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## EDITORIAL

We try to keep a balance, if not within each issue then between them, though seldom with such attention to contemporary concerns as 25 years ago (see below). But at least in this one the concentration on earlier history in recent numbers is matched by several pages on late-19th and 20th century matter edging into living memory. Many readers like to have their memories wakened or to be reminded of things their elders told them. In return perhaps they will send in further information or comparable items. They are also welcome to contribute to our new series, East Grinstead's Firsts and Lasts (see below).

**COVER PICTURE:** The Guinea Pig, Stone Quarry estate, as drawn by B.W.Adlam, senior assistant to Harold Marsh of King Street, Kings Lynn, the architect to Messrs E. & H.Kelsey, the brewers who were to build it. The name was at first going to be The Plume and Garter but Dr Golding-Bird, the vicar of East Grinstead, proposed the East Grinstead Observer invite ideas for a better. Mr Tim Berry suggested the Guinea Pig in tribute to the club founded at the nearby hospital. The only pub in the world so named, it was opened by Sir Archibald McIndoe in 1957. Among those present was the architect, who had played football for East Grinstead before the war.

**TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO:** Bulletin 12 (May 1973) reported an active Society but static membership. Our statement and members' comments on the Crawley/Gatwick sub-regional study, plans for a summer exhibition on recent and impending developments in the town and for marking the Year of the Tree and items on current local concerns took about half the 14 pages, leaving two for the cover (as now) and about four for historical topics. The remaining space was devoted to internal Society matters.

**AS OTHERS SAW US (10):** 'The Aberdeen of Sussex' - Scottish nationalist on reading how our Town Museum is funded by money found in the streets, January 1998. P.D.W.

**EAST GRINSTEAD'S FIRSTS (1):** In 1889 Captain Beaven, East Grinstead's Salvation Army officer, was sent to prison for a week for refusing to pay a fine for technically obstructing the thoroughfare with his band. There had been riots at Salvation Army meetings in large towns earlier in the decade but Beaven's supporters claimed East Grinstead was the first town to send a Salvation Army officer to prison. [Source: contemporary newspapers]

**... AND LASTS (1):** In September 1988 Blackwell Hollow was the last road in the country to be re-opened after the great storm of the previous October following work to secure the banks at a cost of £312,000. [contemporary newspapers]

**FIVE-YEAR OLD TO PARENTS:** 'I know why West Grinstead is so far from East Grinstead. They're gradually moving apart as new land comes up between.' B.R.

**NEXT BULLETIN** (Autumn 1998): Contributions by 12 July, please.

The location of this Domesday Book holding and the development of its name to Wardleigh/Warðley in the 16th and 17th centuries are discussed in Sussex Archaeological Collections, vol.126 (1988), p.248 and the Domesday articles in our Bulletins 58, 59 and 61. Its name, however, has not hitherto been explained.

Invited to comment, Prof. Coates writes: War- is enigmatic, I'm afraid. Having, early on, only a Domesday form is never helpful. The first element may be wer 'weir' - would that suit? Or perhaps weorf 'draught animal', as in the West Midlands War-leys; a medial -y- might be expected, but its absence in Domesday would not be unexpected. Weard 'watch, defence' doesn't seem to yield good sense with -ley (no analogues known to me); but the form Wardleigh seems to back this impeccably. The second element is obviously lēah 'wood; clearing'.

In support of wer 'weir' might be thought to be an apparently related family-name ate Ware found in the tithing of Imberhorne from 1285 to 1332 [1] but in the last reference Matilda atte Ware is a villein of the prior of Lewes and therefore on his manor of Imberhorne adjoining Warlege on the east. The eponymous weir must be there also, identifiable as the Ware, a copyhold of Imberhorne near Brook Mill [bottom of West Hill] in 1597/8 [2] and west of Hurst an Clays in 1606 [3]. If there was a weir in Warlege it must have been on Felbridge Water, probably at or near the moated site (NGR TQ 362391).

In support of weard 'defence' Mr J.S.Hodgkinson draws attention to Burleigh (D.B. Berchellie) lying along Warlege's western side, the second element of which is leah again and the first burh, conventionally taken to mean 'ancient fort'. Prof. Coates says this is certainly a possibility but he has doubts whether any ancient fort is implicated in Burwash and adjacent Burgham. In Burcot (Worcs), Burleigh House (Northants) and Burham and Burmarsh (Kent) it seems certain that Saxon-period edifices or even towns are referred to.

An apparent echo of the Ward of Wardleigh is the name the Wort given in the tithe apportionment of 1843 to the moated site (parcel 2100) but, alas, this must be a mistranscription of a handwritten original, for in the schedule to a conveyance of Gull-edge Farm, 16 Dec. 1841, it is the Moat [4]. We do not know the age of the moat but the obvious reason for it is defence against man and beast, so possibly weard is the correct interpretation of the first element and the moat the location of the Warlege home-stead, which from evidence in the earlier articles certainly seems to have lain to the north of Gullege.

