



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

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on behalf of contributors, 1996

## 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, restored the churchyard railings, planted trees, produced a tree survey, presented a seat to Sackville College, put up a plaque to commemorate a 1943 bombing tragedy and, with the Town Council, established a now independent Town Museum.

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

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 £10 p.a., to be renewed on 1 January every year (except by those joining on or after 1 October).

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**BACK NUMBERS OF BULLETINS** from the Editor: single copies £1 (+ postage), set of all issues still in print (47) £20 (post free) to members, £30 (post free) to non-members. Names can be put on a waiting list for out-of-print issues. Unwanted back numbers (even damaged or defective ones) are always welcome for re-sale. A list of principal contents of nos 1-46 is available on request.

## EDITORIAL.

Our last Bulletin, devoted to Domesday Book, was received well, with several sales to non-members, the most far-flung in Nottingham. Some follow-up in this issue maintains our standing, together with a tribute to the late Brian Desmond, another contemporary résumé of local events a century ago and the usual smaller items. There should be something of interest to both student and general reader, far more people in fact than our members. There must be scope for wider sales yet, as the potential salesforce is reading at this very moment. Copies may be obtained from the Town Museum or editor for £1 (by post five first class stamps).

**COVER PICTURE:** William Best's premises at the top of Station Road shortly after opening in 1887. The right-hand building survives, used by Valley Builders, the rest went for road-widening when the one-way system was introduced in 1978. An illustrated account of the Bests and their business will be found in Bulletin 38 (Spring 1985), pp.7-9. [See p.2 for availability of back numbers.]

**TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO:** By the time Bulletin 7 appeared (September 1971) our three-year old Society had 'arrived', for an East Grinstead Courier correspondent had asked 'Why doesn't the East Grinstead Society raise its voice?' against the proposed demolition and rebuilding of our 1882 railway station. While sympathetic we decided we had to be realistic about railway operation, especially with electrification in prospect. We also trembled for the goods shed, viaduct and Zion Chapel, recognising their merits but unable to see alternative uses, affirming objective aesthetic criteria but determined to live and work in the real world. Our responsibility for a patch of ground between the Playfield and College Lane as part of the 'Britain in Bloom' project was 'an invaluable opportunity ... to practise publicly what we preach ... If we fail in this we cannot expect much notice to be taken of the things we say.'

**WILL HE OR WON'T HE?**

M.J.Leppard

There has long been a general expectation in the town that I both should and will write a new history of East Grinstead, an expectation strengthened by my recent retirement. The prospect appeals but, as Mr Desmond found, such things are easier said than done. In particular, economic realities have to be faced; publishing is risky and expensive and the style, format and 'level' of such books have to be nicely judged. I make no rash promises but I hope the contents of my 1996-97 evening classes may serve as the groundwork for such an undertaking.

**AS OTHERS SAW US (6):** 'If you are careful you may find something of beauty still in the town, but mostly it has gone to the dogs and it might be better to stay on the railway premises' - E.A.Lan- gridge, railway writer, in Bluebell News, vol.9 (1967), p.5, describing a break here in a train journey from Tunbridge Wells to Three Bridges in 1966 shortly before the line closed. D.G.

**NEXT BULLETIN** Spring 1997. Contributions to the editor by 20 December, please.

'Unfinished Business' was Mr P.D.Wood's title for his work on our local Domesday topography to which our last Bulletin (58, Spring 1996) was devoted. As a first step to continuing it, the following notes have been compiled after private correspondence with Mr Wood and with Prof. R.A.Coates, to both of whom we are indebted for permission to publish freely their information and views along with what your editor has so far managed to devise on the subject. It is hoped thereby to provoke further research from others, including corrections, if necessary, and alternative interpretations, leading to regular additional notes or articles in these pages.

The headings below follow the order of Mr Wood's work, with its page numbers in parentheses. References to Domesday Book (D.B.) are to Morris's edition, as before. Maps are at 2½"/mile and should be related to the centre-spread in Bulletin 58.

#### WARLEGE (p.6)

No parent manor is given for this holding but it can be identified as Hamsey in Lewes Rape, for Wulfeva, who held Warlege in 1066, also held Horsted Keynes in Hamsey (10.109) and Hamsey itself (12.49). This accounts for the later association of this area with Horsted Keynes and the hundred known successively as Denne, Rushmonden and Danehill Horsted [1]. A deed of 1531 supplies an earlier reference to Gullege than given by Mr Wood [2].

#### STANDENE (pp.9f.)

Correcting the identification of this holding with Standen in Ditchling [3] Prof. Coates says its name clearly means 'stone valley', presumably with reference to the sandstone outcrops noted by Mr Wood (p.22).

#### LAVERTYE [UN-NAMED HOLDING] (pp.10f.,14)

Support for Mr Wood's suggestion that this holding included Pixton and Tablehurst is found in the lists of villeins of Eustace atte Heche (or de la Haye, Isabel's successor here) in the subsidy roll of 1296 [4]: Eustace himself, paying more than the rest put together, William Mudel, Thomas de Lauerketye, Laurence Pustan (almost certainly a misreading of Picstan, i.e. Pixton), Henry and Alexander atte N(e)aldehyagh, Alexander de Cherlehelde/Cherlewode and Adam or Ralph Torchepot. Possible difficulties, however, are that Charlwood is over two miles away west south west and that Richard Pikstan and William de Taelhurst are listed under the Liberty of Leicester (a holding yet to be studied) [5], though Alexander and William are said to be 'de' ('of' or 'from') the places rather than 'at' them. Prof. Coates says atte N(e)aldehyagh is 'at the old haw', i.e. 'message', so we need to be looking for an ancient or abandoned tenement which might have given its name to those persons.

