

The
BULLETIN
of the
EAST GRINSTEAD
SOCIETY

No. 75

Winter 2001-02

Published by **THE EAST GRINSTEAD SOCIETY**
c/o 20 St George's Court, East Grinstead, Sussex

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THE EAST GRINSTEAD SOCIETY

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

The Society arranges regular talks, discussions and visits. It produces a *Bulletin* of articles of local interest and a *Newsletter* thrice yearly. Its 1969 report on the High Street conservation area 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 issues. It has held six exhibitions, planted trees, restored the churchyard railings and financed tree-ring dating of some buildings in the High Street. It has also produced surveys of trees, seats and playground equipment and presented seats in memory of leading former members to Sackville College and the High Street. It has published a book of reminiscences, three sets of postcards reproducing old photographs and two town trails (one of them also in French) and, with the Town Council, established the 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 the membership the greater the influence. The subscription is £10 p.a., renewable on 1 January every year (except by those joining on or after 1 October). Persons wishing only to receive the *Bulletin* can do so at a special rate of £5 per calendar year, payable in advance to the Editor (address on cover).

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BACK NUMBERS OF BULLETINS from the Editor: single copies £1 + postage, set of all issues still in print (58) £20 post free to members and subscribers, £30 post free to all others. 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.

EDITORIAL

Another milestone is reached with this seventy-fifth issue, marked by a review article (pp.5f. below) and a larger than usual number of pages. The treasurer's disclosure at the A.G.M. that the *Bulletin* now pays for itself, thanks to subscriptions and sales of back-numbers, justifies us in hoping to make 20 pages the norm in future. There is certainly no shortage of material to be written up, and we believe no shortage of contributors old and new either.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO: *Bulletin* 20 (May 1977) was a special issue for the Queen's silver jubilee, only 10 pages but containing articles on some royal and national occasions here in the past and comparing East Grinstead in 1952 and in 1977 and a review of our Society's first town trail, one of our projects for the jubilee. Another was to be the renovation of the churchyard railings and we were to take part in the jubilee exhibition. The subjects of meetings still echo today: 'Gatwick threatens East Grinstead' (any change?), 'Local farming, past and present' (much change) and 'Trees' (little change?) by Mr W.E. Matthews, founder of the Men of the Trees and, co-incidentally, awarded the O.B.E. in the latest New Year Honours for his work in that field.

COVER PICTURE: Another drawing of East Grinstead High Street by E. F. Skinner in 1893, from the same series (published by the High Street stationer Frederick Tooth) as the one used on the cover of *Bulletin* 74 (from a copy in the Town Museum, 71% actual size). The viewpoint is behind Middle Row, outside Wilmington House, looking east. Skinner's verbal, as opposed to pictorial, view of the town is printed below, and another of his drawings and some more about him overleaf.

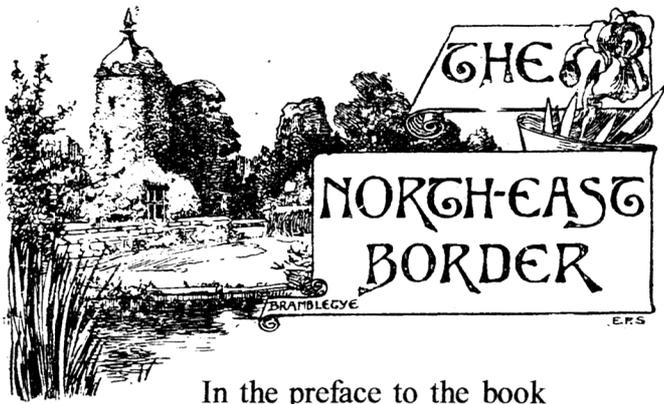
AS WE SAW OURSELVES (8):

'East Grinstead is a small town with a great deal of ambition, which has, unhappily, somewhat outrun its discretion. The advent, some ten years ago, of a new railway communicating directly with the Metropolis raised great hopes in the breasts of its inhabitants that it might attain a considerable importance, and a large amount of enterprise was evinced in preparing the town for its new phase of life. An energetic Local Board came into being, a good deal of the existing architecture was suburbanised, "desirable villa residences" sprang up on all sides, and a feeling of buoyant expectancy reigned in the town. But somehow the result did'nt [*sic*] "come off" as expected, although these labours certainly deserved success. The net result has been a heavy burden of rates, numerous financial failures, and a considerable spoliation of the town from a picturesque point of view.

'Nothing, however, can rob East Grinstead of its natural advantages. Its elevated position, clear, strong, bracing air, and surroundings of truly romantic beauty, render it a delightful and healthy summer resort. There are plenty of good apartments to be obtained, and the town possesses a model provincial hotel in "the Dorset Arms".'

Edward F. Skinner, *A Handbook of Sussex for the pocket, the library or the tea table* (1893), pp.151f.

AS OTHERS SAW US (16): 'A more primitive old town can scarcely be met with in the south of England; and it is not too much to say that not any small town in that district can compare with East Grinstead in interest and all the associations of the picturesque, in point of landscape and antiquated buildings. I can assure my readers that a very happy day can be spent in a visit to this old town. I can truly say:- "I have been there, and still would go".' - An Antiquary [M.A. Lower], *Railway Outings from London Bridge, No.1. East Grinstead* (1873), p.5. (See also overleaf.)



EDWARD F. SKINNER

M. J. Leppard

LEFT: Heading to chapter dealing with the East Grinstead area, from Skinner's *Handbook of Sussex*.

BELOW: Review of the book from East Grinstead parish magazine for November 1893, by the Vicar, the Rev. D.Y. Blakiston, who had originally trained as an artist at the Royal Academy.

In the preface to the book from which this illustration and the quotation on p.3 are taken Skinner says 'I have adopted the form of a personal narrator ... I have personally visited every place mentioned'. He signs it 'E.F.S. Ashurst Wood, East Grinstead 1893'. At the time Ashurst Wood was in the civil parish of East Grinstead and the ecclesiastical parish of Forest Row. It is not clear therefore whether Blakiston means that he formerly lived in the ecclesiastical parish of East Grinstead or that since writing the book he has moved away from East Grinstead. So far it has unfortunately not been possible to discover where he lived in Ashurst Wood or for how long, nor to find out anything else about him. Information from readers will be most welcome.

HAND-BOOK OF SUSSEX.

Under the above title a most interesting book, written by a late parishioner, Mr. Edward F. Skinner, has been recently published. It comprises tours throughout the County, and within its 156 pages a vast amount of information, antiquarian, artistic and practical, is to be found stored for the help of residents, visitors, or tourists. It is illustrated by 12 full-page and 8 chapter heading illustrations by the Author. Two of the views "Ashdown Forest" and "Brambletye" are taken from our immediate neighbourhood. They are all reduced from the excellent original pen and ink drawings, a mode of illustration in which Mr. Skinner (a former pupil of Professor Herkomer, R.A.) is well known. The picturesque town of East Grinstead has but a scant notice, telling more of commercial failures than of old houses and beautiful surroundings. The price of this useful and most compendious hand-book with a map is only sixpence, and we are not surprised to hear that the first edition is nearly sold out.

