



RPS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2011

Chairman's Report

Alan Siney

This issue of the Newsletter marks the passing of a much loved and admired member who has played no small part in recording the history of Rudgwick. Alan Siney's Memorial Service and Burial of Ashes at Rudgwick Church on 10 November 2011 will have taken place by the time you read this. We send our condolences to his sons, Nick and Mark. There will be a time to re-issue some of Alan's work in the future, in order that a new generation of Rudgwick residents can learn and appreciate his achievements.

Subscriptions

Are you a paid up member of the Preservation Society, or not? We are desperately playing 'catch up' on our membership list at the moment. Letters have just gone out to a number of non-payers for the year from April 2011. We hope (if you received one) you have responded, paid up, and perhaps made an arrangement to pay by standing order from next April. Our sub is very small - £2 to £5 depending on category. But we cannot claim you as a member, or afford to keep sending you this Newsletter if you do not pay! For paid up members for 2011-12, a slip will be inserted in the Spring Newsletter (unless you pay by standing order). You can pay by attending the AGM in person, or by sending the slip and sub to the Treasurer, David Rigby. The slip will also enable you to inform your bank to pay by standing order in future. Non-payers (if there are any) will receive a final reminder in next Autumn's Newsletter, after which it will be 'no newsletter'! We apologise for not taking these obviously practical steps earlier. To make that standing order now, provide your bank with our details: bank sort code: 40-18-50; account no: 01406884, to be paid annually on 1st April (£2 if over 60; £3 single; £5 family). Please inform David Rigby you have done this (01403 822522 or drigby@btinternet.com).

New Committee Member

We welcome a new member of the committee, Colin Briggs, who has been co-opted until the AGM.

Planning Issues

RPS Committee has been working hard on a submission to the government consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework, which is a theme taken up by Vanessa Sanderson in this issue. We have also continued to monitor the Windacres Farm development,

and spoke again at the Development (North) Planning Committee meeting last month, where we feel Councillors do really pay attention to what we say. This is now more or less through the planning process, but we have continued to speak out on issues such as limiting the damage a new footpath on Church Street might do to the Conservation Area. We regret we have not been consulted as we had hoped when the plans were delegated with a view to approval in October 2010. One of the sticking points for HDC is the Community Interest Company which is an untried management body. The developers wish to leave its business plan until it is set up; HDC would prefer to have it sooner: stalemate. The development is also held up by the lack of an agreement, affecting one of our members more than most, regarding the access road, and the S106 legal agreement, footpaths being part of this. The full report dated 4th Oct 2011 is available on the planning portal (Ref. DC/09/1623).

In the pipeline...

We hope to make the Spring Newsletter a pre-Olympics issue with features on Sport in Rudgwick. There is at least one book to look forward to as Malcolm Francis has one nearly ready for the printers, written in his inimitable amusing and informative style about the village he, Nicola and their families have lived in for so long.

So, there are plenty of reasons to be a number of RPS!

Draft National Planning Policy Framework

Vanessa Sanderson

The Rudgwick Preservation Society has responded to the Government's consultation on the Draft National Planning and Policy Framework which closed on 17th October 2011. On their website at the Department of Communities & Local Government advise that the proposed changes are a key part of reforms to make the planning system less complex and more accessible and to promote sustainable growth. They are keen to hear the views from all interested parties on the draft and how it might be improved.

The key points that RPS made are as follows

- (1) The NPPF is poorly drafted and leaves much to interpretation.
- (2) Too much emphasis on economic growth at the expense of social and environmental elements of sustainability.
- (3) It does not define sustainability and there is a need to define this in law.
- (4) If the new system is to work as planned and help reduce delays we need rigour in the new legislation.
- (5) The proposed presumption in favour of development should continue to promote the use of brownfield sites over the use of greenfield sites.
- (6) Planning for the Countryside requires planning for food needs in the future as we already import 40% of our food. Sound food security is fundamental to our future and high class farmland must be protected.
- (7) Planning must take into account the effect that development will have on the essential resources such as water. In the SE the future is bleak unless water resources are found to meet the needs of new housing with a mandatory sustainability audit including lower water consumption.
- (8) Green belt land, ANOBs, National Parks must be protected and we request watertight protection of the English countryside.
- (9) We dislike and are concerned at weak phrases in the document such as 'land of the right type and in the right place' without adequate definition or appropriate safeguards.
- (10) It is our view that the slowdown in building is not because of the planning system but rather as a product of the market and the economics of bank lending.
- (11) We want to see the force of law bring empty property back into use either to the market or social housing providers.

(12) We support the use of Section 106 agreements for all developments as this provides a stimulus to growth & enhancement of community infrastructure.

(13) The appeals system should remain a significant element of justice in the planning system.

Horsham District Council has produced a very detailed response to the draft document and this can be viewed on their website. In very brief summary their overall concern is the lack of clear parameters in numerous areas of the framework which is due to lack of detail and very generic policy statements. As a predominantly rural District with a number of market towns HDC are concerned that the NPPF is silent on a focus for brownfield development. They are also concerned that a full Strategic Environmental Assessment has not been undertaken in the document as required by European Legislation of plans, policies and programmes. They also consider that transitional arrangements need to be set out clearly if they are to achieve their desired aims and the absence of such arrangements could lead to a lack of direction in planning and it being led by the reactive appeal process rather than plan led.

Finally more than **10,000 responses** have been received by the Government indicating the high level of concern the proposals have caused throughout rural England. Greg Clark, the planning minister, disclosed the figure to MPs which means that responses were received at a rate of 120 per day during the 12 week consultation which closed on 17th October. Typically a few hundred responses are sent to Government consultations and in a recent debate in the House of Commons Mr Clark indicated, without pre-empting the consultation, that it was likely the Government would emphasise the previous commitment to building on brownfield land.

SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2011

As usual Dave Buckley led the first of the Summer Walks, starting from The Fox, Bucks Green, on Tuesday the 3rd of May. The average turnout for the walks was about 20, but the numbers clearly depend upon the weather, or perhaps the forecast. I am indebted to Vanessa Lowndes, who kept notes of both the attendances and the rain. Roger Nash had the wettest walk, on the 5th of July, from the Onslow Arms, and had the lowest number of 5, plus 1 undaunted dog. Keith Linscott led a slightly drier walk from the Mucky Duck, on the 19th of July, and 7 turned out, plus 3 equally undaunted dogs. There were at least 4 walks which suffered poor weather, a rather similar summer to 2008. The highest turnout of 31 was led by John Connold, from the lay-by at Whitehall, just outside Cranleigh, on the 24th of May. The following week, Bridget & David Cozens led a similar number, 30, from the Red Lion at Slinfold. John Connold also led from the Sussex Oak, at Warnham, on the 14th of June, a fine evening. On our return to the pub, we were entertained by two teams of ladies, morris dancing and clog dancing. Eric Slade had moved away from Rudgwick since the programme was made up early in the year, but kindly returned to lead his walk, from the King's Head, on the 12th of July. Malcolm Francis led our annual pilgrimage to Baynards Station, on the longest day, the 21st of June. We had 22 on this walk, which was poor for this, usually our most popular, outing. But again the weather was not great.

I would like to thank the Claytons for allowing us to visit Baynards Station, which is their home. They restored this wonderful Victorian railway station themselves. It is in its original LB&SCR colours, and it is very easy for those of us, who are old enough, to nostalgically remember waiting on the platform of some similar rural station.

Thanks to the publicans for allowing us to park. Please support the pubs in return. Thanks also to all the leaders who make it possible.

We are always in need of leaders. Please let me know if you might lead a walk. Contact me on 822668 or geoff.ayres1@btinternet.com for information.

Geoff Ayres

Alan J. Siney – An Appreciation

**Rudgwick's multi-talented researcher, writer and cartographer,
a collector, restorer, countryman and engineer**



Alan Siney, 1933-2011, was born and brought up in the village of Greatham near Liphook in Hampshire. So important was this to him that he readily agreed to write a lengthy and detailed story of both his family life and the community among whom he lived. It is a measure of the speed with which technology has changed, that this book is now available online. It was of course technology that was Alan's first love, whether electrical (his first job in an radio/electrical shop), aircraft (National Service in the RAF, thereafter at Farnborough, followed by Dunsfold in 1968 until retirement), vintage motorcycles (his collection sold at auction in September this year), traction engines, antique guns, or application of brain and brawn to any task involving mending, repairing, making, creating, etc., and not forgetting using his handwriting and drafting skills to make maps that are a joy to read and behold. And, yes, he did master his computer and digital camera acquired only recently.

