



THE RECTORY WITHYAM 04

The
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of the
EAST GRINSTEAD
SOCIETY

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THE EAST GRINSTEAD SOCIETY

www.eastgrinsteadsociety.org

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, walks and visits. It produces this *Bulletin* of articles of local interest and a *Newsletter* twice 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 and promotes citizenship education in local schools. It has held exhibitions, planted trees, restored the churchyard railings and martyrs' memorial, and financed tree-ring dating of some buildings in the High Street. It has also produced surveys of trees, seats and playground equipment, provided a plaque by the mass grave of victims of enemy action in Mount Noddy cemetery (now superseded) and historical guide-maps in the High Street, and presented seats in memory of leading former members to Sackville College and the High Street. It has published a book of reminiscences, sets of postcards reproducing old photographs, three town trails (one of them also in French and German) and leaflets on the local martyrs and on Mount Noddy and Moat Pond. With the Town Council it established the now independent Town Museum.

The Society is a registered charity (no.257870) and belongs to 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. Membership forms are on the website or obtainable from 7 Durkins Road, East Grinstead, RH19 2ER. The subscription is £10 p.a. By signing a Gift Aid form standard-rate income tax payers can increase its value at no cost to themselves. Persons wishing only to receive the *Bulletin* can do so at the reduced rate of £4 per calendar year, payable in advance to the Editor (address on cover).

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EDITORIAL

It is a gratifying indication of our Society's reputation to see our *Bulletins* characterised by a leading scholar in local history circles in Sussex, in a passing mention, as 'a treasure trove of urban history'.* It has always been our hope that at least some of the articles in every issue will be of value to researchers in comparable places, whether now or in the future. Our immediate and chief concern is, of course, conserving and enhancing the distinctive heritage of our town for our contemporaries and their successors, but doing so faithfully depends on being soundly rooted in our unique story so far.

COVER PICTURE: Withyham Rectory sketched by our former honorary secretary the late Donovan Joyce, a tribute to whom follows overleaf. On leaving East Grinstead he moved into the right-hand projecting portion and the structure abutting it. The chairman has sent our condolences to his widow.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO: *Newsletter* 54 (February 1992) led with two pages on the proposed conversion of the Playfield to a car park and our spirited opposition, followed by a progress report on our concern at the shortage of public lavatories. After a portrait and profile of our new Chairman, Cr Mrs Jean Andrews, came exhaustive accounts of talks on C.R. Mackintosh, Thomas Chippendale and the Adam Brothers, reflecting the influence in and beyond the Society of Mrs Doreen Yarwood in getting authoritative speakers on her own particular interests, which were equally apparent in most of the meetings and outings yet to come. *Bulletin* 50 (Spring 1992) led with a thoughtful appreciation by Mr A.G. Dyson of its achievements to date and suggestions for its future, still worth pondering. Three sides of maps, text and illustration devoted to the history of Moat Pond were contributed by the editor.

AS OTHERS SAW US (57): 'You gave me a lovely time, introducing me to East Grinstead with its well-designed modernist station, its medieval and 19th-century stone and half-timbered buildings and its bookshop (surely noteworthy on a national scale), where I thoroughly enjoyed our coffee together. Thank you also for taking me to the Museum - interesting in its modernity even if not as well designed as the station.' - Prof. Eric Fernie (77-year old retired professor of Art History) on a day visit from Coulsdon, April 2016
D.G.

AS WE SAW OURSELVES (47): East Grinstead 'is a shopping rendezvous for many hundreds of neighbouring residents, and the scene on a Saturday evening, when the well-trained Volunteer and Town Band is discoursing sweet music in the High Street, and the thoroughfares are crowded with visitors from surrounding villages is one of great animation'. - *East Grinstead* published for the Urban District Council by the Health Resorts Association, 1909, p.22, a revised version of the 1908 edition. In the 1914 edition (different publisher, same London address) the author of the text, including the passage quoted here, is identified as W.H. Hills.

BULLETIN 116 (Summer 2016): The editor has received several appreciative comments, written or oral, on the tribute to Patrick Wood, not just the fact of it nor, even better, its content and its expression but most gratifying, the man himself and his work. Our President well summarised the general view: 'The Society and the wider East Grinstead community owe so much to our Founder Chairman, Patrick Wood's, passion and commitment'.

* Dr Colin Brent, reviewing *A brief history of Sackville College in Sussex Past & Present*, the newsletter of the Sussex Archaeological Society, no.140 (Dec. 2016), p.13

DONOVAN G. JOYCE († 30 August 2016)

M.J. Leppard

Donovan Joyce was born in Dorset and studied at Bournemouth School of Art, eventually becoming a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects with his own practice in Tunbridge Wells and a home at nearby Broadwater Down. On buying Amherst House (66 High Street) in this town and taking up residence he speedily became an active member of our Society, to which he brought both his professional expertise, backed up by the resources of D.G. Joyce and Partners, and experience gained from a leading role in the well established, vigorous and respected Tunbridge Wells Civic Society.

We were already making our mark, notably by our influential 1969 report on the High Street that alerted the populace and councillors to the quality of our precariously-surviving unique townscape and by our 1972 local history exhibition that evoked irresistible calls for a town museum. Don Joyce became the human catalyst to greater momentum in developing and sustaining our achievements and ambitions, as we adapted to the ever-changing pressures on the town. He served on the committee from 1975 to 80, crucially as secretary 1976-78. During that time he convened 'ad hoc' meetings of our officers to prepare for committee meetings and chaired the planning sub-committee, whose role he expanded to embrace Society members with relevant backgrounds, seeing every planning application and sending comments, when justified, to the town and district councils before their deliberations. He also drafted the Society's responses to those of the British Airports Authority, the county council and national government, with persistent written follow-up or deputations in person as needed. The same dedication went into creating artwork for our first town trails and our exhibitions, especially planning the lay-out of the museum, in its short-lived original room and then upstairs, and sharing the physical work involved. In 1976 members were invited to visit his house and learn about its structure.

Beyond the Society his local activities included serving with equal commitment on the parish church restoration trust and, professionally, designing in 1989 an extension to the new convent (given up by the sisters in 2005 and replaced by housing at the bottom of St John's Road).

Don Joyce was an urbane, cultured, generous and unostentatious traditional English gentleman, a connoisseur of art, architecture and books. His relaxations included sketching and painting (the source of each year's Christmas card) and sailing when at his second home in Wareham. He was also an unassertively devout Anglican, making his communion at the parish church on every Sunday while here. There was comparable undemonstrative deep devotion to his wife, Jill, who died of cancer during their time in East Grinstead. Not long after, he moved to the original portion of Withyham rectory, and in due course married Soula, a Greek widow whom he had met through a mutual acquaintance. For tax reasons she had to spend half the year in Jersey, where he eventually joined her permanently. There, within the last year or so, he succumbed to a terminal condition and, after a spell in hospital and then at home with care, he 'lost the fight'.

When he left East Grinstead we made him an honorary member. Just as Patrick Wood may be considered the chairman who did the most for the Society, so - for all the many excellent initiatives and achievements of his predecessors and successors in the role - I regard Don Joyce as the honorary secretary who did the most for it.

