

The
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of the
EAST GRINSTEAD
SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL

The articles in this issue look at aspects of our history from two different but equally valid approaches, one re-assessment of already-published material to suggest a new interpretation, the other meticulous collation of complementary sources to provide new information. Both advance knowledge and understanding of our town, not just its past but the present which resulted - very proper aims for this Society.

COVER PICTURE: Wall Hill Field, a 20th century house at the top of Wall Hill, Ashurst Wood, drawn by Joan Bloxam and apparently used by the owners for a greetings card (now in the Town Museum). It would be interesting to know who Joan Bloxam was and for whom she drew it.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: Bulletin 14 (May 1974) gave details of the Society's recommendations: 14 buildings for listing (including several put forward again in our current submission and one, King George's Field water tower, no longer with us), ten sites for tree planting and extensions to the conservation area. We voiced our criticisms of the latest bypass proposals and continued to support moves to save the Hermitage. The plan from the development brief for the Hermitage and Herontye was reproduced for information. It was a busy time, with concerns still familiar today.

AS WE SAW OURSELVES (2): In a speech at the opening of the Urban District Council's electric light works in 1923 the clerk, Mr E.P. Whitley Hughes, 'said the town was now almost perfect. It had a splendid housing scheme, parks, baths, a refuse destructor and sewage disposal works, and now these had been capped by the electricity undertaking. The only other addition they wanted was a public abattoir.' - East Grinstead Observer, 19 July 1923 D.G.

REALLY, MISS? 'Of course they didn't know how to build properly in those days' - Primary school mistress to class outside Amherst House, the oldest building in our High Street, continuously inhabited for over 650 years.

AS OTHERS SAW US (7): 'I very much enjoyed my day in East Grinstead. How nice to see buildings which looked as if they had been built by people and not robots - the Sussex answer to Brigadoon! It's good to know that such places are still not only surviving but flourishing.' - Keith Howard from Harrow, 1998. D.G.

Recent issues of the East Grinstead Museum Society Newsletter contain much of local historical interest: no.45 (June 1998) Mr K. Brown's reminiscences of the boy scouts during and just after the war, no.46 (Nov.1998) addenda on the Museum's prehistory and no.47 (Feb.1999) Mr M.Batstone's account of fieldwalking, including an invitation to anyone interested to contact him. (25 n.p. each From Museum, postage extra)

Progress reports on the search for the Domesday Book ironworks at Lavertye have appeared in the Wealden Iron Research Group's Newsletters 24 (Autumn 1996), 25 (Spring 1997), 27 (Spring 1998) and 29 (Spring 1999), so far with limited success.

In his article 'The origins of Ashurst Wood' (Bulletin 65) Mr Leppard focuses on the early history of the manor of Ashurst and its relation to the tithing of the same name. He shows that the manor was first documented under that name c.1230 and the tithing in 1285 and how in 1316 the manor held the tithing. He also demonstrates that the manor was identical with that of Wallhill, a name that does not appear in that form until c.1560 but derives ultimately from the term wald or 'weald'. This was applied to the district in the early 14th century and in varying forms persisted as late as the 16th to early 19th centuries, most strikingly as 'Grensted Weild' (1612-54) and 'Grinsted Wild' (1802). He interprets the sense as 'open or waste land' - reasonably enough considering that the site of modern Ashurst Wood largely consisted of unoccupied common land as late as the middle of the last century.

Ashurst tithing appears as one of four into which the hundred of Grinstead was divided, along with Brambletye, Imberhorne and Shovelstrode. To this might be added the detail that, like the hundreds, tithings (or frankpledges) existed before the Conquest and are first mentioned in Cnut's laws (1020-23, clause 20) in a way that suggests that they were already in existence [1]. Their purpose was to ensure the policing and legal accountability of the unfree, each tithing being responsible for ten families and under the supervision of a headman. Grinstead hundred's four tithings would therefore suggest a total population, initially at least, of some 40 peasant families (no fewer than 35 and no more than 45). Freeman or yeomen and their families were not involved in this arrangement since they were answerable for their behaviour to their lords, though the more prominent among them would serve as headman, holding the tithing at 'farm' (leased at a fixed rent) for profit [2]. As has been seen, Ashurst tithing was held by the lord of Ashurst/Wallhill in 1316.

It would clearly be worthwhile to establish how the four tithings divided Grinstead hundred up among them. Since their purpose was the close and continuous supervision of fairly scattered individuals they probably formed fairly compact and self-contained territorial entities, less likely than many other such mediaeval units to have been allowed to break up into scattered bits and pieces. Grinstead hundred being roughly square (albeit somewhat rounded towards the south), each tithing might be expected to have accounted for something like a quarter of the area, not unlike an heraldic quartering, though the quarters could well have varied widely in size and shape.