His self-taught skills cannot be emphasised too much. Skills in reading landscape both present and

more importantly past, observation of trees (yews, hornbeams, oaks top the list), developing chronology in families (for example, to name but two, the Redhouse Butchers and the Wanford Allberrys), disentangling, copying, linking and weaving a narrative from assorted complex documents, filling gaps intelligently and always finding sources to back his assertions and put the reader at ease in contextually related background. He was a student of history and landscape all his life – he never pretended to be The Historian.

It was this that occasionally led people to take issue, perhaps unfairly, as he was tenacious in guarding his line of thinking, and would always come back when challenged. I found though that whereas his research would usually justify his conclusions; he would admit to errors if he understood why and where he was wrong, and he always gave me encouragement to take research a stage further, politely fed me useful facts, and was equally politely reluctant to point out omissions on my part. One of the greatest difficulties in local studies is that the evidence is in so many sources both primary and secondary, most of the latter not indexed. Alan's enormous output is a case in point. Any volunteers? As an amateur, working with multitudinous sources, there is a tendency not to be too assiduous referencing sources. Alan was occasionally guilty, but so am I!

One of the last things on Stan Smith's mind before he died was his regret that he had never had the courage to confront Alan with his only major mistake (as far as I know). This was in perhaps his longest research paper on Rudgwick history, completed some 10 years ago, *Dedisham Iron Furnace and Forge*. In this he trespassed perhaps unwisely on Stan's own territory, territory of the Wealden Iron Research Group, and Slinfold, territory of Diana Chatwin. As the 'experts' all felt he had made fundamental errors of judgement most evidently with the flow of water on the site, the study, which contains much good material remains unpublished. I regret Stan did not come clean on this; it can remain untold no longer. Perhaps RPS will be able to publish it one day with the well documented errors edited out. I hope so.

This seems the right place and time to review Alan's Rudgwick output, which was prodigious, especially when seen alongside his other time filling activities and his research for Horsham Museum. It seems to have begun in Dunsfold where the history of the aerodrome site (I continue to use the word despite

one dictionary removing it this year) was an early interest which gave him confidence to write, and experience in using sources and creating maps (*Dunsfold – Before the Airfield*, 1992). Alan's mental map of Rudgwick looked outwards from his home in The Riddens. Amongst his notes I have found the story of this row of houses, worth telling one day. In *Who Took the Common from Tismans?* he wrote an original and important local history, which is as good a piece of research as one could wish for. *The Lynwick Estate, Rudgwick* was a masterful study of past geography, though the man himself got short and inaccurate shrift, simply because nobody knew then what the internet now makes abundantly clear, that Aungier was Irish, and made his fortune in Argentina. Definitely time for a sequel, perhaps in a couple of years time. With Tismans and Lynwick right on his doorstep, it was only natural that he also looked towards Redhouse and the history of those who farmed there, to Bucks Green and Wanford Mill, Brewhurst and Brick Kiln in Loxwood. *Rudgwick's Corn Mills, Its Millers and Millwrights* was published in Horsham Heritage, and deserves to be more widely read (mills had all the ingredients for the Siney way with historical geography). But his eye roved wider in Rudgwick, to the pubs (King's Head and The Plough), Hermongers (a Farnborough connection here, through the death of the young Busk aviation pioneer), Gaskyns, Lynwick Street, Cox Green, Rudgwick Street, accidents, crime, education, trees (of course), the tip pond and turnpikes. Some of his 36 pieces in the Newsletter were accompanied by neat A4 size maps, traced and annotated from the tithe map and its schedule, worth pulling together sometime in booklet form. He and I shared a hope he would recover sufficiently to complete one on The Haven, but he never became well enough.

It was to Alan that RPS turned for the maps in the two recent booklets of walks in and around Rudgwick, thirteen easy to follow hand drawn maps made the project possible. It was to Alan that Horsham Museum turned not only for his volunteering restoration work behind the scenes, and help in the survey of Horsham's Denne Road cemetery, but also for drawing copy tithe maps (some 60 A4 sheets) of the whole of Horsham parish, a huge undertaking, and then setting out to map Horsham Common before enclosure and match modern photographs to their locations, a project of all his talents. These are still on sale.

Less well known, unless you have been to WSRO in Chichester, are the Rudgwick items he lodged there after labouring for hours copying and typing: the tithe schedule, the Vestry Minutes for 1860-1895, Parish Council Minutes 1895-1922 and a catalogue of parish records, with bundles of documents from church and parish storage. He did much to put in order records held by the parish, but was very

frustrated by persons unknown who went through his bundled documents and left them in an untidy state – I'll have no more to do with them, was his response, on going back to look something up. Alan was not one to suffer fools gladly. He has labelled all the Jury Cramp photos of Rudgwick in Horsham Museum. His own photographs have been made up into annotated albums of Rudgwick in recent years, a major contribution for future historians. You can hardly fail to have seen the OS based maps of our Listed houses hanging in the Medical Centre and the Village Hall. There are at least five copies of this, three mounted (by Alan of course). Some members will have seen his accurate clay model of the church displayed in the tower, one of several models he made of buildings in Rudgwick. I have found in his files an unpublished history of Rudgwick intended for the village school, which must be passed on – he felt he could not make it into a form suitable for children, and he was not one to dumb down!

Personal tributes have poured in. Sue Djabri, Horsham collaborator: "exceptional care, patience, dedication and practical skills that he brought to each task..., a selfless and generous man." David Buckley, Rudgwick PC: "meticulous and always interesting..., a fascinating person." Roger Nash, RPS: "inquisitive and tenacious, an astonishing memory, and a delightful humility." Jeremy Knight, Horsham Museum: "a volunteer who believed, like Sir Christopher Wren, that his deeds will speak for him." Anne Cole: "Alan was the saviour of Rudgwick Biodiversity Project on many occasions, coming up with simple, yet effective, engineering solutions, often building them himself. His hands-on approach always found him in the thick of any labours, refusing to let his age or injuries be a barrier. We always kept the first aid kit on standby, however, as his name appears repeatedly in our first aid book!" Eric Slade, Dunsfold colleague: "a great chap, a very kindly man who gave of himself whatever he undertook - he thoroughly enjoyed reminiscing." Malcolm Francis, co-worker on a Sea Hawk after Alan's retirement: "Alan knew that aircraft very well, so he spent many weeks redrawing various electrical systems and then re-commissioning them." [It flew!]

Phil Taylor, neighbour: "Even near the end Alan had a zest for life – 'I am remaining very positive about my health, and told them that I lead a too busy & interesting life to be ready to keel over yet. If things work out badly at least I can be thankful that I've had 18 years of enjoyable and fruitful retirement'. Alan will be sorely missed but his legacy will be appreciated by the community and the historians of the future." Lastly, John Cozens, past Chairman RPS: He was one of those background people who are the backbone of so many organizations like RPS."

Compiled by Roger Nash

A History of Bricks in Rudgwick

Debbie Garritty for Wienerberger

There has been a brickworks on site at Rudgwick for around 80 years. Originally set up by The Fawkes family as a privately owned, family run business in the 1930s, the original 40-acre site was used to produce handmade bricks which were fired in coke-burning kilns. At its height, the works was producing 15,000 of these handmade bricks each week and this continued to the mid-1940s. After the end of the Second World War, however, the family installed a 3-mould Berry brick machine which allowed it to boost production to some 45,000 bricks each week. These were still manufactured using the original coke-fired kilns and this process continued until 1964, when the company purchased a modern Dutch Aberson automatic brick machine and introduced butane gas into the firing process. The new machine was capable of turning out over 250,000 bricks a week while the innovative gas firing gave greater control of the firing process in the clamp kilns. These efficiencies were improved even further when mains gas arrived at the brickworks in 1964 and in 1998 the works was acquired by Baggeridge Brick PLC. Additional land was subsequently incorporated in 2005 to create the 80-acre site we know today.



