



RPS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2003

AUTUMN MEETING

and Special General Meeting

The Autumn Meeting is on Monday 1st December at 7.30pm, Rudgwick Hall, Bucks Green. This meeting will also serve as a special general meeting at which members will be asked to approve a change in the constitution to amend the subscription rates. The current subscription rate has been held since the Society was formed 19 years ago and the Committee is now recommending that the rate is increased to £5 for family membership, £3 for single members and £2 for pensioners. The committee is also recommending an addition to the constitution allowing a 10-year non-refundable subscription at 10 times the appropriate annual rate.

After the short business meeting to vote on the above changes, MAGGIE LAMB, will present an illustrated talk on SUSSEX GARDENS. This promises to be a fascinating and informative viewing of some of the well-known and not-so-well-known local Gardens by an outstanding speaker on the subject. We hope to see you and your friends there and of course the traditional Mince Pies and Mulled Wine will be served in the interval.

The Committee

PLANNING MATTERS.

By Stan Smith

WEST SUSSEX DRAFT STRUCTURE PLAN.

Although not significantly affected by future development plans up to 2016, we think it important that we in Rudgwick should be aware of any reasons for delay in publication. This was expected in the Autumn, 2003, but the plan was dependant upon proposals to improve the A27 road scheme called South Coast Multi Modal Study.

The Secretary of State for Transport announced in July, 2003, that he did not support the scheme. Although these road improvements are not ruled out, he wishes to see current schemes amended in the light of his comments on environmental impacts. Currently W.S.C.C. representatives are in negotiation with the Minister for Transport.

It is possible that plans to build and develop at Worthing, Chichester and Arun District would have to be reduced, and something like 2,250 homes could be moved elsewhere; bearing in mind that the structure plan contains the full 46,500 housing required by Central Government. It must also be remembered that District and Borough Councils are dependant upon Structure Plan proposals to develop their own plans.

As a result of new planning legislation currently going through Parliament, the County Structure Plan will be overtaken almost as soon as it adopted in 2006.

Although the creation of Regional Assemblies are subject to a referendum, the South East Regional Assembly is assuming responsibility for what is called Regional Planning Strategies. This means that when the current Structure Plan appears in 2004, it will be superseded by this new system in 2006.

The timetable for the adoption of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East is set out as follows:-

2004 - Initial draft to be approved by Regional Assembly (July) consultation process (October-December).

2005 - Revised draft to be approved by the Assembly and submitted to G.O.S.E. (Spring) public examination (Autumn).

2006 - Formal approval.

Clearly the proposed changes are a matter of great concern, since a regional level of government is in the process of being established across the Country irrespective of any future referendums on elected Regional Assemblies. In a foreword introducing a White Paper "Your Region - Your Choice" in creating Regional Development Agencies, the Deputy Prime Minister has stated - "But there is a limit how far we can go in devolving power to Regions which do not have democratically elected regional assemblies.....". One must ask, is not the creation of Regional Planning Strategies in the absence of a referendum, exceeding "the limit how far we go...."?

FUTURE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT.

After analysing responses to the consultation on the future of air transport in the next few months, Alistair Darling, Secretary of State for Transport, will introduce a White Paper, setting out where new runways should be built.

There has been considerable lobbying, Sussex businessmen calling themselves 'Sussex Enterprise' are putting pressure on the Government to approve a second runway at Gatwick. Of course local businesses have much to gain by expansion at Gatwick. The Labour M.P. for Hove & Portslade addressed a fringe meeting at the Labour Party Conference, arguing the case for an expansion of runway capacity at Gatwick. The Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign together with the County and District Councils are strongly opposed to the construction of another runway at Gatwick. Francis Maude, M.P. for Horsham, has led a delegation to meet Alistair Darling opposing further development at Gatwick. A legal agreement is in force until 2019, preventing a second runway at the airport. The Government has said, several times, it does not want to overturn that agreement. But it is still possible that government could leave the door open for a new runway at the airport after 2019. Roger Cato, Managing Director of B.A.A., Gatwick Airport, in a letter to the County Times, wrote that they have confirmed that they stand by the legal agreement at Gatwick.

