

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

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## THE EAST GRINSTEAD SOCIETY

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

The Society arranges regular talks, discussions and visits. It produces a bi-annual Bulletin of articles of local interest and a more frequent Newsletter. In 1969 it produced a report on the High Street conservation area which was well received as a basis for future policy. It is very active in monitoring all planning applications and making representations to the authorities on planning matters. It has held six exhibitions, published a book of reminiscences, two town trails and three sets of postcards reproducing old photographs of the town, restored the churchyard railings, planted trees, produced a tree survey, presented a seat to Sackville College and, with the Town Council, established a Town Museum (now independent).

The Society is registered as a charity (no. 257870) and with the Civic Trust and is a member of the Sussex Federation of Amenity Societies. A copy of its constitution is available on request from the Vice-Chairman.

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. The subscription is £7 per annum (persons in full-time education 25 new pence) to be renewed on 1 January every year (except by those joining on or after 1 October).

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## EDITORIAL

Many publications have a regular extract from their issue of 50 or 100 years before. We are now old enough to include a TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO spot, quoting or paraphrasing our Bulletin. It will be instructive to reflect how far we have or have not come.

## TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO

(Bulletin 1, January 1969)

In our first few months we had made representations to the Urban District Council to save the plane tree in front of Sackville College, to seek better designs in future than those of the new houses in Fairfield Road and to be careful where it put multi-storey car parks. We assured it of our support for any action it took against shop window stickers and for the Chamber of Trade's proposal that the relief road's intersection with London Road be at the top of Lingfield Road. We asked the County Council to remove the temporary classrooms on the Playfield and protested at its proposed nurses' home on the corner of Gwynne Gardens.

**COVER PICTURE:** A stylised view of our church and vicarage as seen from the Playfield, one of a series published by Thomas Jackson Palmer, who was in business here from 1855 to 1878. Other subjects are two views of Sackville College, from the south east and in the quad, and a distant one of the town from the south, of all of which there are copies at the Town Museum. All are by C. J. Greenwood, lithographed by R. Groom and printed by C. J. Moody of High Holborn. They measure 13" by 9". The vicarage seen here was built in 1836 and burnt down in 1908.

## ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA

References to earlier Bulletins: first two figures Bulletin number, second two figures page number.

**BULLETIN** 53 (Autumn 1993): The editor apologises for having renamed Mr J. Stapleton Mr Singleton (p.7) and having given the wrong initials to Mr R. T. D. Wilmot (pp.9,11) and Prof. R. A. Coates (p.10). Cover picture (p.3): for p.4 read p.5.

**HIGH STREET CELLARS** (5209-12,5303): Mr L. A. Griffith reports that cellars used as air raid shelters also included those under 6 Middle Row (Eastman's, cleaners) and 34-36 High Street (Rhythm music shop, now western part of Broadleys [N.B. This is not the 'Dallin-gridge' cellar.].)

**AS OTHERS SAW US** (3): 'There are only two or three tolerable houses in it, the others being very mean; but as it is the great thoroughfare to Lewes, it has a good trade, and the Crown is said to be as good an inn as any in Sussex. The badness of the roads all around it, except the turnpike, renders it a disagreeable winter situation.' Thomas Benge Burr, History of Tunbridge Wells (1766), pp.270f.

**NEXT BULLETIN** (Autumn 1994) will include some account of what happened on the temperance excursions (see p.11). Other contributions welcome - by 22 July, please.

In boundary changes in 1993 we lost our share of Weir Wood reservoir and consolidated our built-up area by minor adjustments at Ashurst Wood and the transfer from Surrey (60 years after it was first suggested) of Baldwins Hill though not of Felbridge. These places thus join our Society's area of contemporary concern and historical interest. In recognition and welcome what follows is a brief introduction to Baldwins Hill.

Roads now wholly rather than partially in East Grinstead are Lowdells Lane, Windmill Lane, Lingfield Road, Hermitage Road, Charlwoods Road, Overton Shaw and Alders View Drive. Completely new to us are Buckhurst Mead, Lowdells Court and Drive, Goodwins Close, Furzefield Road, Springfield, Rough Field, Wells Meadow, Browns Wood, Marlpit Close and Frith Park together with the ends of Felcourt Road and Eden Vale.