**REFERENCES** (S.R.S. = Sussex Record Society): [1] Hundred roll, 1285 (Rev.W. Budgen's notebook 110, Barbican House, Lewes) and subsidy rolls 1296, 1327 and 1332 (S.R.S. vol.10, pp.34, 202, 312) [2] Buckhurst Terrier (S.R.S. vol.39, pp.50-52) [3] Bargain and sale (East Sussex Record Office, SAS/HA 134) [4] Photocopy in my possession (whereabouts of original unknown)

For a **MAP OF WARLEGE** see Bulletin 58 (Spring 1996), p.7. For discussion of some other **LOCAL PLACE-NAMES** see p.13 of this issue.

**WELLS IN EAST GRINSTEAD HIGH STREET**

M.J.Leppard

LEFT: The town pump of 1863 (William Harding photograph attributed to 1864, no.6 in Arthur Harding's post-card reprints; see also note at end of article)

A good supply of drinking water is an obvious requisite for any human habitation. Our town's location on top of a sandstone hill creates a difficulty in that respect but it was overcome by sinking wells to serve nearly every property, often to a considerable depth. Information on some about which more is known than the mere fact of their existence may throw light on aspects of life here in the past.



A public well, supplementing and perhaps predating private ones, might reasonably be supposed to have been one of the earliest features of the town but we have no record before 1680 when it was reported: 'The common well called the Towne Well ... is in decay and default, and lieth open to the common danger and annoyance of the inhabitants of the said Borough, and ought to be repaired and maintained at the charge of the said inhabitants by the Constable of the said Borough for the time being. And now a day is given the said Constable ... well and sufficiently to repair and amend the same before the 24th June next on penalty of £4.' [1] What was done we do not know, nor where the well was.

Mr Wood thought it was at the western end of Middle Row, as in 1877 [2], but on 14 Oct. 1813 John Hoath wrote to William Hall: 'A well is digging for A Town Pump at the end of the Middle Row before the Crown Inn'. In a further letter, 8 April 1814, he reported: 'The Town Pump is found to accommodate and be of great Use to the inhabitants of the Middle Row and many others' [3].

On 23 July 1847, however, John Stenning, Earl De La Warr's local agent, wrote himself a note, 'Town pump - see to its safety', and on 21 July 1848, 'See to the Town pump it should be removed' [4].

In the very hot dry summer of 1863 John Tooth, a plumber born in 1830, remembered this pump, for the benefit of the Earl's tenants, and its closure through neglect and lack of subscriptions, got up a committee and obtained the agent's permission to examine it. The well, partly under the west front of Mr Bailye's house, was 80' deep and without water, undermined by rock giving way to the height of the water level, which had been 12'. Its 6' diameter at the bottom when new had widened to 14' to a height of 12'.

He proposed to make the sides secure, remove all the rubbish and dig 4' deeper. At 5' he found an abundant supply at the rate of 6 gallons per minute rising 12' high. He fixed double 3" brass pumps, with a standpipe and two nozzles, one for pails, one for a water barrow, enclosing three sides with bricks, a cement kerb and ornamental cast-iron railings for protection. Mr Killick, well-sinker and plumber of Reigate, was appointed to see the work done satisfactorily. [5]

Summarising Tooth's notes, written for his use, W.H.Hills names the committee members (including Thomas Cramp) and relates accidents during the work and the fate of the street-watering scheme [6].

It continued in use until Mr Bailye rebuilt his premises over the well in 1877 and removed the pump, railings, etc., which were then taken by the parish authorities to the workhouse for safe keeping [7]. A letter from Cramp in the North Sussex Gazette for 31 Oct. 1877 arguing for continued free use mentions Bailye's belief that he had purchased the pump along with the property and his annoyance by the frequent rattlings and sloppings attending pumping. No-one knew, said Cramp, when it had been provided or by whom but he remembered the 1863 committee and £100 subscribed then, half of it by the De La Warr family.

It seems, however, that Bailye had not closed everything off completely, for between the wars a hydrant there was used for street-watering [8] and one old resident even claimed (no doubt with the hyperbole time gives early memories) that as children they used to get into the space and go along a tunnel for about 100 yards, until one day one fainted and had to be got out by the police, whereupon it was sealed off [9].