P.S. Excuse the handwriting but I now have spectacles! Don



Excuse the handwriting but I now have spectacles! 24 Dec.1981

PIGS AND DENNS IN EAST GRINSTEAD AND THEIR PARENTS

M.J. Leppard

Aspects of evidence for the earliest settlement of our historic parish that I and others have considered in our *Bulletin* have included highways, land use and place-names.* Among the latter, *denn*, conventionally taken to mean ‘seasonal woodland pasture for pigs’, is particularly significant. I keenly read, therefore, an article on the subject in the latest volume of *Surrey Archaeological Collections* by the late Dennis Turner¹, an authority on the history of Surrey, whom I came to know towards the end of his life and whom I persuaded to contribute to discussion in our pages of the possibility that East Grinstead was settled from Surrey rather than from Sussex [10007-12,10104-07,10204f.,10304]. In the light of Turner’s exhaustively researched and multifaceted work, completed for publication by Rob Briggs, I decided to draw together what I and the others had put down in print already and any other relevant information I could now find, wondering to what extent it would reflect (as a mirror-image) or distort (as in a hall of mirrors) the conclusions of Turner and Briggs, which they summarise thus:

‘While there is ample evidence that, at the time they emerge into documented history, these holdings [denns] are being used as swine pastures, the contemporary direct testimony for seasonal usage is slight at best, while the inherent problems surrounding any possible transhumance [seasonal movement between *denn* and parent manor] appear great. ... It can be demonstrated that the denns of Surrey did indeed operate as part of a seasonal grazing regime involving movement of swine into and out of the Weald. Further, there are hints that the regime involved some swine remaining in the Weald after the majority had been driven back to the estate centres, implying the benefit of year-round settlement at the wood pastures for the swineherds.’

Of unrecognised relevance to us, they comment that the Old English word *feld* ‘appears to be an important resource indicator so far as pig pasturing is concerned. Understood to mean “open country”, often land in sight of woodland, it is found as the terminal element in a number of early-recorded place-names. What is significant in this regard therefore, is that denns - specifically place-names containing *denn* - appear often to have been contained within a *feld*. ... In Surrey [that situation] seems to have prevailed at Lingfield (the parish takes in Lullenden and Puttenden).’³

The relevance to us in East Grinstead depends on accepting my deduction from the number of place-names on both sides of the county border hereabouts whose first element is *feld* (Felesmere, 1086, La Felde, c.1150+, enclosures in Imberhorne, c.1258+, Felbridge, c.1135-54+, Felcourt, 1403+) [8104-09♦] of the existence of an earlier single ‘Great Feld’.⁴ Dennis Turner told me he found it persuasive but considered I had ‘not gone far enough’. I wish I had asked him how he thought I might safely have gone further.

There are two undisputed *denn*-names in East Grinstead, Hazelden and Hackenden. (Standen is derived from *denu*, ‘valley’ [8306].) Hazelden adjoins the south-eastern boundary of Imberhorne manor (created out of the Feld) and Hackenden lies a little east of the old East Grinstead Common (a remnant of the Feld) against the county border.

* These articles, which are all supported by source-references, are listed at the end of this one and cited in the text in square brackets as a four or five-digit number, the first two (or three of five) the number of the issue, the second two the page number. ♦ = including mapping (hence no comprehensive, and inevitably complex, map with this article) All other references are given in conventional form in end-notes.

The self-explanatory name of **Hazelden**, first recorded in 1086 in Domesday Book as Halseeldene, indicates a plentiful source of mast when it was first marked out with its embanked perfect arc intersected by another, undoubtedly before the Conquest [10108-15♦,10206]. **Hackenden**, Hacca's *denn*, first found in documents as Haghindenne in 1283, contains a well-attested Saxon name [6812, 7605], implying a comparable pre-Conquest origin. Whether Hacca created it or was at some date its overlord or tenant is unascertainable and for the present purpose immaterial. The sites of both Hackenden and Hazelden could conceivably have been used for pannage well before any Anglo-Saxon take-over. The poor soils of the High Weald dictated their suitability for that purpose, while the Low Weald was best for arable farming and cattle, and the Downs for sheep. Our ancestors were not stupid; their big estates deliberately included detached areas of the various types, whose resources, including timber, building-stone and iron-ore, and their products, ensured them a largely self-sufficient domestic economy.

These outliers and their parent manors were located at intervals along defined and remarkably straight north-south tracks used not just for driving livestock but also for transporting produce, collecting rents and supervising operations. In the case of Hackenden the parent was Horsted Keynes Broadhurst (a sub-manor of Hamsey near Lewes⁵), in Domesday Book one of the many holdings of the Count of Mortain, before the Conquest King Edward's. The route from Hackenden still stands out on maps, though the spread of the town has turned the first mile or so into short, linked thoroughfares of varying kind and status. Today it begins as a footpath alongside allotments, becomes a stretch of Moat Road, goes over a footbridge, up London Road, and disappears through an opening (Judges Close) that marks the original end of the borough. When further burgage plots extended the town westwards, a compensatory mini-bypass came into existence (Ship Street). At its foot it joins a probably even older route that leaves Hackenden by the vestigial hollow way at the entrance to the hospital, climbs the 'chine' Blackwell Hollow, crosses the car park and churchyard diagonally, and plunges down a short 'chine', Hermitage Lane. The combined route then goes downhill to Dunnings Mill, up another 'chine', Frampost Hollow, to Saint Hill Green, passes Stone Farm, crosses the Medway, and continues past Neyland Farm and Tyes Cross to Horsted Keynes. All the places mentioned in this paragraph, except Dunnings Mill, were holdings of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst, as also were Estcots and Placeland (by Moat Pond, now lost). From 1573 this whole stretch was known as the manor of Hackenden and Stonerocks, 'manor' in the sense of freehold, without courts or services. [7005,7507-13♦,7604-07,7705,7906-08♦] All these intermediate holdings seem to be on the road's eastern side.

Hazelden was held in 1066 of Allington (alias Lewes St John Without⁶). I have as yet found no evidence for a chain of settlements linking them, and no direct route is obvious on modern maps. It is possible, however, to deduce it as the side road branching off westwards from Saint Hill Green towards Felbridge, which runs on the crest of high ground throughout, across the grain of the terrain, its goal the fourth-oldest bridge-name in Sussex and fifth-oldest in Surrey. From Felbridge down to Tilkhurst was interpreted by I.D. Margary as part of a prehistoric track from Tandridge in Surrey towards Selsfield, Ardingly and the South Downs.⁷ He did not discuss the continuation to Saint Hill, yet turnings for Hazelden and Imberhorne (and beyond that Warlege, held of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst) lead off it, indeed the centre of the great arc mentioned above is at Hazelden cross-roads. This road and the southward continuation from Saint Hill is explicitly referred to in mediaeval documents as the highway from Imberhorne to Lewes, while the route from Hackenden is the highway from Grinstead (town and church) to Lewes [10804,11307]. It is bordered at intervals by holdings of Lewes Priory, comparable to those of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst but on the opposite side of the road, and was the route by which the monks travelled to their properties here - the church and the manor of Imberhorne - and to London.