The Wealden Iron Research Group, hailing Mr Wood's article as an 'important piece of research', hopes to undertake some field-work to follow up his identification of this holding whose 'iron-works' (the only one in D.B.) has long tantalised historians [6].

**SHOVELSTRODE** [CALVRESTOT (pp.14-16) and CEI,RESTVIS (pp.16f.)]

Commenting on the interpretation of this name as scylf-strōd, 'marshy ground by the slope' [7] Prof. Coates says Shovelstrode Farm is positioned very suitably for a strōd (usually glossed 'brushwood-covered marsh') in the bend in the stream. He supposes the 'shelf' of its first element is what appears on the 2½" map to be a rather flat-bottomed valley to the east and north east. (If the first element were Old English scilfor, 'yellow-(ish)', he writes, that might help make sense of the rubbish written by the D.B. scribe but the later spellings don't support it.)

**WALESBEECH** [WASLEBIE] (pp.17f.)

On the interpretation of this name as containing bece, 'stream' [8] Prof. Coates says this word is very rare in the south and the Medway might well require a grander term anyway. To him it seems far more likely to contain bēce, 'beech'. The first element has been taken for a personal name in the possessive case. 'Possessed' trees are not specially frequent but also not anomalous in Old English place-names.

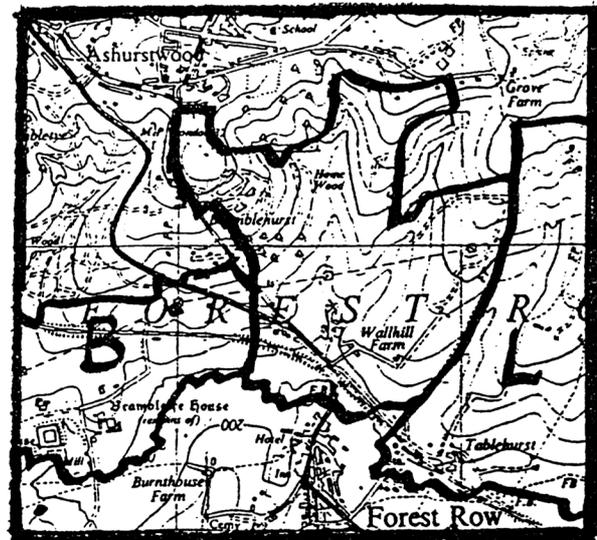
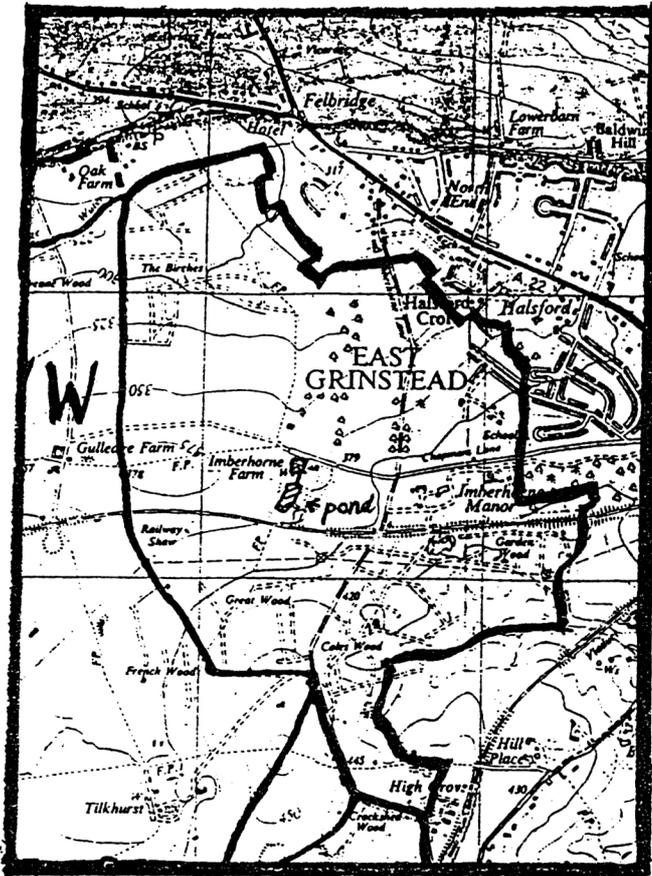
**FELSMERE** (p.20)

Prof. Coates says much hinges on, or could be made of, the pond at Imberhorne Farm. If it is ancient then the name could be persuaded to denote it and to mean 'pond at Feld', where Feld, 'the open land', could denote some area including Felbridge and the other localities apparently named with Feld\*. It is hard to overlook these other nearby names when reviewing Felsmere. Numerically feld is by far the most likely Old English element to account for a name in Fel-; other possibilities can be ruled out. Mere in the sense 'boundary', gemære, is almost unheard of as a final element in place-names so 'pond' seems a virtual certainty here.

