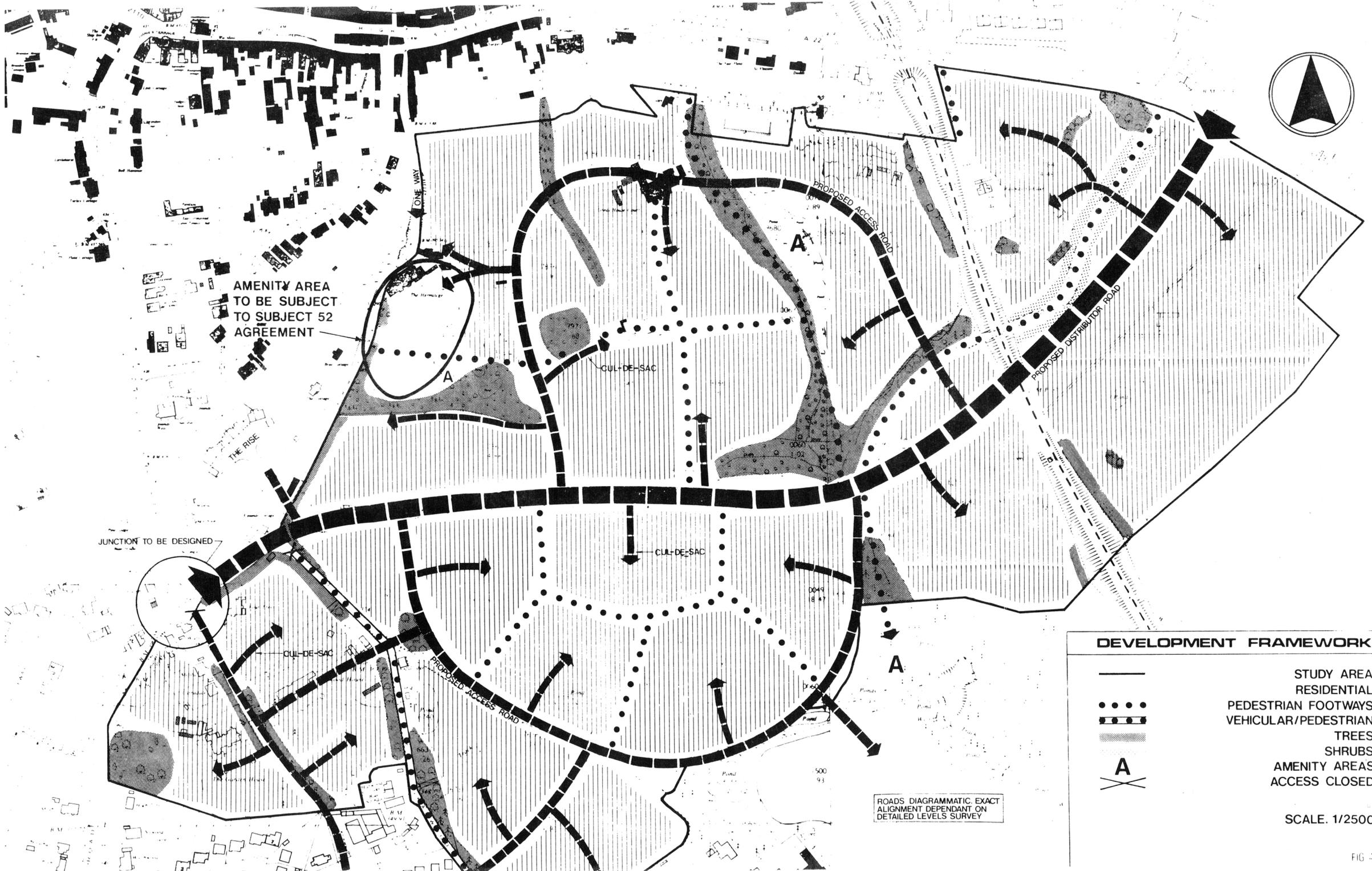
The second half of the book is devoted to detailed directions for country walks within five or six miles of the town, making great use of the new railway lines. It would be a fascinating exercise to walk all these routes today.