The Commons Environmental Audit Committee has attacked the Government over the plans to build new runways. The Committee has said that the Government should scrap air passenger duty raising about £800 million a year, replacing it with an emissions tax raising £1.5 billion yearly.

We cannot escape the fact that airlines pay no tax on aviation fuel - whereas 80% of the price motorists pay for fuel goes to the Exchequer. It is quite possible that Alistair Darling's proposals for new runways will appear when this Newsletter is circulated.

Rudgwick on the 3rd of April 1881

Geoff Ayres

I was recently trawling through the 1881 census returns for Rudgwick. A complete listing would be beyond the scope of this newsletter, but I thought a few snippets might be of interest. I noticed a lot of familiar surnames and some familiar addresses too. I have used the abbreviation R, to indicate born in Rudgwick.

In Church Street we had 3 pubs, although they were differently described. At the top is The King's Head Inn, run by Michael Stanford aged 32 (R) and his wife Jane, also 32. They had 4 children. The Plough Alehouse (now Plough Cottage) was run by James Grinstead (R,63) and his wife Maria (55); their son John (R,22) lived with them. (See *Alan Siney's article on the history of the Plough on page 3*). The Martlett Hotel in Station Road is run by George Starkey (27) of Gravesend who is unmarried. He is assisted by an Irish cook, Kitty Cronin (40) and 12 year old servant Anne Jenner (R). They have three boarders.

The station is occupied by stationmaster, Charles Ruff (36) from Oving and his wife Caroline, with their 5 children. There are at least two shops in Church Street. Next to the King's Head, widow Harriet Sprinks (48) from Nuthurst, runs the Grocer, Draper & Post Office at Church House, assisted by her 3 children. At Eames, Charles Sendall from Horsham (54) is a farmer & butcher living with his wife Jane and their 4 daughters. His butcher's assistant, Joseph Wilson (17) of Petworth lives with them. Butcher James Illman from Charlwood and his wife Anne (21) are at Laburnham Cottage. The police constable was George Puttock (34). He lived in the Police Station, which appears to have been adjacent to Hencocks, with wife Caroline (31), dressmaker, and their 2 children. The windmill above Lynwick Street was apparently still operating, since the miller James Napper (34,R) lived below it with wife Catherine (31) and their 7 children.

The vicar, not surprisingly, lived in the Vicarage. He was Benjamin J Drury (59) of Eton and his wife Mary (60) was from Seaford. 3 of their 4 daughters were born in Selsey, so he was probably vicar there for some years. They were rather better paid in those days and they employed a cook Eliza Cheesemore 21 (R) and housemaid Isabel (17). The Hermongers Mansion, also called Hermongon, was owned by Scottish landowner Robert Crichton (69) who lived there with brother James (67) and sister Anne (64). They had a cook and a housemaid. I could go on, but I will save Bucks Green, Tismans Common etc., for another day.

A HISTORY OF THE PLOUGH RUDGWICK

THE STORY OF A VILLAGE PUB CONCEIVED AND DEMISED OUT OF PARLIAMENTARY ACTS DUE TO THE NATION'S DRINKING HABITS.