At first sight it looks as if this was actually the case, for Imberhorne tithing could well have covered roughly the north-western quarter of the hundred, Shovelstrode the north-eastern and Brambletye the south-eastern. But that is as far as it goes; there is no obvious connection between the remaining, south-western, quarter of the hundred and Ashurst, which not only disoblises in this respect but disrupts the whole idealised pattern. In the first place it lies on the doorstep of Shovelstrode manor and might well have been included in that tithing rather than form one of its own. Moreover it apparently included Fairlight and Gotwick on the northern extremity of the hundred, which similarly might have been expected to belong to Shovelstrode tithing; in-

deed, according to Mr Wood's plotting of local Domesday manors, Gotwick seems actually to have been part of Shovelstrode manor itself in 1086 (Bulletin 58, pp.14-16).

Most striking of all, and remarked on by Mr Leppard himself, is the fact that Ashurst tithing also included Hazelden on the western edge of the hundred. Does this mean that it actually extended continuously that far west or just that Hazelden formed a detached portion of it? Even if the latter was the case in 1285, detached parts of larger parent areas were invariably remnants of a single integral unit that had since been reapportioned among one or more neighbours. Ashurst tithing is probably best seen as occupying, initially at least and perhaps permanently, an extensive swathe of countryside that swept around the eastern and southern sides of East Grinstead town and effectively divided the hundred in two. Shovelstrode tithing, impinged on by Ashurst to both south and west, would seem to have been pushed into the far north-eastern corner of the hundred and confined to a relatively modest area covered by the eponymous manor itself and the area to its east, from Hammerwood as far south as the boundary with Lavertye.

However, this model of one tithing per quarter hundred, holding good in some respects but plainly not in others, is defective in another sense. The salient characteristic of a tithing, after all, was that it represented ten families or thereabouts, and there is no reason for supposing that the population of Grinstead hundred in the early mediaeval period was any more evenly distributed throughout the area than is the equivalent population today. Perhaps we should regard Ashurst tithing in a quite different way. Might not its apparently excessive size and extent have resulted from under-population? Could it not have functioned as a kind of catch-all, covering those parts of the hundred not catered for by the three tithings in which the bulk of the population was concentrated? Seen in that way, Shovelstrode's apparently modest size in 1285 (compared with Mr Wood's reconstruction of the Domesday manor (pp.14-17)), would point not to diminution but to an area with an exceptionally large population. Much the same could apply to Imberhorne and Brambletye, both also major and long-established manors.

This is not, of course, to suggest that Ashurst tithing (in so far as we can define it) was entirely a wilderness, though much of it may have been. Ashurst itself was the name of a manor (in fact Wallhill) while Hazelden and Fairlight, at its extremities, had featured as manors in Domesday Book. Another such case, lying directly in line between Hazelden and Ashurst/Wallhill, and so most probably part of Ashurst tithing too, was Brockhurst. Yet each of these areas, or islands, of settlement was a relatively modest affair, not really comparable with the big three that lent their names to the other tithings. They may well not have run to ten families among them but have left room for other, still smaller and more outlying settlements. But why were the tithing and manor named after Ashurst, a mere 'wooded hill' in a district where wooded hills were commonplace, and where the manor itself was actually located some way down the slope at Wallhill?

The main reason must be that this was, in local terms at least, no ordinary hill. It was (at any rate before the arrival of Weir Wood reservoir) by far the most conspicuous physical feat-

ure in the entire hundred. Over 10m. higher than East Grinstead and looming over the Medway valley and the future site of Forest Row 75m. below, it would have dominated the southern half of the hundred in a way that today is only fully appreciated when looking down over the valley from Cansiron Lane beyond Ashurst Wood Abbey. In antiquity it would have been this wooded eminence, rather than open land, that was Ashurst's most striking attribute. It would not be at all surprising if the tithing took its name from so distinctive a feature, more or less centrally located between its Gotwick and Hazelden extremities, while a name derived from a landmark could also have emphasised the tithing's neutral character as a collection of miscellaneous smaller holdings distinct from the major manors of the hundred.