The other well about which much is known is at Sackville College, which must be contemporary with the building if not already there. In 1816 the Warden, Thomas Palmer, reported: 'A pump would be most desirable the well being upwards of 60 feet deep and the Collegians generally too old and infirm to draw the water'. An anonymous letter dated 12 March told him to have one put in and the writer (subsequently found to be Mrs Knight, the previous Warden's widow) would pay for it. Mr Paul [plumber], Mr Lynn [builder] and Mr R.Knight [blacksmith] did the work at a discount and the pump was installed in August. [10]

The ornamental wellhouse was designed by William Butterfield in 1847 when he was restoring the College [11]. On 30 Aug. 1850 John Stenning noted: 'Put well curb to well formerly the Pigeon House by request of Earl De La Warr for the use of the Colledge' [12]. This cannot be the same well, however; the Pigeon House Field was the site of our Chequer Mead Arts Centre.

In Dr Harrison's wardenship (1873-1908) the pump was long worn out and the porter drew daily in a huge bucket. By General MacMunn's time (1929-52) the porter drew a bucketful for each resident from a standpipe at 7 a.m. (Under his successor Sir Harry Sinderson, 1952-68, water was piped to the rooms.) In 1970 the well was found to be 78' 3" deep with 4' of water. [13] Makers of a television programme for the opening of the channel tunnel in the early 90s found it c.40' deep with virtually acid water [14].

Rights of householders to use wells not on their property were carefully safeguarded. In 1703 a feoffment by Anne Payne widow to Thomas Bodle hatmaker of the tall cottage in Church Lane (no.7) specifies a customary right to water from a well in the close or backside of Thomas Nash's messuage [presumably one of the adjoining cottages] for which one shilling was payable in equal parts at the Annunciation and Michaelmas. In 1840 the will of Robert Payne, the sexton, leaves three small cottages there to his wife. After her death the northernmost was to go to Philadelphia Fortune, wife of Thomas, with the right to draw water from the well on Richard Payne's property [one of the other two], for which she was to pay a reasonable proportion of the expenses. [15] The responsibilities of Earl De La Warr's agent included such rights. In 1847 'Mr White agreed to take premises late Bankin [E. half of Wilmington House] with use of the well at Mrs Fieldwick's [W. half], but not right to a back way thro' Lynn and Fieldwick [no. 46]' and in 1848 Mr Covey [Old Stone House] applied for a new draw well, 'landlord to pay one half the expense estimated £25.15.0d', i.e. £12.7.6d [16]. (The remains of a well pump from behind Old Stone House are in our Town Museum.)

The well in the cellar of the Rose & Crown was closed by the authorities in 1940 (presumably because of its use as an air-raid shelter). It was said to be 70' deep with 7' of running water and at one time to have supplied the whole of that part of the town (from the bottle and jug department?). [17]

Old wells are sometimes discovered during building work. In the 1950s demolition of the rear of 2 Judges Terrace revealed a well 96' deep (plumbed by a weighted fishing line) with 20' of water just inside the back door covered by a huge concrete slab. The first 4' were of local sandstone. 'From then on the well-digger has chiselled an almost perfect circle in solid rock', a remarkable piece of workmanship showing no sign of wear. It was believed to be 400 years old (presumably from the estimated age of the house) and was used to dump the demolition rubbish before being concreted over. [18] In 1971 South Eastern Gas Board men renewing old mains pipes beneath the A22 'opposite Sackville College' discovered near the kerb a 30' deep well containing water covered by a large stone slab. It was beautifully preserved, neatly dug in the sandstone rock, and was thought to have served the cottages in front of the College pulled down in the early 19th century. [19] Perhaps, however, it had belonged to Kennedys, demolished in 1968 and now under grass. In 1996 workmen behind 39 High Street uncovered a well 50' deep, 5' in diameter, cut through the solid rock. which it took them an hour to fill [20].

Such discoveries often stimulate reports of comparable wells. When that at Judges Terrace was found Mr W.H.Price, whose men did the work, said he had half filled in one behind his offices [18 High Street] and Mr W.H.Beavis of nearby Clarendon Cottage said there was a similar one beneath his house [21]. Mr T.A.Hounsom knew of one beneath the cottage in the College grounds, where previously had been stables but before that a house [22], once the home of George Knight, Warden 1772-1813 [23].

Wells also bring out the fancifullest of traditions. 'Hearsay has it', according to Mr Beavis, that one could travel about two miles underground from one of the wells in the High Street,

linking with a rumoured tunnel to Brambletye Castle [24].

Of our well-diggers almost nothing is known, not even names. George and John Wood are listed in 1799 [25]. John Tooth, quoted above, was said by his son Edwin to have built wells for great houses round about. Beyond a certain depth they were paid so much per foot, money that was spent on beer. [26]

Statistics relating to our wells could help determine other matters, e.g. how far down the solid rock begins in different parts of the town or how the water-table has fluctuated with time. It would be interesting to know how many wells are under buildings and how many outside, and why. In view of the lack of archaeological work here it could be particularly valuable if any could be cleared and the items lost or dumped in them analysed. Yet again supplementary information from readers can enhance the potential of these scrappy notes for solid contributions to knowledge.