By Alan Siney

In a Deed Poll of Conveyance dated October 10th 1582, Walter Knight of Rudgwick, husbandman, sold to Robert Moose of Rudgwick, carpenter, 'a piece of garden ground called Eymes lying between Webbs garden on the south, Hencocks on the north and west, the highway to the east' in consideration of the sum of twelve pounds ten shillings. Nearly four years later, a document dated September 1st 1586, records that Robert Moose took a bond of £30 from Thomas Moose of Rudgwick, carpenter (probably his son), to keep the terms of a deed of sale of a messuage called Eymes. The dwelling built there was to be called Little Eams or Eames, and outbuildings had been built on the premises. By Indenture of Conveyance, dated May 8th 1650, two

John Worsfold and his wife Grace, who by Indenture of Lease and Release dated 30th & 31st July 1761, granted it to John Napper of Hyes, one of Rudgwick's leading yeoman landowners, the cottage then being in the tenure of Richard Garton. The other part was the property of William Whiskey, and by Indenture of Release and Feoffment dated 22nd October 1776, was granted and feoffed to Edward Napper, the son of John, who then owned both cottages, having succeeded to the other as shared devisee with his brother John of his father's will dated 1773. Edward Napper then converted them back into one dwelling in the occupation James Worsfold, to whom he was related by marriage.



At the early death of Edward Napper in 1781, his properties were held in trust for his infant son Edward, and Little Eames was yet again converted back to two cottages in the occupation of James Widden, labourer, and William Port the Younger, bricklayer. Included in these Napper properties were Webbs Garden and dwelling on the south side, and 'Malt Mill House', which may have been another or an earlier name for the adjoining Little Ames.

By Indenture of Conveyance dated January 7th 1806, Edward

men and their wives of the one part, sold to Henry Allen of Rudgwick, yeoman, 'all that messuage horse mill outhouses etc. called Little Eames in the Parish of Rudgwick' in consideration of the sum of £30. Although the Moose carpenters had undoubtedly built the additional buildings as workshops, there is a suspicion that malting was taking place at sometime. (WSRO MP23 RU,R15,&R23).

There is a gap in known documented history relating to Little Eames until later in the mid 18th century, but earlier, possibly in 1725, (Chatwin), the premises had been divided and an outbuilding converted to a dwelling to be called Little Ames, and Little Eames had been divided into two cottages. One part was the property of

Napper sold the cottages to James Mitchener of Rudgwick, carpenter, in fee simple, for the sum of £120. He was the parish clerk with a fine hand and command of English, and was possibly related to 'The Widow Mitchener' the innkeeper at 'The Sign of The Kings Head' in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. She was the granddaughter of Richard Jenkins who built The Kings Head in 1733-38, and whose family was to own it for well over a century. Amongst their members were locally known musicians and composers, who clearly had had a good education in formal English and music. James Mitchener had married Sarah Polling in 1799, and their first son James was born in 1802.

In March 1822, James Mitchener bought for the sum of £20, 13 rod of land being part of the adjoining garden of Webbs, owned by William Tidy of Ewhurst, blacksmith. (He possibly worked the smithshop adjoining Cozens, then in the parish of Ewhurst). This strip of land enabled him to build a third cottage on the southern end of Little Eames. In 1829, the cottages were occupied by a Mr. Knight, Edward Stanford, and James Mitchener himself, and in December of that year, Mitchener took out a £300 mortgage on them from Stephen Potter of Horsham, Gent.

The 'Glorious Revolution' which brought William of Orange to the throne in 1689, also brought an inglorious revolution in alcoholism. For centuries, ale and beer was a staple food of the working classes who drank vast quantities of it: apart from its nourishment, it was the only safe drink and was not associated with the evils of drunkenness, but William 3rd was to initiate changes, which hardened attitudes, and the taking of any liqueur became generally unacceptable to religious bodies.

Being a Dutchman, the new king preferred gin and fostered its trade with Holland, perhaps also hoping to stifle the brandy trade with Catholic France. He encouraged gin distillation in England, and as consumption rose the price fell until in quantity it was almost as cheap as beer. One in four of all premises in London became gin houses, leading to the infamous gin palaces prevalent in most cities, and untold misery was brought to families as the bodies of gin soaks littered the streets. Parliament could find no answer to the gin problem: raising duty was ineffectual as it only bolstered illicit trading and smuggling. In 1830, parliament made a clumsy attempt to wean the populace off gin and back to traditional ale and beer drinking by passing the 1830 Beer Act. This allowed anyone to open their house as a beershop on payment of a 2 guinea license. By mortgaging his three cottages of Little Eames in December 1829, the timing was too perfect to suppose otherwise than James Mitchener had raised the £300 capital to set himself up as a brewer and a beershop or alehouse keeper in anticipation of the Act.