Conveyor belt

Rudgwick brickworks is now one of only four clamp-fired brick factories still operational in the UK. The clamp-fired process is a traditional manufacturing process which relies upon the slow and gradual application of heat via a brick and fire-retardant block 'pyramid' or clamp. This is still built by hand following an intricate 'layering' model and comprises almost 1,000,000 bricks. The heat and flames produced by the gas pipes running around the base of the 'pyramid' is allowed to travel freely through the dried clay bricks, creating irregular flashes of distinct colour, from reds and purples to the blues and yellows inherent in the Sussex Weald clay.

There are three colours of clay which combine to make these highly sought-after, aesthetically pleasing bricks: blue, red and yellow. Each is quarried on site and the

various colour stratas are visible to the naked eye. It is this richness of hue and variety which makes Sussex weald clay so highly sought-after as a natural raw material and the process used by Wienerberger produces some of the finest, most durable and most environmentally friendly bricks in the UK today. The end products are distinctive soft mud moulded bricks of variegated colour and texture, which have a traditional 'heritage' look but which offer the cutting edge performance characteristics necessary to 21st century building practices.



Kiln

Recently, Wienerberger has been exploring the potential for long-term reserves of this clay from deeper seams in the existing quarry. These tests are ongoing and if deeper extraction proves possible will help to secure future reserves of the raw material necessary to sustain the brickworks at commercially viable levels. As a possible alternative, Wienerberger has also acquired a piece of land to the north of the neighbouring quarry – although any extension of the existing quarry would require significant investment and a formal planning application. It is therefore unlikely to happen, even if existing reserves ran out, until at least 2013/14.

In terms of sustainability, the Rudgwick site is in many ways ahead of its time, with a long established principle of only utilising water collected in the quarry in the brick forming process and also incorporating 'waste' carbonaceous material in the raw material mix to give the characteristic brick appearance.

Wienerberger has also taken a very proactive approach to health and safety performance at Rudgwick. During 2005, the entire workforce gained appropriate health and safety qualifications overseen by City and Guilds Institute and in 2007 Rudgwick became the first brick factory in the UK to obtain external certification of Health and Safety Management to the OHSAS 18001 standard.

As a local employer and responsible neighbour, the company is keen to formalise links and maintain an open dialogue with the local community. In January of



Private Residents.

James Braby esq. - Maybanks.
Mr Daniel Cox - Church Cottage
Mr Thomas Elliott
Rev Geo Matthews - Vicarage.
Edwin Napper esq. - Tismans House
Misses Nelsons - Bellevue.

Commercial

Henry Allberry - miller, farmer and landowner - Wanford Mill
Henry Baker – farmer - Linnick Farm.
James Borrer - shopkeeper.
John Botting - farmer - Hope Farm
William Botting – miller - Gibbons Mill
Frederick Buck - carrier.
William Butcher - tailor.
James Chandler - miller & farmer - Snells
Alfred Churchill - Queen's Head, Bucks Green.
Caroline Churchman (Miss) - Ladies School
Charles Churchman - farmer - Mill Farm.
Edward Churchman – farmer - Naldretts
John Edmunds - Shopkeeper & at Wisborough Green.
Elliott & Hemming - auctioneers.
John & John Elliott - timber & wood hoop merchants.
Thomas Elliott & Son - valuers, estate agents and appraisers.
William & Thomas Elliott - seedsmen & corndealers - Horns Hill.
Hen Evershed – farmer - Tiddlesfold Farm.
Henry Freeman - carpenter.
James Gravett - farmer - Jane's Farm.
James Grinstead - beer retailer.
James Grinstead – farmer - Furnace House Farm.
John Hack - farmer & landowner- Millfields Farm
Alfred Haines - blacksmith.
Alfred Holt – farmer - . Berry House
Henry Ireland – farmer - Bignor Farm.
Henry Jenkins, farmer. Dukes farm
John Jenkins - farmer - Hale Farm
George Jupp - shoemaker.
George King - millwright & shopkeeper - Bucks Green.
Sarah King (Mrs) – farmer - Little Tiddlesfold.
Charles Miles - beer retailer.
James Monday - shopkeeper.
David Penfold - shopkeeper
Levi Port – Chequers, Rowhook
James Potter – farmer -Marshalls.
James Puttock – farmer - Woodsome Farm
Jas Redaway - master of Village School
Ann Scragg (Mrs) – farmer - Monks Farm.
Chas Sendall - King's Head & butcher
John Smith - Post Office receiving house, shopkeeper & parish clerk.
Edward Songhurst – Cricketers (*now Mucky Duck*)
Henry Spooner - butcher.
James Stanford -wheelwright
Mary Stanford (Mrs) farmer – Gaskins (*now Pennthorpe School*)
Sarah Stanford (Mrs) farmer - Swains Farm
John Tate - shoemaker.
Henry Walder – farmer -Hyes Farm.
Peter Walder - farmer & landowner.
William Wooberry - farmer & landowner - Kingsfold.
George Worsfold - shopkeeper.

this year, it invited residents to attend an open meeting, established a formal Liaison Committee with links into our own Parish Council, Horsham and West Sussex Councils and Rudgwick Preservation Society. Committee members have already been on a tour of the factory and attend regular update meetings with the on-site management team as well as technical representatives from Wienerberger's head office.

So, in conclusion, Rudgwick offers a rare glimpse into past and traditional brick-making skills. We will continue to provide useful information and updates as appropriate, so that all members of the community remain fully informed about historic brickworks on our doorstep.

RUDGWICK IN 1859

MALCOLM FRANCIS

The 1859 Post Office Directory gives one a little insight into life and businesses that were in the village at that time. Even such a mundane publication shows what a busy little village Rudgwick must have been. In 1859 there was no railway; it would be another six years before the branch line was opened. The village was still isolated and all goods would have come by road and the village carriers were an important link to the surrounding towns.

Here is an excerpt from the directory:

"Rudgewick or Rudgwick, is a parish on the border of Surrey, 6 miles north- north west of Horsham, in West Easwrith hundred; rape of Arundel; Petworth Union; West Sussex; diocese and archdeaconry of Chichester and deanery of Storrington; Horsham county court district; with 5,830 acres and a population in 1851 of 1,031. The church of the Holy Trinity is a neat edifice, with a low square tower at the west end, with four bells and a clock. It consists of a chancel, nave and north side. The benefice is a vicarage, value £260 per annum, with residence, in the patronage of the Bishop of Chichester, and held by the Rev. George Matthews, M.A. The register dates from 1558. Here is a village school for boys and girls, supported by the vicar. Bucks Green and Haven are hamlets.

"POST OFFICE – John Smith, receiver. Letters through Horsham delivered at 8.15am; dispatched at 6pm. The nearest money order office is at Horsham.

CARRIERS TO HORSHAM. – Frederick Buck, by van, Monday & Thursday; returns the same days. Henry Worsfold, by van, Monday; returns same day. Knight, from Cranley, passes through on Monday; returns same day."

This publication gives just a little information about Rudgwick residents. I have recounted before that Lord Nelson's cousins lived in the village; Miss Adelaide and Fanny Nelson. The post office directory states that their address was a house called "Bellevue" which with census information was the house now called the Old Parsonage, next to the church - the view from that house does warrant such a name. A report that was written years ago by Charley Tate (who did a lot of research about Rudgwick) recalled that an old gentleman who remembered them said "The Miss Nelsons did not have any airs or graces and loved to invite people in to try their cider". Records show that Miss Adelaide died in 1862; there is a stained glass window to her memory in Holy Trinity church.

One can see from the listings in the directory that there were numerous shops in the village including two butchers. I can remember a comment - again from Charley Tate's notes - that Charles Sendall the butcher and landlord of the King's Head, used to keep his sheep in the churchyard. One supposes that it was a very convenient situation for keeping the grass under control and close to the pub.