The pond at Imberhorne was certainly there in 1295-6 when Robert the vicar of East Grinstead and Ralph le Cuper went there by force of arms and took 100s.-worth of fish [9]. Such an important source of food seems likely to have been a feature of the estate from its origin.

Mr Wood comments that the 1½ hides of Felsmere could have been about right for Imberhorne but difficulties for identifying them are that by the time William Malfeld gives Imberhorne to Lewes Priory some 14 years after D.B. the new name has totally displaced the old and it is only half a hide [10]. The record of that gift names as its previous holder Lefsi, who appears in D.B. holding in 1066 1 hide and 3 virgates at Sedlescombe (9.122) and 3 hides at Marden (11.33). The Sedlescombe connection led him to suggest in an earlier article that Imberhorne might have been the half-hide held there in D.B. by Geoffrey the Canon (9.126), as also noted but not spelt out in Bulletin 58, p.20. Mr Wood also points out the complication of a reference to Lefsi of Haseldena in a document of c.1120 [12].

\* La Feld(e) from c.1150 and Feldlonde/Fellands in the Lewes Chantry (S.R.S., vol. 38), associated with Imberhorne, and Felcourt over the border in Surrey, even older.



LEFT **IMBERHORNE**, boundaries of 1597 as drawn by Mr Wood on 6" map in Bulletin 28 (W = Warlege)

ABOVE **WALL HILL FARM**, boundaries of 1841 in Tithe Award (B = Brambletye, L = Lavertye)

**SPERCHEDENE** (p.20, accidentally mis-spelt Sperchdene)

A plausible location for this holding is suggested by a sequence of names discussed below and is mapped above right.

Margaret Sprerkend or Sperkend is mentioned in the tithing of Brambletye in 1285 and 87 [13]. No surname even remotely like this is found in subsidy rolls or other local records nor (judging by the indices of Sussex Archaeological Collections or Sussex Record Society) anywhere else in Sussex, so it is probable she took it from her local home, though strictly speaking it should then have been written Sperkend' to show the loss of the final letters. Presumably her family either soon died out or changed its name.

A place-name Spartenden is found in several sources from 1626 to 1844. Upper Spartenden is one of various scattered properties in the will of Edward Goodwyn in 1626 [14] and his inquest in 1638 [15]. It reappears in 1844 in a rental of Wallhill-Grinstead manor among the freeholders' quitrents [16]. Spartenden is freehold land in Sheffield-Grinstead manor in 1677 with the Queen's [sic] highway from Forest Row to East Grinstead to the east [17]. It is mentioned in a rental of 1710 [18], in the 1767 land tax it is held with Pigstye and other properties at Forest Row [19] and in 1841 sale particulars of Gullege a quitrent and heriot for land called Spartenden are paid to the manor of Horsted Keynes or Broadhurst [20]. In 1739 a message, farm and lands named Little Spartenden late occupied by Richard Austin, butcher, is listed in a deed of exchange after Ewehurst (Yewhurst, now Ashurst Wood Abbey) [21]. No reference to any Lower or Great Spartenden has yet been found. More references would be welcome.

All this is confusing, particularly with regard to manors, and there may be some mis-transcription, but it certainly seems that Spartenden, perhaps sub-divided, lay between Ashurst Wood and Forest Row and, to judge by use by a butcher, included some meadow land for grazing. This puts it in the area of Wall Hill Farm, already suggested by Mr Wood as a possible early settlement (p. 20), whose Tithe Award boundaries, marked by a thick line on the map opposite, show it fitting snugly between Brambletye and Lavertye as mapped by Mr Wood for his article. Pawleys Farm (of which Upper Spartenden was part in the 1844 rental) and Yewhurst lie to its north and Pigstye to its south east.

In 1841 the Tithe Award gives Spandon Field surrounded by Spandons and Scrubs Wood in the north east corner of the farm as mapped here. From 1873 to our times O.S. maps have shown the northern part of that area as Spanden Wood. These names tempt one to a Spartenden connection, especially if during the course of time it could have become lazily pronounced as Sparnden/Spahnden.

Prof. Coates believes the citations above link Sperchedene and Spartenden beyond reasonable doubt and sees no gigantic obstacle to identifying them with Spandon on linguistic grounds. The 1840s forms may be conservative, dependent on the transcription of earlier forms, as so often in legal documents. The first element of the name seems to be the postulated spearca, 'brush-wood', whose genitive singular spearcan fits our name ideally as required. The absence of the -n- from our D.B. form is no problem and the ch is unproblematically taken as representing k in pronunciation. The change of k to t is explicable as assimilation to the point of articulation of the following n and d.

Prof. Coates also suggests that the unidentified Wildetone in which Sperchedene lay might have some connection with Willingdon (impressionistically a spelling within D.B.'s range), where Cana, who held Sperchedene in 1066, had another of his holdings (10.8). One might also, I suggest, perhaps find in Cana's holding of Fletching (10.113) a clue to Spartenden's association with the manor of Sheffield Grinstead since Sheffield is in Fletching parish.

