



RPS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2014

Chairman's Report

I think everyone now is aware of the RPS Great War Project launched this Summer in commemoration of the 1st World War. I am pleased to say that it is developing a life of its own, and the momentum created by our presence at village events and in Rudgwick Magazine is bearing fruit as more people feel ready to contribute. Our "show and tell" event at the Book Exchange is on 5th November. Please come along. If you are one of those who have contributed, thank you. If you are still wondering whether to take the plunge, then be reassured the project is both rewarding and secure – we will never publish anything until we have your approval.

The project has several strands. To recap how you can take part: we hope to find 100 stories provided by current residents of Rudgwick, through which we can

cover the wider history of the conflict, its casualties, its survivors, its servicemen and civilians (not forgetting the women of Britain who contributed in all sorts of ways).

Contrary to the common misperception, your forbears did not have to be in any way connected with Rudgwick! Our aim is to bring us together as a community in 2014-2019. We are using the years 1914-1919 because there were post-war casualties, including those who died of so called "Spanish flu". Indeed, some stories will sadly relate how the trauma of war gave lifelong suffering. Another strand is to investigate Rudgwick servicemen who survived. Those who died have already been documented fully by Andy Bailey, whose website is an astonishingly thorough research project. See www.rudgwickremembers.com. Geoff Turberville-Smith has also created a remarkable display in Rudgwick church every November which has special poignancy now we can remember Rudgwick men who died in 1914. Our work will complement these. We are also gathering details of those with a military biography who moved to Rudgwick after the war.

The third strand is already unfolding in the Rudgwick Magazine and in the RPS Newsletter as we publish the results of research in the available surviving records of the parish. Although Rudgwick's role was very much in a minor key, the twists and turns as the war years progressed reveal a village caught up in world events, both by playing its part and by paying a price in disrupted lives and lives lost. It is only right we should gather all this together, as we can no longer ask participants.

The way forward for the Preservation Society

Two changes are afoot. Both were flagged up in discussion at the AGM this year. The committee was listening! Firstly, you may have received this copy of the Newsletter online, and in colour. You are free to print yours if you wish. If you prefer to receive yours on paper in black and white, please let us know. We have done a 50% print run this time, so we have a few copies spare. Some members without email addresses will continue to receive paper copies. If we have not sent you a copy by email it means we do not have your address, so please let us have one. If anyone you know has not received a copy it may be they have not looked at their emails – we know there are a few of you out there! There will be a covering announcement in the December Rudgwick Magazine. In case of difficulty, please phone me on 822581.

The second change is explained in the announcement on this page of a brief SGM at the Autumn Meeting. To add an explanation, the committee has already changed the date of our accounting/subscription year to run from January, and the wording to omit the sum payable simply enables your

Notice of Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting of Rudgwick Preservation Society will be held at the Village Hall, Bucks Green, Rudgwick at 7.30pm on Monday 1st December 2014 (prior to the Autumn meeting).

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Change to the Constitution of Rudgwick Preservation Society

Item 4 – *Change existing wording* "The FEE shall be an annual subscription of £3, or £5 per family (OAP's £2), payable within one month of becoming a member, and thereafter annually on 1st April" to "The FEE shall be an annual subscription determined from time to time by the Committee of the Society payable within one month of becoming a member, and thereafter annually on 1st January."

Under Item 9 of the Constitution, this Special General Meeting may not consider any other matter."

committee to agree any future change without having to ask the membership, which is how most societies function. We have no plans to change subscriptions at the moment!

Please note, however, that we need your subscription to carry on our usual business. Please arrange to pay for 2015 at the meeting, or send yours to the Treasurer (if you do not have a Standing Order). If you do not subscribe, your membership, and emails, including the Newsletter, will cease after a second year of non-payment. We cannot say fairer than that. The sum due is as in the SGM box. David Rigby's contact details are Buttonwood, Church Street, RH12 3EB; tel. 822522; note new email address: davidernrig@gmail.com.