As Baldins Hill the name is first recorded in 1593 but the family name has been found as Baldewyne in 1279. Baldwins Farm at the foot of the hill is first noted in 1819 but today the oldest buildings are Gassons Cottages of c.1800 (with mathematical tiles on one end). Otherwise the houses are no older than the mid-19th century, unless we include the one in the valley to the east described in 1799 as a 'new erected Cottage or Tenement called The Hermitage ... at Wells Bottom'.

Until well into the 19th century East Grinstead Common came right up to the county boundary at Baldwins Hill. The haphazard groupings of houses and the wandering tracks are typical of settlements on the edge of commons, in this case originating (it has been suggested) around the spring here. When any shops appeared is not known; they lasted until the 1960s. The Prince of Wales is first mentioned in 1863, the year of the Prince's wedding, which may account for its name, with possible echoes of Wales or Wells Bottom nearby. The present structure looks like one of the 1890s rebuildings by the Southdown and East Grinstead Breweries of the houses they had been acquiring (cf., e.g., the Ship).

The sense of self-contained community was strengthened in 1874 with the opening of a school in Windmill Lane, subsequently the Institute and now a private residence, Bell House. It was founded by the Lowdell charity, run in conjunction with the National Society and initially catered for 36 children with a quarter mile radius. On 4 April 1898 the local School Board replaced it with the premises still functioning in Lowdells Lane.

At about the time the school opened, the mission church of All Saints was erected by the parish of Lingfield just beyond the end of Windmill Lane. (St Mary's in East Grinstead's part of the lane was not begun until 1891.) In the early 1960s the ecclesiastical authorities anticipated secular developments by transferring Baldwins Hill to St Mary's parish and Chichester diocese. The church, which had never been consecrated, was soon demolished and now Lowdells Close occupies its site.

Since this is only a preliminary sketch, sources for statements have not been specified. That will come as aspects of the area are properly written up at a later date, especially if readers will contribute information.

## FREE CHURCHES IN EAST GRINSTEAD

M. J. Leppard

For the temporary exhibition on this subject at the Town Museum in the last quarter of 1993 a map was created showing the locations of all known free churches in East Grinstead (including Ashurst Wood but not Forest Row) in the 19th and 20th centuries. So as not to lose the information collected in its making, and since, a revised and amplified version is printed overleaf.

Free churches are protestant churches that do not conform to the doctrine, discipline and polity of the Church of England. Their members are often called dissenters or nonconformists and their places of worship chapels. For the purposes of this map Quakers have not been included but the Salvation Army has. It is not yet possible to locate any of the 17th and 18th century causes known to have existed.

The list which follows is arranged by denominations in the order in which they appeared here, then by locations. Subsequent changes of occupation or use are indicated regardless of denominational changes. Free churches existing today are in bold type. The list continues with congregations without buildings of their own, all ultimately derived from West Street Evangelical Church, followed by other free church enterprises and their separate cemetery chapel. Halls hired for temporary use while churches were being established or for Sunday Schools have been ignored and so has Zion Chapel's move to Portland Hall, Portland Road (now a barber's) after damage by enemy action 1944-45. In one case (no.10) the name is not known, in another (no.20) the location, in many the precise dates. Readers are urged to help fill these gaps and extend the information.

## COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON'S CONNEXION

- 1 **Zion Chapel** 1810 - 1978 (renamed West Street Evangelical Church 1967, empty 1978 - 81, **Baptist** 1981 - )
- 2 **Ashurst Wood Schoolroom** 1830 - c.1855 [off map, nucleus of village school]
- 3 **North End Sunday School** f1. 1884 - 86
- 4 **Sunnyside Mission**, Coronation Road 1906 - at least 1916