An obvious next step here is to walk the area to see how the boundaries on the map correspond to features on the ground.

#### ROADS (p.21)

'Aldermans' here is a misprint for Aldermoor.

Mr Wood's work on the access roads deserves to be complemented by study of the lines of communication between our settlements and their parent manors to the south, for example from Hamsey to Warlege via Horsted Keynes or Willingdon to Wall Hill via Fletching. For that, local knowledge of a wider area will be required and much poring over maps and exploring on the ground.

#### FURTHER STEPS

In addition to fieldwork on boundaries at Wall Hill, the 'old haw' and 'ironworks' at Lavertye and early roads, already suggested, there is scope for a hedgerow-dating survey. Your editor has

started to look at the parent manors and also hopes to make more of the information in the Lewes Chartulary. The Sussex Archaeological Society's Ashdown Forest project is highly relevant, as is work being undertaken by Mrs Brent of Lewes on the possessions of Lewes Priory and by Mr Hobbs of Tunbridge Wells on the holdings of the manor of Maresfield, several of which were around Forest Row. There is endless scope for more work on unpublished documents. Your editor will do all he can to assist anyone hoping to explore further any issues arising from Mr Wood's work and looks forward to publishing regular items fed back from them.

#### REFERENCES

PNSx = A.Mawer & F.M.Stenton, Place-names of Sussex, part 2 (1930); S.R.S. = Sussex Record Society; V.W. = Viscountess Wolseley's MSS, Hove Public Library; W.S.R.O. = West Sussex Record Office

[1] Sussex Archaeological Collections, vol.126 (1988), p.248 [2] J.Comber, Sussex Genealogies (1932), Ardingly Centre, p.4 [3] PNSx, p.302 [4] S.R.S. vol.10 (1910), pp.34, 105 [5] *ibid.*, p.33 [6] W.I.R.G. Newsletter 23 (Spring 1996), p.5 [7] PNSx, p.303 [8] *ibid.*, pp.329f. [9] J.C.Stenning, letter quoting de Banco entries (W.H.Hills MSS, W.S.R.O.) [10] Lewes Chartulary, S.R.S. vol.38 (1932), pp.32f. [11] East Grinstead Society Bulletin 28 (Spring 1980), pp.4-6 [12] S.R.S. 38 (1932), p.131 [13] Hundred Rolls (Rev. W.Budgen's notebook 110, Barbican House, Lewes) [14] V.W., vol. 37 [15] S.R.S. vol.14 (1912), no.478 [16] W.S.R.O. acc. 3285 (D144) [17] Court books [now in W.S.R.O.] (Mr Wood's notes in my possession) [18] *ibid.* [19] W.S.R.O. Add.MS 18,419 [20] V.W., vol.36 [21] W.S.R.O. Add. MS 17,491 We are grateful to Mr E.C.Byford for references [16] and [19]

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#### HOUSE NUMBERING IN EAST GRINSTEAD (3308, 5711)

Mr Gould has sent the following corrections to the information printed in Bulletin 57 (Autumn 1995):

The old and new numbers in London Road were derived from the 1913 (not 1912) and 1915 directories and those in West Street from 1910 and 11 (not 1909 and 10) and thus changed in 1910 (not 1909). Certain London Road entries should be amended to read:

OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OCCUPIER
86	96	200	208	Felbridge Estate Office
-	98			
-	100	208	218	W.Taylor & Son
		210	220	W.E.Woollam
102-4	110-2	-	228	W.H.Hills

**W.H.DAVIES AND EAST GRINSTEAD:** Mr Gould kindly corrects confusion in the paragraph in Bulletin 52 (Spring 1993), p.12. Davies complained in the East Grinstead Observer for 26 November 1925 about bills repeated after they had been paid and the fire brigade maroon. W.H.Hills, the editor, never really forgave him for that, remarking in a review of his collected poems in the issue of 20 October 1928, after Davies had left the town, 'I never could quite understand why this writer got his great reputation'. The verse 'This little town's a purer place ...' was not contributed to the paper but was in the volume under review.

# Mrs. MARY NEIGHBOUR

Through the kindness and courtesy of Rev. A. J. Swainson, Vicar of Forest Row, we reproduce an excellent portrait of the oldest parishioner, our respected neighbour, Mrs. Neighbour of Ashurst Wood, wishing continued happiness in prospect of her completing her 100 years of life on 5th inst.

Born at Lingfield, December, 1796, twice married, and long a hale and kindly widow, her second husband, John Neighbour having died in East Grinstead, 1860, aged 73.

Through the careful enquiry of a great-grandson, Mr. Sydney J. Huggett, we add the following particulars.

- Our Centenarian has had 11 children.
- 86 grand-children
- 172 great grand-children
- 34 great great grand-children

Total number 303 as far as ascertained, and of these it is estimated that there are about 200 living now.