Another piece of information that has come to light regards Rudgwick's windmills. There was a windmill sited quite close to the Surrey/Sussex border path as it reaches a summit behind Rudgwick Brickworks. I understand that there was a cottage nearby that was still inhabited in the 1911 census and there was a footpath, now lost, that linked it directly to Lynwick Street; however other documentation states that the mill met its demise much earlier in the nineteenth century and so is not mentioned in the 1859 directory. The windmill that is noted in the directory is Snell Mill that stood near the county border in Rowhook. It seems to have had two names because it is also recorded as Honey Lane Mill in another publication. In 1859 the miller was a James Chandler, but 30 years later it had met its end. Here is the sale notice that was published in 1889 in the local paper:

"Rowhook Sussex

MESSRS KING & CHASEMORE Have received instructions to Sell by Auction, on December 11th 1889, at the King's Head Hotel, Horsham, at

three o'clock in the afternoon, SNELL WINDMILL, together with the VALUABLE MACHINERY. The mill to be pulled down and cleared within one month from the date of the sale."

Roger Nash has written a lot about the history of Honeywood House (which is located nearby) in earlier publications of this magazine, and noted that some of the millstones from Snell windmill were incorporated into the stone paving of the rose gardens there.

To imagine where the mill would have been; if one drives past Honeywood House's main entrance towards the Chequers public house for a few hundred yards, the mill would have stood on high ground to the right just as the road curves to the right. A late Victorian house stands near the site of the mill, it is called Snell House (the name board is very indistinct. by the road) It is sad that so little remains to remind one of such mills that could be found in many parishes, only the name is left in this case, along with an adjacent farm called Millfields.

The entry for John Edmunds the shopkeeper does have a family connection for me. His shop was the one that older residents will remember as Fleming's Stores in Church Street (now called The Old Shop). It was a general stores and newsagents for many years, also keeping such essentials as paraffin and shotgun cartridges. Mrs Fleming (Mabel) was my wife's grandmother and she ran the store for many years. She was widowed twice (one forgets these days just how much tragedy and early death was the norm in those times) and inherited the "Edmunds" shop from her first husband George Marden, whose first wife was John Edmund's daughter. I have come across some other information written by William Port, who was a builder in Rudgwick for many years, that John Edmunds was also the "village lawyer".

It is also fascinating to see the Post Office list without any telephone numbers. It would be over fifty years before Rudgwick had a telephone system. I have read that, although there was a lot of progress in bringing in automatic telephone exchanges throughout the country in the early twentieth century, many of the rural areas still relied on manual exchanges. I can remember in this area that Cranleigh still had a manual exchange until the 1960s - to call a Cranleigh number one had to dial 7 and speak to the operator! Rudgwick's manual telephone exchange was sited at Rudgwick Post Office and Stores (now Church Gate House). The Stores' telephone number was "Rudgwick Tel 1". I can remember my mother in law, Babs McWilliam, recounting that in the war years it was not unknown for an operator to be eavesdropping the telephone calls. Perhaps the Second World war security slogan "Walls have Ears" was very true.

THE BRABYS, A VICTORIAN FAMILY

ROGER NASH



James Braby 1824-1907

Photo reference: The County of Surrey with illustrated Biographies, Truman Press, 1896

Some of the family tree I presented was speculative at the time I wrote, but recent correspondence with two helpful members of the wider Braby family have confirmed the line. In summary –

1. **Henry Braby** married, about 1704, **Ruth Fuller** at Warnham.
2. **James Braby**, 1713-1770, born in Warnham, son of Henry and Ruth, married: 1. **Ruth Compton** in 1735 at Warnham - Ruth died in child birth in Warnham, 1755, aged 39; 2. **Frusannah Butcher** in 1763 at Rudgwick, both 'of this parish'. James and Frusannah were buried at Rudgwick, aged 59 and 88 respectively, she is described as 'of Ockley'. James & Ruth's son, John (1744-1770), married Sarah Compton at Rudgwick in 1764. He was buried in Rudgwick. [Frusannah, nee Corfe, was widow of Richard Butcher of Rudgwick. They married in 1733 at Chichester. This was probably Richard Butcher of Redhouse who died aged 38 in 1742. His contemporary, Richard Butcher of Lynwick was married to Sarah, who outlived him, so the facts point to Richard of Redhouse as her husband.]
3. **James Braby**, 1749-1807, born in Horsham, son of James and Ruth, married 1. **Elizabeth Puttock** of Rudgwick in 1771 at Rudgwick; 2. **Mary Knight** in 1783 at Ockley. (of his siblings - some were born in Warnham, some in Horsham). James was living in Ockley by 1771, where he was a wheelwright. Elizabeth Braby was buried in Rudgwick, in 1782, aged 33. He was named on the same headstone, aged 58, 'late of Ockley'. Mary may have outlived him, perhaps in Ockley.
4. **James Braby**, 1773-1846, born in Ockley, son of James and Elizabeth, married **Hannah Welker** of Abinger in 1797 at Ockley. He died age 78, described as a gentleman, in Kentish Town. Hannah died in her 80th year in Camden Town. Both were buried at St John's, Lambeth, where the successful wheelwright business had been located since 1797. Lay Rector of Rudgwick, 1826.
5. **James Braby**, 1797-1865, born in Ockley, eldest son of James and Hannah, married **Mary Ann Churchman** of Maybanks, at Rudgwick in 1821. She died in 1828, at only 29. Their headstone at Rudgwick records his burial there after 37 years of widowhood.
6. **James Braby**, 1824-1907, born in Lambeth, the only son of James and Mary Ann, married **Emma Glover** in 1851 at Old Church, St Pancras, London, and is the principal character in this article.
7. **James Braby**, 1851-1886, son of James and Emma, died tragically at the age of 35 in 1886. He was unmarried. His younger brother **Ernest Braby**, 1858-1922, inherited most of his father's estate, including the manor of Drungewick, with its farm and house.

In my first article (Newsletter Autumn 2010) the origins of the Braby family were explored up to the mid-19th century, at which time **James Braby** (1798-1865) was living at Maybanks, near Cox Green, Ewhurst, and as well as owning land in Rudgwick, was lay Rector of the parish. His son, **James** (1824-1907) (above) had married **Emma Glover** in 1851. Their children were **James** (1851, born Lambeth), **Florence** (1856, born Sydenham, as were her younger siblings), **Ernest** (1858), **Ellen** (1863) and **Constance** (1864). James and his family had moved to Maybanks in 1865 from

Stanstead Villa, Stanstead Lane in Forest Hill, Sydenham, Kent, following the death of his father. Like his father and several earlier generations of his family (always James!), he was a wheelwright in Lambeth.

The Brabys seem to emerge from this study as a deeply Christian family with a strong sense of service and duty to the community, a charitable and philanthropic tradition, an attachment to land and agriculture, and to place, an interest in the church and education, and above all a talent for technological invention, business acumen and an eye for the next opportunity in the age of the Industrial Revolution and the Railway Age. As such they are typical Victorians, with humble origins. **James** (4, numbers refer to box above) had not only created the business in Lambeth, but also died a wealthy gentleman. It was his personal success that enabled his descendents to live in some style, reinforced by further success, inventiveness and foresight in moving into new and growing trades.

James and Hannah moved from Ockley in 1797 (family Bible), immediately after the birth of James (5), to live at Vine St, Narrow Wall, Lambeth. He became lay Rector of Rudgwick in 1826. His grandson Frederick wrote in 1858, "Mr. James Braby, formerly a wheelwright at Ockley, afterwards in Lambeth, was a clever mechanic and invented several musical instruments, a weighing machine, improved carriages etc. He died at an advanced age at Kentish Town. His father before him was a wheelwright at Ockley".

Their twelve children were **James** (5), the eldest and the only one to have been born in Ockley, **John** (1799-1881), who married **Maria Churchman** of Maybanks at Rudgwick in 1829 - their importance in Rudgwick's 19th century history was described in the first article - and whose son **Frederick** is dealt with in a third one to come. **Thomas** and **Henry** emigrated to the United States; **Edward** became a veterinary surgeon in Southwark and elected member of the council of the Royal College; **Harriet** married John Waterman; **Charles** was grandfather of **Herbert, Sidney and Roland**, of whom more next time; five others died in infancy or early childhood.