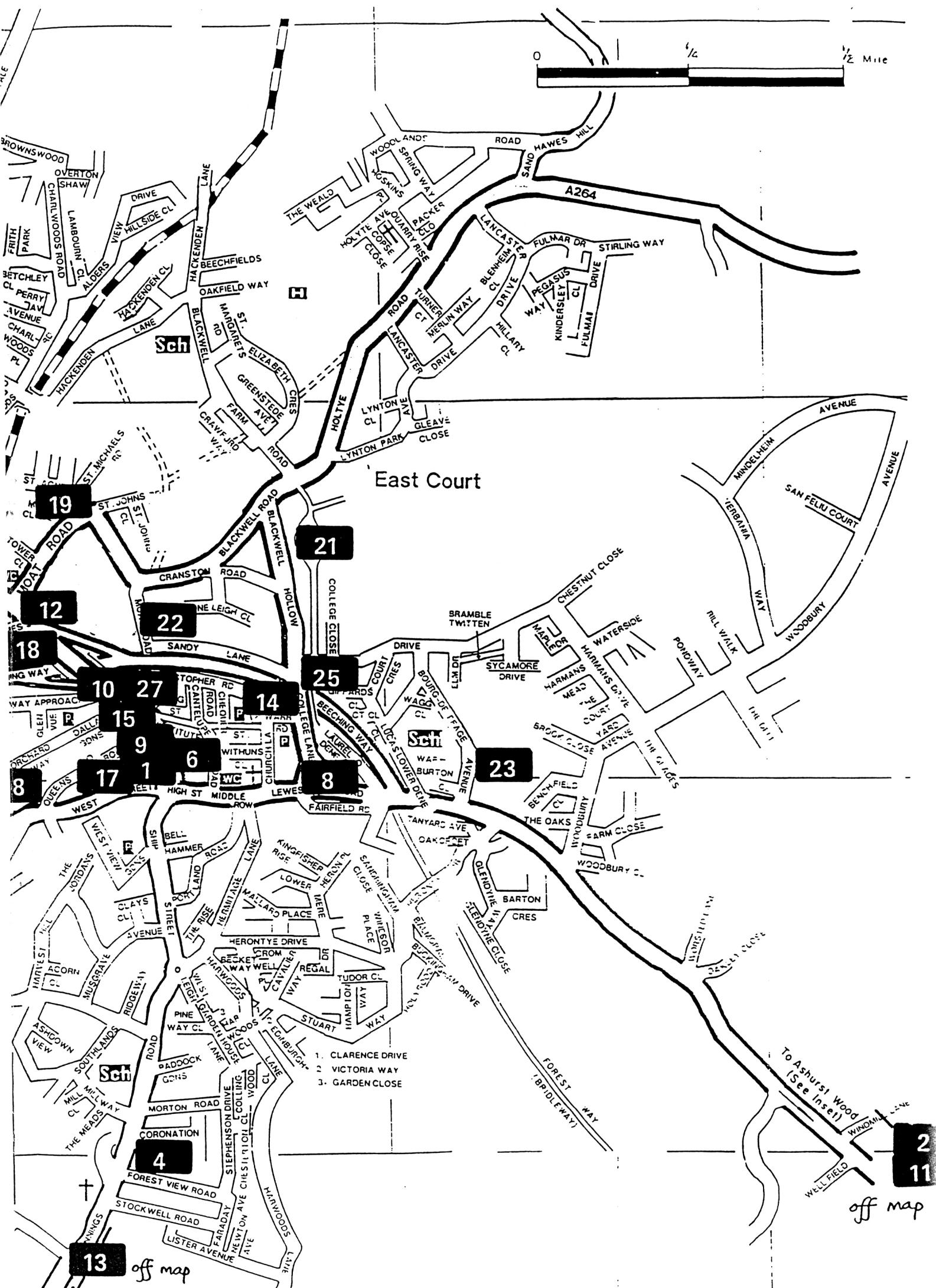
## METHODISTS

- 5 **Wesleyan Methodist Schoolroom** on Common c.1830 - at least 1851 (precise location unknown)
- 6 **Wesleyan Methodist** 1881 - 1937 [W. H. Smith now on site]
- 7 **Trinity Methodist** 1938 -

## INDEPENDENT EVANGELICAL

- 8 **Rocks Chapel**, Old Road 1847 - 50 [split from Zion] (Congregationalist 1850 - before 1868, Primitive Methodist by 1868 - c. 1870)
- 9 **Gospel Protestant Mission**, 32 Queens Road f1. 1923 - 28