#### REFERENCES

E.G.O. = East Grinstead Observer; T.A.H. = Mr T.A.Hounsome, personal communication, 6 April 1994; S.A.C. = Sussex Archaeological Collections; Stenning = John Stenning's borough notebook (W.H.Hills papers, Barbican House, Lewes); Wood = R.H.Wood, Sackville College ... some historical notes (unpublished typescript 1972, copy in public library); W.S.R.O. = West Sussex Record Office

[1] View of frankpledge for borough (East Sussex Record Office, SAS RF/19)  
 [2] S.A.C., vol.106 (1968), p.57 [3] W.S.R.O. Add MS 39,854 ff.20,23 [4] Stenning [5] John Tooth III memorandum book, c.1904-06 (W.S.R.O. Tooth papers) [6] W.H.Hills, History of East Grinstead (1906), pp.237f. [7] as [5] [8] T.A.H. [9] Mr Gordon-Walker, personal communication, 6 April 1994 [10] Wood, p.55 [11] S.A.C., vol.20 (1868), p.156 [12] Stenning [13] Wood, pp. 69, 73, 74, 56 [14] T.A.H. [15] Documents held by Messrs Pearlless de Rougemont, Church Lane, which I was permitted to examine in 1964 [17] E.G.O. 31 Dec. 1948 [18] E.G.O., undated cutting in my possession [19] E.G.O. 4 March 1971 [20] Workmen at site, personal communication, 18 Dec. 1996 [21] as [18] [22] T.A.H. [23] Wood, p.21 [24] as [18] [25] Palmer's rhyming directory of East Grinstead, 1799 [26] Mr J.M.Gray, personal communication, 20 April 1972

**NOTES:** Relying on memory, John Tooth dates the closure of the town well to c.1840 and re-opening to 1861. Some of the '1864' Harding photographs show the pump, some do not. Presumably those without belong in the '1862' series. (For the unreliability of these dates compare Bulletin 18 (Jan. 1976), p.8.) If the photograph on p.5 has not come out well, a better version will be found in Bulletin 16 (Feb. 1975), p.8.

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#### ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA (continued from p.11 below)

**GOLDEN BOOTS** (6113,6220): Brooker's Guide to Uckfield and District (1904) contains an advertisement for Russell & Co., bootmakers, The Golden Boot, Uckfield with a photograph of the shop in which the boot is not discernible. This supports the claim that our Golden Boot once hung over Russell's shop in Uckfield [6004] and makes its present location at Russell & Bromley's an ideal home, for the businesses have an historical connection.



## EDWIN ARTHUR HARDING

David Gould

SOURCES: Copies of birth and second marriage certificates; East Grinstead Observer, 6 May 1905 (per Mr J.T.Simkin); personal communication from Mrs M.E.Jackson

LEFT: Harding with Royal Flying Corps flash on his uniform, date unknown

Some information about one of East Grinstead's best-known photographers has come to light, largely owing to the researches of his niece, Mrs M.E.Jackson, who lives on the Isle of Man.

Edwin Arthur Harding was born 24 July 1869 at Glen Vue Road (now Railway Approach), East Grinstead. His parents were William (described on the birth certificate as journeyman painter) and Mary Harding (formerly Charlwood). It would appear that William's photographic career was somewhat brief; it is known that he had a business in the early 1860s at 'Middle Street'.

By 1899 Arthur (as he was known) was a watchmaker at 22 Glen Vue Road. Thus business was carried on until about 1905. It was during this period that he issued the bulk of his series of picture postcards, most of which were stamped on the back 'Harding, Photo., East Grinstead', but he was never a professional photographer and no local directory lists him as one.

On 12 September 1900 he married Gertrude May Jago, and there were two daughters, born in September 1901 and March 1903. The marriage was not particularly successful and it is on record that Arthur more than once 'misconducted himself' with his father's servant [at the Institute], one Amy Truckle. On the advice of Gertrude's former employer, Robert Whitehead, the local postmaster, she obtained a divorce in 1905 or subsequently. It was about then that Arthur disappeared from the scene.

During the Great War he served in C Company, 4th Rifle Brigade, Royal Sussex Regiment [our local Territorial Army Unit] and fought at Gallipoli in 1915. After the war he is thought to have returned to East Grinstead as there exist a few postcards of processions photographed between 1919 and 1922. He spent some time in Sydney, Australia, and later in the 20s moved from East Grinstead to Brighton. At the age of 61\* he remarried, his second wife being Alice Maud Sippetts, aged 37, of 101 Ditchling Rise, Brighton. The marriage took place at the Wesleyan Chapel, Dorset Gardens, Brighton on 24 January 1931. Arthur, who was then living at 65 Hollingbury Road, Brighton was still a watchmaker by profession.