The Act backfired in the face of parliament. Little Eames was one of the 24,000 beershops licensed within 12 months of the passing of the Act, and within ten years Britain was provided with 46,000 new public houses licensed to drink on the premises. In the face of even fiercer competition and targeted by brewers agents offering incentives, the drink problem was never far from parliamentary debate. In 1853, Home Secretary Palmerstone wrote to Gladstone, "The words 'licensed to be drunk on the premises' are by the common people interpreted as applicable to the customer as well as to the liqueur."

James Mitchener died September 26th 1842, aged 73. His will dated May 9th 1842, named his son James as sole beneficiary with due provision to his wife Sarah, (she died in 1844), with James and James Grinsted, millwright, as joint executors. The old parish clerk could only sign his name with a shaky hand, and one of the witnesses was William Howard, a surgeon who lived at Church Cottage. A vestry meeting held ten days after his

death recorded no tribute to his long service, but noted, "It is agreed to appoint Geo Butcher as parish clerk at the same salary as the late parish clerk." (George Butcher was the innkeeper at the Queens Head, Bucks Green). A memorial stone to him remains on the outside wall of the church beneath the west window of the north aisle, bearing the tribute, "44 years parish clerk."

The younger James Mitchener occupied the northern cottage, (it burned down in the 1960s) but eventually The Plough occupied two cottages with one being used as storage etc, and the southern one remained a tenement. He married Elizabeth Bristow about 1828 and had five children. In 1842-43 he moved his family to The Half Moon at Kirdford, and there he died in 1848 aged 46. His properties were left to his wife for her lifetime and thence to his only daughter and eldest child Jane, who married George Ford, the Kirdford Postmaster in 1852. Elizabeth Mitchener seems to have been a capable woman: her four sons took up various trades and professions, and a trade directory lists her as a brewer at Kirdford and Petworth as late as 1878. There is a stand of family gravestones by the porch at Kirdford Church.

James Mitchener had handed the Plough over to his brother-in-law James Grinsted, millwright, a young man of 24 with his new wife Maria, in what seems to have been a family arrangement. The £300 mortgage taken in 1829 had never been redeemed by the Mitcheners, and with the loan being on a term of 1000 years they were satisfied at paying £7 pounds ten shillings interest six-monthly and retaining their capital. Stephen Potter, the mortgagee, had died in 1840, and in 1853, Richard Tidy of Horsham, farmer, the sole surviving executor and beneficiary, requested repayment of the loan which was paid by James Grinsted. This would have assured him of occupancy for life, with the Mitcheners retaining ownership of The Plough, which by now was referred to as The Plough Inn, usually with two or three lodgers as shown on the census returns. As with the Half Moon, The Plough was an alehouse, the Mitcheners had not taken a Wines and Spirits License. The Sussex Bottle Collectors Guide shows James Grinsted as being a brewer at Rudgwick in the 1870s, and he is known to have manufactured mineral waters. All of the Grinsteds' four children died young, the last one at the age of 27. When James died, on July 20th 1881 aged 63, his wife was appointed executrix, and his nephew John Mitchener of West Dulwich, draper, as executor in trust leaving all to Maria. Their family gravestones are grouped together in Rudgwick churchyard.