Margary took no notice of the route from Hackenden but he did pay considerable attention to a similar and roughly parallel, demonstrably prehistoric, track on the eastern side of our parish, which ran from Surrey, over Dry Hill, down to the Medway at Forest Row, and on across Ashdown Forest to the South Downs.⁸ Subsequent study has enlarged on its relevance to the early history of the Wealden iron industry⁹, but no argument or explicit evidence for swine-herding along it has been published. That it was so used may safely be taken for granted, in view of such use of comparable tracks elsewhere in the Weald, with any hesitation assuaged by the string of holdings alongside it on the east of the sibling manors Sheffield Lingfield and Sheffield Grinstead and, south of them, their parent, Sheffield (in Fletching). However, two references to swine-herding in the area of Ashdown Forest in 1292, taken with a confident identification of the 'Heselwode' in one of them with today's Hazlewood at Tablehurst Farm (east of that route), supply potential though not demonstrable direct evidence. In that year the unidentified Walheath (possibly connected with the 'Wald' which I have postulated to have existed on that side of the parish [9907-10♦]) was the home of Richard Preston, who accounted for 340 grown pigs and 455 yearlings on Ashdown Forest. In 1327, moreover, Laurence and John Preston were taxed in the villata of Shiffeld, the whole family of manors. (Not living on the Forest does not of itself rule out involvement with grazing pigs there.) Listed next in the 1292 source, Gilbert Brounyng of Heselwode accounted for 746 grown pigs and 485 yearlings, all belonging to foreigners. [9910♦,10012♦]

Just as that track and the one from Felbridge originated in Surrey, one must wonder if the Hackenden route did likewise. The provision of an accommodation bridge at Hackenden in 1884 where the new railway line to Oxted crossed the county boundary shows that by then the farm had fields on both sides. From the bridge a footpath runs north across fields as far as the river that feeds Cooks Pond, but how old it is I do not know, nor for how long the farm had spanned the border. Surrey historians may have the answer.

No hogs are enumerated at Hazelden in Domesday Book, but five of the twelve recorded holdings have them: Calvestrot (Shovelstrode) 8, Celrestvis (Little Shovelstrode) 2, Warlege 7, Lavertye (Ashdown House) 6, Brambletye 12, a total of 35. These figures are rent in kind, one hog for every seven actually kept. As they are adult males, selected for breeding, there must have been larger numbers of sows in addition to castrated males and piglets. Crudely summarising Turner and Briggs, it surely cannot be that the whole lot, still less the great herds accounted for in 1292, would have been driven from the *denms* to the parent manors once a year. Only pregnant sows and whatever other pigs were needed for sale or slaughter would have been moved down, and some or all of those still alive or born since driven up. Turner and Briggs take for granted that all travel was on the hoof. It is worth noting though that in 1326 horses and carts were used for transporting hogs for provisioning Pevensey Castle, said to be a common practice, with about three per packhorse (presumably in panniers).¹⁰ This is not a reference to seasonal droving, however, and must not be assumed to apply in that context; it seems more like what might have happened at a later date, as when farmers were taking a few beasts to and from market. Even by 1326, Turner and Briggs seem to imply, the regime practised by the Saxons who used and named the *denms* was beginning to decline in favour of stall-based husbandry on permanent sites. The *denms*, they conclude, had been and continued to be permanently inhabited.

Except for Duddleswell and Maresfield, which cover Ashdown Forest and its periphery, none of the manors wholly or partly within the boundaries of our historic parish has surviving mediaeval rentals, surveys, court books or custumals that would give glimpses of how swine-keeping operated here. There are, however, a few documentary references to its existence. In 1285 Lavertye and Brambletye, noted above in the Domesday Book details, had pannage worth respectively 2 shillings and 5 shillings.

Herbage and pannage in the Hundred of East Grinstead (a smaller area than the parish [7305-10♦,7408-10]) was worth 40 shillings in 1341, by value 4% of the tithes. Piglets are mentioned but not adults. [9504-06,9604-07] No minor place-names have been found containing ‘hog’, ‘pig’ or ‘swine’.

Finally, to verify what we would expect to be the case, evidence of the trees which provided the bulk of the pannage: acorns, hazelnuts and beechnuts. It may initially seem odd that we have no early place-names containing **oak**, but, until signposts and maps became common, place-names performed their function; in an area where oaks were visible at every turn, such compounds would have been the opposite of helpful. A list from the start of the 16th century of ‘persons with oaks growing upon their lands’ names the dwellings of only three: Bramylty park, Leggyshethe (Legsheath) and, unlocatably, ‘the Bozilles’ held by East Grinstead church [11311♦]. For **hazel** we have only Hazelden and Heselwode, considered already. The earliest **beech** place-name is ‘the Beeches’ (at Ashurst Wood) in 1508.¹¹ The 200 boards of beech that in c.1103-06 formed part of the rent of Healdeleia (from Hurley Farm eastwards along the Medway as far as Willetts Bridge [8307-12♦]) remind us that the trees that fed the swine also provided work for the human occupants of the *denns*, including felling and shaping timber for construction from beech and oak, for example, and making charcoal from coppiced hazel. Unless they were all men in bothies, there must have been at least one family with a small farmstead at each site. There must also have been some habitation at the intermediate points, each of which had its own specific function and some of which could have provided lairage for the beats being driven.

REFERENCES: E.G. = East Grinstead; *E.G.S.B.* = E.G. Society Bulletin; *E.G.M.C.* = E.G. Museum Compass; MJL = M.J. Leppard; *Sx* = Sussex; *SNQ* = *Sx Notes & Queries* ♦ = including mapping

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| 70 (Spring 2000), p.5 | MJL, ‘Hundreds, tithings, hamlet: addenda’ |
| 73 (Spring 2001), pp.5-10 | MJL, ‘E.G. Hundred in 1579’ ♦ |
| 74 (Autumn 2001), pp.8-10 | MJL, ‘E.G. Hundred, 1579 and 1564’ |
| 75 (Winter 2001/2), pp.7-13 | MJL, ‘The hamlet of E.G.: origins, access and area’ ♦ |
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THE SESSIONS HOUSE

M.J. Leppard

The Sessions House, Court House or Town Hall stood on the northern side, of our High Street a little way out in the road, roughly opposite where the war memorial now stands. No pictorial record has survived, but a map by William Figg, dated by P.D. Wood to c.1810, shows its location.¹ Mr Wood inferred from its non-mention in the 1564 survey of the borough that it had not been built by then; I have warned against such arguing from silence.² The first mention so far found is in the Earl of Dorset's rent roll for 1618-19: 'Divers edific[es] including le Courthouse'.³ Its absence from the roll for 1609 is inconclusive. It might have included the gaol at East Grinstead first recorded in 1572⁴, for whose location no evidence survives.