In 1934 they moved from Brighton to Newbury, Berkshire, where Arthur was to end his days. During World War II he was in the A.R.P. and his death occurred on 4 January 1947.

\* But on the marriage certificate he says 55 - ED.

As is only right, Wallace Henry Hills, author of The History of East Grinstead (1906), has been the subject of several articles in our pages: as historian, as journalist and as a man [listed at end of article]. By the kindness of Mr J.T.Simkin we can now give Hills's own account of the writing of his book, from the East Grinstead Observer for 14 April 1906:

If any of my readers felt a tremor of an earthquake during Friday night last I trust they were not alarmed. It was only the sigh of relief that involuntarily escaped as I wrote the last figure, of the last line, of the final index to local place-names in 'The History of East Grinstead'. The sense of lightheartedness experienced when my three years of hard voluntary labour in connection with the compilation of this volume came to an end, was such as I have rarely felt before. I have no hesitation in saying that had I known, when the task was commenced, what was in store for me, I should have immediately said, It is absolutely impossible for me to do it.

It will be remembered that my original plan was to get out a local chronological calendar under the title of 'When did it happen?'. But so many requests came along that I would abandon this meagre intention and so many offers of assistance in the way of loaning material were made that I somewhat reluctantly began a history of the town. Then came the labour of hunting up facts, of arranging them in some sort of order, of sifting the matter of real importance or of genuine interest from the mouldy hoards of purely antiquarian value which the man in the street would never look at.

The result is that the book contains over 300 pages and I am bound by my promise to issue the ordinary copies at 3s.6d. each. This would have meant a very serious loss to me had not my friends come forward in such generous numbers and entered their names for subscribers' copies at half a guinea each. I am going to limit the number of these; every one will be numbered, signed by myself and richly bound in half-calf gilt with cloth sides. They will be well worth the money asked for them and in the course of time will not be available through any bookseller and will only be issued to those whose names are printed in the volume as subscribers thereto.

I say it candidly and openly, this is not enough to guarantee me against loss. I don't mind giving up my leisure time to the work - it has proved instructive and enjoyable; but I boldly ask those who have urged me to supply this greatly-felt want to do their best to see that I am not a heavy pecuniary sufferer because I have yielded to their demands. I want to see fifty more subscribers' copies and not another one shall then be issued. These must be applied for within a week, by which time the final sheets will be in the binders' hands. Those who wish to be associated with this venture on behalf of East Grinstead and have not already applied must do so without delay.

In the Observer for 28 April Hills reported:

I am very sorry to have to disappoint a number of would-be subscribers to the 'History of East Grinstead'. The list is ab-

solutely closed and all the books are now printed and in the binders. I regret as much as the applicants that they were made too late, and can only ask them to console themselves with copies of the ordinary edition. They are also limited in number, and, so far as I am concerned, are never likely to be reprinted, so I advise early application for them.

The book was published on Wednesday 23 May. 210 copies were produced in the subscribers' edition.

In the Observer for 13 October 1921 the remaining sheets were being advertised for sale bound at 5s. while secondhand booksellers were asking 7s.6d. Today you would be lucky to find a copy for less than £40; £50 is more likely.

**ARTICLES ON HILLS IN OUR BULLETINS:** 15 (Sept. 1974), p.5 P.D.Wood, 'W.H. Hills' History; pp.6f. R.H.Wood, 'The Chiel'; 35 (Autumn 1983), pp.4-6 B. Desmond, 'Working with W.H.Hills: personal recollections'; 61 (Spring 1997), pp.12f. David Gould, 'Gleanings from W.H.Hills' postcards'. Bulletin 34 (Spring 1983) contains an index of personal names in the History.

#### ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA

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

#### HIGH STREET CELLARS (5209-12,5303,5403,5512,5911,6111)

At 11 High Street Mr R.H.Wood noted a shallow cellar under the front bay, its floor very little below pavement level. It is cut about 4' down into the sandstone. There is a curious narrow cut like the beginning of a passage leading towards the front for about 6'. It is about 2' wide and 4' high. [1]

Mr P.J.Gray observes that the cellar at Sackville House must date from its late-16th century rebuilding since the foundations of the chimney form part of its walls. Mrs L.A.Sansom reports that the cellar at 25-27 High Street is comparable to that at no. 29 in its location at the rear [5303] and has an earth floor. The cellar under Old Stone House is ashlar-lined, lighted from the street but with access from the rear, not the front, and projects above street level. It cannot be older than the building of the house on a virgin site in c.1630 [2]. No.6 High Street also has a cellar projecting above ground level [6111], so has Dorset House and so possibly had 11 High Street, hence the low headroom now.

In the 19th century a cellar was provided under the house built in front of Sackville College (now open space) after the re-alignment of the High Street in 1826 and before 1851 when it appears in the census as Sackville Cottage (renamed Kennedys in this century).