Maria Grinsted continued to occupy The Plough as licensee until it was sold by Jane Ford by two indentures bearing the same date October 1892. Jane Ford - the wife of George Ford who was still the Kirdford Postmaster - was the sole legatee after the death of her mother, Elizabeth Mitchener. One indenture was to pay the sum of £305 to Maria Grinsted, being the £300 plus interest to date outstanding to repay the loan by James Grinsted upon the mortgage redemption of 1853. This loan appears to have been amicably continued to the

mutual benefit of both women; Elizabeth Michener was retaining capital, whilst her sister-in-law Maria Grinsted was receiving an income from it of 5%, much more than the interest paid by a regular bank. Maria Grinsted died in 1905 aged 80, she had lived at The Plough - and latterly the adjoining cottage - since moving into Little Eames beershop as a 17 or 18 year old in 1842-43.

By the other indenture of 1892, Jane Ford sold the Plough to Henry Michell of Bonchurch, Isle-of Wight, the owner of Michells Brewery in West Street Horsham, and a large string of tied public houses, for the sum of £1,050. He was descended from an old Rudgwick family that had built up Hermongers Estate in the 17th and 18th centuries. When Henry Michell died on December 29th 1908, his executors included his son Guy Michell, his widow, and a solicitor and they continued with the business.

Throughout the latter half of the 19th century, the number of licensed premises continued to rise at an ever increasing rate, as did the consumption of alcohol particularly in the 1890s. The brewers and the trade in general, patronised the Tories, whereas the Liberals - which emerged in the 1850s by a fusion of Whigs, Peelites, and assorted radicals - leaned towards temperance, the lobby of which was increasing in strength ranging from the fanatical prohibitionism of some Temperance Society leaders to the more balanced reforms sought by a wide range of reform societies and religious groups. The Liberals had several periods in office and many Acts were passed, but no reforms of great effect because the Tory majority in the House of Lords blocked them. In 1904, the Conservative government brought in a system of compensation payable to those who voluntarily closed a public house. It was universally unpopular, being financed by a levy imposed on all licensed premises, which was passed on to the customer. Needless to say, the compensation was paid to the owners and brewers, with nothing for the deposed licensees.

The Liberals gained power in 1906 and began framing a Bill to radically reform the trade with the proposed Licensing Bill 1908. They were certain of support from an influx of new Labour MPs who were mainly committed teetotallers. Magistrates were to be given stringent new powers that would close one third of all public houses, with the question of need based pro rata on the population being uppermost, and they were to be closed without the compensation provided by the Beer Act 1904. The 1908 Bill was the most controversial ever to be presented to Parliament, and such was the intense polarisation that pro and anti demonstrations were held across the country, with over 800,000 turning out for one anti bill demonstration in Hyde Park. The sanctity of the village pub was not to be threatened lightly. Within the Parish of Rudgwick were seven pubs including The Chequers at Rowhook, but trade directories at this time gave no indication that the Fox was one of them. With a population of about 1,200 this was unfavourable, but being a widespread parish most of them could give good reasons for retention on the grounds either of serving the needs of an isolated community, or the needs of travellers. Between The Martletts Hotel at the station approach, (formerly the Railway Hotel) and The

Kings Head, stood the humble Plough, for which little could be said in favour of its retention. The Michell executors would have been aware of this, and were possibly astute enough to delicense it before the final reading of the Licensing Bill 1908, and whilst they could still claim compensation under the Beer Act 1904.

The 1908 Bill passed its second reading but was rejected by the Conservative majority in the Lords. However, it should not be supposed that the Plough had been closed too hastily, as what followed in the wake of the Bill would have made its survival unlikely. With continuing social problems associated with drinking and the overcrowded trade leading to devious practices, Conservative patronage possibly waned. An Act was passed in 1910 which gave firm control to magistrates: they were instructed to consider every licence renewal on the same grounds as a new application, which came down to a question of need for every public house. The 1910 Act effectively put into practise all of the proposals contained in the failed 1908 Licensing Bill.