James (5), after Mary Ann's untimely death (and unsavoury case brought before the Court of Chancery regarding the guardianship of the children), remained a widower for the rest of his life, which he spent mainly in Lambeth building up the wheelwright's business in partnership with his father and brother, John (J. J. & J. Braby). The partnership was dissolved in 1839 when his father was aged 66. James and John remained in partnership as Braby, Jas & Jno until after their father's death in Duke Street, Lambeth. By 1851, the brothers had split up, John to be a slate merchant, James

remaining in the growing and successful wheelwright's business, by now joined by *his* son James (6), as Braby & Son, carriage builder, smith, contractor and wheelwrights, employing 28 men in 1851. James (5) inherited Maybanks from the Churchmans through his late wife, and lived there for the last eight years of his life. His coat of arms were "*or a chevron gules between three martlets sable*", motto, *ex industria decus*, 'by labour with honour', but no date has been found for it, so which James Braby first used it? The arms are in the east window erected in the church above the altar, in memory of his parents by James (6).



The East Window. Holy Trinity Church

James (5)'s new interest in farming is illustrated by his attendance at the 1863 Christmas Horsham Cattle Show annual dinner at which he sat through interminable political speeches by the local MPs. Along with Thomas Child and William McCormick, James was one of the promoters of the Horsham and Guildford Direct Railway Act, 1860. Child's daughter Jane was already married to the aforementioned Frederick. The railway was completed in 1865. That year, Braby died in Hove on 3rd August. He did not live to see it open. The LB&SCR, was bound by an agreement with Mr Braby "*to make and for ever maintain a station in the parish of Rudgwick*". On 2 Oct 1865 when the line opened, it was clear there was a problem at Rudgwick Station. Approval for its opening was not forthcoming from the Board of Trade. Villagers were in doubt about the future of their station. Rudgwick Parish News, (W Sussex Gazette, 28 Sep 1865), wrote "*J Braby of Maybanks, through whose land a great portion of the line in the parish passes, has built at great expense a large and commodious Inn for the accommodation of the railway passengers, which would be comparatively useless if the station is not opened.*" Rudgwick station could not open as the 1 in 80 gradient was too

dangerous, and it needed to be flattened to 1 in 130. It meant that the bridge over the river Arun had to be raised considerably, and it was already part built. The part built embankments were raised and the brick arch that was under construction was left as a flying buttress to a new plate girder bridge. The station was finally opened in November. One imagines James and Emma Braby to have been prominent in this event, perhaps too his brother John, James Child, Frederick and Jane Braby were in attendance.

Alan Siney's transcription of the 1860-94 Vestry Book (2000) shows James was an active member of the Vestry, the parish committee, forerunner of both the parish council and the parochial church council, which met in the church vestry, usually adjourning to the King's Head. The book opens with him proposing Henry Jenkins, a churchwarden, as chairman in March 1860. Subsequently he is on the committee for highways (1860), an overseer (1863), and once, in 1862, chairman.

James (6) and Emma Braby were among the prominent families of Rudgwick in the second half of the 19th century. Living at Maybanks, technically they were not Rudgwickians, but virtually all their social interaction, including their links to the church (lay Rector), the vestry, and later the parish council were with Rudgwick. After all, a nearly straight line from their house takes one through Cox Green and right down Church Street! James (5) had "bequeathed to his only son* James all his freehold and leasehold estates lands manors buildings farming stock money funds shares in public companies and every description of property whatsoever both real and personal whether in possession reversion or remainder or expectancy for his own use and benefit absolutely". [*2 sisters had died] James thus inherited the profit from the sale of land to the railway company. The Inn (the site is now the Co-op), built, like the station, on Braby land, was assessed for parish rate at £30. At first called Railway Station and Commercial Inn, it soon became the Martlet Hotel, a reference to the Braby coat of arms. Its location at the top of the newly made road to the station was ideal. Railway historians suggest it was never much used as a hotel, but it served the village as a pub as houses went up around it, until its demolition in the mid 1960s.

James and Emma's five children were between 1 and 14 in 1865. Maybanks must have echoed to their sounds for some years. Only one of three daughters ever married: Ellen, to Alfred Church, a solicitor from Essex, at Rudgwick in 1874, setting up home in Lee, Kent. Here, Ellen gave birth to the only grandchildren in the family: Frederick, Gwendoline and Geoffrey, before moving to Beddington, Surrey by 1891, and later to Belsize Park, Hampstead, where in 1901, Frederick was a solicitor like his father, and Geoffrey a surveyor (see *Ernest Braby* below).

The business was sold to Edward Hodam Bayley and Co, "patent steam wheel and axle works, and wagon,

van, dray cart, fire escape and water van builders", 42 Newington Causeway S.E. (Comm Directory, 1882). Earlier in 1860 he had invented a machine for breaking up roads, breaking clods and scarifying or tilling land; He now 'dabbled' in his inventions: in 1878, patenting wheels for traction engines; in 1882 producing a 3 hp steam traction engine of 1 ton, 'The Farmer's Help'; in 1884 a small farm steam engine of only 37cwt, 'a size previously considered unattainable', exhibited at the Royal Agricultural Society Show, Shrewsbury. He became a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society. Perhaps earlier patents taken out when his father was alive were due to James's statistical and engineering bent, inherited from his grandfather. He became a magistrate, a Commissioner of Taxes, and Justice of the Peace (JP) for London and Surrey (1869), and much later Deputy Lieutenant (DL) for Surrey (1894). The 1871 census gives his occupation as Magistrate, in 1881 Justice of the Peace, and in 1891 Magistrate again. His politics were Liberal, at least in the 1871 election. His farming interests led to 76 prizes for his Sussex herd at agricultural events beginning with the Guildford Fatstock Show in 1876. He owned Maybanks, Ruet, Tillhouse and New Barn in Ewhurst, Greathouse, Gravatts, and Parsonage in Rudgwick. His farm stewards, the delightfully named Henry Worship Nockolds, later George Philpott, lived at Cousens, Which farms were in hand or let is difficult to know, and may have varied over time. Parsonage House was let to the Nelson sisters (see Newsletter Spr 2011) in the 1860s, called by them Bellevue. Later tenants, John Burnett, then John Llewellyn, then David Atter Jackson used its old name.

At Maybanks, servants kept house and nursed the children. From four in Stanstead Villa in 1861, they moved to eight by 1871, reverting to six and later four as the children became older. The core household was a cook, parlour maid, scullery maid and kitchen maid, with a lady's maid and additional housemaids for preference. The mobility of young women in Victorian England is indicated by servants' birthplaces in 1871: Portsmouth, Littlehampton, Suffolk, Dorset, Cuckfield, Watford and Cowfold. In 1881, Alice Boxall, 17, a Rudgwick girl was employed. Few stayed long; none in more than one census, most in their late teens or twenties. The gardener or coachman lived at The Lodge at Cox Green. Those living in estate houses were married men with dependent families. The Times carried adverts over the years: 1876 for a housemaid, not under 22, and a young person, not under 18, to take a portion of the housework, and assist the parlourmaid, both to have a knowledge of waiting at table; wages £16 and £12 per year, all found. James extended the 18th century house in the 1870s adding Flemish gabled turrets, in fashionable Queen Anne style, on a new south wing, and two cottages opposite Furzen Lane (New Barn Farm). The house has splendid views from the balconies to the Surrey Hills to the rear, and across rolling countryside to the front. [Janet Balchin *Ewhurst Houses and People*, 2006]

In village affairs, he appears in the Vestry Book from 1866, immediately thrown into the protracted saga of the Wanford bridges (never enough money), being voted on to the bridge committee to look into it. In 1867, he proposed the repair of the path on the hill to the church, and first chaired a Vestry meeting later that year in the absence of Rev Drury, the vicar, having been elected churchwarden for two years, again to be confronted by an issue, this time the restoration of the church bells. In 1868 he joined the highway committee.