**REFERENCES:** [1] Mr Wood's notes on the building, in my possession. [2] Sussex Archaeological Collections, vol.24 (1872), pp.223f.

Bulletin 62 (Autumn 1997), p.17: Prof. Coates points out that the correct date of death for King Alfred is 899; p.15: SAS G17/2: for 1625 read 1652. Bulletin 63 (Winter 1997/98), p.8 for Goefrey read Geoffrey; p.10 for Kindersely read Kindersley.

Without any celebrations our Society reached its thirtieth anniversary in April this year. Following tradition, a review of the last decade marks the occasion in these pages.

Internally membership is at best keeping pace with population growth but meetings are well supported, though the emphasis has moved away from topics directly related to the Society's aims and interests and a few recent speakers have not come up to expectations. The annual party has been abandoned, a change of name resisted and the constitution revised in minor respects. The Newsletter has grown in size and improved its appearance as more money has been devoted to its production, with the balance of its contents shifting to detailed reports of meetings and outings and an interesting series of commissioned articles on local institutions. In 1995 it gained third prize in the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies competition for such publications.

Monitoring planning applications is the main (if not very glamorous) activity, carrying considerable weight with the Town Council. Our rôle in the local Transport Forum complements it and has led to our latest town centre traffic and pedestrianisation proposals. We have continued to urge residential use of accommodation over shops and we decided in 1991 that public transport was one of our concerns. We raised our voice loud and long in support of campaigns for relocation of the Saturday market to Railway Approach, conversion of the schools to the Arts Centre, introduction of closed circuit television and pedestrianisation behind Middle Row and against the change of name of the Crown.

Our failures included housing on the cricket field, our petition against conversion of the Playfield to a car park and our calls for a conservation area design policy. Our successes included the ban on car parking at the top of Hermitage Lane, extended opening hours for public lavatories (for a while) and the ultimate success of the campaign we led for a bus service to Gatwick.

More visibly we introduced an annual guided walk round our second town trail in 1989 and undertook a second tree survey in 1990. Our twenty-fifth anniversary in 1993 was marked by suggesting and organising events commemorating the bombing of the Whitehall fifty years before and affixing a plaque to the building. An annual wreath-laying, however, proved not to command support and was given up. We also made a substantial donation to the EG-BUS funds. In 1994 we revised and re-issued our second town trail and in 1996 we added to the High Street a seat in memory of Mr Cedric Hartland and two copies of our map-guide to the conservation area. Last year we took part for the first time in Heritage Open Days by arranging the opening of Zion Chapel and now, rather than a thirtieth anniversary project, we are planning a popular but authoritative book on all the historic buildings in the High Street to mark the millennium.

The Bulletin continues to be our main local history activity, with some weightier contributions and an increased size and frequency and is even starting to pay for itself through sales of back-numbers and its own subscription scheme. Criticisms of ne-

glect of the Middle Ages and inadequate indexing are beginning to be met. Our grown-up daughter the Town Museum is flourishing and has excellent relations with us and at last our calls for archaeological work have been recognised by watching briefs at 39 and 42 High Street. We may claim indirect credit for the starting of local history evening classes in 1995 and the commissioning by the Town Council of a history of the town as part of East Grinstead's official celebrations of the millennium. Perhaps we have some responsibility for (as well as to) the growing numbers researching their homes and families or other aspects of local history.

This worthy catalogue hardly makes a gripping read but it compares well with our reviews of our first and second decades\*. There is plenty of life in us yet, there is still plenty to do and there is cause for a certain pride and confidence. Knowing our limitations but taking new initiatives, maintaining our traditions but not clinging doggedly to everything from our past - those seem to be the guidelines for another decade of useful public service with lasting good effects for the town we cherish.

\* M.J.Leppard, 'The East Grinstead Society and Local History', Bulletin 24 (May 1978), pp.9f.; P.D.Wood, 'The Society and Local Amenity', 26 (May 1979), pp.11f.; M.J.Leppard, 'Twenty Years On', 44 (Autumn 1988), pp.7f.; see also A.G.Dyson, 'Gold and Silver: the Bulletin 50 issues on', 50 (Spring 1992), pp.3-5.

**HAMMERWOOD** 'derives its name from some early forge' says the English Place-Name Society citing Sussex Archaeological Collections, vol.2 (1849), p.209, a list of names so derived [1]. The name Hammerwood, however, is not found before John Sperling called his new house, commissioned in 1792, Hammerwood Lodge (now Hammerwood Park) [2]. In the next century it was naturally used also for the school and church built nearby by the house's then owners. No evidence is known for a wood there so called, before 1792 or since. However, in the grounds, where now are ornamental ponds, had stood Bower Forge, working in 1653 but ruined by 1664 [3] and the Bower (still standing) is the original building at the Hammerwood Lodge site, a name traceable back to James de la Bure in 1288 [4]. Probably remains of the forge suggested to Sperling a suitably romantic name rather than giving it to him ready-made as the Place-Name Society might seem to imply.