RAILWAY OUTINGS FROM LONDON BRIDGE, No. 1 EAST GRINSTEAD

M. J. Leppard

For many years I knew of this book, quoted on p.3 above, only from an entry in the catalogue of the (private) London Library and a mention in a contemporary local newspaper; I was unable to find a copy in any public collection. I assumed it had been published by the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway to promote its services and wondered why East Grinstead was honoured as the first destination in the series. Last year, however, Mr P. Croggon, a member of that library, kindly enabled me to see a photocopy of it, in which the author, 'An Antiquary', was identified in a manuscript note as M.A. Lower, the well known and prolific writer on Sussex history. It was published by the Chiswick Press in 1873. It proved to contain very little that was new, being largely dependent on J.C. Stenning's 'Notes on East Grinstead' in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* vol. 20 (1868), acknowledged only on p.4 – though giving him the wrong initial ('my friend Mr H. Stenning') suggests carelessness or haste in the compilation. Lower also draws on a visit to St Margaret's convent and a pamphlet obtained there. The only wholly original observation – 'in the principal street there is still remaining an open sand-pit or stone quarry, from which probably the materials of some of the antique houses hard by were procured' (p.4) – is misinformed, as was pointed out in a contemporary newspaper: about twelve years earlier the workhouse had stood there and the pit was opened when it was pulled down and used for modern houses (cutting, 2 Dec. 1872 [?] in Rev. C.W.P. Crawford's scrapbook, 1866-74 (West Sussex Record Office, PAR 348/26/1/1).

Back in 1992 the Society celebrated its 25th anniversary and the 50th issue of its *Bulletin*. Now, a decade later, half as many issues again have been added to the total – well up to schedule, and testimony to its continuing vigour and resourcefulness. Furthermore, the number of pages has risen from a standard 12 per issue ten years ago to a standard 16 now, while a couple of numbers have run to 20, and one, a rather special case, to 24. Four issues (60, 63, 66, 72) consist of indexes to earlier *Bulletins*, while a fifth (69) supplies a corrected index to W.H. Hills's *History* of 1906: not the best of reads, perhaps, but an increasingly useful facility as the number of issues rises.

As before, a large proportion of articles is devoted to topographical features or 'places': Moat Pond (50), The Playfield (51), Mount Noddy (52), Baldwins Hill (54), cellars in EG High Street (52, 59, 64, 74), 1–2 Judges Terrace and Clarendon House (by the late Peter Gray, 56), Wells in East Grinstead High Street (64), or to more general themes such as transport (55–57, 70); local businesses including brickmaking (54–55) and cycle-making (65, 68); 'news items' reporting on the wall paintings discovered at Sackville House (61) or on preliminary results from the Society's dendrochronology project (73); book reviews and (increasingly often) obituaries of previous contributors. New ground is broken by a couple of articles dealing in detail with the development of Lingfield and Moat Roads (67, 71) and based on 19th-century census returns and street directories. One can only hope that they will continue as a series.

In addition to material of this more familiar kind, the mid '90s saw the opening up of a new perspective: a sustained assault on the problems of the early mediaeval hundred of East Grinstead, the secular counterpart of the ecclesiastical parish and roughly coextensive with it. This is an under-documented and highly technical field of operations, previously largely set aside until more time could be given to it, and now taken up in earnest by Michael Leppard, the editor and principal contributor, in what is proving to be a highly productive retirement. The campaign was actually launched by another luminary among the ranks of the recently retired, Patrick Wood, whose article 'Unfinished business: East Grinstead in the Domesday survey,' took up the whole what the editor justly introduced as 'arguably the most important issue [58] of our *Bulletin* so far.' Based primarily on Domesday Book and detailed map-work, this study of land-holding in the hundred of East Grinstead shortly after the Norman Conquest deftly negotiates the notorious pitfalls of Domesday to produce an exemplary reconstruction and mapping of farms and estates such as Imberhorne, Shovelstrode and Brambletye in the immediate vicinity of the town a century and a half before it existed. The conclusions reached there are measured, judicious and wholly reliable: only Fairlight remains largely intractable, and there the author cautions us against his own conclusions.

'East Grinstead in the Domesday Survey' makes a fitting complement to Mr Wood's work on the borough more than thirty years earlier when he established the town's basic early topography by reconstructing the pattern of burgages and portlands on either side of the High Street.¹ As well as rounding off his active work on the town's history – though it is much to be hoped that this is not the last that we shall hear from him – the new piece also proved a catalyst, provoking a spate of further articles on Domesday estates, the mediaeval hundred and its 16th-century boundaries, as well as on the tithings into which the hundred was divided: the editor's 'East Grinstead in Domesday Book' (59), and 'Domesday book and the origins of settlement in East Grinstead' (61–62, 68), 'The origins of Ashurst Wood' (65), 'Hundreds and tithings and a hamlet too' (68), 'East Grinstead hundred in 1579' (73), 'East Grinstead hundred, 1579 and 1564' (74) and C.J. Hobbs's 'The parents of some East Grinstead manors' (68). A theme common to most of these articles is the district's early links with parent manors in the south of the county from which the High Weald was colonised and settled in the late Saxon period and later.

A fair start has now been made on defining the four tithings into which the Hundred was divided, not on the face of it the most seductive of topics until it becomes clear that at least three of these tithings were vested in major local farms or manors: Imberhorne, Shovelstrode and Brambletye, and that this is where the bulk of the population outside (and before) the town is likely to have been concentrated. Establishing the precise boundaries between these tithings remains problematic, as does the true character of 'Ashurst', the fourth tithing, a curiously nebulous entity which seems nevertheless to have extended from one end of the Hundred to the other. The evident confinement of settlement in the Hundred to a handful of farms serves to emphasise their separation from each other by extensive tracts of wild and as yet uncultivated land, a theme elaborated by A.G. Dyson in 'Grinstead Weald' (67).

Refining and extending knowledge of the tithings is only one task ahead, and perhaps not the most formidable. Mr Hobbs's 'The manors of Maresfield and Duddleswell in East Grinstead' (62) is concerned with the impact on Grinstead Hundred of two neighbouring estates, an issue also raised by Mr Leppard's articles on the Hundred. For the problem of defining the role and extent of the Hundred's own constituent tithings is greatly complicated by the fact that it was impinged upon on from all sides and in several different ways by neighbouring hundreds, manors and parishes. Thus for example, Estcots and Hackenden, between the town and the Hundred's northern boundary on the Surrey border, were part of a tithing of Loxfield hundred (based on Buxted, some distance away) for secular purposes, while for some ecclesiastical purposes (but not all) they fell under the jurisdiction of the archbishops of Canterbury as part of the deanery of South Malling. In practice this meant that the district still remained part and parcel of East Grinstead parish, except for the issue of marriages licences, the proving of wills and the existence of its own churchwarden!

In truth there is little prospect of ever satisfactorily disentangling problems of this complexity, but then the modest format of the *Bulletin* obliges these contributions to concern themselves less with the detailed working out and solving of historical problems than with identifying and further defining them by bringing together the relevant data. In this way they mark a considerable advance into the understanding of the early history (or prehistory) of the town, and the *Bulletin* serves as an inseminator and propagator of future work. It is no great surprise to learn that it is subscribed to by libraries remote from the town, and indeed remote from Sussex.

A recurrent concern of the editor, and one that it is hard to know quite what to make of, is with certain local place-names – Standen, Cowden, and Edenbridge are prominent examples – which allegedly have their stress laid on the final syllable (51–55, 59, 61, 74). This is not a phenomenon shared with any other part of the country known to this writer, whom it continues to strike as odd and un-English, and neither does it seem to have applied to all local place-names. Two questions arise: is (or was) the practice real, and if so what does it signify? The evidence adduced is patchy and often inconclusive, and in any case has probably been fatally contaminated in recent decades by outsiders' speech, so that it is difficult to be sure one way or the other. For all this, final stress might be genuine in some cases, and if it was could it be seen as quaint local idiosyncrasy mercifully all but extinct, as a genuine relic of the past deserving of respect and (maybe) perpetuation, or as a matter of potentially wider historical significance. Perhaps it is best considered in the same light as the finding of the early 19th-century cleric at Ide Hill who described his fellow parishioners as 'so ignorant of Christianity as never to have heard of the name of Christ, though within 30 miles of St Paul's.'² If our neighbours at Ide Hill could have remained so isolated from the outside world as late as that, an occasional eccentricity in their speech, and possibly that of inhabitants elsewhere in the High Weald, is perhaps the least that could be expected.