How extensive would this woodland have been? No doubt it extended further afield than the immediate area of present-day Ashurst Wood and at the very least was alluded to in the name of nearby Brockhurst; one man's 'wooded hill with ash trees' could easily have been another man's 'wooded hill favoured by badgers'. Something else not to be lost sight of here is those 'weald' names noted at the start. In some places, notably the immediate site of modern-day Ashurst Wood, 'weild' and 'wild' could indeed have denoted open and waste ground, just as Mr Leppard says, but this need not have been the district's predominant character. The primary meaning of 'weald' was extensive woodland or (in its non-technical sense) forest, and 'the Weald' is of course the name of a region of ancient woodland far more extensive than East Grinstead and its hundred.

In the last context terms such as 'Asshehurst alias Grensted Weild' and 'Ashurst or Grinsted Wild' are of special interest. There is a distinctly archaic feel to them which makes it highly unlikely that they were first invented in the 16th and 17th centuries when they are first recorded, and the term Brockhurst in Walda, which occurs in 1337, proves that they were not. The chances are that, concealed only by the scarcity of documentary evidence, such 'weald' names were once common currency and that the weald in question extended way beyond the Ashurst area. A possibility worth considering is that 'Grinstead Weald' originally denoted all those parts of the hundred that were under-settled and under-cultivated, considered as a local manifestation of the greater Weald of Kent and Sussex and lumped together as Ashurst tithing.

This largely neglected area, and its impact on the local population, can hardly be under-estimated. Mr Wood calculated that as little as between a quarter and a third of the landscape in 1086 was settled or farmed in some way or at least partially cultivated (p.21). That would leave between two thirds and three quarters that remained as wildwood or (in the south) part of Ashdown Forest, and there is no special reason for supposing that the situation was very different by 1285 or for that matter by 1337. The weald in this sense would still have been a real and distinct concept to a population that had as yet made only small inroads into it. The persistence of the term Grinstead Weald or Wild as late as the 17th to 19th centuries would suggest that it still retained a certain reality even then, albeit a fast diminishing one.

[1] D.Whitelock (ed.), English Historical Documents, c.500-1042 (2nd ed., 1979), p.457 [2] D.M.Stenton, English Society in the Early Middle Ages (1951), pp.146f.

THE LINGFIELD ROAD AREA, c.1860-c.1900

David Gould

This survey looks at surviving and newly-built houses, with notes on some of their inhabitants. It has been compiled from census returns for 1861, 71, 81 and 91 and from directories, mainly Kelly's (Sussex) and Dixon's (East Grinstead). Almost all quoted dates are from these and usually mean earliest or latest known rather than actual dates. It complements and develops the information in J.R.Lowerson, 'Building on East Grinstead Common' in Bulletin 27 (Sept. 1979), pp.5-8. Advertisements are from the 1885 guidebook East Grinstead and its Environs.