**REFERENCES** (PNSx = A.Mawer & F.M.Stenton, Place-names of Sussex, part 2 (1930)): [1] PNSx, p.331 [2] E.G. Society Bulletin 48 (Spring 1991), p.5 [3] H.Cleere & D.Crossley, The Iron Industry of the Weald (2nd ed., 1995), p. 317 [4] PNSx, p.330

**HOUSE-NAMES** (1909,3909,5909,6113,6204): Mr E.Williams informs us that Perith in Brooklands Way is so called because Mr Percy Patten, a builder, constructed it as a wedding present for his wife Edith and named it from the first three letters of his name and the last three of hers. Somewhat similarly, reports Mr K. Brown, Donary in Fairlawn Drive uses the last three letters of the names of its first occupants, Gordon and Hilary Waddingham.

**WHAT ARE WE CALLED?** (5412): In the East Grinstead Observer Edward Steer in 1899 and 'Townsmen' (Brian Desmond) in 1964 both use East Grinsteadian.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

David Gould, AROUND EAST GRINSTEAD

P.D.Wood

Another fine collection of local photographs from the Town Museum and elsewhere. The demand for such publications seems bottomless and makes one wonder how much of historical value comes out of all this nostalgia. Not that there is anything disgraceful about nostalgia - we most of us work in the present and plan for the future, and occasional nostalgia does no more harm than a day at the seaside, but historical value is another thing.

In East Grinstead we are lucky. David Gould is keeper of a magnificent collection of photographs at the Museum and has an enviable reputation for scholarly research and good caption writing, which this volume will do nothing to diminish. Every picture is admirably annotated: most are attributed, buildings and people are identified and dated, and we are usually told in which direction we are looking, which is rare and valuable. The historian, looking for hard, verifiable facts, gets them, while those in search of nostalgia can have a good wallow.

I wallow happily. Many of the pictures were taken in my lifetime though my favourites were not: Finch the muffin man and Harding's hilarious self-portrait as frontispiece. But it would be nice to be still involved in local history, to be able to take advantage of some of the material here so generously on offer.

(Sutton Publishing, 1997, £9.99, Town Museum and bookshops)

R.L.C.Jones, ASHDOWN FOREST BIBLIOGRAPHY

Editor

This firstfruits of the Sussex Archaeological Society's Ashdown Forest project arouses great expectations which are not fulfilled. The aim is to list all references to the Forest and its component parishes yet the researchers were obviously given modern parishes in their terms of reference, so Forest Row is included, its ancient parent East Grinstead is not. Accordingly a vast amount of relevant MS and printed material is not mentioned while Glynde parish register is, on the strength of entries concerning persons from Maresfield and Withyham. Records of the manor of Maresfield are not noticed, nor the Victoria and other county histories, nor the journals of the Sussex Family History Group and Industrial Archaeology Society or Wealden Iron Research Group, let alone our Bulletins. Sussex Record Society volumes ignored include the Buckhurst Terrier, the journal of Giles Moore and the 1851 religious census. Other omissions include the published 1851 census index for East Grinstead, etc., Mrs Beswick's Brick-making in Sussex, Crossley & Cleere's Iron Industry of the Weald, R.Penn's and B.Willard's books on the Forest and S.J.Marsh's booklets, Miss Martin's Walks on Ashdown Forest, Dr Rich's Flora of Ashdown Forest and almost all published directories and parish histories. Most of the people working on the history of the Forest and its surrounding parishes were not consulted. The whole thing is unworthy of a county archaeological society which claims research as its first priority but fortunately it is only the first draft so the positive response must be to send in additions and corrections. The result could be twice as big and more use.

## OTHER RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Editor

**Sylvia Spencer, CONVENT MEMORIES**, ed. Joan Sankey (Book Guild, 1997, £16.50) is an autobiography starting with being left by her mother at the orphanage at St Margaret's, East Grinstead, in the 1920s at the age of three. From time to time her mother returns, going almost at once, at times Sylvia is taken to stay with aunts and uncles (one the artist Stanley Spencer), sometimes an older brother puts in an appearance. Most of this is not explained but that it is a true reflection of how bewildering and even capricious life must have seemed to the growing Sylvia. At the age of 12 she left the orphanage for an equally variegated set of homes and jobs of work, with occasional appearances by family members. Eventually, however, she became a musician, teacher and artist, finding meaning and fulfilment until her death a few years ago. It is a moving book, in both bleak and *warming* passages, well written and enlivened by the author's drawings. For local readers the special interest is its view from below of the sisters at St Margaret's and the orphanage régime (including a brief spell at their orphanage in Hitchin), which takes up 119 of the 393 pages. A return visit near the end of her life completes the story.