Briefly, to update you on planning:

- The application for houses next to Woodfalls, Loxwood Rd, is now pending. We have opposed it because it is in the wrong place, despite some virtue in the layout. The developer has also quoted inaccurate figures out of context to bolster his case, and we have brought these to HDC's attention.
- A development next to Summerfold has been approved at appeal, despite our objections. The inspector found that the case against was no longer valid with changes to the layout, despite the loss of amenity to neighbours.
- The pig farm is no longer, but the eyesore remains, pending an anticipated second planning application for housing. We wait to see....
- An extraordinary planning saga relating to a property in Highcroft Drive off Church Street continues. RPS supports the owner without reservation.
- We await the decision of the inspector in the appeal relating to traveller pitches in Tismans Common, due very soon, and we await the enquiry on a comparable site in Naldretts Lane, to be held in the New Year. In both cases we hope common sense will prevail.
- The developments at the old brickworks continue as more businesses take up places there, and more of us find the food and drink available very acceptable fare. The planned infilling of the brick pit has permission from WSCC, which was never likely to be refused as it is a condition of the mineral extraction license that such pits must be returned to near their original natural state once extraction ceases, providing environmental issues are addressed, as they have been. See Tim Harrison's letter in this Newsletter (p10). RPS may be asked to provide material for interpretation boards on site, and we also hope to represent you on the forum expected to be set up whilst work is in progress, in order to address issues if and when they arise. We feel that to restore our landscape and put up with extra HGV traffic on Lynwick Street for 4-5 years is preferable either to larger brick lorries using the roads for far longer, with a risk of additional extraction across the Sussex Border Path, or to development of unknown ramifications had the site gone to an outsider only interested in pleasing their accountant and shareholders.

Autumn Meeting

Please support us by joining us for mulled wine and mince pies along with an informative talk on the history of Christ's Hospital School, our neighbour visible from high ground in Rudgwick, since 1902, but a much older and charitable City of London foundation from the reign of the boy king Edward VI. Find out why the Bluecoat School is "a school like no other". We are considering following up former teacher Bill Avenell's talk by arranging a visit to the school next year. The flier for the 1st December meeting is inserted in this Newsletter.

Roger Nash

Planning Matters

Vanessa Sanderson

Green belt

On 6th October the Communities Secretary, Eric Pickles, issued new guidance to Local Authorities saying that thousands of brownfield sites are available and should be prioritised for development. Greenbelt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional cases through the preparation or review of the Local Plan. It also states that housing need – including for traveller sites- does not justify the harm done to the green belt by inappropriate development. The reinforcement of the green belt is vital to protect our green spaces for future generations.

Eric Pickles went on to say 'that this Government has been very clear that when planning for new buildings protecting our precious green belt must be paramount. Local people don't want to lose their countryside to urban sprawl or the vital green lungs around our towns and cities to unnecessary development.

Today's guidance will ensure Councils can meet their housing need by prioritising brownfield sites and fortify the green belt in their area'. This guidance is both welcome and timely and will hopefully prove robust when challenged through the planning system.

The nearer we get to the general election the more we need to focus on what the political parties say about the development and use of our countryside particularly for the production of food. Now more than ever we need to use land wisely and avoid unnecessary loss of our countryside. It is about maintaining a delicate balance between progress and preservation – a cause close to the values of the Rudgwick Preservation Society.

Brownfield first

Clearly as a nation we need to build many more homes and we are reaching a crisis point as house building drops to its lowest level since the 1950s. But what we need are the right homes in the right places. This means protecting our countryside from urban sprawl and making the best use of derelict or redundant land in urban areas where there is also access to better and more appropriate infrastructure.

Planning applications in Rudgwick

As members will know the RPS comments on all planning applications in the Parish and we attend the Parish Council meetings where these are discussed before making our comments to the District Council within the statutory

timescales allowed. We are careful to restrict our comments to legitimate planning grounds for refusal of an application in the hope that planners will pay attention to our views. Recently we have become concerned that in spite of this attention to relevant detail when making our comments in the consultation process they are being ignored and schemes are being given approval which under normal circumstances may/should be refused. Local knowledge about matters such as water supply, drainage, traffic, parking and the Design Statement which has been adopted by HDC as supplementary planning guidance has sometimes been overlooked.

Neighbourhood Planning

In my previous article in spring 2014, I made reference to Neighbourhood Planning (NP) which was introduced by the Localism Act, 2011. The production of a Neighbourhood Plan is normally led by a Parish Council with the involvement of local residents, businesses, voluntary and community groups, faith groups and schools etc.