¹ P.D. Wood, 'The topography of East Grinstead borough,' *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 106 (1968), 49–62.

² A. Everitt, *Continuity and colonization: the evolution of Kentish settlement* (Leicester 1986), 52.

THE HAMLET OF EAST GRINSTEAD: ORIGINS, ACCESS AND AREA M.J. Leppard

The area of the parish of East Grinstead which for civil purposes was in the tithing of Greenhurst in the Archbishop of Canterbury's hundred of Loxfield and for ecclesiastical purposes in the deanery of South Malling in his diocese was usually known as the Hamlet of East Grinstead. I have discussed it in recent *Bulletins* in the articles listed below and discovered its area by plotting the 16th century bounds of the hundred of East Grinstead in the third of them.

68 (Autumn 1999), pp.10-13 'Hundreds, Tithings, and a Hamlet too'

70 (Spring 2000), p.5 'Hundreds, Tithings, Hamlet: addenda'

73 (Spring 2001), pp.5-10 'East Grinstead Hundred in 1579', including map pp.8f.

74 (Autumn 2001), pp.8-10 'East Grinstead Hundred, 1579 and 1564'

In this article references to them are given in the text as four digits in square brackets, first two *Bulletin* number, second two page number. All other references are given in endnotes in the usual form. An extract from the 6" O.S. map of 1873, the first showing relevant details now obscured by modern development, is printed on p.10. To avoid obscuring those details by overmarking, an outline map of bounds and thoroughfares on the same scale is printed alongside it.

As I have argued already [6812f.], the name of Hackenden, 'Hacca's swine-pasture', is the strongest clue to the area's origin. Such dens were seasonally-used outliers of southern manors, in this case obviously South Malling, dating from well before the Norman conquest. The fact that there is no explicit mention in Domesday Book is no obstacle, for many places known to have existed at the time are not named there, in most cases silently included under the large parent holding. Nor is it a problem that the name of Hackenden has not been found earlier than 1283, when it occurs in a surname, for Hacca is a Saxon name and the middle syllable, -en, is the proper possessive ending.

At the suggestion of Mr J. S. Hodgkinson, I have looked for possible occurrences of Hacca in place-names south of East Grinstead that could indicate the route by which the tenants travelled between the Hamlet and the main bulk of the tithing of Greenhurst (in the parish of Buxted) or the manorial base. All I have found, which is probably not relevant, is Stephen de Hagheherst holding of Giles de Greneherst in the borgh (tithing) of Grenherst in c.1285¹. In the 13th and 14th centuries Hackenden is sometimes spelt Hag(g)h- as well as Hak-, but Hagheherst lacks the -en, probably contains the word for 'hedge' rather than a personal name and has not been found in any other source.

There is a slight possibility that Neyland, 2½ miles S.S.E. of East Grinstead at the western end of Weir Wood reservoir, might have been part of the tithing of Greenhurst and conceivably therefore of the Hamlet, though detached from the area so far identified. In consecutive entries in the 1296 subsidy roll William ate Nelonde is listed between William de Hakyndenne and Peter de Hakyndenne in the villata (tithing) of Grenherst in the hundred of Lockesfeld². Others of his surname, however, are found in other tithings in that and later records, so William need not have been living by 1296 at the place from which he took his name. Later indications that Neyland might have been part are circumstantial and too complex and insufficiently studied to be admissible here.

It is not necessary, however, to rely on place-names to establish the route or routes by which our Hamlet was reached, for there is evidence on the ground, easily seen on the 1873 map and brought out on the accompanying outline. The conclusions reached will require some rethinking of Ivan Margary's theories about early local communications³ and will account for the puzzles of the 'chines' and 'conjectural southern continuation of London Road' to which Mr Dyson has recently drawn attention⁴. If they do not do so uncontrovertibly they should at least stimulate further discussion.

One of those chines, Blackwell Hollow, runs straight into our Hamlet from the south, then swerves along the line of Holtye Road. At the point where the path posited by Margary as part of an east-west track joins it, there can still be seen today a small hollow way running a few yards into the hospital grounds but on the 1873 map continuing further and giving indirect access to Hackenden. The southern continuation of Blackwell Hollow, still in 1873 evidenced by a path running S.S.W. across the Playfield (but now under the Arts Centre and car park), also forms a short stretch of the Hamlet's eastern boundary. The middle section of our Church Lane takes it on further, then the diagonal footpath across the churchyard and so into another chine, Hermitage Lane.

To the east of this route, and roughly parallel, even matching its north-easterly swing, another north-south track can be seen, making a T-junction with the lane from Hackenden. From that point we can still follow its southward course today, past Blackwell School and the allotments, across Mount Noddy recreation ground, along the last leg of Moat Road, over the footbridge and as a short twitten between houses in Christopher Road. From there to the Post Office, where it meets Margary's other (and more convincing) east-west track (D on the outline map), it is now overlain by the car park and King Street. It then continues uphill as the last stretch of London Road (interpreted by Margary as a short cut to the town) and across the High Street to run through the gap that now gives access to the Judges Close surgery, etc. Although there is no trace of the route immediately after that, either in maps or on the ground, the gap must have been left deliberately when Judges Terrace began to be constructed, and its line, if projected, joins the eastern route, now Hermitage Lane, at its junction with Harwoods Lane. From there, Dunnings Road runs S.S.W. by another chine, Frampost Hollow (later passing Neyland), and Harwoods Lane runs south via Boyleys and Busses Farms. Other routes, marked as footpaths on modern large-scale maps, diverge from both, all heading southwards towards and over Ashdown Forest. Any of them could have been the way to our Hamlet's original base.

The chines, formed by nature and improved by man, as toolmarks on their stone banks testify, are the best evidence for the antiquity of the eastern route, probably indeed dating from prehistoric times. The hollow lane that turns off to Estcots also speaks of centuries of use, while the homestead there, nestling in its little valley so well sheltered from the prevailing south-westerly weather, must have seemed an ideal location to settlers long before the Anglo-Saxons. True no finds from prehistoric times are known from our Hamlet, and anything said about it at that period must be speculative, but there does seem to be growing agreement among local historians that the reason the earliest settlements have not been found is that Anglo-Saxon and mediaeval farms and houses sit on top of them.

Estcots, like Hackenden, is first mentioned in surviving records in the 1280s, but is unlikely to have been of recent coinage. Its name, Estcote in all the mediaeval sources, means 'cottage to or in the east'. Hitherto there has been no final answer to the question 'East of where?', especially with no corresponding Westcote to guide us. A glance at the map, however, shows that it could signify 'in the eastern half' of the Hamlet, with the ancient track through Blackwell Hollow the readily identifiable demarcation from the Hackenden portion.