In 1863, his father had built what is now the Jubilee Hall (date & initials on the north side), as a parochial school for the village which it was until 1880; the story goes that it was then used as a granary by James Braby until he had it re-fitted for the parish in 1897 as the Jubilee Hall, in honour of Queen Victoria (commemorated on the porch). Meanwhile in 1872 the Vestry discussed the inexpediency of laying out money both enlarging the school and seeking a site for a new school, and gave a vote "of thanks to Mr Braby for his liberality in building the present schoolroom and placing it at the disposal of the Parish for School purposes". At a later meeting that year, he was requested to provide the parish with a ten year lease with a nominal rent, and power to enlarge the same. It was proposed that if, after interviewing Mr Braby, he would not accept this, that TL Thurlow's offer, in a letter, of a school room be taken up. Braby may have balked at the proposal as Rev Thurlow's offer was "guaranteed". It was not a happy decision, as three years later Mr Thurlow of Baynards Park was superseding the school management committee by summarily dismissing the school mistress, and had not completed his school room and school buildings (at The Old School House). What Mr Braby thought is not recorded. However, in 1876 Mr Braby proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Thurlow for providing a school house and his great liberality running it at his expense. The Vestry was at this time deciding to get their heads around the issue of having a School Board. Messrs Thurlow, Bunny and Braby were appointed to investigate the relevant regulations under the Education Act, 1870. A School Board was duly set up, and Braby proposed thanks to Thurlow for continuing to offer terms.

From 1879, James was joined by his sons James and Ernest at Vestry meetings. Ernest's first foray into parish affairs seems to have been the state of nuisance from the dung heap, woodstack and wagons at Yatton Cottage, caused by Mr Jeal. The Brabys were also becoming concerned at the state of Loxwood Road (leading to their newly acquired Drungewick Manor), a road used by "foreign" traffic to and from Rudgwick station. Probably connected with this, or with manorial rights, was a search for the records of the enclosure of Tismans Common. Throughout the period of these transcriptions it is worth noting that Mr Braby constantly takes responsibility for the salary of the Surveyor of Highways.

This role of lay Rector came before the Vestry in 1885 when serious discussion with the church authorities regarding the replacement of the harmonium by an organ in front of the vestry window (where it now is), gave rise to the need for a Faculty to retain seating in the chancel for the lay Rector and tenants at The Parsonage. The organ was some time coming, and in 1889 the long suffering but wealthy Mr Thurlow agreed to pay for it. In 1821 and 1829 respectively James (5) and John married the Churchman sisters at Rudgwick - perhaps James (4) saw the lay Rectorship as his way in to Rudgwick society. The position went with title to The Parsonage, the glebe farm of Holy Trinity Church, whose land lay mainly east of Rudgwick, much now built on. Such properties still contain defunct references to the responsibilities of the lay Rector in their deeds.

When **Constance Mary Braby**, daughter of James (6) sold The Parsonage, with 9 acres, in 1926 for £1650, it was subject to a yearly tithe paid to the Vicar of Rudgwick and his successors (and further sums to the diocese) for three thousand years(!), a responsibility dating from 1 Jan 1820 by an indenture between Henry Howard of the one part, and Rt Hon Lord Howard of Effingham and Lord Howard of the second part, and now, in 1925, releasing Herbert Watson (of Hermongers, who was attempting to buy a parcel of Parsonage land) from his responsibility for repair and maintenance of the Chancel. The full settlement and discharge of responsibilities for the payment of £1 yearly and from the Chancel repairs was made by a subsequent owner, Harriet Reynolds, who paid £300 to the Chichester Diocesan Fund on purchase of the property in 1931. A reference to 'manor' in the Braby Will of 1865 is perhaps to the one below.

Curiously, for this is a complex legal tangle, Alan Siney unearthed a parallel document at WSRO [Par160 21/13] which states in a conveyance of tithes that Miss Braby sold [another part?] of The Parsonage a year later to a Mrs SAM Slatter of Barnstable, who likewise paid £500 to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1932 as a final payment to 'buy off' the tithes. The Guide to Rudgwick Church (1937) refers to Charles Howard, 11th Duke of Norfolk obtaining the manor and tithes from the Bishop of Chichester in 1809. Alan Siney says 1815, and that it was sold to Samuel Nicholson the same year (The Duke died 1815, without issue), and then suggests the year 1826 when Nicholson sold it to James Braby. WSRO ADD MSS/16,231, 1823 gives a date of 1811 for the Chichester to Norfolk sale. The Rudgwick manor [of Pulborough] descended through the Hussey family and consisted of 53 acres of land, and in earlier times, the two Rudgwick water mills. After 1809 [or 1815], the Bishops of Chichester held only the advowson of the Vicar.

Constance Braby wholly owned The Parsonage, with Gravatts Farm, having inherited her sister **Florence (Flora) Adeline Braby's** share in 1914. Like all


predecessors they had not lived there, but had inherited as tenants-in-common from their father in 1907. As early as 1840 in the tithe apportionment it was clear that the Vicar was in receipt of his £1 from Parsonage Farm, The 'owner', William Jelley, lived and farmed there, presumably leased from James Braby. In 1901, both Braby spinsters lived with their sick father in Hove. Flora died quite young at age 57, living in Steyning, Constance died in Hove at age 72 in 1937. Both were buried in Rudgwick in the same grave.

In 1879, a sale announced in The Times, enabled the purchase of **Drungewick Estate**, just over 1000 acres, reportedly for £20,100, and to become thereby lord of the manor of Drungewick, part of which was in Loxwood, part in Tisman's Common. Transferred from the Bishops of Chichester to the crown in the reign of Elizabeth I, she granted the manor and estate to Sir Edward Onslow. It stayed in Onslow hands until 1879, on the death of Denzil Onslow of Great Staughton, Hunts, who was unmarried, hence the sale. The moated house is said to contain elements of the original 13th century building, early 17th century oak panelled rooms. The foundations of the chapel are visible in the grounds. It is astonishing that the Braby family had the wealth to acquire this prestigious and historic estate in addition to their property elsewhere. James Braby may have made additions to the house.

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Sale of Drungewick Manor. September 6th 1922

A perambulation of the bounds of the manor took place in 1803, when Gen. Denzil Onslow held the manor. The next (possibly the last) was 12–13 October 1882, when James Braby, as the relatively new lord, undertook his perambulation accompanied by the steward, Alfred Church (his son-in-law), and several others, probably members of the family. Alfred was succeeded as steward by his son Frederick. The manorial waste had mostly been enclosed under the Onslows – Tisman's (Exfoldwood), 1851, and

Headfoldswood in Loxwood, 1865. Their long walks would have encompassed these two areas and the farmland – no surprise it took two days. [SAC 56 1914]

Drungewick Lane, which bridges the Loxwood Stream near the house, was frequently in need of repair and previously had five gates along its length, leading to summonses to the landowners to improve their sections. In 1899, James complained to the county council. Eventually, HRDC accepted it as their responsibility and repaired it for £300 in 1903, with a contribution of £117 from Mr Braby. The gates were removed, by which time the cost had risen to £646. Then the bridge needed repair, repeating the saga – historically it had been the responsibility of the manor of Amberley using timber from Trenchmore Farm. Again the councils came to an agreement in 1905, HRDC 1/3rd, WSCC 2/3rd, total cost £344.

When a meeting convened to set up a parish council in 1894, James Braby was the convenor, though not a candidate, yet at the first meeting on 31 Dec 1874, he was elected Chairman by the councillors! He was re-elected in April 1895, but in July he resigned, no reason recorded. Nevertheless, he re-appears in the minute book in 1897 to hand over the deeds of the 'new' hall, to be called Rudgwick Jubilee Hall – the former school originally donated by his father. They continued to live at Maybanks until Emma died in 1899, but in the 1901 census he was at 28 First Avenue in Hove with a hospital nurse, Florence Duddy, in the household, suggesting that the 77 year old widower was ill or infirm. Flora and Constance were in attendance. In December 1907, he died in Hove at Eaton Lodge on Cromwell Road. He died as lord of the manor of Drungewick. The parish council recorded "deep regret at the death of Mr James Braby" at their meeting on 23 Dec 1907. Attempts to sell Maybanks and the estate in 1906, consisting then of Ruets, New Barn and Tillhouse Farms, 305 acres altogether, had not been successful, first together and then in four lots [The Times]. It is not known when they were sold.