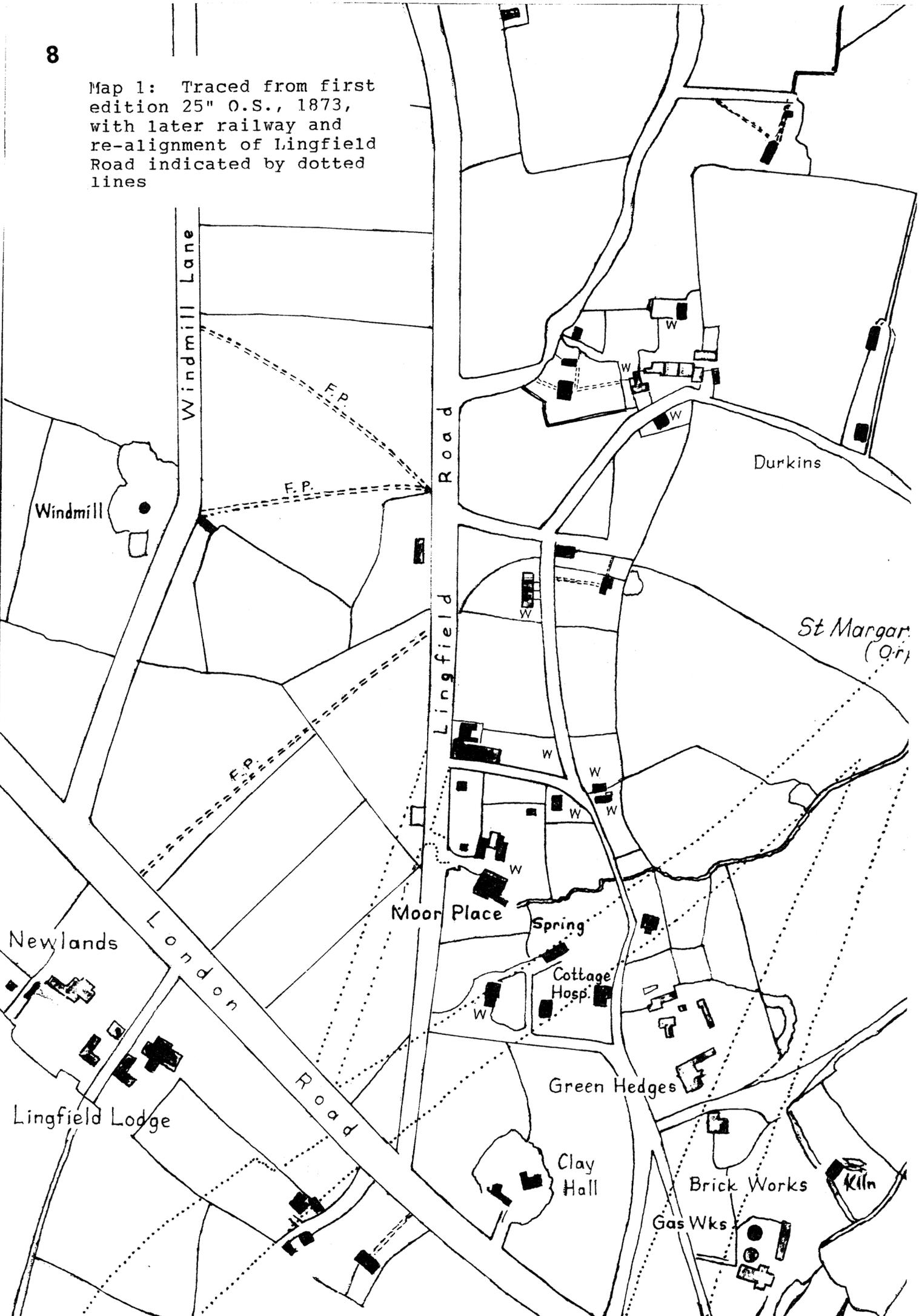
Lingfield Road, running south to north in almost a straight line from London Road to just under half a mile to the Surrey border, contained few dwellings in the 1860s. The most important of them was Moor Place, in existence by 1855 when the owner was William Turner, surveyor, land and estate agent. By 1861 Lt Charles Moore, R.N., was the householder. A year later a Mrs Smith was in residence. However, by 1866 the Turner family had returned and the house was to be held by them until about 1918. Joseph Turner, surveyor and land agent, was there until the early 1900s, the property passing to his son Frederick, a solicitor practising at 29 High Street. Leslie Stuart Wood, another surveyor and land agent (Chairman of the Urban District Council 1923-25), owned Moor Place in the 20s and 30s. This large house, at the south-east end of Lingfield Road, was demolished c.1961 and its extensive grounds were covered with new houses and bungalows, its name perpetuated by a short road called Moor Place.

Just east of Lingfield Road was the area known as Wellington Town, a name traced back to 1679. Its narrow meandering lane could well have been the original entry from Baldwins Hill to London Road, following the line of the present Wellington Town Road, the footpath and Green Hedges Avenue. In 1861 the number of dwellings in the area - Wellington Town and Lingfield Road - was about 35, including Moor Place, Rowland Cottage and Spring Cottages. A nearby spring immediately south east of Moor Place gave these five dwellings their name. In 1861 Richard Bridgland, Edward Geer and Thomas Holder, carters, lived in three, Thomas Packham and Thomas Batchelor, farm workers, in the other two. Packham, Geer and Holder were still there ten years later. All five dwellings vanished in the early 1880s, being right on the path of the new railway (the St Margaret's loop).