**James Carley, THE MEDWAY CROSSINGS** (1996) is an enterprising, privately published work of 96 A5 pages clearly mapping and describing every identified crossing from the source to the mouth, including those known but now lost (e.g. under Weir Wood reservoir), whether road, path, railway or pipe, with some historical notes. (ISBN 1 898123 35 7, £2.75)

**Peter R. Jenkins, COUNTRY BANK FAILURES: THE EAST GRINSTEAD BANK OF MESSRS G. & G.S. HEAD, 1892** (Dragonwheel Books, 1995, £3) is an account from newspaper reports of the biggest single blow ever to hit this town's economy together with some scene-setting background information. The focus is on the bankers rather than the account holders and their customers.

**MID SUSSEX OFFICIAL GUIDE** [1813,2512,3114,4303,5012]: A new edition, for 1998-99 (? the 7th), has appeared, handsomely produced with coloured street maps of towns but consisting only of local government information and an illustrated gazetteer of towns and villages. Because it is self-financing, produced at no cost to the authority, it is available gratis, thereby neglecting an opportunity to make some money to offset council tax. (Town Museum, Town Council offices, Public Library)

A new edition of the **TOWN GUIDE** (8th ed., 1997) has appeared, with the same publisher, author and format as before but added sections on recent developments, Chequer Mead Arts Centre and Hammerwood Park. The full pull-out street map is replaced by a one-page one of the town centre only, on the same scale. (Town Museum, Town Council, Library and shops, 75 n.p.)

**HIGH WEALD LANDSCAPE TRAIL, WEST SUSSEX** is a colourful brochure with O.S. map, photographs, notes on places of interest and useful information. Five walks are suggested, one linking East Grinstead, the Worth Way, the reservoir and Standen. (West Sussex County Council, 1997; gratis at Library)

**THE FOREST WAY CIRCULAR WALKS** is an attractive leaflet illustrating and commenting on four mapped walks based on stretches of the former East Grinstead - Groombridge railway (East Sussex County Council, N.D.; gratis at Library).

**DANEHILL PARISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAGAZINE**, vol.6, no.11 (Nov. 1997) includes an article on the Rev. John Hunt, a popular curate here 1894-96 and there 1896-99. There are some supplementary notes on him in vol.6, no.12 (Feb. 1998).

Two productions concerning neighbouring parishes deserve mention and could well inspire comparable enterprises here. **Barry & Liz Dighton, The History of the Grange and its Occupants** (1997, not published but copy in Public Library) traces in detail the story of this house near Felcourt and the activities of its occupants, including many who participated well in East Grinstead's affairs - a fine example of what part-time research can do, told in a lively way with plenty of illustrations and taking 140 pages. **Clive Brooks, Maresfield in 1840** (1997) is a model of how the 1840 tithe award and the 1841 census can combine to give a detailed 'snapshot of a Sussex village' at a moment in time. (The author [formerly Headmaster of Sackville School], Church Cottage, Maresfield or village shops, £1)

Mention should be made too of the Uckfield & District Preservation Society journal **Hindsight** since it was our **Bulletin** that inspired it. Professionally produced, handsomely printed and with well-written and -researched articles on a variety of local history topics covering Uckfield and neighbouring parishes. Vol.2 (Summer 1996) includes a general article on the Maresfield township part of the manor of Maresfield by Colin Hobbs which complements his article on the Forest Row part in our **Bulletin** 62. For up-to-date details contact the editor, 8 Cambridge Way, Uckfield.

**AH, PETROL!** 'Petroleum does not poison the air. Petroleum is one of the best disinfectants known. We admit it is different and that its wholesome odour has to be acquired. Everyone who walks along a busy street on a windy day is well aware of the unpleasant particles of dust and dirt, composed chiefly of animal matter, which fill the air and are carried on our persons and deposited where we go. There can be little doubt that any system which will tend to lessen the danger to public health arising from the unpleasant cause is to the benefit of all concerned.' W.W. Bannister, letter, **East Grinstead Observer**, 15 Sept.1900. J.T.S.

**LOCAL REFERENCES IN SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS** (continued from 5412)

- vol.90 (1951-52) p.1ii Gift from Mr H.J.Chapman, East Grinstead  
 p.19 Richard Stonehurst, chaplain, 1377  
 p.52 1801 crop map  
 p.79 Ox ploughing, 1789  
 p.86 Cobbett quoted  
 p.120 Thomas Philcox, bricklayer, 1783  
 p.130 Lambert's view of Sackville College  
 p.147 Bernard Chatfield (E.G. C17) genealogy

The Ashdown Forest bibliography reviewed on p.14 is available from the Sussex Archaeological Society, Barbican House, Lewes, £3.50.