But then, the same glance at the map shows the main buildings at Estcots just outside the Hamlet border, and the first known mentions of the name, in the hundred rolls for 1285 and 87, are of the widow of Brun' de Estcot'/Estkot' in the tithing of Brambletye⁵. In reply to this, it must be noted that the surname Estcote occurs in the tithing of Greenhurst in the subsidy roll for 1296 between Odo de Hakyndenne and William de Hakyndenne, while Robert de Farnleghe (Fairlight) comes immediately before Odo⁶. The main buildings at Fairlight also lie just outside the Hamlet boundary, which in fact runs through the middle of the curtilages of both. Whether either ever had land on both sides of that border we cannot tell, but certainly the surname Estcote appears also in the

1327 and 1332 subsidies in the relevant tithing (Framfield, in which Greenhurst had now been incorporated)⁷. The fact that Fairlight is entered in Domesday Book in its own right makes it unlikely, though not impossible, that there was also a portion of it in the Hamlet.

The names of the other properties within the bounds of the Hamlet have not been traced before the 16th century, so they are not relevant to this article's immediate concerns. The prehistoric east-west tracks posited by Mr Margary, however, cannot be left unmentioned.

Chapmans Lane and Holtye Road are undoubtedly ridge-top tracks of considerable antiquity. The linking portion is more difficult, in the absence of sufficiently detailed large-scale maps before the development of Moat Road and the fire station area. Margary locates in that area the fork between the ridgeway towards Holtye and the one towards Cansiron via the site of the town and Ashurst Wood. The A22 from Felbridge as far as this fork he interprets as a short cut from the north-south route on which the bridge lies. He does not include Lingfield Road in his scheme but there can be no doubt that the 1873 map shows both the new alignment of that road when the Common was enclosed (later deflected at its southern end to accommodate the railway) and also the evidence for its earlier route. Today only fragments of the original survive - Wellington Town Road and Green Hedges Avenue, the latter also deflected by the railway - but in 1873 a clear lane and path are shown, joining the road from Felbridge and the prehistoric tracks at their junction, as plotted and extended on the outline map.

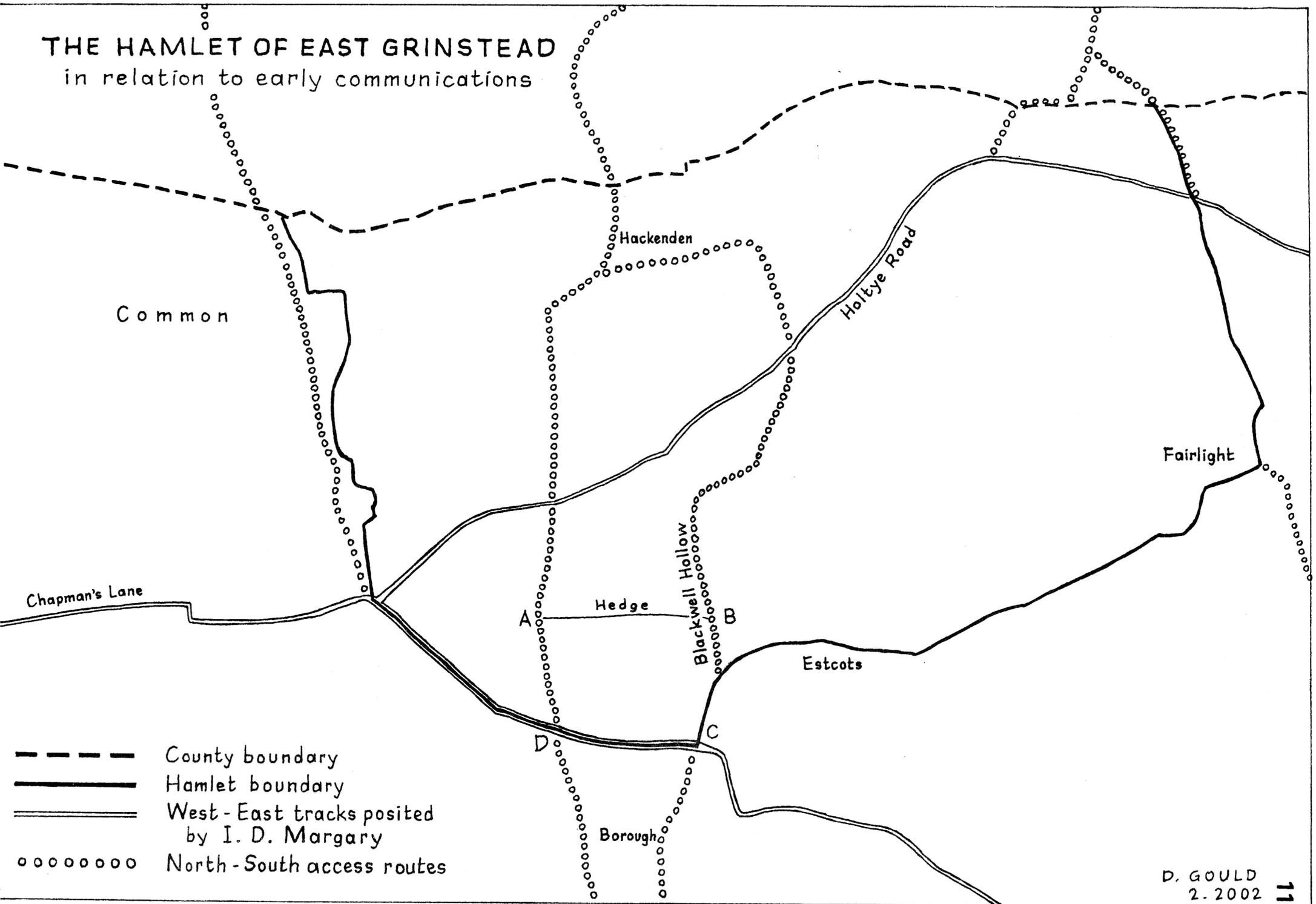
Mr Dyson has also drawn attention to the difficulties posed by earlier mapping of Margary's southern branch where it passes the site of the town, implying a plunge down a virtual precipice once College Lane has been reached. He prefers to give it a more northerly course, roughly parallel to the railway cutting.⁸ I take this opportunity to suggest, on the outline map, adherence to the edge of the precipice as far as the modern turning into Old Road, a probably gentler course. If this sort of wiggle looks uncharacteristic of prehistoric highway engineers, one had to consider the short sharp double bend in Chapmans Lane, visible not only on the 1873 map but also in earlier evidence for field boundaries there. We are still, even with these latest suggestions, far from satisfactorily identifying or explaining every detail of the earliest routes in and around East Grinstead.

This southern branch is important in discussing the Hamlet because it corresponded closely, though not at every point precisely, with the northern boundary of the Borough and thus with the southern boundary of the Hamlet, or - bearing in mind that we have no account of the Hamlet's boundary, only of the Hundred's - so it seems. Hitherto it has also always been spoken of as the northern boundary of the glebe, by which has been meant the vicarial glebe as opposed to the rectorial. When in 1360 Lewes Priory secured for itself the income of the rector of East Grinstead, the vicar paid to do the work of the parish was granted a small area of the land with which the church was endowed (the glebe) while the priory held the rest.⁹ The vicar's portion corresponded to the vicarage grounds shown on the 1873 map. The rectorial portion can be shown to have included the Playfield (the Parsonage Field in 1564, the Parsons Field in 1579 [7408]) and the rectangle ABCD on the outline map. (I offer no evidence or discussion here because the subject of this article is the Hamlet, and the history of the glebe requires complex argument which I hope to publish on a future occasion.)