10 - ? -, over 104 London Road mid-1950s

#### CONGREGATIONALIST

11 Ashurst Wood 1859 - 1979 [off map] (St Dunstan, C. of E.)

12 Moat Church 1870 - (in United Reformed Church 1972 - )

#### UNDENOMINATIONAL

13 Saint Hill Chapel 1861 - ? [off map]

14 Armoury Hall (Armoury Mission), De La Warr Road mid-1920s - 65  
 (Baptist 1965-72, West Street Evangelical Church Sunday School  
 1972 - 74, Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion offices 1975 - ?)  
 [now insurance brokers]

#### BAPTISTS

15 Room, London Road 1876 - 91

16 Providence Strict Baptist Chapel 1891 - 1981

#### SALVATION ARMY

17 West Street 1887 - mid-1920s

18 London Road mid-1920s - 1967 (Jehovah's Witnesses 1967 - )

#### WITHOUT OWN BUILDINGS

19 at Neale House: West Street Evangelical Church 1978 - ? (re-named New Life Church 1982)

20 at - ? -: East Grinstead Christian Fellowship 1982 - c.1988

21 at East Court: New Life Church ? - ? (Hosanna Christian Fellowship 1992 - )

22 at Scout Hut: Full Gospel Church c.1986 -

23 at Sackville School: New Life Church ? -

#### SALVATION ARMY ENTERPRISE

24 Woodlands girls' home ? - 1970s

#### NEW LIFE CHURCH ENTERPRISES

25 Warrenside residential community ? -

26 New Life School ? -

27 Open Door Bookshop, successively 170, 88 and 119 London Road  
 1980 -

#### ADDITIONALLY

28 Dissenters' Chapel, Queens Road Cemetery 1869 - ?

Special thanks are due to Mrs B. E. Golding and Mr M. J. Berry for help with recent dates.

## BRICKMAKING: SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

M. J. Leppard

The publication of the 1851 census [1] and of Mrs Beswick's Brickmaking in Sussex [2] makes it possible to amplify much of the information on local brickmaking published in earlier Bulletins [3].

Three of the sites in Mrs Beswick's gazetteer appear to have been working in 1851: no.3 (later the Pottery) run by Elphick and Avery up to 1851 and by George Lynn from 1852, no.4 (Moats Farm) run by John Turley and no.5 (south of Park Road). The census seems to provide names to fit.

John Turley, unmarried, aged 54 and born in East Grinstead, is described as yeoman/brickmaker employing one man. He is listed in Ship Lane [Ship Street] with his housekeeper and two wards. Henry Chapman, aged 66, born in East Grinstead and described as brickmaker, living further up Ship Lane with his wife and lodger, is probably Turley's employee and the one who did the actual work.

Elphick appears as a butcher in the High Street (as expected) but there is no sign of Avery. As with Turley, others must have done the work. For their field and for the third there are three possible candidates entered as brickmakers.

Edward Payne, aged 61 and born in East Grinstead, is listed with his pauper mother, his wife (a glover) and his son (an agricultural labourer) somewhere in the area north and east of London Road. He is almost certainly the same as marked his name on 19 June 1842 on a ridge tile that was used at 88 High Street [4]. John Knight, aged 51 and born in Lingfield, is listed with his son William, aged 26, born in East Grinstead and also a brickmaker, seven other children and his wife on East Grinstead Common south and west of London Road.

The only other relevant entry is James Langridge, a pauper and ex-brickmaker, aged 43, born in East Grinstead and living with his wife in one of the almshouses opposite the White Lion. It would be idle to speculate where he had worked and why he was no longer doing so.

Four working brickmakers may seem very few to operate three sites but the seasonal nature of the work probably means that no more skilled full-timers could be sustained; casual labourers could have been taken on as and when needed.

Brickmaking frequently ran in families that often moved about and formed networks and there are entries in Mrs Beswick's book that probably throw light on two more of our names. Steven Jeffrey, already known from the 1861 census at Pock Hill, Ashurst Wood, may be the same as Stephen Jeffery, a brickmaker at Isfield in 1871 [5]. Edmund Mitchell, who in 1770 marked his name on a tile used at East Court [6], may be related to William Mitchell, a brickmaker at Hartfield 1792-1815 [7] and possibly also to other Mitchells at Horsham 1777-1831 [8].