The text and picture above were issued with our parish magazine for December 1896. A more detailed report in the East Grinstead Observer for 5 December tells us

The ancestress of this large number is a very pleasant old dame, still with fair eyesight and very good hearing. Her memory at times fails her and she is naturally getting very feeble, but still manages to get outside her cottage occasionally to enjoy the fresh air. She had passed the age of 90 before she gave up active work. Day after day she used to walk into East Grinstead to work as an upholsteress, and in this line was very clever and had a large circle of patrons among the tradespeople and gentry. Mrs Neighbour is now looked after by Miss E. Neighbour, one of her grandchildren ... Let those who call to see the centenarian not forget that a little practical help will do far more good than mere verbal congratulations. A sum is being raised to secure a weekly allowance ... Mr Herbert Edwards is arranging an amateur concert for the old lady's benefit.

This report, written by W.H.Hills after visiting Mrs Neighbour, was used for his account of her in his History (p.187) where he records her death on 5 September 1897.

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**ECHOES OF EMPIRE:** Peter Moir the planter from Ceylon (officially now Sri Lanka) whose death in 1895 was mentioned in Bulletin 57 (p.10) gave his house in Moat Road the name Lanka to perpetuate the link (now no.31 and still so named). Suva Lodge in London Road is said to have been named after the capital of Fiji by someone who had been an official there when it was a British colony. Perhaps readers can tell us when and by whom and supply other colonial names in the town.

## EAST GRINSTEAD ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

from Maplesden's East Grinstead & District Household Almanack,  
Diary and Trade Advertiser for 1897

### EAST GRINSTEAD, 1896.

**I**N accordance with his annual custom, the Publisher touches briefly upon the matters of local interest which have occurred within the past twelve months.

#### Local Government.

There being no Parliamentary contest, the electors this year were able to devote more particular attention to the question of the Local Government of the town. In this respect of course stands first in importance the Urban District Council, over which body Mr. E. A. Head so ably presides. The annual retirements by rotation caused a contested election in April, with the result that the local Postmaster, Mr. R. Whitehead was returned at the head of the Poll, being followed by Mr. G. Brinkhurst, Mr. C. H. Everard being the other new member. Just prior to this time the Council lost the services of three of its most influential members by the retirement of Dr. C. H. Gatty, Mr. G. Bailye and Mr. C. E. Collins, all of whom had rendered most valuable service on the chief governing body for many years. The most important question which the Council has had under discussion has been the Isolation Hospital, and the Publisher is very pleased to state that the matter has now been finally settled and that the Hospital is in course of erection. Mr. H. Young, of the London Road, secured the contract and can be fully trusted to put first class workmanship into the building. A Joint Hospital Committee, consisting of four members of the Urban Council and two members of the Rural District Council, has been elected, and the general hope is that when the Hospital is built there may be little cause to use it. The Urban Council have lost a most valuable servant in Mr. W. W. Gale, the Surveyor, &c., but Mr. R. Wilds is likely to prove a worthy successor as Surveyor, whilst the collection of the rates could not be in better hands than those of Mr. S. J. Huggett. Later in the year there was a most unusual experience—a contested School Board election. Two of the old members, Mr. E. Steer and the Rev. J. Bainton, were amongst the rejected, the defeat of the first-named being somewhat of a surprise. The new members are Mr. S. McCalmont Hill, who is interesting himself very much in local affairs, and Mr. H. Finch, of Ashurst Wood. The School Board has continued a high standard of education in the schools under its supervision, whilst the Board of Guardians has done much good work in a quite manner.

#### Institutions.

There continues to be no lack of support given to the Cottage Hospital and the Dispensary, and at both of these most valuable institutions many patients have found relief during the past twelve months. The Literary and Scientific Institute continues to be numerously patronised, and in many ways is doing a most useful work. The Young Men's Christian Association—now fairly settled in its new home in Cantelupe Road—makes every effort to induce the young men of the town to attend its meetings, debates, gymnasium, &c., whilst the Constitutional, Liberal and Workmen's Clubs offer facilities for studying the news of the day or of passing a pleasant hour by indulging in harmless games.

#### Trade.

The Trade of the Town during the year has been good and with the growth of the town must of necessity increase. Several new business establishments have been opened; the Stock Market continues to improve, and every fortnight Messrs. Turner & Co. have the pleasure of selling a large quantity of stock to an increasing circle of purchasers.

#### New Buildings.

In our last issue we were able to state that the New Post Office looked like becoming an established fact—we can this year record its opening, which took place on September 16th last. His Grace the Duke of Norfolk (Her Majesty's Postmaster General) performed the opening ceremony; a public demonstration took place, and a banquet was held at the Public Hall, over which Mr. E. A. Head, the Chairman of our Urban District Council, presided. The Young Men's Christian Association has erected a neat hall in the Cantelupe Road and enjoys a good membership. New buildings have also been erected upon the various estates—now open for building purposes—by our local builders; the Isolation Hospital is at last in course of erection; Lloyds Bank Limited are contemplating immediate extension, having purchased the premises adjoining their present establishment for this purpose, whilst the interior of the late Post Office Premises has been considerably altered and "ourselves" comfortably established therein.