It can easily be seen that the western and eastern boundaries of the rectorial glebe, AD and BC on the outline map, march with the western and eastern north-south access routes to the Hamlet. It can be seen from the 1873 map that the northern border of the glebe, AB on the outline map, is a typical ancient boundary, a long straight hedgerow abutted on either side by irregularly spaced field boundaries. On larger-scale maps produced before the coming of the railway and the development

THE HAMLET OF EAST GRINSTEAD

in relation to early communications



- County boundary
- Hamlet boundary
- ==== West - East tracks posited
by I. D. Margary
- oooooo North - South access routes

of Moat Road¹⁰ this is even more obvious. The vicarial glebe and churchyard have been treated by modern writers as part of the borough but I am no longer sure that they were.

Whatever the truth of that may be, it seems strange that the rectorial glebe is traversed by the boundaries of the Hamlet, the Hundred (on the Playfield) and perhaps the Borough too (founded in the early 13th century). Whether it was the Hamlet or the glebe that was defined first, either way such shared jurisdiction cannot readily be accounted for, though I shall hope to tackle it in the article promised. It must not be forgotten, moreover, that the account of the Hundred boundary on which this article is built dates from the mid-16th century and that we have no descriptions of any of our boundaries earlier than that, whereas both the church (and probably glebe) and the Hamlet originated before the Conquest. It is a further complication that the church and glebe seem to have been originally associated with Brambletye. This too remains to be argued in the article to be written.

The rest of the Hamlet's southern boundary and its eastern follow either Margary's southern branch or other tracks which one can well believe to be ancient. The north-south route through Fairlight looks like another early line of communication from a southern parent, an impression supported by an informal attempt at hedgerow-dating when walking along the lane from Holtye Road to Fairlight some years ago. Properly controlled and substantiated hedgerow-dating could be a useful exercise along all the boundaries discussed in this and the earlier articles.

The northern boundary I have taken, for the lack of any evidence to the contrary, to be the same as the county boundary on the 1873 map. At the time of the tithe award, when the Hamlet was apparently already a dead letter, Hackenden Farm also had fields to its north but they could well have been acquired at any time before that; the Sands or Sondes family (eventually Earls of Feversham) and their successors the Earls of Rockingham, who had Hackenden at the time of the map of c.1740, had been amassing properties in East Grinstead and Lingfield from the 16th century onwards.

The western border, where the Hamlet met the Common, was no concern of the compilers of the accounts of the Hundred boundary. For the outline map in this article it has been tentatively deduced from the 1873 map on the assumption that the various small plots along the putative original line of Lingfield Road are the sort of irregular settlements that grow up on the edges of every common whereas the fields to their east speak of formalised farming. A more definitive line will depend on closer study of the history of the Common, including attempting to discover in which jurisdiction it lay before it was either annexed to the Borough or created at the same time as the Borough.

The area contained by the bounds of the Hamlet as I have mapped them can be calculated, with the aid of the book of reference for the 1873 25" O.S. map, as about 480 acres. On the conventional reckoning of mediaeval measures this would amount to four hides or one knight's fee. The editors of the customal of the Archbishop's Sussex manors produced in 1285 say, however, that, although this was near enough so in the downland manors, in those 'within the wood', i.e. in the Weald, the various units corresponded to higher acreages.¹¹

Even though our Hamlet lay within the tithing of Greenhurst in the archbishop's Hundred of Loxfield, there is no explicit reference to it in the customals, nor to Hackenden, Estcots or any other local property, whether under Greenhurst or in any other entries. Nevertheless it can be detected. Among the freeholders in the borgh of Grenherst 'Sir Roger de Leukenore holds 1 hide, about 300 acres of land'¹². Six years earlier, in September 1279, Sir Roger de Leukenor is listed for half a knight's fee in Grenested in the register of Archbishop Peckham.¹³ Both entries must refer to the same man and the same place, giving him some 50-60% of the Hamlet.

Almost certainly the entry following Leukenore's in 1285, 'The Prior and Convent of Lewes hold about 250 acres of land'¹⁴, covers our rectorial glebe as well as holdings elsewhere in Greenhurst. As identified above, our rectorial glebe amounts to only about 30 acres. The Priory's other holdings here do not appear to have included any other land within the Hamlet, but one document among the Priory's title deeds, whose inclusion there is hard to explain, does seem to relate to part of it. On 30 April 1283 Thomas Flemyng sold to William atte Soler for 20s. 3 acres of land which he acquired of Alexander le Foghell in the parish of East Grinstead. Its bounds were 'towards the east and west between the land of William de Haghindenne and the street which leads from Grenestede towards Eduliuesbrigg [Edenbridge] and towards the south and north between the land of Peter de Haghindenne and the road which leads from the high street to the house of William de Haghindenne'¹⁵. On the face of it, every detail needed for precise location is here, but I have been unable to pinpoint it on the map. I cannot explain why it is in the chartulary, since there seems to be no other reference to it and no indication how, if at all, it came into the Priory's possession. Nor have I investigated what properties the Priory held in other parishes which included detached parts of Greenhurst.

More could be said about the Hamlet and its component parts and its inhabitants, especially at later dates than those considered here, but it would not be relevant to the aspects set out in the title of this article. Fresh evidence that is relevant is most likely to be found amongst the records of the archbishops of Canterbury, to which I have not paid systematic attention. As ever, there are plenty of openings for supplementary research by other people and for critical discussion of the theories advanced here, for little can be said to have been demonstrated conclusively. Such further discussion is one of our *Bulletin's* *raison d'être*.

I am grateful to Mr David Gould for drawing the outline map with his customary clarity and skill.

¹ Custumal of Archbishop of Canterbury's Sussex manors, Sussex Record Society [henceforth S.R.S.], vol. 57, p.64

² S.R.S., vol. 10, p.40

³ 'The early development of tracks and roads in and around East Grinstead', *Sussex Notes & Queries*, vol. 11, pp.77-81

⁴ *East Grinstead Society Bulletin* [henceforth *E.G.S.B.*], no. 74, p.12

⁵ Rev. W. Budgen's notebook 100, Sussex Archaeological Society library, Lewes

⁶ as note 2

⁷ as note 2, pp.198, 308

⁸ *E.G.S.B.*, no.56, p.7

⁹ See my *A history of East Grinstead* (2001), pp.12f. for a fuller account and explanation

¹⁰ Tithe map, 1841, map of lands in dispute in this area, c.1740 (on show in Town Museum)

¹¹ as note 1, pp.xxxif.

¹² *ibid*, p.60

¹³ *Scriptores medii aevi*, vol.3 (1885), p.998, f.2

¹⁴ as note 12

¹⁵ Lewes chartulary, S.R.S. vol. 38, p.87

THE SOCIETY'S DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

An interim summary of the findings of this project was printed in *Bulletin* 73 (Spring 2001), with the promise of later publication of the structural and documentary histories of the buildings examined and interpretation of the results. The first instalment of more detailed study of one of them begins on the next page and is intended to be continued in subsequent issues as space permits. It is followed by further considerations relating to building activity here at the time most of the properties studied were put up.

7-9-11 HIGH STREET

EARLY STRUCTURAL HISTORY, prepared for the survey by the late Peter Gray

7-9-11 High Street was constructed as a hall house in the Wealden style similar to Clarendon House and a number of other buildings in the High Street, e.g. the Bookshop on the opposite side. An indication of its quality can be seen in an upstairs room where the braces to the open truss of the hall are 3' (900 mm.) wide. Some time after it was built the eastern end suffered major alterations creating a cross-wing, presumably related to a commercial use rather than its original domestic one.