The Committee of Charitable Uses for Sussex sat at our Town Hall in 1654 and at times thereafter.⁵ In 1666 the Earl of Dorset appointed four townsmen to receive the proceeds of markets and fairs for the next twelve years and to expend 40 shillings from it every year on repairing the Sessions House⁶, a name owed to use for many of the Sussex Assizes (until 1799) and Quarter Sessions (until 1601).⁷ The collapse of the floor of the Nisi Prius Court on 17 March 1685 during the Assizes, their continuation in the Crown Court, its demolition soon after, and rebuilding in time for the next year's Assizes (mostly funded by the burgage-holders and donations from inhabitants and gentlemen, especially Edward Payne, the Bailiff) were recorded by John Creasy, an eye-witness.⁸ Just over a century later it was repaired⁹, but at the March 1799 Assizes the Grand Jury voted 18:3 to discontinue its use for the Assizes owing to its inconvenience and distance from the county gaol at Horsham.¹⁰

Thomas Cramp, who came here in 1825, aged 15, recalled it thus, in a letter to the press in 1866:

'A building of considerable dimensions ... At its west end there was a kind of lock-up or cage, where lawbreakers and tramps were lodged, and at its east end ... the old stocks and whipping post. ... Within [my] memory a company of strolling theatricals were permitted to ply their profession in [it] for several weeks, and there too, at the same period, an unsuccessful attempt was made to establish a market for fruit and vegetables. ... [It] stood till about ... 1829, when from some cause, and from some authority, and, as it would appear, without a demur from any quarter, it was taken down.'¹¹

The reason for demolition can only have been the lowering of the street level in 1828.¹² W.H. Hills, directly or indirectly drawing on Cramp's information without acknowledgements¹³, added that the materials were taken to Buckhurst, at Withyham, for re-use in constructing the mansion there, where the judge's chair still (in 1906) formed part of the furniture. He also knew, from the playbill, that the players, in 1826, put on 'the elegant comedy of "How to get married"'.¹⁴ That bill passed from him to his colleague Brian Desmond and from his family to me, from whom it will go to the county record office to be properly cared for in perpetuity. It is reproduced, with explanatory notes and the references for this article, overleaf.

THE PLAYBILL, printed on thin, greenish-grey, paper, reproduced, actual size, as clearly as can be hoped two centuries on.

Mr Styles, an actor-manager, like Dickens's caricatured Mr Vincent Crummles, will benefit personally from the takings.

Styles has prepared the ground by seeking information to give the show local appeal, just as writers of pantomimes do today. The opening verse and the warning against injuring the Town Hall, aggrandised with the word Theatre, hint at impending demolition. He has clearly penned 'A trip to East Grinstead' as a topical insertion into the company's repertoire. 'Step over' and 'Go round' echo so closely the story of the drunkards misinterpreting the shadow of the *Dorset Arms* sign that he must have heard it during his research, three decades before Edward Steer heard it and five before Thomas Cramp committed it to print.¹⁵ (No doubt, though, a similar story was cherished in other places too.)

The 'gentlemen of East-Grinstead' have been flattered into contributing, probably coached in their part by Mr Styles. Their participation will ensure attendance by their families, friends and perhaps servants. Carl Maria Weber's *Freischütz* [sic] had been premiered in Berlin in 1821, so here is a modern work for friends of high culture, who will also appreciate The 'Ode on the Passions', a poem by William Collins (1721-59).

I cannot find where Miss Garland lived, but as only one family of that name occurs in the parish registers I think she must be Elizabeth Garland, a baker listed in Pigot's directory for 1832. Presumably Mr Styles attended at her shop to sell the tickets and talk up the show.

THEATRE, Town-Hall, EAST-GRINSTED.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF **Mr. STYLES.**

What a fine School for Friends, I benefit find,
'Tis a House to be Sold, and 'tis Raising the Wind. ✕ Your Patronage will rivet the chains of my heart,
Which the birth-day of Gratitude here must impart.

On WEDNESDAY Evening the 7th. of JUNE 1826.

Will be Performed the Elegant Comedy of

THE WAY TO GET **MARRIED.**

Mr. Caustic, Mr. STYLES. Mr. Tangent, Mr. MATHER.
Captain Faulkner, Mr. WALDEGRAVE. McQueery, Mr. BYRNE.
Dick Dashall, Mr. BARTON, Gregory, Mr. DOWNTON.
Waiter, Master BOND. Toby Allspice, Mr. THOMPSON.
Miss Clementina Allspice, Mrs. DOMVILLE, Lady Sorrell, Mrs. ASHTON.
Julia Faulkner, (First time,) Miss WILMOTT.

End of the Play, Miss Wilmott will recite,
Collins's Ode on the Passions;

*Depicting Fear, Anger, Despair, Hope, Revenge, Pity, Jealousy Love, Hate,
Melancholy, Cheerfulness, Joy, and Mirth.*

MANAGER STRUT, and his Comical Family, by Mr. STYLES.

HOME, sweet HOME, by Mr. Barton.

A TRIP
TO EAST GRINSTED

" Step Over, and Go Round my Boy, "

WRITTEN, AND TO BE SUNG BY MR. STYLES.

" Roll Drums merrily, " by MASTER BOND.

Weber's Hunting Chorus, from the Opera of Frieschutz, and Hark the hollow Woods,

BY GENTLEMEN OF EAST-GRINSTEAD.

The Cosmetic Doctor, by Mr. STYLES.

**To Conclude with the highly POPULAR Farce, performing in LONDON,
with shouts of Laughter, and unbounded Applause, called**

More Frightened than Hurt,

Simon in Jeopardy.

**Captain Bolding, Mr. WALDEGRAVE. Charles, Mr. BARTON.
Smart, Mr. MATHER. Old Quake, Mr. BYRNE.**

**And Simon, (with the Song of LOVE in a Wash Tub, Mr. STYLES.
Sophia, Mrs. DOMVILLE. Lucretia, Mrs. MATHER. Bse, Mrs. ASHTON.**

Nights of Performing, MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS and FRIDAYS.

Doors open at Seven o'Clock, and begin at half-past.

Boxes 3s.—Pit 2s.—Gallery 1s.—Children Half-price.

**Any Person injuring the Town-Hall, or creating any Disturbance, will be
punished. Two Guineas Reward will be given on the caution of the Offenders.**

TICKETS to be had of Mr. STYLES, at Miss Garlands.

PALMER, PRINTER, EAST-GRINSTEAD

REFERENCES: C.K.S. = Centre for Kentish Studies; E.G. =
East Grinstead; Sx = Sussex

¹ Reproduced in *Sx Archaeological Collections*, vol.106 (1968),
facing p.57 ² *Bulletin* 115, p.5 ³ East Sx Record Office,
Adams MS 45 ⁴ R.F. Hunnisett, *Sx coroners' inquests, 1558-
1603* (1996), no.106 ⁵ J.M. Neale, *History of Sackville College*
(1853), p.32 ⁶ Warrant in Sackville MSS (C.K.S.) ⁷ *Bulletin*
31, p.16 ⁸ Printed, *Sx Notes & Queries*, vol.17 (1969-71),
p.129; original among Hills mss, West Sx Record Office, acc.
7986 ⁹ Dorset rental, 1791-92 (C.K.S., U269 A 100) ¹⁰ G.
Holman, *Sx County Magazine*, vol.6 (1932), p.684
¹¹ Reprinted in his *Temperance shots* (1885), p.36 ¹² as note 2
¹³ Already quoted by A.H. Stenning in his *Notes on E.G.* (1885),
p.4 ¹⁴ W.H. Hills, *The history of E.G.* (1906), pp.217,258
¹⁵ *Bulletin* 115, p.11

TUITION AT SAINT HILL

M.J. Leppard

In *Bulletin 55* (Autumn 1994) I surmised that W.H. Coleman, the compiler during six months at Saint Hill in 1836 of a manuscript *Flora* of East Grinstead, was there as a private tutor to the Crawfurd family. This has now been confirmed by Mr Arthur Crawfurd of Forest Row, who in his family history research has found reference to him in that position in the journal of the Rev. George Williams, his successor from 21 November 1836 to 30 April 1837. A letter to Williams from Robert Henry Payne Crawfurd, 19 November 1838, names the current post holder, 'Mr Measor'.