During the period 1910 to 1914, thousands of public houses and hundreds of breweries were closed down. These included the West Street Brewery in 1912, which had been set up by Henry Michell's grandfather in 1828, and in the same year Cranleigh's only brewery, Brufords, of The Three Horseshoes Brewery. Besides the Plough, Michells also owned three other Rudgwick pubs: the King Head, the Queens Head at Bucks Green, and The Chequers at Rowhook. These were taken over by The Rock Brewery Brighton, which merged with Portsmouth and Brighton United Breweries in 1933 - usually called United Breweries - which in turn merged with Brickwoods of Portsmouth in 1954. The last licensee of The Plough was Thomas Ring, whose name appears for the last time in Pike's Directory 1908-09, and the other occupant was John Cheesemore. By indenture dated August 9th 1909, the three cottages with frontage of 85 feet and depth of 194 feet or thereabouts, was conveyed to Louisa Elizabeth Grinstead, the wife of John Grinstead of Rudgwick, draper, for the sum of £305. (Note that the name Grinstead had changed from the earlier Grinsted).

For The Plough its history had turned a full circle: its conception arose from Parliament's clumsy attempt to answer the nation's drinking problems, and nearly 80 years later the same reasons helped it to follow its own demise.

Bibliography:

'The English Pub' by Peter Haydon, published by Robert Hale, London.

Sources: West Sussex Record Office as quoted in text, with 1844 tithe apportionment schedule and population census returns.

With thanks to persons holding documents in private hands. These have been copied or transcribed to ensure their history is perpetuated.

SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2003

Last year we complained about the rain. Three of the walks were badly affected. By contrast, this year was what the tabloids call a 'scorcher'. This was good news for our pubs, they did a great job restoring us after the walks. Good weather usually makes for good turnouts.

Sadly I had to report last year that Andrew Pye was unable to lead, because of serious illness. As most will know, Andrew died late this summer and is greatly missed.

Peter Kachel retired to the West Country and John Parker was sailing right round the coast! Chris Jones was off globe-trotting when I compiled the programme, so I put in his usual walk with leader to be arranged. On his return he took this very well and led the walk.

As usual Dave Buckley took pole position and started us off from 'The Fox' on the 6th of May. I was unable to find enough leaders for the full 15 walks but we did 13. Since we start at 7pm we are limited by sunset times. This means we start in early May and end in early August. Roger Nash led the last walk from the Onslow Arms, Loxwood on the 29th of July. But an unofficial walk was tacked on from the Thurlow Arms on the following Tuesday.

Three of the walks failed to appear in the West Sussex Walks Booklet. This was due to circumstances beyond my control, but I will try to find a way of checking the entries with VLA (the publishers) before they go to press. I suggest that if you have internet access, you should print off our version of the programme; which is available on www.rudgwick.net. Under Societies click on the Preservation Society's pages and then again on Walks. Unfortunately pleas to WSCC to make the booklet free again, have not been heeded. So we cannot put them in the Surgery or the Post Office.

Thank you to all the leaders, especially to those who led two walks, and to the Claytons, for letting us visit Baynard's Station. If anyone is prepared to lead one or even two of our walks, please contact me.

Geoff Ayres R 822668

WOOD SMOKE

By Malcolm Francis

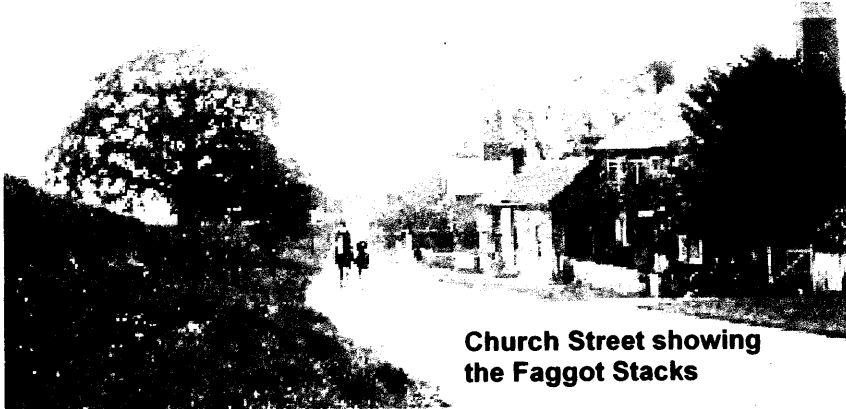
Quite a few years ago, in the 1950's, I attended Collyers Grammar School in Horsham. I have always remembered a remark by my old English teacher who had recently moved down to Sussex from his native Newcastle to take up his new post; he recalled that his first impression of Horsham, when he alighted from his train on a cold Autumn day was that there was such a strong smell of woodsmoke; in his opinion it pervaded everything else. So fifty years ago Sussex must have still been