Several timbers in 7-9 (Corals) have given a felling date of winter 1450-51. Some joists in 11 (Wickendens) have given identical dates and must have been re-used from the altered part of the original building. One gave a range which could imply a date 15 or 20 years later.

Construction of the original building would have been completed by about 1455. Unfortunately no samples from the alterations (i.e. which had clearly not come from the original building) gave good felling dates. Nevertheless such indications as there are from structural evidence and a single sample suggest that a construction date for the alterations is likely to be by about 1470-75.

LATER STRUCTURAL WORK: It is apparent from documents discussed below that by the mid-17th century the property was already divided into two or more parts, temporarily if not permanently. The lowering of the street outside in 1828 accounts for the steps to 7-9 and the floor levels in 11, with the front portion lowered and the original level at the back regained by steps, as still visible to shoppers there today. M.J.L.

DOCUMENTARY, to the end of the 17th century by M.J. Leppard

Ideally a documentary history would tell us who commissioned a building, who constructed it, its original name, its intended use, and how use, name, ownership and occupation changed over the years right up to the present day. In reality one has to rely on correlating information from randomly surviving records of various kinds and drawing reasonable inferences. In East Grinstead we are more fortunate than most towns in having a survey of the borough undertaken in 1564 with sufficient detail to enable us to match virtually every building with its modern counterpart.¹

In that survey 7-9-11 accounted for one burgage, owned by Edward Payne and occupied by John Farley. This identifies it as the burgage and portland occupied by John Farley bequeathed by John Payne senior of the town to his wife Johane in his will dated 8 August 1558 (proved 28 October).² Earlier than that we cannot go, nor can we tell the use to which Farley was putting it, for we do not know his occupation. We do know that in 1555 he had been a witness to the will of Richard Harman, an East Grinstead mercer,³ and in 1566 he was a juror at an inquest here⁴. Hills says John Farley married Clemence Payne⁵ but the marriage is not recorded in our parish register or mentioned in published work on the Paynes.

The property was in the possession of Edward Payne's son, also Edward, in 1597-98⁶ and bequeathed, as 'the burgage where John Bartholomew dwells', by his son, another Edward, to his son Richard by his will dated 14 October 1658 (proved 19 October)⁷. On 4 May 1669 Robert Payne of Newick sold it, as all that burgage etc. wherein John Bartholomew is dwelling, with portland etc., to John Bartholomew for £125⁸.

Corroboration that this burgage is our 7-9-11 is provided by a series of rentals in which the properties in the borough are listed in the same order as in the 1564 survey. They do not record owners, only tenants: William Croxton in c.1645, John Bartholomew in 1662 and 69⁹ and James Blott in 1683¹⁰. It was still in John Bartholomew's possession in 1670, when the hearth tax recorded three hearths there¹¹. A series of mortgages and leases involving, among others, members of the Blatt or Blott family of Reigate culminated in the purchase of the property by John Underhill in 1694¹².

All that we know of William Croxton is that he was a blacksmith in 1642 when he obtained his marriage licence¹³ and that the parish register records the baptisms of three children of the marriage between 1643 and 1648. Since he is not listed in the rental for the forge across the way, where Constitutional Buildings now stands, we cannot conclude that he operated it. (No-one else is specifically stated to be doing so but it is probably one of the properties entered as a cottage.) Nor does it necessarily follow that Croxton's forge was at 7-9-11, for he could have been living there while working elsewhere.

John Bartholomew, however, is well documented, in the deeds already mentioned, where he is described as a cordwainer (shoemaker), and in the 1679 schedule of encroachments. As John Bartholomew the elder he was presented for an inclosure upon the Common and for his tenant William Paine's erection of a penthouse and posts in the town.¹⁴ A William Payne is listed for a cottage and posts in the 1683 rental¹⁵, so it may be that Bartholomew owned that cottage, though his position in the 1679 list is consonant with 7-9-11's being the property intended. Either way, Payne is such a common name that nothing more can be safely said about this William, and thus no more light is thrown on the way the building was used. (A penthouse is any kind of additional structure, not necessarily on a roof, but the posts, mentioned in connection with various properties in 16th and 17th century records, have not yet been satisfactorily explained.)

By 21 April 1681 Jarvis Thorpe and John Bartholomew junior were the occupants.¹⁶ On 21 November, however, Thorpe, a glazier, bought 54-56 High Street for £50¹⁷, where he continues to be mentioned in later documents, sometimes as a plumber. The younger Bartholomew, a cordwainer like his father, ran away soon after, leaving his apprentice William Thomas, a poor child of the parish, unemployed and with his apprenticeship unexpired, as complained of by the parishioners to Quarter Sessions on 14 October 1683¹⁸. James Blott, the occupant in that year¹⁹, took a lease on the property in 1684 (with the more usual spelling Blatt) when the occupant was Thomas Blatt, still there in 1685 when he (or a namesake) is described as a baker of Reigate²⁰. In 1693, when he is oatmealman of that place, William Bartholomew is the occupant of the eastern part of the property (our no.11), joined in the next year (presumably in the western part) by James Blatt, a baker.²¹ William Bartholomew, first mentioned in a borough document in 1681²², is described as a cordwainer in 1696, when he stood surety to a marriage licence²³, and also at his burial in 1700. In another deed of 1694 James Blatt occupies one part, John Bartholomew junior, cordwainer, another and John Knight, glazier, a third.²⁴ Presumably some of the deeds relate to part of the building rather than the whole and Knight (about whom nothing more is known) occupied the part Thorpe had used.

The final deed of the century is the will of John Underhill of East Grinstead, tailor, dated 19 April 1695, proved 1 December 1699, devising to his sister Mary the two dwelling houses (presumably our 7-9 and 11) he had purchased of James and Thomas Blatt.²⁵

It is noteworthy that in the survey and rentals the property is spoken of as a burgage only, whereas in the deeds and wills there is sometimes mention of a portland or portlands also. Since rentals and deeds tend to repeat the phraseology of their predecessors, even sometimes the names of

former owners or occupiers rather than those of the time, it is likely that the loss or gain of a portland has for some time gone unacknowledged, but which or when seems impossible to tell.

¹ edited, mapped and discussed by P.D.Wood in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, vol. 106 (1968), pp.49-62

² Mr L.E.W. Cole, personal communication [henceforth pers. comm.]

³ Mr D.N.L. Harman, pers. comm.

⁴ Sussex Record Society [henceforth S.R.S.] vol. 33, p.40

⁵ W.H. Hills, *The history of East Grinstead* (1906) [henceforth Hills], p.198

⁶ The Buckhurst Terrier, S.R.S. vol. 39, p.60

⁷ *Miscellanea genealogica et heraldica*, vol. 6, p.273

⁸ East Sussex Record Office [henceforth E.S.R.O.], SAS B388

⁹ Centre for Kentish Studies, Maidstone, all three U269 E180

¹⁰ Hills, p.41

¹¹ Public Record Office E179/191/140

¹² as note 8, B392, 393, 399, 400, 414, 418, 419, 421

¹³ S.R.S. vol. 1, p.287

¹⁴ as note 9

¹⁵ MS version, W.H.Hills MSS, West Sussex Record Office [henceforth W.S.R.O.]

¹⁶ as note 8, B393

¹⁷ E.S.R.O., SAS FB553

¹⁸ W.S.R.O., PAR 348/33/2/1

¹⁹ as note 10

²⁰ as note 8, B400, 399

²¹ *ibid*, B414, 418

²² Fair toll, Sackville College MSS, W.S.R.O.