James (7), elder son of James and Emma, and his father were reported in The Times in 1872, as their case went to court – James Braby being a JP added to the interest. The Brabys had invited Mr Perkins of Brixton to dine at St James Hall Restaurant, Regents Circus. Perkins stood accused of assaulting the waiter, as indeed did the waiter of assaulting Mr Perkins. It all arose as two cutlets had been ordered but James Jnr had changed his mind and decided to eat one of the cutlets ordered for another, thus breaking the restaurant rules, so the bill included payment for 3 cutlets even though only two had been eaten! When James Snr. refused to pay the extra 1s 6d on a 25s 3d bill, the proprietor ordered the waiter to take Perkins's hat. This led to blows, and the party ended up at the police station. Perkins was alleged in court to have said to the waiter, "You cod headed lubber, get out of my way!" Naturally both Brabys gave evidence he had not said this. The judge, clearly

taking the side of the "gentlemen of position" in a "first-class establishment", fined the waiter 60s, the case against Perkins dismissed. It is possibly the shock that a gentleman's hat could be impounded in front of the ladies that clinched this judgement.

Tragedy really struck on 21 April 1886. James (7), aged 34, was killed when he fell from his horse – the story locally is that this happened in the drive to Maybanks. Had he been hunting? He was unmarried, but as the elder brother, the succession and name of James died with him. *"Thy short career on earth is run. We weep and say God's will be done."* is inscribed on the path-facing side of a square pink granite plinth with cross above – one of the more imposing and enduring monuments in the churchyard. His parents' names would be inscribed later on other faces of the plinth, located near the path leading north, the one they would have taken to Maybanks.

Ernest Braby, like his father, became a Justice of the Peace. Drungewick became his home, as heir to his father's estate, perhaps on his marriage to Augusta Atkins Batten in Kent in 1884. In 1881, the house had been occupied by the farm foreman, who 10 years later was still in the job, in the cottage next door. Ernest and Augusta were living there in 1891 and 1911. They had an apartment in Marine Parade, Brighton in 1901, near his father and sisters in Hove, the house left in charge of the groom as caretaker. After his father's death and the sale of Maybanks, they continued to live and farm at Drungewick, taking over the lordship of the manor. He was a noted breeder of the red Sussex cattle, exhibiting for over 35 years, winning many prizes. Reports of his trophies in The Times reveal how popular the breed was among some of the large landowners in and around Rudgwick, viz., his father at Maybanks, John Aungier at Lynwick, Earl Winterton at Shillinglee and Charles Lucas at Warnham Park. Ernest's will (1922, £17,850 gross) is interesting for its reference to the family graves, *"His rent charge on property in Rudgwick to the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty for keeping in repair the family graves in Rudgwick Churchyard and subject thereto for augmenting the benefits of the vicarage of Rudgwick"*. The sale of Drungewick included two other Loxwood farms: Pephurst and Drungewick Hill, 504 acres, of which Drungewick comprised 295. Half of the estate purchased in 1879 must have been sold earlier, or separately. Augusta, was left £2000 for life and then for Horsham Cottage Hospital. She later lived near Fordingbridge where she died in 1947, aged 93, her funeral, and burial alongside her husband, in Rudgwick. There were no children. Hence, this talented Braby line had come to a halt, James having only Church family grandchildren.

I am immensely grateful for information to support this Rudgwick and family history from Valerie Smith, grand daughter of Agnes Braby, and whose personal link to the James Braby succession is right back to James (4) who died in 1846, also to Jane Masri whose research is into the Brabys of Sussex, particularly those in the Downland villages.

BUCKS GREEN CAMP AND RESENTMENT OF THE ARMY STATIONED AT RUDGWICK

MALCOLM FRANCIS

Resentment of the Army stationed at Rudgwick in 1940

This letter, which is a typed copy, was written by Mr Burge, who was the chairman of the Parish council. It was discovered with other papers regarding Rudgwick during the Second World War. I presume that it was sent to the relevant authorities or perhaps to one of the national newspapers. The time was just after the Dunkirk evacuation; Babs McWilliam, my late mother in law, recounted that the regiment stationed in Rudgwick after returning from Dunkirk, was the Royal Horse Artillery.

A month's experience of the occupation by the Army of a village (or rather a rural parish) within 50 miles of London suggests that something must be done this winter to prevent growth of popular feeling against Army methods and manners. In the war 1914-1918 such billeting was on a comparatively small scale; moreover the Army's prestige was high. The situation is very different today: no one doubts that the troops are as courageous as the Navy and Air Force, but no one yet can point to any clear proof of it. (As an ex- serviceman put it to me in the small hours "They had to stand in a queue on Dunkirk beach; there was nothing else to do").

It seems to be forgotten by the Army that most of the population have relations in the forces; a Chaplain preaching recently gave graceful and grateful thanks to the village for its reception of the troops, but included no reference to the men sent from the village. This seems to me symptomatic. A large house is used as regimental headquarters: the officers there do not seem to realise that Mrs.----- is the widow of an officer; that her daughter(actually the owner of the house) is married to an officer; that one son is in the Army, the other in the Navy.

Have I any proof of this? I find it in the general attitude of the officers. They have not hesitated to move furniture here or there as they like (after the owner had stored it away); they depart for a night or two, leaving their belongings in their

rooms, but do not pay for the nights when they are away. They take prior use of her telephone, and even attempted to move it and its extension, out of the rooms still occupied by the lady. In another house (and probably in this one too) they leave lights and electric fires burning all night- for which apparently the owner has to pay. They do not hesitate to take a gun for a shoot (however improvised) over land without asking any sort of permission. I know of a case where an officer arranged for his wife to stay in the house where he was billeted; the owner happened to overhear the senior officer saying that the lady would have to sleep in the ante-room and that she would be Mr X's guest. This was the only notification Mr X, received of the arrangement!

The impression these officers give is that they take no interest in their men. Democratisation? I know of a case where an officer (in private life a manufacturer of cotton goods) having invited himself to tea in a house, withdrew the invitation when he learnt that he would have to meet two cadets (recently from Sandhurst) attached to the Unit and uniformed as private soldiers. Civilians wonder whether the rule of "one officer one batman" is sound. They know that the batman do not parade- and have difficulty in filling up their time. Even their employment as housemaids in the houses where the officers are billeted has its disadvantages; a house normally run by two or three servants does not need seven servants, few of whom have any training as domestics. Nor does it seem reasonable that each batman should get up at a special hour to awaken " his "officer.

The state of the kitchens is a matter of horrified comment- and sometimes the men sleep in the kitchens. Through the batmen the villages learn a good deal about the officers (If you are asked to advise on the removal of wine stains from a tunic, you form an opinion, perhaps erroneous, of the tunic's owner).

Billeting is conducted in a most casual way: a subaltern single -handed undertakes a task regarded in civil life as one demanding the

utmost tact. He presents no sort of written authority; the number of men sent to a billet often does not correspond with what the householder has been led to expect. The civil semi-voluntary organisations for over a year have been organising the billeting of evacuees. Both their plans and their experience are ignored; the former may be in accord with higher policy, but the latter results in houses being left out which could well take men, and others(e.g. a tuberculosis ward or a flea –ridden outhouse) being occupied which are quite unsuitable. As a billeting officer put it to my wife;" The Army doesn't cooperate, it hasn't time for that". Sometimes there is talk of "requisitioning" part of a house (or part of an estate); people are asked to sign a statement that they agree to the requisitioning of ----- and the details are left blank. Few, I imagine, sign this blank cheque: that they are asked to do so makes a very bad impression. In one instance a clerk from an Estate Agency presented, to the wife of the house-owner, a form in blank and a fountain pen and told her that if she did not sign, the whole house would probably be requisitioned, and its occupants turned out. She refused, and kept the form for her husband to see; it was subsequently found to relate to another house. Meanwhile the clerk was trying to persuade one of the seven batmen billeted in a bungalow on the estate to sign his agreement to the requisitioning of unspecified things or places. It is freely alleged that there is much waste of food, though I had no direct evidence of this. It is said mostly to be due to bad preparation of food.