Mr Crawfurd has identified the latter as the Rev. Paul Measor (1812-66), ordained priest 1837, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge 1834-53, Vicar of Kingston-on Thames 1846-66. Coleman was the Rev. William Higgins Coleman (c.1816-63), botanist and author. Williams (1814-78), here while awaiting ordination, Fellow of King's 1835-70, scholar of the Eastern Church and traveller in the Near East, the same as discussed Georgia with J.M. Neale in 1861.* Robert Henry Crawfurd and his brother Charles Walter Payne Crawfurd, a dominant figure in this town from 1863-1909, were fortunate in their tutors.

I am grateful to Mr Crawfurd for sending me his fully annotated transcription of the documents cited and related correspondence. They throw welcome light on local social and ecclesiastical life.

* *Bulletin 111* (Spring 2014), p.10

SOME PEOPLE OF FOREST ROW (1) Major Leonard DARWIN (1850-1943) M.J. Leppard

Leonard Darwin, the fourth son of Charles, entered the Royal Engineers in 1871 from the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, reached the rank of Major in 1889 and retired in 1890. After the death of his first wife Elizabeth Fraser in 1898 he married Charlotte Mildred Massingberd in 1900. With her he had Cripps Corner built on Ashdown Forest in 1902 with panoramic views across the Weald to the Downs.

Leonard Darwin did not see action in the army but was engaged in scientific work. From 1892 he served as Unionist Member of Parliament for Lichfield until losing his seat in 1895. From 1908 to 1911 he was President of the Royal Geographical Society, then President of the Eugenics Society until 1928. The only *possible criterion* for deciding who should be encouraged to breed, he said, was the money standard. 'A man who can earn and keep money shows that he has the qualities essential to survival.' During that time he was also the Chairman of Bedford College for Women in the University of London.

Despite such a range of achievements, he was recalled as extraordinarily humble about himself, to the point of often telling stories against himself. A nephew wrote of him

Serenely kind and humbly wise, Whom each may tell the thing that's hidden,
And always ready to advise And ne'er to give advice unbidden.

PRINCIPAL SOURCES: *Who's Who*; Gwen Raverat [daughter of Charles Darwin's third son], *Period Piece* (1952); *Ashdown Forest News 55* (Autumn 2008)

§ Charles Darwin never subscribed to such distortions of natural selection as Eugenics and racial purification.

W.H. HILLS AND EAST GRINSTEAD

A.G. Dyson

The recent republication of Wallace Hills's history of this town under the title *The Illustrated History of East Grinstead* includes numerous photographs which the author hoped to publish in a second edition that never materialised, and makes for a substantial volume. It is much to be welcomed, and a revisit of the author and his career - something that would not have gone amiss in the book - seems timely. This is far from the first time that the *Bulletin* has touched upon this author and book, and the present review has been wholly dependent on earlier articles as the only readily available sources of information.* Only in the last issue there is a rather forbidding reference to him as 'a well-known Conservative and pro-war editor of the *East Grinstead Observer*' grilling a conscientious objector on his credentials [11711]. Hills' service on such a tribunal might place him in an unfavourable light by today's fastidious standards, and his portrait, reproduced on the front cover of the new edition of his *History*, might come over a little baleful at first glance. If it does, it seriously misleads.

Wallace Hills was born at Chiddingly in 1863 and was the son of the chief engineer at Lewes and Stafford prisons. After an education at Ardingly College he went 'promptly' into journalism with Farncombe & Co. of Lewes, publishers of the *East Sussex News* and the *East Grinstead Observer*. In fact he was the first editor of the *Observer* in 1881, proving a highly efficient chief reporter also, and with a command of cliché-free English that was 'just and dignified' and much appreciated. At his death in 1932, aged 69, he must have been in charge of the paper for the best part of 50 years. He also penetrated local life as chairman of the Urban District Council in 1906, 1911-12, 1917-18 and 1920-21, and was a councillor for many more years than those. For over 20 years he was secretary of the local Conservative Association, and churchwarden at St Mary's, Windmill Lane. He also served as first Secretary of the East Grinstead Literary and Scientific Institute and the Constitutional Club [1506f.,3504f.].

Perhaps it was partly because of the death of his adolescent daughter that Hills threw himself so wholeheartedly into local affairs. For in addition to these official commitments he was managing director of the old East Grinstead Gas and Water Company and the Sanitary Laundry Company, and a trustee of numerous local charitable trusts and friendly societies, the Oddfellows, Sussex Buffs [1507] and Grand Master of the Sackville Lodge. He was also a founding member of Norton House, a professional men's club, and of the Chamber of Commerce. Strikingly, he did not join Rotary, despite invitations to do so [1506f.,3505]. He suffered from diabetes, ignored medical advice and died with 'dramatic suddenness' in 1932. His funeral at St Mary's church was 'packed' [3506]. He received official recognition of a kind only in 2005 with the naming of Hills Road on the Imberhorne industrial estate [8703], not perhaps the most resonant of tributes.

Despite this range of involvements, or perhaps because of it, his political affiliations did not always find favour. His attitudes as Tory Chairman of the U.D.C. are satirised in a cartoon of 1911 against the background of the Liberal government's first national insurance legislation, which was fiercely opposed by the Conservatives and the medical profession. Hills in the guise of a doctor is telling a sick Liberal voter that it wasn't insurance that he wanted but a nice little tax on his food [8701,8703]. Another characteristic attributed to him was sycophancy. A cartoon 1892-94 by W.R. Pepper, published by Hills's journalistic and political rival the Liberal Edward Steer in his *East Grinstead Times*, shows Hills peering over a hedge at some grandee horse folk beneath the heading 'a-nob-server'. A play on the

* References to them are given in the text in square brackets: first two (or three) digits *Bulletin* number, second two page number. Their authors and titles are listed at the end. The new edition was reviewed *Bulletin* 11719.

title of Hills's newspaper, the implication was that he, as a Conservative, blatantly sided with the wealthy, important and powerful, in contrast with Steer, who claimed to have the interests of the underdogs at heart [9501,9510].

In his own way he was clearly a man of the people. A.S. Bridgland recalled that he was 'a good mixer, equally at home among the rich or poor'; his speeches could be listened to with pleasure, he was adept with toasts and first-rate in debate [quoted 9511]. R.H. Wood described him as a public speaker of rare quality, who could brighten without facetiousness [1507]. His versatility was demonstrated by his involvement with the local minstrel troupe [9511]. His favourite pub was the *Ship* where he played bowls and kept tankards, keeping others at the *Railway Hotel* and *White Lion*, and he was secretary-cum-treasurer of the town's Licensed Victuallers' Association. B. Desmond also recalled, somewhat tersely, that 'every now and then he took a few days off in France' [3505]. His journalistic role as tribune of the people is brought out by his deploring of the rising number of motor cars. David Gould has pointed out how he harked back in his *Observer* column in 1927 (perhaps not entirely seriously) to the old stage coaches with their horn flourishes and merry jingles, and invoked the great worth of horses to milkmen, moving on to the next door while their owner was delivering milk to the current one [3503].