Finally, mention of Francis Foster, potter and brickmaker at Ditchling 1791-1820 [9] strengthens the belief that Henry Foster,

who worked at our pottery from at least 1865 [10] and took over in 1884 [11], came here from the Ditchling potteries [12].

**REFERENCES (E.G.S.B. = East Grinstead Society Bulletin)**

- 1 C.J.Barnes, Sussex (East) Census, 1851 Index, vol.18 East Grinstead, etc. (1991)
  - 2 M.Beswick, Brickmaking in Sussex, a history and gazetteer (1991) [hereafter Beswick]
  - 3 2606-10, 2709f., 2810, 3014, 3108, 3510, 4104, 4403, 4717, 5303
  - 4 E.G.S.B. 39 (Autumn 1985), p.11
  - 5 Beswick, p.151
  - 6 as note 4
  - 7 Beswick, p.140
  - 8 Beswick, p.199
  - 9 Beswick, p.131
  - 10 E.G.S.B. 27 (Sept. 1979), p.13
  - 11 E.G.S.B. 43 (Spring 1988), p.14
  - 12 J.M.Baines, Sussex Pottery (1980), p.152
- 

**FINAL STRESS: FURTHER NOTES**

M. J. Leppard

Mr J. S. Hodgkinson draws attention to Gibbshaven, between Felbridge and Crawley Down, which in its early forms appears as Gibbsaven, Gibbseven, Gibbsiven or occasionally Gibbsven, as if the vowel in the middle was so lightly stressed that no-one was sure what its true spelling should be, if sounded at all, which can only mean that the stress fell on the last syllable. Avenn, he adds, appears as a personal name in the area in the early 16th century, almost certainly also stressed on the final syllable. Since Gibbshaven now rhymes with Newhaven we have support here for the antiquity of final stress; it would be worth spelling out the evidence in detail.

In my earlier articles I overlooked having been told by Mr B. W. De smond that early in the 1920s he heard a talk by W. H. Hills to the Chamber of Commerce on the history of East Grinstead, where 'it was music to hear his pronounced Sussex dialect:

If true Sussex you would be,  
Say surelye, not surely.  
In names of places stress should dwell  
Upon the final syllable.  
Thus Ardingleye doth well accord  
With Southwick, Berwick and Seaford.<sup>1</sup> [1]

Hills was born in 1863 at Chiddingly, 50 years after the birth there of Mark Anthony Lower, the Sussex antiquarian and dialect writer, and 13 years before his death. I don't think Hills habitually spoke with a Sussex accent; I think he put it on to illustrate his talk. Mr R. H. Wood remembered 'on more intimate occasions [than public speaking] Sussex dialect came easily enough' to Hills [2]. The doggerel smacks of classroom mnemonics; I doubt if Hills composed it. One such a thing has become well-known, of course, it can subvert local pronunciations rather than record them: hence non-locals who feel obliged to say West HoathLYE.

<sup>1</sup> Personal communication, 14 Aug. 1971    2 E.G.S.B. 15 (Sept. 1974), p.7

## TEMPERANCE EXCURSIONS

M. J. Leppard

One of the most interesting features of Mr Gould's history of the Three Bridges - East Grinstead - Tunbridge Wells railway is the appendix on temperance excursions [1]. Since its publication earlier and supplementary details have come to light which it may be permissible to print here against the day when a second edition is called for.

Following Thomas Cramp's numbering of the 1891 excursion as the 28th [2], Mr Gould dates these annual trips from 1864. However, there is evidence of at least one similar outing before that. An entry in the diary of William Wren of Sackville College for 9 August 1858 reads 'the teateollers all went to Brighton' [3], probably in emulation of what had been happening elsewhere after Thomas Cook's pioneer venture in 1841. That Wren found it worthy of record may mean that it was the first such event here, though the railway had been open three years by then. It would be rash to assume it was the first of the annual visits; all but one of the known excursions took place on the third or fourth Monday in June (though 9 August 1858 was a Monday too).