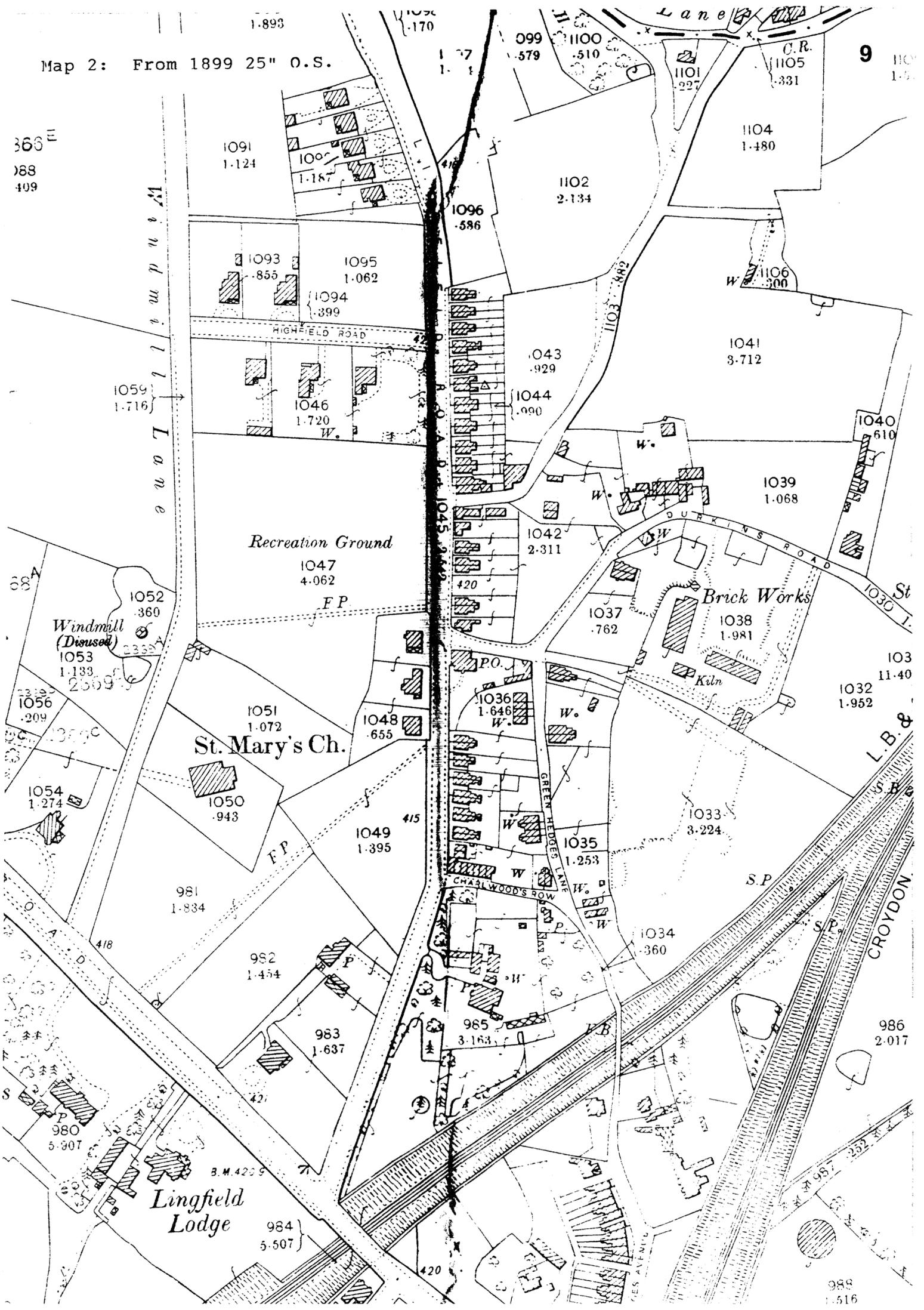
Rowland Cottage, because it lasted until 1963, is identifiable; it was north of the spring on the east side of Wellington Town Road. Richard White, farm labourer, lived there between 1861 and 91, William Thorpe, firewood dealer, 1905-34, and Mrs Eliza Thorpe until 1962. Fortunately photographs exist by both William Page* and our editor of this very picturesque cottage, latterly known as 2 Wellington Town Road.

Of the other residents in 1861 most were farm labourers, though one, John Gibb, had as lodger the 24-year old Henry Foster, manager of the Pottery. At the north end of what later became Dormans Park Road and just within Sussex was the Hermitage, the oldest dwelling in the area that still survives, dated 1797. In 1861 John White, aged 61, a wood-cutter, lived there. Ezekiel Burchett, a farmer of 18 acres, was there by 1871 and James Wood, general labourer, was the householder 20 years later. Mrs Wood

Map 1: Traced from first edition 25" O.S., 1873, with later railway and re-alignment of Lingfield Road indicated by dotted lines



Map 2: From 1899 25" O.S.



remained there until the 1920s.

Few dwellings in 1861 are identifiable but when we come to 1871 things are a little easier as we have the 1873 O.S. map (p.8) to help. By then Charlwoods Row, Moor Place Cottage, Wellington Town Cottages, Durkins, Gordon Cottages and Holly Tree Cottage were in existence.

Charlwoods Row, a terrace of six dwellings north of Moor Place, is assumed to have been built and owned by James Charlwood, a builder. Most of the residents were labourers, though Henry Foster the potter lived in one of the dwellings in 1871. People did not stay long in Charlwoods Row, which by 1891 contained Edwin Jenner, stonemason, and Peter Kneller, bricklayer, among the labourers. Charlwoods Row was knocked down about 1961 and maisonnettes erected instead, the road soon afterwards being renamed Charlwoods Road and extended eastward.