²³ S.R.S. vol. 6, p.160

²⁴ as note 8, B421

²⁵ *ibid*, B425

WHAT WAS GOING ON HERE THEN? M.J. Leppard

Bulletin 74 (Autumn 2001) contained an article by me under this title attempting to account for the fact that four of the buildings investigated proved to have been put up around 1450-55. At the Wealden Buildings Study Group meeting on 21 October 2001 an officer of the National Monuments Record said that the same dating was proving to apply to the majority of urban buildings dendrochronologically tested across the country. It is therefore a national phenomenon dependent on national factors still to be identified.

In quoting the will of John Nelond, made in 1437, I overlooked the relevance of the injunction to his executors to spend 100 shillings on a footstool and desks in the chapel of St Mary in East Grinstead church according to the advice and workmanship of Richard Brid' [?Bridge], carpenter (Sussex Record Society vol. 42, p.226). We may well have here the name of the man who was responsible for designing, making and erecting one or more of the mid-15th century buildings in our town or nearby, for that was the carpenter's job in mediaeval times.

===== *BULLETIN 74* (Autumn 2001): OTHER ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA =====

GOLDEN BOOTS (p.7): Congratulations to Russell & Bromley on the replacement, put up early in December – slightly different in design and dimensions from the original, and tawny rather than gold, but a welcome contribution to the street scene nonetheless.

STREET NAME BANK (p.10): To the list of Members of Parliament who were benefactors should be added John Toke (1702-08), who gave a communion flagon to the parish church in 1702.

COMPASS REVIEW (p.16): For 'New Stone Age' read 'Middle Stone Age'.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGERS AT EAST GRINSTEAD PARISH CHURCH

M.J. Leppard

I was pleased to see in the interesting article on this subject in our Society's last *Newsletter* (83, Nov. 2001), among much that was new to me, use made of historical information I supplied to the then tower captain Mr F.H. Hicks in 1965-66. Since then I have accumulated a good deal more, which is now worth committing to print, together with references to sources. A few details from the *Newsletter* article will be repeated so that their sources may be given too.

Thomas Drewe, by his will of 21 February 1543, bequeathed 6s. 8d. to the reparations of the steeple and bells (perhaps indicating work in progress, perhaps a maintenance fund) and directed that only the third bell be rung for his knell.¹ On 11 September 1558 Thomas Busse in his will left 2s. to the ringers that rang at his funeral.²

A tradition that, after Framfield church tower collapsed in 1667, some of its bells were hung in East Grinstead church tower is mentioned in 1851³ but no corroboration has been found.

In his eye-witness account of the lightning strike at about 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 6 September 1683 John Creasy wrote: 'They attempted to save the Bells but too late, for the Firebrands fell so fast that none could stand to work. ... in a short time burnt down all the Steeple melted all the Bells and burnt the Bellofts Stick and Stake all to the Ground'⁴.

The inscriptions on the new bells were recorded by Sir William Burrell. On all of them was 'Cure et arte Christopheri Hodson MDCLXXXIV' [by the care and art of Christopher Hodson 1684], a well-known bellfounder of the time. They bore the names of their donors, as follows:

1. Charles Earle of Dorset & Middlesex Patron
2. Richard Robert & Henry Paine Esq^{rs}
John Saywell Vicar John Kettelby G^t [gentleman]
1684
3. Brian Walton Esq VIRE [VIVAT REX, long live the King]
4. Edward Head Thomas Wickersham Church Wardens⁵

The first reference to ringing the bells for a secular celebration so far discovered is in connection with the by-election on 26 February 1695 when the Duke of Dorset spent 10s. on beer for the ringers – the usual form of payment for their services.

For Bishop Bowers' survey of all parishes in the diocese in 1724 it was reported 'In the belfry are 6 good bells'⁶. Whether an extra two had been added is not known; it seems unlikely that there were a fifth and sixth in 1684 with no distinguishing inscription and equally strange that Burrell, half a century later, records only four, especially because there were definitely six in 1785 when the tower collapsed.

In Thomas Wakeham's eye-witness account of that event we read: 'The Bells which were Six and very heavy, hung in the third Loft had not been rung for some time past, as it was observed they shook the Tower very much'. At about 1.45 p.m. on Saturday 12 November, he tells us, the tower split and fell. 'Some persons had been in both the Church and Belfry but a few minutes before ... Five of the Bells lay on the top of the Rubbish only covered with the Lead of the Roof but the other Bell was under the Rubbish some depth the first, third, and Sixth quite sound but the second and fifth had one quarter of each of their Coronetts broken off and the fourth had its whole Coronett broken off'⁷. The account in the Burrell MSS adds 'the fourth bell was buried some distance, and has since been dug out, and [they] are all whole to appearance; but whether any of them are cracked

cannot be determined till they are hung up to give their sound'⁸. An unattributed newspaper report, quoting a letter from East Grinstead dated 14 November, says the tenor weighed 7 cwt.⁹

When work had progressed sufficiently a carpenter's bill for £2. 7s. for hanging the bells was presented in 1787, paid out of £2. 16s. already subscribed for the purpose.¹⁰ On 1 December 1795, when work was further advanced, Charles Smith presented an estimate for £4 for removing the bells and hanging them up in the tower, finding all the materials. It was accepted the next day and he was to be allowed extra, not exceeding 5s., for a new piece of oak to hang the great bell on.¹¹ On 23 October 1809 it was ordered that the three largest bells (4, 5 & 6), 'being broke', be taken down and placed in safety in the belfry gallery.¹² As yet there was no proper tower, only a 'Sussex cap'.

In 1812, with work on the tower under way at last, it was ordered on 24 August that there be eight bells, the tenor to weigh 24 cwt, and Messrs Mears be applied to for an estimate for recasting the present six (total weight 86 cwt) and completing the eight. An estimate of £389. 1s. for furnishing and putting them up was received by 28 September. On 22 April the next year it was ordered that the bells be inscribed 'East Grinstead 1813' and on 18 August hanging was reported to be in progress.¹³

John Hoath of East Grinstead reported the news thus in two letters to his friend William Hall. 24 July: 'The Bell Frame is fix^d, in the Tower & the Bells will be hung in a short time'. 14 October: 'A Ring of 8 New Bells which was Rung for the first time on Tuesday Last the 12 Inst by Ringers from London they Rung one Peal without Stopping three Hours & 8 minutes Long tis said they are very Musical, & A New Clock that strikes the Quarters on the 1st & 4th bell & the Hours on the Tenor, It Cost more than Three Hundred Pounds.¹⁴ Tower records, used in the *Newsletter* article, show that these first ringers were the Ancient Society of College Youths. From this point I will simply supplement that account with information from other sources, to the end of the century.

This first peal was recorded at the Trustees' meeting on 25 October as having given general satisfaction. James Lynn junior was to be appointed Bell Warden and the Sexton was to ring for deaths and funerals. The meeting on 22 November heard that Lynn had declined and that Robert Payne [the sexton] had accepted.¹⁵

In the next year John Hoath described the clock and bells as 'Usefull & very Entertaining' on 8 April. On Whitmonday, 30 May, he wrote 'The Bells were Ringing early this Morning by Ringers from different Places'.¹⁶ The Ringers' rules were set down in the Trustees' order book on 3 October, including practices at 6.30 on Wednesdays and a fine of 3d. for non-attendance.¹⁷

Under 25 November 1816 a letter from Mears requiring money and threatening court action is recorded. The subject is not mentioned again until 27 December 1824, when final settlement is noted and the problem of sound being confined in the belfry is raised.¹⁸ On 25 July 1825 bells 7 and 8 are reported out of repair but by 26 December the bells are said to be in good order from frequent use and the responsibility of the churchwardens, not the trustees.¹⁹ Consequently the bells are not mentioned again in the trustees' records, but fortunately other sources become more plentifully available.