burning a lot of wood. That remark set me thinking whether we have lost a lot of those wonderful smells, have they been masked or is it the reason that is often given that, as we get older our sense of smell becomes dulled.

Rudgwick's railway line, a victim of the Beeching Axe, was always steam. There was usually the smell of coal smoke and hot steam wafting over the bridge as the "up" train started its steep climb towards Cranleigh.

If one walked down towards the station the tall row of lime trees always added their characteristic smell to the station's coal yard where coal trucks were unloaded close to Mr Hempstead's, the coal merchant, little office. In those days of course, before the major switch to heating oil in the Sixties, coal, coke, paraffin (and of course vast amounts of wood) kept Rudgwick warm. My late father recounted that Church Street used to be called "Faggot Stack Street" because of the numerous wood faggots that were stored on the opposite side of the road to many of the old cottages ready to feed their inglenook fireplaces (the old photograph of Church Street shown here confirms this fact). One can imagine in those days with little, if any petrol fumes being present just how much woodsmoke

would be drifting over the village on a frosty winter's night.



Church Street showing the Faggot Stacks

If one thinks back to our village's grocery shops of the Fifties do you remember the aromas of bacon, cheese, loose coffee and of bread, not wrapped. Sweets sold from their large glass jars always added to the amalgam of aromas. One also

remembers the smell of essential paraffin (thinking of Fleming's Stores) decanted into a customer's leaking container. One forgets how the village relied heavily on paraffin for heating (and only twenty years earlier, lighting). Quite often those old heaters would emit quite an acrid smell if their wicks were old, giving a house

and its inhabitants' clothing a lasting odour. I remember in Cox Green attending a little Kindergarten school run by Mrs Ashby; she kept chicken in her large garden; she used to cook up potatoes and other elderly vegetables for their feed using elderly paraffin stoves, can you imagine that cocktail of smells that permeated everything.

I wonder how many remember that evocative smell of newly ploughed soil mixed with the exhaust of an old "Standard Fordson" tractor hauling a trailer plough very slowly across a field (TVO, Tractor Vapourising Oil was a low grade fuel in common use before the days of diesel engines).

Another unforgettable smell that is always associated with Summer and fortunately we can still enjoy at Ellens Green, is that of a flowershow marquee. The exhibitions of flowers, fruits and vegetables giving such a mixture of smells seem to be always enhanced by the canvas and the foot trodden grass sward.

Often late summer is referred to as "high summer" but I think we all tend to forget another type of high summer that was quite normal in Rudgwick until the advent of main drainage to the village. Even though there was a cesspool sewage system to most of the houses the water drain off found its way into the ditches and streams throughout the steep wooded hangers...it really was a "high summer"...

One final thought; Sussex is so much more crowded than fifty years ago (though one can still have an illusion of isolation when wandering around the woods above Barlavington Down), the present pollution levels caused by our transport systems must now blanket the more delicate smells and aromas that were so vivid a generation ago. Let's hope that one day we will be able to have the perfume of woodsmoke as the main pollutant to our Sussex air.....