The book has not much value as a work of reference but it is well worth reading for its incidental interest and, if you can put up with the style, for entertainment. It is scarce and rarely turns up in bookshops but there are copies in Barbican House and the County Record Office in Lewes. Until recently there was one in the East Grinstead Branch Library, and may there soon be one there again.

NOTE that Pepper's drawings have been used in our Bulletins 4,5,6,7 and 8 and advertisements in 6,7 and 10. It is curious that nothing seems to be known of Pepper, but perhaps some reader can enlighten us?

Following the Exhibition in the town the Committee made the following points to the County Surveyor:

1. The different method of measuring the traffic flow from that used in the 1972 exhibition was misleading.



AMENITY AREA  
TO BE SUBJECT  
TO SUBJECT 52  
AGREEMENT

JUNCTION TO BE DESIGNED

ROADS DIAGRAMMATIC EXACT  
ALIGNMENT DEPENDANT ON  
DETAILED LEVELS SURVEY

**DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

-  STUDY AREA
-  RESIDENTIAL PEDESTRIAN FOOTWAYS
-  VEHICULAR/PEDESTRIAN
-  TREES
-  SHRUBS
-  AMENITY AREAS
-  ACCESS CLOSED

SCALE. 1/2500

Shortly before Christmas the East Sussex County Planning Office published its planning brief for the Hermitage and Herontye area. It deals with about 90 acres of land in all, bounded by Lewes Road on the north east, Dunnings Road and Hermitage Lane on the west, the High Street and Fairfield Road on the north and Herontye mansion on the south.

The plan opposite is reproduced from the brief and shows the official ideas on road pattern, footpaths, development areas, tree preservation and so forth. The Hermitage and about two acres round it are reserved as an amenity area: no detailed proposals for treatment have been made.

Programming is

- 0-3 years: Areas N.E. of old railway line and S.W. of Harwoods Lane,
- 2-5 years: Main block of Herontye land between railway and Harwoods Lane, south of distributor road,
- 3-5 years: Hermitage and Great House Court lands, north of distributor road.

Gross average density for the whole area is laid down at 7.5 dwellings per acre, but uniform density is not envisaged. Harwoods Lane will remain as at present; new access to it will not be allowed. Other footpaths include the present front drive of Herontye and, ultimately, the old railway line.

P.D.WOOD

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THE BYPASS

Following the Exhibition in the town the Committee made the following points to the County Surveyor:

1. The different method of measuring the traffic flow from that used in the 1972 exhibition was misleading.
2. No information was given about the northern end of the Bypass.
3. There was no indication how the Bypass fitted into the South Eastern Planning Strategy or the Crawley/Gatwick Structure Plan.
4. The Wych Cross junction is too large in both schemes.
5. All three schemes for the West Hoathly road are unsatisfactory; its closure would force traffic onto other, less suitable, roads.

We also asked for more details of the junction of the link road with the Inner Relief Road and existing roads and of the plans for the East Grinstead - Tunbridge Wells roads.

The County replied that Surrey County Council is carrying out feasibility studies on the northern end of the Bypass including a link to the M23 and connection with the A22. The Bypass is to be 'fed into' the Crawley/Gatwick Structure Plan as an existing commitment. The Inner Relief Road will be slightly modified at the southern end of Station Road so that the link roads can be directly connected into the system. Holtye Road is to be improved by West Sussex County Council with re-alignment at Hammerwood.

M.J.LEPPARD

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LOCAL REFERENCES IN SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS (continued)

- Vol.25 (1874) p.161 E.G. Assizes, 17 June 1676
- p.186 ditto, 28 March 1720; Nathaniel Moore, 1719
- p.178 E.G. Fair, 30 Nov.1716, 30 Oct.1717



GONE - AND NEVER CALLED ME CONSERVATIONIST! This much-loved view from the top of Blackwell Hollow disappeared under the new Estcots Estate in the Year of the Tree.