#### Sport.

For a small town East Grinstead is second to none

for interest in its various sports and pastimes. During the summer the Town Cricket Club enjoyed some first-class cricket on the West Street ground, and the marvel is that so few of the public attend to witness our national game. Mr. Robt. Crawford with great energy organized a Grand Bazaar in July for the purpose of raising a fund to assist in the purchase of the cricket ground. His efforts were most successful, over £400 being handed to the trustees for purchase. The field has since been purchased, to be used for Cricket and such other purposes as the trustees may direct. We venture to say that this will be, to the present and future generations, one of the most important events

that has yet taken place in the town, and hope that all will interest themselves and do their utmost, not only to keep the cricket of East Grinstead up to its present high standard, but to make it financially a success. Football still holds its own, the interest being as keen as ever. Matches are played on the Cricket Ground every Saturday afternoon and large crowds witness the efforts of the teams. The Town and North Sussex Tennis Clubs have had a very successful season. The Athletic Club held its Annual Sports on Whit-Monday. when the sport was good and the "gate" larger than in any previous year.

The almanack from which this is reproduced is preserved at the Town Museum, like that for 1896 used in Bulletin 57 (Autumn 1995), pp.9f., where details of both publication and publisher will be found together with a picture of the premises he occupied, previously Hayward's and including the post office. Evidently in 1896 Maplesden took over more of that half of the building while Lloyds Bank replaced the western half with its extension. The isolation hospital was at High Grove, the Y.M.C.A. hut in Cante-lupe Road (later the British Legion, now a modern house, no.61).

Of the people mentioned, George Brinkhurst was a saddler, in London Road next to the Swan, C.H. Everard a retired Eton master at Newlands, London Road, Charles Henry Gatty of Felbridge Place and S. McCalmont Hill gentry with doctorates in laws, George Bailye a tailor and hairdresser at the western end of Middle Row, Charles Edward Collins a medical doctor at Redstede, Lewes Road, Edward Steer a builder, printer and newspaper publisher in London Road and Joseph Bainton the minister of Zion Chapel. I do not know anything about H. Finch. Maplesden's role as a trustee of the cricket club helps explain the space he gives it. M.J.L.

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**HIGH STREET CELLARS** (5209-12, 5303, 5403, 5512)

M.J. Leppard

Vigorous discussion at my local history class and alert reading have led to the conclusion that cellars could not be expected in mediaeval hall-houses with earth floors and central hearths and that the word was used for ground-floor stores as well as underground ones. Where we have cellars under hall-houses therefore they must have been dug out when chimneys were inserted, or later, and the cellar of the Sessions House could have been a ground-floor room, whether enclosed or open and arcaded.

Among Mr P.D. Wood's papers, now with me, are notes that the mid-17th century addition at the rear of both halves of Porch House, where the ground falls away, includes a blocked cellar window at the S.W. end and a stone cellar stair. There is no trace now of a well which may once have been in the cellar.

Recent alterations at 61-63 High Street showed its brick-lined cellar behind the line of the shop front with an area window projecting beyond it.

## ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA

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

**FINAL STRESS** (5107f., 5204-8, 5309f., 5410, 5504)

M.J. Leppard

In Bulletin 52 (Spring 1993) I suggested that writing as two words place-names normally written as one might be an indication that in speech the stress fell on the last syllable. Examples of such forms for two of the local place-names in my lists of those so stressed have recently been noted as follows. The memorial in our parish churchyard to William Elphick who died 22 February 1855 aged 78 records that he lived 'nearly 50 years in the service of George Boone Roupell Esq of Chart-Ham Park ... by whose family this stone was erected'. Whether the mason wrote the wording at Mr Roupell's dictation or copied it from a written order, it seems that either the gentleman or the less educated and probably locally born and bred artisan, or both, were accustomed to saying ChartHAM. A postcard recently acquired by the Town Museum sent 8 September 1903, apparently from a servant to a fellow-servant, is addressed to Row Fant, again seemingly what someone was used to hearing rather than what she would have seen in print.

I also suggested that Kingscote was named after a Gloucestershire village. In the East Grinstead Observer of 30 August 1923, however, it is said to have been named after himself by a Mr King who had it built in the late-1860s or 1870s. Whether he knew of the village is not stated, and so the pronunciation used there, whatever it may be, is of marginal relevance to our usage here.

**PRONUNCIATION OF WEST HOATHLY** (5309, 5410, 5504): With reference to the suggestion that the vicar might have composed the verse on the bell hung in 1937 in which Hoathly is rhymed with high, Mrs K.S. Coutin observes that it could equally be the work of a barrister or a professor from Oxford both active in the village at the time.

**BRICKMAKING** (2606-10, 2709f., 2810, 3014, 3108, 3510, 4104, 4403, 4717, 5303, 5409f., 5506)

An as yet unidentified site is mentioned in the wills of Edward Payne Esq. in 1713 as a yard or kiln, tenant Brasted, and of Charles Payne Esq. in 1734 as a kiln, tenant Samuel Pattenden, as quoted in Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, 5th series, vol.6 (1926-28), pp.277f.

The East Grinstead Courier of 6 March 1980 reported research by Mr J.A. Knight of Bondi Junction, Australia, into his East Grinstead ancestors and mentioned a newspaper report of the death on 26 May 1912 of William Knight, known as Billy Brick, aged 87, who lived at 178 London Road near a small brickyard. It can now be seen that he was the William Knight, brickmaker, living and working with his father John, listed in the 1851 census and reported in our Bulletin 54 (Spring 1994), p.9. As late as 1936 Billy Brick was remembered as a local character 'fond of his glass'\* (hardly surprising after a lifetime in such thirst-creating work). Now we know the origin of that nickname.