Thus in 1843 Thomas Cramp records a visit by the Reigate ringers and 3040 (correctly 5040) changes rung by the East Grinstead ringers on 21 December²⁰, according to Hills the first complete peal of grandsire triples rung here²¹ (which we now know not to be the case). At the end of the year the teenage diarist William Lambert notes 'Our ringers didn't ring the Old Year out & the New Year in'²², implying that they normally did do so. Perhaps the omission can be accounted for by the peal the next day mentioned in the *Newsletter* article.

The passing of the bill for the East Grinstead railway was celebrated by the ringers on 12 May 1853 and the bells were rung again for the opening on 9 July 1855.²³ Since 1834 the peal had been spoilt by the cracking of the quarter bell but it was successfully recast²⁴, as recorded on it: 'Cast by John Warner & Sons, Cripplegate, 1866'²⁵ Perhaps in celebration, on New Year's Eve 1866 'two or three tunes were played on the church bells by J. Meads, H. Pocock, W. Harding & another, which was played very satisfactory' according to Thomas Cramp's son Jury²⁶. These seem to be the first local ringers whose names have survived, all three also known as musicians.

From 1873 onwards we have information in the parish magazines, which I shall use selectively to take us to the end of the century. In the February issue of that year the vicar, the Rev. D.Y. Blakiston, lamented 'No sound from our beautiful peal of eight bells to welcome Christmas and New Year's Day mornings!' A meeting for all who were interested in ringing was therefore to be called and in April fourteen rules for the newly-formed band were printed, including their 'duty and privilege' to ring before the 8 a.m. service on Christmas Day, Easter Day, Ascension Day and Whit Sunday and also on the Queen's birthday, whenever the bishop comes, New Year's Eve and New Year's morning. On 13 May the ringers and choirmen had a supper. No more rewards in beer and no more ringing for occasions not observed by the church.

Then as now it was difficult to maintain a full band. The December 1878 magazine records the formation of a new team so that ringing could be taken up again. In January 1882 Mr Blakiston writes, 'The Bell Ringers were very indefatigable last year in their weekly practice. For some time past they have been ringing very lively changes, especially on Christmas Day, when there were some very effective airs rung out on the bells'. In March 1887, however, we read that a new band began on 21 February. The November issue reports the purchase of new bell-ropes and a set of handbells for practice. In February 1888 £8 is recorded as having been subscribed to and divided among the eleven ringers and in June we learn that they had played the town XI at cricket. A feat by ringers from Brighton on 19 January 1889 and a visit by the Sussex change ringers on 22 April are reported in the magazines for February and May respectively.

But then in August ordinary Tuesday practices had to be suspended because of defects in the upper window on the west face of the tower²⁷. The tower and the bells were still problems in 1898, when Mears estimated £162. 10s. to recast the bells, so the October parish magazine carried an appeal for £250 to deal with both problems.

¹ Sussex Record Society [henceforth S.R.S.], vol. 42, pp.225, 228

² *ibid.*, p.229

³ *Sussex Archaeological Collections* [henceforth S.A.C.], vol.4, p.297

⁴ Thomas Wakeham's MSS (Hills' MSS, West Sussex Record Office [henceforth W.S.R.O.]

⁵ Sir Henry Ellis's MSS (*ibid.*)

⁶ S.R.S., vol. 78, p.130

⁷ as note 4

⁸ as note 5

⁹ cutting in Worthing library

¹⁰ Church Rebuilding Trustees' account book (W.S.R.O.)

¹¹ Church Rebuilding Trustees' order book (*ibid.*)

¹² *ibid.*

¹³ *ibid.*

¹⁴ W.S.R.O. Add Ms 39,854, ff.18, 20

¹⁵ as note 11 ¹⁶ as note 14, ff.23, 24 ¹⁷ as note 11 ¹⁸ *ibid.* ¹⁹ *ibid.* ²⁰ his diary, in family hands ²¹ W.H.

Hills, *History of East Grinstead* (1906), p.73 ²² his diary, in my possession ²³ *Sussex Advertiser*, 17 May 1853 and

17 July 1855 ²⁴ J.C. Stenning, S.A.C., vol. 20 (1868), p.150 ²⁵ G. Golding-Bird, *East Grinstead and its parish*

church (4th ed. 1938), p.27 ²⁶ his log book, in family hands ²⁷ *East Grinstead Observer*, 24 August.

Contributions for Bulletin 76 should please reach the editor by 31 March.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Editor

FELBRIDGE 'THEN & NOW', compiled by the Felbridge and District History Group (2001) and consisting of well-captioned paired old and recent photographs, includes five from that part of East Grinstead civil parish which is in Felbridge ecclesiastical parish [£5.95 from village shops and Town Museum)] Leaflets produced by the Group impinging on East Grinstead include **Sidney Godley, V.C.** (March 2000), **Lime-kilns and lime-burning** (Nov. 2000), **Old Felbridge House and the Feld** (Mach 2001), **Hop Growing and Hop Fields** (Sept. 2001), **Memories of Stream Park and the Birches** by Tony Jones (April 2001), and **The Roman legacy in Felbridge** (Nov. 2001). [Details of the Group from Mrs S.J. Clarke, Oaklands, Lake View Road, Furnace Wood, RH19 2QE.]

EAST GRINSTEAD MUSEUM COMPASS No.7 (Spring 2002) contains an article on East Grinstead's catchment area for goods and services up to the early 19th century, a further instalment of dialect vocabulary, notes on shoes and a doll found superstitiously hidden in local buildings and now in the Museum's collections and reviews of recent publications relating to local villages. [£1 at Museum, by post £1.20]

THE WEALDEN IRON RESEARCH GROUP Newsletter 34 (Autumn 2001) includes a note on Drew Pickesse of Brambletye and Stephen French his forgemaster 1579-82.

ASHDOWN FOREST NEWS No.41 (Autumn 2001) celebrates the fortieth anniversary of its publishers, the Friends of Ashdown Forest, with a brief account of their history. It also includes an article on the 'Bow Bells' milestones by 'B.W.', who is having some of them refurbished.

The South East England Tourist Guides Association's periodical, **THE MAGAZINE**, No.23 (2001) contains an article 'East Grinstead' by Ann Humphries.

A new edition of the East Grinstead official street plan has now appeared. [20 n.p.]

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO (*reprinted from East Grinstead parish magazine, February 1977*)

DO YOU REMEMBER?

New Year resolutions are notoriously quickly forgotten. What about New Year wishes? At the end of 1976 a local paper printed the wishes for 1977 of several local leaders. How many can you get right from the list below?

- 1 Who hoped for more Christians in East Grinstead in 1977?
 - a. East Grinstead Lions, b. The Chairman of the Council of Churches, c. Mr and Mrs Christian.
- 2 Who wished that less alcohol would be drunk in the town?
 - a. East Grinstead Squash Club, b. Mid Sussex Water Board, c. East Grinstead and District Licensed Victuallers.
- 3 Who hoped 'someone in East Grinstead would at last have a good word for us'?
 - a. Mid Sussex District Council, b. British Railways, c. The British Airports Authority.
- 4 Who expected that 'what we've lost on the swings we'll gain on the roundabouts'?
 - a. East Grinstead Local Labour Party, b. The residents of Fairfield Road, c. West Sussex highways department.

Answers on page 52.

M.J.L.