But it is his *The History of East Grinstead* for which he is best remembered, a task that cost him considerable effort and some financial risk. His own account of writing the book, from the *Observer* of 14 April 1906, as 'three years of hard voluntary labour' all but implies that he wouldn't have started if he had known what was involved. Labours included 'sifting the matter of real importance or of genuine interest from the mouldy hoards of purely antiquarian value which the man in the street would never look at'. (What would he have made of the *Bulletin*?) In a rather desperate quest for additional buyers to offset his production costs, he insisted that subscriber's copies ('richly bound in half-calf gilt with cloth sides') made a sound investment, urging people to snap up the 50 unsold copies, after which there would be 'no more'. Perhaps the investment worked: not long afterwards the editor was able to inform would-be investors who had applied too late that they would have to make do with the ordinary edition [6410f.].

There is no doubting the seriousness of Hills's scholarly intentions. His papers spanned an impressive range of materials [2008]. As for the use made of them, and his qualities as an historian, it is difficult to improve on the late Patrick Wood's verdict: 'he was no historian, collecting antiquarian facts like a magpie, heaping them uncritically together and serving them up raw and unassimilated' (so much for Hills's claim that he had sorted the really important from his mouldy antiquarian hoards) and did so without source-notes or index. On the other hand, Wood allowed that the book was certainly no worse than other writings of the time on local places, and in some ways it was indispensable: 'there is something in it about everything, often something significant'. All the more so when he moved into the nineteenth century and towards his own day, where he proved to be 'good on chaps', while 'his account of the last dying flickers of our manorial system at the Crown Hotel in 1883 is one of our historical treasures' [1505].

As Wood concluded his appreciation of Hills: 'All in all we can bless the memory of Wally Hills and reckon ourselves lucky' [1505].

Bulletins 15 P.D. Wood, 'The History of East Grinstead by W.H. Hills'; R.H. Wood, 'The Chiel'; 20 P.D. Wood, 'The W.H. Hills manuscripts'; 35 D. Gould, 'W.H. Hills and the motor car'; B. Desmond, 'Working with W.H. Hills; personal recollections'; 64 Editor, 'W.H. Hills and his *History of East Grinstead*'; 87 cartoon of 1911; 95 M.J. Leppard, 'Our cover picture'; 117 B. Bartlett, 'The Military Act of 1916 and the tribunals'

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

M.J. Leppard

In all our current remembrances of the Great War, momentous battles and enormous slaughters are claiming most attention. By comparison air-raids and civilian deaths at home are 'incidents', even the mass attack on Chatham dockyard in 1917 which affected equally all the Medway towns and caused numerous deaths. Among them that of Arthur John Humphrey probably had no special significance beyond the immediate locality, his mates, and his family and friends back home. But, as his home was in East Grinstead, we may pause to consider one of the many local servicemen whose loss of life did not meet the criteria for inclusion on the war memorial or any other permanent public recognition.

It was reported at the time in the *East Grinstead Observer*, in the issue for 15 September: cook's mate Arthur Humphrey, R.N., of Lingfield Road, a member of the Salvation Army. Directories record him as a shopkeeper at no.33, which is at the junction with Charlwoods Road: a traditional corner shop, rebuilt in the 1960s. Someone researching the raid contacted the Town Council last year and stated that he had come to this town in 1914. His ability at playing musical instruments (no doubt learned or improved in the Salvation Army) led to membership of the naval band and thus a good deal of time in Chatham barracks. On the night of the raid he was in the drill shed, presumably at band practice. His widow moved to Portsmouth to be nearer her relatives. His body was not brought back here for burial.

I am grateful to the Clerk of the Town Council, Mrs Julie Holden, for informing me of this approach and thereby making this note possible. Arthur Humphrey's story *is* now on local record.

ON FIRST LOOKING IN: Last year the B.B.C. celebrated the eightieth anniversary of its television service. Soon after its start, on 2 November 1936, daily demonstrations were given by Messrs Dawson & Steer in their shop at 194 London Road, 'causing wide interest' in the words of the *East Grinstead Observer* of 19 December. 'The Baird system [revolving discs] has been used this week through the medium of a G.E.C. high definition receiver, which is a 23 valve instrument, offered at 95 guineas.* When our representative visited he saw a perfect reception of an excellent performance from Alexandra Palace, nearly 40 miles away. The thrill is unique.' Dawson & Steer had opened a wireless department in 1923 and gained one of the first Marconi wireless manufacturing licences in 1924. The Marconi television system [the cathode ray tube], tried initially by the B.B.C. along with John Logie Baird's, soon became the only one it used. M.J.L.

* £99.5s. For comparison, in 1938 Caffyns (whose local branch also opened in November 1936) was selling a Morris Minor 10 for £130. The newspaper report was reproduced in the same paper in c.1953 (cutting in my possession).

BULLETIN 117 (Autumn 2016): Among the joys of writing on a computer rather than a typewriter as of old are the facilities to re-word and to cut and paste on screen. The corresponding temptation is trustingly not scrutinising closely that such alterations have produced the complete and intelligible text intended and the spell-check has not 'helpfully corrected' words it does not recognise. Hence, I regret with shame, the loss of one line at the end of p.19 and the repetition of a paragraph from it on p.20. I must also own up to referring to a Chinese restaurant I pass nearly every day as Indian, on the same page (8) dating the tithe map to 184 not 1841, and (p.18) 'founded' for 'founder' and omitting 'large' between 'unusually' and 'artistes'. The words missing from p.19 are 'the First World War army camp at Forest Row'. Ed.

THE DEFENCES OF EAST GRINSTEAD IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Benjamin Bartlett

East Grinstead was part of a hastily but increasingly effective defensive line prepared by the Home Defence committee from 10 May 1940 and accelerated after the fall of France, especially in Sussex and Kent. East Grinstead was part of a wider network of defensive lines which made up the General Headquarters Line (GHQ) line. This was the main defensive belt around London, the South East and the industrial heartland of the North of England from German invasion. The plan for defending Britain if the Germans landed was unofficially called 'the Ironside plan', after the commander of United Kingdom Home Forces, Sir Edmund Ironside.¹

The GHQ line was, in May 1940, a very basic static defence that had main lines that defended certain strategic areas, an example of which was London, and also 'stop' lines, sited on areas such as river crossings and transport hubs. There were six defensive lines in Sussex and these mostly followed rivers. The first stop line defended the naval base of Portsmouth, centring on Chichester. The next three lines were based on the rivers Arun, Adur and Ouse, with the final stop lines making up the Southeast Command Corps line and part of the GHQ line, which ran from Uckfield to Eridge.²