South east of Charlwoods Row, virtually opposite Rowland Cottage, was Moor Place Cottage, presumed to have been the tied residence of the gardener at Moor Place. In 1871 it seems to have been called Cove Cottage, when James Divall, gardener, was in residence. By 1881 the gardener was Thomas Friend, aged 48, and he remained at Moor Place Cottage (so-named by 1891) until 1916. Mrs Heckford was there in the 1920s and Adelaide Heckford (her daughter) was the last occupant. About 1963 the cottage came down and nos 6 & 8 Charlwoods Road stand on its site.

Immediately north of Charlwoods Road, fronting Lingfield Road, was by 1871 the first shop noted in the area. Its owner was James Morris, aged 32, a grocer. Probably by 1881 and certainly by 1886 he had moved his business a short way north along Lingfield Road to a new house on the corner of Durkins Road (the present no.65) and to confuse us he called this Wellington House too. By 1881 Morris was a grocer and tailor and in January 1887 he took on the duties of postmaster. He was Chairman of the U.D.C. in 1903. On his death in 1906 his daughter Joanna, assisted by her brother Victor, continued the business, she postmistress and he grocer (and amateur photographer) until the 1940s. Peter Bristow was the owner during the 1950s, continuing to run the shop as grocer and postmaster.

At the north end, west side, of Wellington Town Road a four-dwelling terrace named Charlwoods Cottages was in existence by 1871 and inhabited by Harriet Cook, widow and laundress, Thomas Pollard and Benjamin Payne, labourers, and Thomas East, bricklayer. All were still there ten years later and Payne stayed another ten. By 1909 the row was known as Wellington Town Cottages and numbered 31, 33, 35 and 37. It was pulled down some time after 1962.

North of these, in what later became Durkins Road, was a very picturesque group of cottages, erected for some brickworkers, presumably employed by Samuel Ralph who had a brickworks on the Common (precise location uncertain). The tile-hung dwellings are believed to have been named Ralphs Cottages originally, though known as Waters Cottages by 1891. Peter Kneller, bricklayer, lived in one in 1871 and 81, Edward Whyte, bricklayer, in another from 1881 to 1928. The group was numbered 27-39 (odd numbers) in

the early 1900s and additionally there was an unnumbered cottage identified in directories as 'near Durkins Road'. Probably the latter was the isolated small weather-boarded structure that survived, as did the rest of the group, until 1963, by which time only nos 29 & 31 were still inhabited. No.27 and 'near Durkins Road' are not shown in directories after 1916.

Between 1866 and 74 Samuel Relph himself had a house nearby. In 1871 he was noted as a retired brickmaker aged 76.

The name Durkins has been traced back to 1579 and Durkins Mead was in existence by 1738 but Durkins Farm house first appears in the 1871 census. Charles Waters, brick, tile and drainpipe maker on the Common since 1866, owned Durkins in 1871. By 1887 the business was Charles Waters & Son, the son being Arthur Curtis Waters, who had succeeded by 1899. By then a brickworks had been opened at Durkins, to the south of the farm. It was in use until about 1914, after which A.C.Waters was merely a cowkeeper until the late 1930s. The third generation of the family, John, kept the farm going until 1963 when he sold the whole lot, farm, house and cottages, to a developer called Lyon, who gobbled them up.

In what later became Dormans Park Road were Gordon Cottages, a pair in existence by 1871, possibly named after the famous general. In one lived Thomas Dove, an Inland Revenue officer, still there ten years later aged 74, by which time he had retired. Next to him in 1881 was Ebenezer Underwood, 26, a gas stoker who was still in residence in 1928. The cottages lasted until the 1960s, being replaced by the present nos 8 & 10 Dormans Park Road.

At the extreme north end of Lingfield Road, east side, was Holly Tree Cottage (name first recorded in 1886), in existence by 1873. From 1886 Henry Bearman, pork butcher, later dairyman, lived there till about 1900, his widow Mary carrying on with the dairy for a while and continuing to reside there till about 1930. Charles Weller, a builder, had moved in by 1934. Later the house was divided into two, the northern half being named Ashprington Cottage, the southern keeping its original name. As such it still exists, John Weller (building maintenance) being the owner.