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#### BARBERISM

The Rev. Douglas Yeoman Blakiston, M.A., Vicar of East Grinstead 1871-1908, was, as Hills tells us, a grandson of Sir Mathew Blakiston, second Baronet, and great-grandson of one of London's Lord Mayors. He studied for a time at the Royal Academy and was a silver medallist. Those who recall the small organ once at the east end of the north aisle will remember also the decoration of the pipes done most handsomely, chiefly in red and gold, by the Vicar himself.

He was not unaware of personal importance. He neglected somewhat the Scriptures' instruction to suffer fools gladly: and once at least the fools scored. A barber in the town, not notable for a sense of humour, displayed the usual sign of his trade: and one night the pole disappeared. A minor crime, but very soon there went to the Vicarage an indignant letter in the barber's name accusing the Vicar of the theft. Discretion covers a painful sequel. What remains in view is an example, and not the only one, of the local joker's acute assessment of character and satanic aptitude for setting them by the ears.

R.H.WOOD

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REMINISCENCES: Our recent booklet of Reminiscences has prompted some more, though not yet enough for a second volume. Even brief recollections will be welcome or further light on what we have already been told. Perhaps someone, for example, has heard about a fire at a baker's in the early 1890's, recalled by Mrs Jelley of Swindon, or recalls clay-pipe making in Cranston Road? Any contributions to Mr M.J. Leppard, Sackville School.

PRINTERS AND PRINTING IN EAST GRINSTEAD

by M.J.Leppard

These notes are intended to supply some background information to the lists on p.10 of this Bulletin. Corrections and supplementary details will be gladly received for future publication.

Our first recorded printer, in the Universal British Directory, c.1792, is Thomas Palmer, who had come here in 1775 to be Master of Payne's School. He also acted as Postmaster, chemist, stationer and pen-cutter. The latter part of the business passed, at his death in 1826, to his son William (died 1861), then to Thomas Jackson Palmer (died 1883) and then to W.H.Dixon, who had joined it in 1878 and in whose name it is still carried on in the original premises by the Church. But the printing passed to another son, also Thomas (1775-1844), with the school, to which he added the Wardenship of Sackville College in 1813 and the secretaryship of the Savings Bank in 1819. In 1802 'Palmer and Son' printed an account of the Wall Hill mail robbery. Earlier work had included a long versified advertisement in 1797 and a verse directory of the town in 1799.

The printing business then passed to John Smith (died 1862), auctioneer and manager of the Lewes Bank, who operated it at 1-2 High Street. His clerk James Hayward succeeded him in it, adding the postmastership in c.1869, while William Rudge took over the auctioneer's business and the bank. After her husband's death in 1875 Mrs Hayward ran the 'Mediaeval Printing Works' until Frederick Maplesden came to the town in 1884 and took it over. He ran it until the premises were demolished for an extension of Lloyds Bank in c.1919. To the usual posters, reports, etc, the Haywards had added the East Grinstead and Hartfield parish magazines and the ambitious ventures listed overleaf. Maplesden's '42nd edition' presumably implies that the serious of almanacks had been begun by Smith.

Meanwhile in 1870 John Tully, a chemist, had set up his Glen Vue Printing Works at the top of Railway Approach (then called Glen Vue), ultimately taken over by W.H.Dixon. When Farncombe & Co. of Lewes started the East Grinstead Observer in 1881 with a press in London Road (since disused) they had two rivals. Edward Steer had added a printing works at 1 Moat Terrace to the family builder's business and later produced several local directories (see Bulletin 11, p.12) and Prosser & Co. had set up at 50 London Road. Mr. Prosser's daughter married his assistant H.W.Cullen who succeeded to the business and removed it to Cantelupe Road where it flourished until recently.