\* E.W. Young, The Pageant of East Grinstead High Street..., p.40

**BRIAN DESMOND**

M. J. Leppard

The death of Mr Brian Desmond in Watford Hospital from pneumonia on 17 December 1995 aged 92 was a loss to our town and all who care about its history, even though he had not lived here for over a quarter of a century.

After two years on the East Sussex News at Lewes he came here in June 1920 to work on its sister paper The East Grinstead Observer until retiring in 1967 as chief reporter and doyen of local journalists. For a time he was also local correspondent of the Morning Post, editor of the parish magazine when published in tabloid newspaper form (1960-61) and writer of the text of several programmes of special events and editions of the town guide. He also wrote thrillers, one of which was published, and children's stories.



Outside his work Mr Desmond was the founder of the Rugby Club in 1929 and its secretary for 34 years. Between the wars he was also secretary of the East Grinstead Club at Norton House and Moat Lawn Tennis Club. During the war he was an officer in the Air Training Corps, becoming adjutant in 1945, when he also became a Rotarian, serving as president in 1961 and later as secretary.

On his retirement Mr and Mrs Desmond ran Colemans Hatch Post Office Stores until moving to All Cannings, Wiltshire, in May 1969, from where they moved to Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, to be near their son and his wife. To them, and to his widow, Kathleen née Cruttenden, whom he married in 1932, go our affectionate sympathy and appreciation.

Mr Desmond owed his career to W.H.Hills, whom he revered and from whom he acquired a love of our local history expressed in regular items in the paper and in amassing materials for a projected but alas never produced revision of Hills' History of East Grinstead. In retirement he joined our Society and contributed to our Bulletins an invaluable account of working with Hills\* and reminiscences published in instalments\*\*. Another is printed overleaf and a few remain in hand for future use.

For myself, although I hardly knew him, I can still picture Mr Desmond clearly, perhaps walking the chows which were Mrs Desmond's pride and joy. More important, the local history snippets in his column in my boyhood were a formative influence on my own interest. Without them, not only might I not be writing this, I would be unlikely to be editor of the Bulletin and there might not even be a Bulletin to edit! And now I have been placed in an even better position to carry on from him, as explained on p.15.

\* Bulletin 35 (Autumn 1983)    \*\* Bulletins 37 (Autumn 1984), 38 (Spring 1985), 39 (Autumn 1985), 41 (Spring 1987), 42 (Autumn 1987), 45 (Spring 1989), 46 (Autumn 1989), 49 (Spring 1991)    PHOTOGRAPH: Desmond collection (see p.15)

## EAST GRINSTEAD THROUGH THE EYES OF A REPORTER (9) Brian Desmond

I was chief reporter in charge of the East Grinstead office until after the war, during which time Farncombes sold out to F.J. Parsons, owners of the Hastings Observer and several provincial newspapers. It was a great change for me and a pleasing one, as I never really got on with the managing director of Farncombes. (suffice it to say that his letters to me from Lewes opened with the abrupt 'Desmond' - not, say, 'Dear Desmond' and certainly not 'Dear Mr Desmond'.)

The appointed editor for the Observer and Crawley newspaper was John White, former sub-editor of the Hastings Observer. He had just come out of the services. We became the closest of friends although he spent much of his time at the Crawley office and came to East Grinstead office two or three times a week. I shared the top office with him.

On publishing day he took me down to the vast Hastings office where the Observer, etc. were now printed. His idea was that I should become editor of the East Grinstead Observer, telling me so later. I could see at once it was not for me, as the technicalities, headlines, etc. were beyond my comprehension. There was another and far more important factor: I loved people, and the thought of a desk job, despite, perhaps, more regular hours, was not for me. I was lucky enough that I got on with people and if I did not go to see them they came to me. Eventually it all ended with John's getting me to write the leader, the two-column Townsman's notes, church notes by Layman and children's short stories and covering all the rugby matches as Touch Judge. Happy days.

The late hours eventually caused me health problems and I caught a real packet one winter. Not being a motorist I used to hang about in the High Street for the last bus to Chelwood Gate, where we moved in 1961, the Southdown that went from East Grinstead to Eastbourne during the day-time and stopped short at Uckfield at night. I often did not get home until about 11 p.m., having caught the 8.20 bus to East Grinstead.

With the hope of having more spare time and free evenings my wife and I took over the Colemans Hatch Post Office Stores, where we had a lovely Sussex-style cottage built on. But my wife, who had not been in business before, and I, who certainly knew nothing about post office work, found it a very different story if, in a sense, an interesting experience. We made a go of it but found it very demanding. From 6 a.m. until we opened at 9 a.m. there was the postal work, newspapers, bread and milk supplies. After that the stores, looked after by my wife, and post office side were constantly busy until 6 p.m. We increased the business no end but both cracked up, and there was never any time for writing. Thus we sold out and left the area.

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OUR EARLIEST BUS (3704,3803): Looking back to 1910, King George V's jubilee edition of the East Grinstead Courier, 8 May 1935, recalled a horse bus operating then between the station and the town, the property of Mr Miles (whose premises were in Station Road [Bulletin 31 (Autumn 1981), p.5]).