By 1881 there was much change on Lingfield Road, with an influx of railway labourers excavating the deep cutting of the St Margaret's loop as part of the new line from Oxted which affected the southern end of Lingfield Road and Wellington Town considerably. At least six dwellings disappeared, being in the path of the railway, and, to avoid the expense of a skew bridge to take the south end of Lingfield Road over the railway, the road was diverted from Charlwoods Row junction to a new junction with London Road several yards west of the original. Many of the railway labourers took up temporary quarters in Lingfield Road and Wellington Town.

Two new semi-detached cottages had been built, later becoming nos 53, 55, 57 & 59 Lingfield Road. At no.53 lived William Tester, a sawyer. The second 'semi' was originally nos 1 & 2 Alder Place, which, with its cement-rendered frontage, was not very attractive. Miss Ellen Simmonds, laundress, lived at no.1 in the 1880s, by 1881 Harriet Farnes, laundress, was at no.59 (1887 num-

bering). By 1903 the laundry business had expanded next door into no.57, when the proprietor was Thomas Simmonds. From 1905 Mrs Alicia Godwin was the proprietress, running the business as the Phoenix Laundry until 1938. The house was replaced by a long brick structure extending back to Wellington Town Road and later still this was expanded southwards, resulting in the demolition of nos 53 and 55 before 1962. Under new ownership the Phoenix Laundry flourished until the early 1970s.

In 1874** was built a terrace of four dwellings in sandstone with tile-hung upper storey at the south end, west side, of Wellington Town Road. Like the four at the north end they were known as Charlwoods Cottages and in no.1 lived Charles W.Charlwood, builder and undertaker, although by 1886 he had moved to 182 London Road. Later the terrace became nos 1, 3, 5 & 7 Carlton Cottages. It still exists. Between 1891 and 1916 William Leopard, bricklayer, lived in no.5, his widow was householder during the 1920s and their son John was there till the 60s.

The number of dwellings in the Lingfield Road area in 1881 appears to have been 47. In them we still find many farm labourers but there were also two carpenters, four bricklayers, a sawyer (William Tester, the gable end of whose house was blown in on 26 January 1884 during a storm**), a gardener and a painter. Almost all had moved by 1886, and most of those shown in Steer's 1886 directory had in their turn moved by 1891.

In the 1880s long neat rows of mainly semi-detached houses, typically with their 'front' doors at the sides, were built for working people. All were on the east side of Lingfield Road. Until a proper system of house-numbering was instituted in 1886/7 these new houses were either unnumbered or had little groups of individual numbers, e.g. 1 & 2 Rose Cottages.

The 1886 directory lists eight unnumbered houses between Moor Place and Gordon Cottages, including one that later became no.33 on the corner of Charlwoods Row, presumably the original Wellington House. Mrs Jesse Gilbert, grocer, occupied it c.1885-87. William and John Evershed ran a greengrocery there between 1896 and 1907, John carrying on alone till 1912. Frederick Funnell managed it 1912-13, A.Humphrey 1914-15, and by 1918 Mrs J.Spillman was the owner, the business continuing until the 1950s. The shop was demolished in the 1960s, a maisonette appearing in its place. The present corner shop (no.29) stands on the site of 1 Charlwoods Row.

At the junction with the future Dormans Park Road were the premises of Thomas Groombridge senior, dairyman, and Thomas Groombridge junior, baker. This tile-hung house became nos 91 & 93. In 1886/7 William Ledward took over the bakery, continuing with it till c.1916 when his widow Ellen carried on. In the 1930s the bakery passed to Charles Simmons, who ran it until the 60s. Later owners had less staying power and the Lingfield Road bakery closed in May 1988. No.93, the dairy, passed through several ownerships, including Arthur Fry's during the 1920s and 30s, until it too succumbed in January 1995.

North of this were nos 2-8, later renumbered 95 to 109 (odd). These 'semis', in the same style with very dark bricks, are presu-

To GENTLEMEN, FARMERS, &c.

The BEST MANURE is
SOOT AND DUNG

FOR BOTH, APPLY TO
H. EWENS, EAST GRINSTEAD.

mably by the same builder. At no.3 in 1886 was Alfred Foster, builder and contractor, at no.4 resided William Harding (not the photographer, surely?) and Robert Coxall, foreman of the Rural Sanitary Authority, at no.5. Next door to him was Arthur Charlton, coachman, and at no.8 lived a soot dealer, E. Ewen. Five years later all were gone except Charlton.

Next came four more unnumbered 'semis', the present nos 111, 113, 117 & 119. There is no 115 and never has been. Its omission is a matter for speculation but probably was merely an aberration when the listing was drawn up. The last group of four 'semis' may be identified by their original names still displayed on iron plaques: Durham Cottages (121/123), Olive Cottages, dated 1882 (125/127), Rose Cottages, also dated 1882 (129/131) and Jasmine Cottages (133/135). Here was the limit of housebuilding until the gap between no.135 and Holly Tree Cottage was filled in the 1930s.