These stop lines were temporary defensive lines. They consisted of type-24 pillboxes, within which could be mounted a Boys anti-tank rifle or multiple Bren light machine guns. However, these pillboxes could not stop the Germans without support. A mobile support force had been set up in the wake of the British evacuation from Dunkirk made up of regular divisions, such as General Montgomery's 3 Division. This division would have had the crucial task of plugging gaps and counter-attacking to maintain the defensive line. However, the division's transport was inadequate, consisting of buses more than of armoured transport. Churchill had not been impressed, according to Sir John Colville, when he inspected the 3 division, which was spread out over a front of 30 miles, not, as planned, concentrated to counter-attack.³

General Ironside came in for severe criticism of his GHQ and stop lines amongst military leaders, most notably the R.A.F, who believed that Ironside was spending too much of his resources on static defence. Air Marshall Peirse believed that Ironside was building a British Maginot line, a structure the Germans would simply outflank as they had in France.⁴ The head of the RAF, Sir Cyril Newall, believed that Ironside should have beefed up his mobile reserve, an idea that Churchill intervened to make a reality in July 1940. This led to Ironside's replacement by Sir Alan Brooke on 19 July.⁵

East Grinstead was planned to be a fortress. Strategic towns were to be formed into 'Nodal fortresses' acting as defensive strong points against the German advances. These were towns where major rivers and transport hubs existed. For East Grinstead, this was centred on its railway station and wagon yard, which had connections to and beyond London, Tunbridge Wells, Lewes and Three Bridges. The defences that ringed the town were hastily created, as was the case in most places in the South East. The Vice-Admiral Commanding Dover stated in July 1940 that that town was 'very weakly held'.⁶ For East Grinstead, this consisted primarily of a barrier across the A22 near Sackville

College with the ability to hold railway track vertically between two concrete columns to stop enemy vehicles. A large concrete block was erected on Old Road to defend against enemy armour. (Other towns invented a harpoon that would destroy tanks, or hanging blankets across the road to blind enemy drivers!) The main defences in 1940 were built up by the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV), soon to be renamed the Home Guard. They consisted of trenches around the Dovecote in Ship Street and anti-tank ditches ringing the town. It is debatable how effective these defences would have been. The Germans had shown in the battle for France how their tanks had avoided areas which gave stubborn resistance and thus isolated them before destroying them with infantry. The battlefield HQ was in the town at the Glanfield Hotel [now the *Railway Tavern*] and the Nodal Fortress HQ was at Domaha, a house in Forest Row where Chapel Lane ends at the golf course.

The Civil Defence services divided the urban district was divided into four sectors, each headed by a prominent local man, for example the U.D.C. chairman George Packer, the manager of the Co-op. When the code word 'June' was activated they would be responsible for the basic running and maintenance of life.⁷ A government order forbade civilians from leaving the town and so clogging up roads essential to military traffic. This had been a significant hindrance to the allies' ability to organise counter-attacks in France, especially for the British when pushing into Belgium at the beginning of the battle of France. The number of civilians on the road during that battle is highlighted by James Holland who, in his *War in the West*, states that the population of Tourcoing and Lille pre-war was 400,000, by the end of the battle it was just 40,000.⁸ The mobile force had to be able to relieve the temporary defences manned by the Home Guard that East Grinstead then had.

Lt General Sir George MacMunn, the Warden of Sackville College and a decorated soldier of Britain's colonial wars and the First World War, commanded the 17th battalion of the Home Guard attached to the Royal Sussex Regiment. The Home Guard was not the amateurish force that the television series *Dad's Army* portrayed. It provided an excellent auxiliary defence force that helped free regular army units for more important tasks. Even so, they had a shortage of arms, which is correctly portrayed in the show. A large number of volunteers had come forward nationwide since the call went out in May 1940, some 400,000 in May alone, and by the end of July 1.4 million.⁹ David Edgerton in his analysis of Britain's war economy labels the period of May-June 1940 the 'Great Rifle Crisis'¹⁰, but by July 1940, Britain had used its credit to buy rifles and ammunition from the United States. According to a report of 10 July this included 250,000 rifles and 77 million rounds.¹¹ Thus, by the autumn of 1940, the Nodal fortress of East Grinstead had gained some teeth.

The defences that would make East Grinstead a 'fortress' were not erected until 1941, when they were developed by Canadian engineers. They included trenches, fougasse (a type of napalm that would stick to tanks and infantry), dragon's teeth and tank traps. In fact, Hitler had decided in December 1940 to begin plans for invading the Soviet Union. Thus the building up of the town's defences can now be seen as a waste of resources. For by 1941 Hitler could not afford to mount an invasion of Britain as well as of the Soviet Union. By 1942, according to Len Griffith, the town had become 'Fortress East Grinstead'¹² with more small arms and a few anti-tank guns. But by then the outlook had shifted for the British, with the war in North Africa changing in favour of the Allies and planning for the invasion of France beginning.

How decisive the defences of the South East would have been had the Germans landed in the summer of 1940 has been hotly debated since. Many British leaders at the time believed that a German invasion was impossible: the lack of shipping, especially after the Norwegian campaign, had left the Kriegsmarine (German navy) with one serviceable major warship, the cruiser *Hipper*. Churchill stated that a German seaborne invasion was ‘a most hazardous and even suicidal affair’.¹³ Especially so, considering that the Kriegsmarine would have to face the 169 destroyers that Britain could call on in home waters.

The Wehrmacht (German armed forces) themselves could not pin down a strategy to invade southern England. The Heer (army) wanted a broad 100 mile front that would stretch the English, but the Kriegsmarine did not have the shipping for even a small front of five miles, even after pillaging most of Europe for anything that could float. Göring had not even released the Fallschirmjäger (paratroops) for operational tasking, the one unit that worried British politicians so greatly that they made wild predications about what they could achieve. The Under-Secretary at the war office Earl De La Warr believed that Germany could land 100,000 paratroops. This belief, not only among the political class but also amongst ordinary civilians, led to massive recruitment into the Home Guard.¹⁴

The best summary of what Britain’s defences could achieve came to be played out in 1974 at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. Operation Sealion, the German plan for the invasion of Britain, was put into effect. It worked on the assumptions that Germany had not won air supremacy and that Germany had invaded in September 1940, with Hitler refusing to stop the bombing of London, even though to the detriment of his ground forces. The initial landings were deemed a success, with penetrations up to ten miles inland. However, the Royal Navy’s cruisers and destroyers wiped out the second wave of the invasion, which had supplies and heavy equipment, owing to the inability of the Luftwaffe to gain air supremacy. This led to the withdrawal of German forces and the unanimous decision of the umpires of the war game that the German invasion was unsuccessful.¹⁵

¹ L. McKinstry, (2014). *Operation Sealion: How Britain crushed the German war machine’s dreams of invasion in 1940* (2014), p.121 ² K. Leslie & M. Mace, ‘Sussex defences in the Second World War’, in K. Leslie & B. Short (eds), *An historical atlas of Sussex* (1999), p.118,156, including citation from H. Wills, *Pillboxes: a study of U.K. defences 1940* (1985), pp.10,12 ³ M. Gilbert, *Finest hour: W. S. Churchill 1939-1941* (1983), p.625 ⁴ as note 1, pp.121-22 ⁵ as note 1, p.122 ⁶ as note 3, p.651 ⁷ T.P. Peters, *Reminiscences of 1938-1945, by a Head Warden* (N.D.), pp.10f. ⁸ J. Holland, *The War in the West; Germany ascendant 1939-1941* (2015), p.259 ⁹ as note 1, p.12, and note 8, p.317 ¹⁰ D. Edgerton, *Britain’s war machine* (2011), p.60 ¹¹ as note 3, p.660 ¹² Notes by the late Len Griffith of his researches into and memories of the Second World War in E.G. (in the editor’s keeping) ¹³ as note 3, p.671 ¹⁴ as note 1, p.20 ¹⁵ R. Cox, *Operation Sealion* (1982), p.0

Readers who remember our town in the war are urged to send details of our defences or relevant anecdotes that can supplement Mr Bartlett’s account of this short-lived episode while it is still in living memory. Ed.