LOCAL HISTORY NOTES

U.D.C. RECORDS: In reply to our enquiry Mr Jones, Clerk to the late U.D.C., stated that the records no longer required locally after re-organisation had already gone to the West Sussex Archive Office at Chichester and were to be made available in the town for the use of the local history classes starting later this year.

THE WEST SUSSEX ARCHIVES SOCIETY has recently been formed to stimulate interest in historical records and their preservation and to translate that interest into practice. Basic subscription £1 p.a. Further information from G.E.Thompson (membership secretary), 43 Lancing Park, Lancing.

THE SUSSEX FAMILY HISTORIAN, September 1973 number, containing the additions and corrections to East Grinstead's published parish register (mentioned in our last issue) may be obtained from Mr M.J.Burchall, 2/33 Sussex Square, Brighton at 25 n.p. + 5 n.p. postage. The Group aims to co-ordinate research and transcription of records and to maintain a library and index. Ordinary membership at £2.50 p.a. would seem a wise investment for anyone undertaking local genealogical research. (Magazine only £1.)

A FIRST LIST OF EAST GRINSTEAD ALMANACKS, &c.

These almanacks are not guides or directories but they contain advertisements and other local information as well as calendar and general notes so they are an important source for local history. A copy of the first is at the Parish Church, the rest are in private hands.

- 1 1871 Tully's Illustrated Historic Almanack and General Advertiser for 1871  
John Tully, printer and publisher, Glen Vue Printing Works, Dec.1870, 1d. (Evidently intended to be first of series)
- 2 1872 Hayward's Household Almanack and Local Directory for 1872  
1d.
- 3 1896 Maplesden's East Grinstead and District Household Almanack, Diary and Trade Advertiser
- 4 1897 the same '42nd edition' Cover picture of works

Though a collection of 'advertising features' rather than an almanack there may well be added

- 1912 East Grinstead and Forest Row Illustrated Pictorial Trade Record, Sept.1912 'established 1900'

A FIRST LIST OF EAST GRINSTEAD NEWSPAPERS

I have not seen any copies of the first four but have noted evidence for their existence. News of surviving copies would be welcome, as would additions to the list of almanacks.

- 1/1869/ Hayward's Monthly Illustrated Journal, 1d.  
(Copy reported in East Grinstead Observer, 1955; cuttings in Crawford scrapbook in County Record Office)
- 2/1878/ The Sussex Echo, Mrs. Hayward  
(Notices of intended publication 2 April and discontinuance 11 May in scrapbook at Sackville College)
- 3/1881 The East Grinstead Times, Prosser & Co.  
(Noted by East Grinstead Observer in publicity map, c.1959)
- 4/1881/ The Southern Free Press, Edward Steer  
(Noted ditto)
- 5/1881- The East Grinstead Observer, Farncombe & Co.

For the printers and publishers of these works see the article on p.9 of this Bulletin.

M.J.LEPPARD

EAST GRINSTEAD SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS: The following may be obtained from Mr M.J.Leppard, Sackville School, East Grinstead, as available, at prices indicated + postage extra:

BULLETINS	1 (Jan.1969)*, 2 (Sept.1969)*, 4 (Sept.1970), 8 (Jan.1972), 10 (Sept.1972), 11 (Jan.1973), 12 (May 1973), 13 (Autumn 1973)	each 20 n.p.
	3 (Jan.1970), 5 (Jan.1971), 6 (May 1971), 7 (Sept.1971), 9 (May 1972)	each 10 n.p.
REPORT ON THE HIGH STREET	(May 1969)*	20 n.p.
INDEX TO BULLETINS 1-10 AND HIGH STREET REPORT		5 n.p.
NEWSLETTERS	1 (Sept.1973) and 2 (Nov.1973)	the pair 5 n.p.
LOCAL HISTORY EXHIBITION PROGRAMME,	1972	10 n.p.
'DISCOVER YOUR TOWN' EXHIBITION PROGRAMME,	1973	10 n.p.
REMINISCENCES OF EAST GRINSTEAD,	1893-1914	20 n.p.

\* temporarily unavailable