C-BAG (Cranleigh Brickworks Action Group)

The present situation with regard to the Cranleigh Brickworks site is that Cherokee Cranleigh Ltd has applied to Surrey County Council for planning permission for the remediation of land at Cranleigh Brick & Tile Works involving:

- Erection of a wastewater treatment plant
- Dewatering of quarry
- Construction of a contained landfill to receive non-hazardous waste derived from elsewhere onsite.
- Extraction of clay for use onsite
- Demolition of existing brickworks
- Pre-treatment of hazardous waste derived onsite to render it non-hazardous prior to deposition in onsite landfill
- Extraction, relocation and deposition of contaminated soils and demolition debris within landfill to be constructed on site
- Importation and screening of inert soil forming materials
- Restoration of the site to grassland, limited woodland and wetland with aftercare.

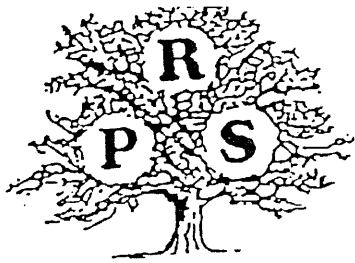
C-BAG are looking closely at the details contained within this application. At the present time no enabling application i.e. houses, has been lodged with Waverley Borough Council.

With the last flight of Concorde in October this is a timely reminder of the effect its supersonic bangs could have on the countryside

Distant Thunder.

By Malcolm Francis

We all have heard the strident call of a pheasant on a sultry summers evening when there is a threat of a thunderstorm. Pheasants seem to be extremely sensitive to the sound of distant thunder and give an alarm call seconds before one is aware of a thunderclap. Several years ago my wife and I lived in Cox Green quite close to woodland that sheltered a lot of pheasants; obviously escapees from Baynards Estate that bred many hundreds of birds. The pheasants often roosted in gardens close to our cottage. I was sometimes puzzled why these local birds would start their calling on a cold winters evening, not a time for thunderstorms. One cold moonlit night, whilst collecting logs from my old shed, I was aware of a series of distant bangs that appeared to come from south of the village; they all coincided with a chorus of pheasant calls. I had a suspicion that the pheasants had been startled by a series of supersonic bangs and this was confirmed quite soon when I read an article in the aviation magazine "Flight International". It transpired that the author of the article lived in the Cranleigh area and confirmed that secondary shockwaves were being detected, about 100 miles each side and parallel to the track of the supersonic aircraft, after being refracted by the upper atmosphere under still weather conditions. The shockwaves heard in Rudgwick were from the Air France Concorde as they flew up the English Channel before decelerating to land at Paris. This secondary wave tracked across our West Country, Dorset and Hampshire before decaying over our part of Sussex. The phenomenon was most noticeable on a cold winters night, usually consisting of four little bangs, emitted from a south, south westerly direction, but sometimes strong enough to rattle a window or garage door. Quite often, if I was working in my garage on a cold winters evening, the rattling of the door would prompt a glance at my watch confirming that the 9 pm Concorde would soon be arriving at Paris. These events carried on for some years until complaints from the residents of the Channel Isles forced Air France to decelerate two minutes earlier on their descent to Paris; so in later years the secondary shock wave petered out much further west of Rudgwick giving our pheasants a good nights sleep. The British Airways Concorde flight paths took them over the Bristol Channel; their sonic booms were often heard in the western regions of Cornwall; I expect the secondary waves were lost in the Welsh Hills. With the sad retirement of the Concorde fleet it will be many years before shock waves from any future high speed airliner will be felt again on a cold winters night in Rudgwick.



RUDGWICK
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

AUTUMN MEETING

Monday, 1st December 2003

7.30 pm, Rudgwick Church, Bucks Green

MAGGIE LAMB

will present
an illustrated talk on
her favourite
SUSSEX GARDENS

A well known speaker on the subject, Maggie will introduce her talk with some facts about soil and wild flowers, followed by details about Wakehurst, Leonardslee, Parham, Sheffield Park etc.

In the second half she will describe some private but accessible gardens.

MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES WILL BE
SERVED IN THE INTERVAL

ALL ARE WELCOME!