SIZE MATTERS: People sometimes ask why the *Bulletin* is printed in A4 format when A5 would be easier to handle and store. To accommodate the same amount of text, A5 would require a smaller type-face, which could be trying for some, or reduced content, or a greater amount of paper, entailing higher costs. A glance at the centre-spread in this issue shows a pragmatic advantage.

RECENT STREET-NAMES, AND SOME THAT MAY YET BE

M.J. Leppard

I was startled last year to see **SISTER ANN'S WAY** on the name-plate for the road serving the Meridian Village development in front of the Old Convent. I had to be reminded that in 2006, when the site seemed to have no chance of remaining an open field, I had myself suggested the names of the early Mothers Superior: Ann (Miss Gream, 1854-64), Alice (Miss Crocker, 1864-1902) and Ermenild (Miss Neale, daughter of the founder, 1902-32).^{*} On reflection, Mother Ann would be more accurate, as she had assumed the role at the community's inception, and thus had never been Sister Ann, but the key considerations remain: what mattered about the convent was its people, their work here for 150 years, their part in pioneering women's emancipation, and the dearth of females honoured in the names of our streets and buildings.

** Bulletin 87*

Early this year a developer proposed Cardinal Gardens for a street of 6 houses to be created off Lowdells Lane on the site of Nonsuch Cottage. No reason was given, and, on being consulted by the Town Council, I could see no local associations or resonances to justify it. From the location map the site appeared to be in the grounds of Baldwins Hill School, which guided my suggestions. In the event the map proved to be in error and councillors chose **NONESUCH GARDENS**, which seems incapable of being bettered.

My suggestions need not be wasted, however; they can join our Society's name-bank against future developments. Former pupils and older residents still recall with respect Mr Alfred Frederick Murrell, Headmaster there 1943-59. His wife was known further afield as E.K. Seth-Smith, an author of popular historical novels for children. The title of one of them, *The Silver Shoe*, was inspired by the Golden Boot that hung outside a series of shoe-shops in this town until April 2011. The story is set in the 14th century, the hero is the shoemaker's apprentice, and one of the characters is the vicar, Simon de Bredon, a name taken from the list in the porch of our parish church. There is also a Horsted Keynes connection. I therefore deposit in the bank **MURRELL** for the vicinity of the school and, there or elsewhere in the town, **SILVER SHOE**, unlikely to be confused with any existing name, distinctive enough to arouse interest, and, in my opinion, words with pleasant associations in any context.

In mid-February Geoplace (the local government quango that oversees the official database of addresses used by councils and emergency services) issued 'guidance' on categories to be avoided lest later events make them inappropriate. If taken seriously, it could have implications for our name-bank.

THIS IS WHERE WE CAME IN: In the 1930s the long-established *East Grinstead Observer* was joined, on Fridays, by an East Grinstead edition of the *Kent & Sussex Courier*, in which we could read news from places we might not even be able to locate on a map (Speldhurst women's institute remains in my mind) until it became the specific *East Grinstead Courier* in the 50s, also with staff and premises here. Eventually these two papers, with little to choose between them, had to acknowledge economic realities, swinging pendulum-like among changes of title and format, take-overs, free distribution and amalgamation, and outlasting short-lived rivals. Last May the *East Grinstead Gazette* appeared, free of charge at various outlets, actually an East Grinstead edition of the *Crawley News* with minimal local content. In November it was followed by a bigger, paid-for, version of the *East Grinstead Courier*, in reality a local edition of the Kent-based original, also with minimal local content. As one of my pupils once wrote in an A level essay, 'the pendulum has swung full circle'.

M.J.L.

§ A chronology of local newspapers to date was published in *Bulletin 23* (Jan. 1978).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL HISTORY no.46 includes a fully illustrated article on the architecture of T.H. Myres for the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway, including those at East Grinstead (demolished 1971) and Kingscote (closed, preserved, restored and re-opened).

THE FELBRIDGE AND DISTRICT HISTORY GROUP's 'handout' 135 'Theatricals of Felbridge' is devoted to four professionals who lived in the area for a while. The abundance of material for their careers unbalances the accounts since little can be gathered of their times hereabouts, the location no doubt chosen at least in part to enhance privacy while having London within easy reach. The only one publicly active in this town was Norah Young (née Levy, stage-name Molly O'Day, 1908-80) whose involvement with every aspect of local drama groups is within living memory.

Since *Bulletin* 117 was printed *A BRIEF HISTORY OF SACKVILLE COLLEGE* (reviewed on pp.18f.) has been reduced from £7 to £5 and it is now also on sale at the tourist information desk in the public library.

TWO OTHERS NO LONGER WITH US

M.J. Leppard

In addition to the deaths of Patrick Wood (*Bulletin* 117) and Donovan Joyce, 2016 also saw those of two other men who made an important contribution to the life of East Grinstead and who, though not members, touched our Society tangentially and deserve some tribute here.

Nicholas (Nick) Stephanakis, universally known as 'Steph', came here in 1950 as full-time qualified and salaried Leader of the Youth Club, influencing many youngsters for good well into their adult lives and earning my respect for his skill in handling and retaining in membership several whom we at Sackville School found difficult. Following early retirement in 1985 his concern for the well-being of the town expressed itself in active involvement in many local organisations. He was a vocal supporter of our founding the Town Museum in 1968, to which he gave the negatives from his large collection of local photographs and, later, many prints also.

Alan Larcombe came here from Fleet Street in 1955 to be chief reporter of the *East Grinstead Courier*. He lived in the town, got to know the place and the people, and reported fairly all aspects of its news, winning respect and spreading goodwill, to the benefit of our corporate well-being. He gave generous attention to our Society's activities and concerns, making it more widely known and better understood than it could otherwise have been. He retired in 1989 and eventually moved to Seaford but retained several local links. I am proud to have been a trusted 'contact'.

PORTENTS? In the summer of 2014 (*Bulletin* 114) I noted the simultaneous fitting out for re-opening of five shops in London Road, hoping it might be regarded one day as the dawn of an up-turn in the town's economy. In early 2015 (*Bulletin* 115) I enthused, with stronger hope, over the re-invigoration of the High Street, largely thanks to the imaginative efforts of its independent traders. But now, writing in February 2017, I see with dismay two closures there: 'Little Angel Face' (no.5), soon to be followed by that of 'Threadneedles' (no.16). Perhaps I should remind myself of my - in the event justified - warning to the optimists who hailed the coming extension of the Bluebell Railway as the salvation of the town's retail economy that powerful and substantial tangible efforts would be required to tempt the visitors to stray beyond the station.

M.J.L.