The officers however are very particular: they will not eat small sized eggs, for example. On the other hand they object (whatever their expenditure upon liquid refreshment) to any increase in the cost of their messing. Recently my wife was a guest at an officers' mess, in a private house, just at the conclusion of a fork supper, and saw the surplus meat pies given to the dogs; she did not stay to see how the surplus lobsters were disposed of.

Waste of petrol is a more general subject of comment. For example twelve gallons of petrol used by a Squadron to clean its armoured cars before an Inspection(the cars were shortly afterwards replaced by tanks). An officer does not walk the mile from his billet to his mess for breakfast: a driver brings a truck. He does not even wait for the officer who shares the billet and is often five minutes later in getting up – the truck goes down and back. Petrol burns unceasingly in the kitchens.

The chief subject of comment is lights at night. Lorries drive with side lights brighter than the head lights permitted to civilians; their Squadron offices show lights that would involve civilians in colossal fines; and once a village has had a few bombs dropped on it its inhabitants are not just resentful of the unfairness that they are fined for what seems no offence on the part of a soldier.; a corporal orders a woman to extinguish her bicycle lamp although it is screened in accordance with civil regulations.

These are only small points; they could of course be multiplied; and they are the result of the occupation of a village for less than a month, but are surely symptomatic. The successors of the present troops will receive a very different welcome from their predecessors. Are there any remedies to the problems? As regarding billeting, this surely ought to be undertaken jointly with an organisation such as the WVS enforced where necessary by the police; and should there not be some Court of Appeal as with billeting evacuees? Control of Lights? Here surely the same rules should apply to the army as to civilians. Food and Waste: is it impossible to have some female supervision in the kitchens? Batmen: when troops are in billets cannot one man valet at least two officers?.

This is in no sense an attack on the Army. In this war, as in the last, the Army is largely composed of civilians; and it is being brought into even closer contact than in 1914 -18 with those that remain civilians. The Army's " public relations" work needs to be directed not only to satisfying those who have relatives in the Army but also to satisfying the general public that the Army is a reasonably conducted State service , not a State Master.

To complete the information recalled by my mother in law, here is the time line of the military presence in Rudgwick throughout the war;
" In the early part of the summer of 1939 three search lights and their crews arrived. One was stationed at Hoopwick Farm, one opposite the Haven Post Office and one at Baynards near the Fullers Earth work's (the site of the Cranleigh Brickworks until its closure) There were no more arrivals during the time of the "Phoney War" until the summer of 1940 when the Royal Horse Artillery arrived after the Dunkirk evacuation. They stayed about two months making up their numbers. When they left, Rudgwick then hosted the Northhamptonshire Yeomanry for a short while. The County of London Yeomanry came to

a camp site on the Lynwick Estate for about eight months; when they left in the summer of 1941 they went to Salisbury Plain on route to the Middle East. The next group to arrive were a small party of Ordnance Corps. By the end of 1941 a large camp had been built at Watts Corner, on land that became the estates of Princess Margaret, Queen Elizabeth, Bates Way etc. The headquarters were situated in Gaskyns House (now Penthorpe)

The first Canadian troops arrived at Christmas of that year, they were a medical and dental corps. Ellens House was used as a hospital and Honeywood House for the dental corps. A large party of Canadian Artillery soon occupied the Watts Corner Camp. These troops were going to and fro to the coast in preparation for the Invasion of Europe.

As the war came to an end the Camp was filled with Prisoners of War who stayed there until there were repatriated.

There was a short time in 1944 when American troops were based on the Lynwick Estate flying light reconnaissance aircraft."

Bucks Green Camp 1945-1948

The empty Army Camp, also known as Gaskyns camp, was still in existence in 1948. It was situated where Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret houses now stand. Some entries in the Parish Magazines for 1945 and 1948, written by Rev. Wynn give us an idea of the last days of the camp and the housing shortages of the post war years.

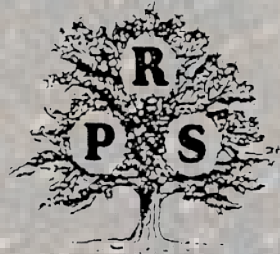
"Prisoners of War; For four months we have had relays of prisoners of war in the Bucks Green Camp and in the neighbouring camps. In many ways we have come in contact with them. At first men came here straight from Germany and just stayed for 24 hours to refit and shake down before they went home on six weeks leave. Volunteers from Rudgwick used to help in sewing badges and mending, and various odds and ends, so that they might leave in good order. Then they returned in batches for a three week period of rehabilitation. During these periods the Vicar acted as assistant chaplain at Stroud Park Camp (*on the A281 opposite Rapkyns*) and took Padre's hours on Tuesdays. Early in September the Bucks Green Camp gave a party for the Rudgwick people. There were sports on Gaskyns cricket ground and a free tea with lots of all sorts of good things to eat. The Royal Artillery Band attended and altogether it was a very delightful afternoon. The day's festivities were wound up

with a dinner at Gaskyns, which was attended by the Brigadier and the Colonel and about fifty officers and guests. The dinner was served in the old billiard room with the band playing in the next room. Our sympathy and good wishes go out to all the prisoners of war who have come and gone during these last months. Many of the staff who looked after them have become our friends. Now they have dispersed far and wide, and we hope that all who have come to Rudgwick will have pleasant memories of our village and villagers. We understand that there are Canadians coming, and we must try and give them a good welcome. They will soon be going to their own homes across the sea. Probably their last memory of England will be of its green and pleasant land here."

"The Nissen Huts have gradually been filled up with people who were in desperate need of a home. There are now forty six families who, for want of better accommodation, use the huts. There is certainly shelter from the rain and a stove for warmth and cooking, electric light is being laid on, and there is some rudimentary form of sanitation, but many of them are crowded together, and dogs and cats and children play all over the place. The Vicar is anxious that something should be done to help the social life of the camp, so he has applied to Horsham Rural District Council, that he should rent a hut, and he has been promised chairs and tables. It is also suggested that the Youth Club might to share a hut ".

" The Vicar has obtained possession of Hut 21, and he hopes soon to get it in some sort of working order, and he would be grateful for volunteers to help. He is getting particulars about a plastic flooring which can be put down by unskilled labour. Once the floor is satisfactorily laid, then the chairs and tables and the piano can be installed. He has also received a promise of a cupboard, which should be most useful, but we shall want things like cutlery and china, especially if the application for a catering licence is granted. However in thinking about food and drink, we must remember that man doth not live by bread alone, and that each one of us is a composite being, both body and soul."

I have some memory of the site in the Fifties when the huts were still present and barbed wire was strung across the road entrance. A lot of the older residents of Rudgwick still used to refer to "The Camp " after it was finally demolished....



Rudgwick Preservation Society

AUTUMN MEETING

Monday November 28th 2011

at 7.30pm Rudgwick Hall, Bucks Green

Christmas Customs and Folklore in Sussex

Susan Djabri

After graduating from Edinburgh University with M.A, (Hons) in English Language and Literature, Sue worked for BBC Scotland as an interviewer on a topical affairs programme and for the Foreign Office as a research assistant and editor, before marrying in 1972 and moving to the Middle East for ten years. Later, while living in Wimbledon, she became editor of the Wimbledon Society newsletter. After moving to Horsham in 1992, she became a volunteer at Horsham Museum, working on the Medwin and Shelley papers, and researching the history of Horsham - the 18th and early 19th centuries in particular. She became organiser of the local history group of Horsham Museum Society and Editor of the local history journal, *Horsham Heritage*, produced jointly by Horsham Museum and Horsham Museum Society. She organised a prize-winning Millennium project on Horsham in the year 2000, for Horsham Museum Society, and has written or edited a number of books or publications for Horsham Museum, Tempus and Amberley Publishing. She now gives talks and presentations on Horsham or Sussex history, for local groups and organisations.

HER TALK TO OUR AUTUMN MEETING WILL BE A FASCINATING

ACCOUNT OF CUSTOMS AND FOLKLORE ASSOCIATED WITH

CHRISTMAS IN SUSSEX.

MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES WILL BE SERVED IN THE INTERVAL