**THE DESMOND PAPERS**

M.J.Leppard

Following the death of Mr Brian Desmond (see p.13) his son Peter with magnificent generosity gave me a vast suitcase full of his local books and papers so that his intention of using them in writing a new history of East Grinstead should not be utterly frustrated. They include a splendid collection of over 550 early local postcards, almost all assembled by W.H.Hills, many photographs, particularly relating to the A.T.C., Rotary Club, Rugby Club and local men in the forces in the second world war, some odd newspapers and cuttings, several 19th and 20th century pamphlets and programmes, some typed notes (but no drafts for a new history) and a few letters, together with Hills' 'volume of biographical details of personalities' [1] with some later updating.

The postcards, photographs and such books as I do not need for my own researches I have given to the Town Museum. An account of the cards by Mr Gould will appear in the Museum Society's next Newsletter (October 1996). The contents of the other items are gradually being absorbed and beginning to find their way into print (in some of the notes in these pages for example) and will contribute valuably to my local history evening classes and subsequent writing, including one hopes an eventual successor to Hills' History. As with the Patrick Wood papers [2] I shall do my best to make their contents available to help other researchers.

[1] Bulletin 35 (Autumn 1983), p.6 [2] see Bulletin 56 (Spring 1995), p.3.

**THE TOOTH PAPERS**

M.J.Leppard

Many readers will remember Tooth's the stationers in the High Street which closed some 25 years ago and will know that the family name occurs more than once in Hills' History of East Grinstead. Earlier this year Mr & Mrs D.Huggett, the nearest relatives of the last surviving member of the local line, Mrs Dorothy A. Jenner, gave the Town Museum the family papers she had assembled. The Museum has retained at East Court the photographs, scrapbooks and newspapers included and has deposited the remaining papers at the West Sussex Record Office on indefinite loan, where they will be expertly cared for in the right conditions. These are mainly early 19th century letters re family finances, in a poor state of preservation, and scrappy genealogical memoranda, and include memorandum books kept by John Tooth II (1778-1854) from 1828 (wrongly called a diary by Hills) and John IV (c.1830-1917), c.1904-5. The latter was apparently written for Hills to use; he follows it almost verbatim in his accounts of public improvements in the 1870s. A tentative incomplete genealogy covering eight generations from 1762 to the present, compiled by the present writer from these papers supplemented from parish registers, wills and census returns, has also been deposited at the record office.

The papers provide no surprises and no great additions to our knowledge apart from the family history. There are, however, many useful supplementary details and one important correction to Hills - the High Street trees were planted in 1871, not 1874, a valuable aid to dating photographs.

**ENQUIRIES CONCERNING PHOTOGRAPHS** in these collections should be addressed to Mr D.Gould, hon. keeper of photography, at the Town Museum, who can also arrange copies of photographs in the Museum's care.

**Local History Mini-Guide to Sources: No.3 East Grinstead** (West Sussex County Council, 1995, £2, from Library or Town Museum)

This nine-page pamphlet is the joint work of the West Sussex library service and record office. After a brief survey of what has already been written on East Grinstead the authors list the available sources for further study under headings of Ancestors, Houses, Estates, Churches, Geography and Views, Education, Public Services, Industry and Trade, Wartime and Miscellaneous. They cast their net wide and fish up a remarkable amount of information for such a small format. There are a few holes in the net (for example neither the Buckhurst Terrier nor the Lewes Chartulary is mentioned) but this is a guide not a complete bibliography and succeeds very well in its aim to point students of local history towards not only the main sources but a wide variety of minor and local publications.

This guide will be invaluable to the beginner and useful to the experienced researcher. The compilers do not regard themselves as critics and do not distinguish the important sources from the more trivial but that is fair enough; who knows what will come to be important in years to come?

**East Court** (East Grinstead Town Museum information leaflet no.3, 20 n.p., from Museum)

East Court must be one of the most visited of our public buildings and is rather different from most of the others. East Grinstead is not well endowed with good 18th century buildings and we should appreciate those we do have. This leaflet is therefore most welcome, containing in its four small pages all the essential information about the mansion, supplementary facts about the former estate and the neighbouring house Estcots, and references for further study.

With three leaflets now published the character of the series is becoming clear - short, accessible and practical. May it soon be extended!

and the editor

R.F.Hunnisett, **Sussex Coroners' Inquests, 1558-1603** (P.R.O., 1996, £20), a companion to the same editor's volume for 1485-1558 [reviewed Bulletin 41], is equally thorough and informative, giving, for example, the earliest reference to our Chequer inn (1585) and another date for Assizes here (Lent 1591) to add to those listed in Bulletins 31 and 48. It is good to know that a third volume, for 1603-88, is in preparation.

**Sussex Industrial History**, no.25 (1995) includes an illustrated article on Kidbrooke Home Farm by E.C.Byford and R.G.Martin.

Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society Newsletter 89 (Jan. 1996) reproduced, with our permission, Mr Gould's article 'Transport in East Grinstead in 1845' from our Bulletin 57 (Autumn 1995).

Whose Bulletin have you been reading?