Nos 111/113 have distinctive stone quoins and a large chimney stack; the frontage was rendered and white-painted. Nos 129/131 were also given a rendered frontage, certainly by the early 1900s. One or other of the pairs dated 1882 could possibly have been built by G. & C.Taylor of Forest Row, who in May that year successfully tendered to build two cottages in Lingfield Road for John Gallard (a harness maker then living in West Street) for the sum of £225****. It seems Gallard had them built purely as an investment.

By 1890 building on the east side of Lingfield Road was practically complete, all 'semis' except nos 65, 87 and 89, and the road had taken on the aspect it retains today. Nos 37-51 were all in the same style, with red brick, wide windows and rows of paterae (decorative pottery mouldings) at the centre line, perhaps made by Henry Foster. These cottages are slightly angled to the road. Nos 79/81 were unusual in that the gable faced the road. Nos 83/85 and 87 were built in the same style, indeed both are handsome structures with their dark red brick and stone quoins. John Pentecost, jobbing gardener, lived at no.87 1899-1922.

Thus by the 1891 census the old rural aspect of Lingfield Road was gone and it was now more urban in character. Only one farm worker was still living there, Joseph Tester, 62, at no.133. Now the residents included eight carpenters, four bricklayers, a plasterer, a stonemason, a painter and a plumber. Theodor Müller, a German watchmaker with a business in the High Street, lived at no.39 and Henry Walter Cullen, a printer, at no.47. James White, dairyman and cowkeeper, had moved from London Road to no.

→‡ A. FOSTER, ‡←¹³

LINGFIELD ROAD, EAST GRINSTEAD,

BUILDER, CONTRACTOR

And UNDERTAKER.

Estimates given for every description of work connected with the Building Trade.

sters and divided into flats.

Heathfield: The splendidly named R. Housemayne du Boulay resided there 1912-23. It also was divided into flats by 1953.

On the north side, reading from Lingfield Road, were:

Harringay: Edward Lloyd-Williams, an U.D. councillor, lived there 1909-28, renaming it Twyhurst about 1912. Mrs Lloyd-Williams remained till 1938. It was Highfield Preparatory School from the 1950s till 1995 and demolished for some typical 1990s over-development that destroyed the spacious air the original builders had maintained.

Oakfield, with tile-hung upper storey: The Rev. Robert Holmsworth-Walker was there in the 1890s and Miss Frost 1903-23. From c.1928 it became Yarburgh, a children's convalescent home. It has been a playschool for some years.

On Windmill Lane, whose mill (disused by 1899) stood until c. 1900, nothing had been built apart from St Mary's church, begun in 1891.

Twentieth century developments in the Lingfield Road area may be the subject of a future article.

* Reproduced in D.Gould, Britain in Old Photographs (1995), p.54 ** Deeds (ex inf. Mr G.Prevett) *** Parish magazine, Feb. 1884 **** Papers in possession of Mr M.J.Leppard

THE ASHDOWN FOREST DISPUTE, 1876-82, edited by Brian Short (Sussex Record Society, vol.80, 1997), gives the full text of the evidence collected by W.A.Raper from longstanding residents for the court cases concerning Forest rights, together with other relevant documents, biographical notes on witnesses and others and a full introduction. A vast amount of incidental information on contemporary life, customs, speech, place-names, employment, farming, ecology, etc. emerges. The bibliography is a model of scholarship (contrast the one reviewed in Bulletin 64) yet the editor brazenly uses the solecism 'the Ashdown Forest' throughout. East Grinstead quarter sessions (p.19) is a slip for petty sessions, 'Knustall' (p.135) looks like a misreading of Homestall, PAR 348/37/7/1 (p.269) is misplaced under East Sussex Record Office rather than West. (£18.50)

Peter Kirby, **FOREST CAMERA, A PORTRAIT OF ASHDOWN** (Sweethaws Press, 1998, £13.95) is a fine collection of old photographs with detailed annotations. For once the scenery is outdone by the pictures of people (characters all), which speak volumes even before the captions are read. The historical background information tends to uncritical repetition of popular supposition and road and rail are confused on p.116. Even so a Forest-lover's 'must'.

NEXT BULLETIN, no.68, due in the Autumn, will include follow-up notes to recent articles on early settlement (including Mr Dyson's in this issue) and further information on local cycle-makers. Contributions to the editor by 10 July, please.