Some details of the 1865 and 66 outings have kindly been passed on by Mr Gould from the Sussex Advertiser: on 19 June 1865 to Portsmouth and in July 1866 to Eastbourne [4]. The 1869 trip to Portsmouth for 2s. 10d. third class was announced in a copy of Hayward's Monthly Illustrated Journal reported in the East Grinstead Observer in the 1950s [5].

Details of later excursions not mentioned by Mr Gould may be summarised as follows from information in parish magazines:

17	June 1878	Hastings		
19	" 1882	Portsmouth	c.1400 people	
25	" 1883	Eastbourne	c.1300	2 trains
16	" 1884	Hastings	1370	2 "
22	" 1885	Portsmouth		2 "
21	" 1886	Eastbourne		2 "
23	" 1890	Brighton	400+	
22	" 1891	Hastings		
27	" 1892	Eastbourne		

(In 1890 Brighton was chosen as the most convenient place for the children to get to the seaside and the ordinary train was used. It seems to have been an Anglican occasion only, as perhaps the 1891 trip was also.)

No doubt a good deal more could be ascertained from newspaper and other sources if anyone feels disposed to look.

## REFERENCES

- [1] David Gould, Three Bridges to Tunbridge Wells (1983), p.58 [2] Thomas Cramp's diary (W.H.Hills, The History of East Grinstead (1906), p.186 [3] Sackville College MSS, West Sussex Record Office [4] Sussex Advertiser, 28 June 1865, 21 July 1866 [5] Undated cutting in my possession

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Anne-Noëlle, Eileen and David Pinnegar, Hammerwood Park (1992) is a welcome handbook incorporating pre-history (by Jonathan Smail), history of the house and park, and reminiscences by former servants Jim and Kathleen Chesson, with obscure reproductions of photographs (attributable to photocopying techniques such as have the same effect in our Bulletins). The theory of a late-17th century nucleus (p.5) might account for the anomalous staircase (see Bulletin 48, p.6). The church terrier of 1711 has been misunderstood (p.5); 'woodreaf' (p.44) should probably be 'woodreeve'. (no price stated)

West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes, West Sussex within Living Memory (Countryside Books, 1993, £8.95) is 250 pages of unattributed recollections organised by subjects and illustrated by photographs and drawings. The only East Grinstead items can be ascribed on internal evidence to daughters of Harold Connold, professional photographer here 1926-59, and George Herbert Pattern, organist here 1943-65.

Sussex Family Historian, vol.10, no.7 (Sept. 1993) has a notice of J.Knight, The George Knight Tragedies (Excalibur Press, £5.95) about a man born in East Grinstead in 1838 who, after an ordinary life in London, went to Tasmania aged 46, went downhill and died in a lunatic asylum in 1922.

Sussex Industrial History, no.23 (1993) has an article with four maps on the mills of Forest Row and Ashurst Wood by M.F. Tighe.

## WHAT ARE WE CALLED?

M. J. Leppard

East Grinstead's soccer players have long been known as the Wasps, from their black and yellow quartered shirts, and those who had attended the county grammar school were styled Old Feathers, from the town's 1572 seal of arms as used in the school badge. But what does one call a person born or living in the town?

For most places we have two standard endings, -er (Londoner, Berliner) and -ian (Brightonian, Parisian). For many there are nicknames (Arundel mullets, Copthorne yellowbellies). For some there are jocular forms, like the Haywards Heathen mentioned in the Evening Argus in 1893. But what are we? What have you heard, or seen in writing?

QUERY: What happened to the boundary stone at Baldwins Hill, moved from private land to the roadway in 1808 and still there in 1906?

LOCAL REFERENCES IN SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS (continued from 5012)

vol.88 (1949) p.xliv Brambletye ancient monument  
p.xlviii Wall Hill deed, 1840  
p.1 Plaster from Basing presented to Museum  
pp.137,140f.,151f. Ashdown Forest enclosures  
pp.164-9 E.G. church in The Ecclesiologist

vol.89 (1950) p.xlv Photostat map of Cansiron added to deeds