Neighbourhood planning has two goals and the first is that local people will have more influence over where development can go and how it might look. The second is that neighbourhoods will be more welcoming of development because of a sense of ownership and from financial incentives such as the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Horsham District Council is actively encouraging Neighbourhood Development Plans and has held awareness training for all Parish Councils in the District. They are also actively supporting parishes who want to go down this route. It is apparent from looking at the Horsham District Council Planning website that many Parish Councils have already expressed an interest in developing a plan for their Parish. You can look at this on their website under planning policy and click on the button marked Neighbourhood Plan which will give you more information. Other areas close by, but outside the HDC area, such as Cranleigh and Loxwood are also well advanced in the process of developing their NP.

At a previous Annual Parish Meeting the Parish Council decided that it did not want to proceed an NP at that stage, as it is an optional matter, but RPS feel that a neighbourhood plan for the Parish would be of great advantage to everyone in the village concerned with its controlled development. Developing a Rudgwick Neighbourhood Plan would firstly have the advantage of raising the profile of the Parish and moreover giving the people a voice in what happens in development within our village. Also perhaps, more attention would be paid to relevant local knowledge - about areas that are prone to flooding as one example.

SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2014

As usual Dave Buckley led the first of the Summer Walks, starting from The Fox, Bucks Green, on Tuesday the 6th of May. The evening was dry but overcast and 8 of us walked with him. Following the two contrasting summers of 2012 & 2013 this year was less extreme. The average turnout for the walks was about 15, similar to the two previous years. Remarkably, when Keith Linscott led the very last walk from the Blue Ship on the 5th of August, he had 23 walkers. Also when Roger Nash led from the Mucky Duck on the 15th of July, a beautiful evening, there were 21 of us. We were all delighted to see Roger recovered from his serious accident last year. Without these two walks the average turnout would have been down. We know from past experience that the numbers clearly depend upon the weather, or even the forecast. There were two really wet evenings. Clive & Nicky Bush led 5 of us from the Red Lion at Slinfold, on the 27th of May, our lowest number this year. On 8th of July, despite it having been fine in Rudgwick, there was heavy rain at Warnham where John Connold had 11 walkers turn up. It really was pouring, so after a quick vote, the group split, with 9 of us going into the pub until the rain eased, and the 3 intrepid ladies who set off despite the conditions. The late Stan Smith originally started these walks to be included in the WSCC Summer Walks booklet, which is now sadly only a memory. The walks are great fun, even in wet weather, and a good opportunity to meet other people from our great village, and perhaps learn something new and interesting. You can join the others in one of our pubs afterwards, which is always enjoyable, or just wave goodbye. These walks are completely free and anyone can turn up. But you do need to be able to cope with stiles and a walk of 4 to 5 miles. You also need some suitable footwear. I remember that some years back, a lady arrived in a dress and high heels. To my amazement she completed the walk, but we never saw her again.

You may have noticed that we did not visit Baynards Station this year. The Claytons go to a lot of trouble preparing for our visits and showing us around their home, and answering all sorts of questions. But numbers have dropped even for this walk, with only 13 last year, so after discussion with the RPS committee, I decided to miss it out this summer, in the hope that we may be allowed to visit again with better numbers next year.

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

Rudgwick at School in the First World War - part 1

Roger Nash

Introduction

Rudgwick Schools (*sic*, Boys and Girls) was created from the previous National School, first in the building now the Jubilee Hall, then for a short while in the Old School House, Lynwick Street. "The Lords of the



Charles Woods (Headmaster from 1877 - 1912) with some of his pupils.

Committee of the Privy Council on Education have issued orders this day for the formation of School Boards in the following parishes:- ...Rudgwick, (etc)" (London Gazette, 24 Oct, 1877). A Headmaster, Mr Charles Woods was appointed at the same time – on his retirement, he wrote in the Log Book, 1 March 1912, that he had served 34 years and 5 months. His influence on education in Rudgwick was profound. He was a local man from Petworth, and retired, by then quite a portly man by all accounts, with his wife Zillah to Myrtle Cottage, next to Two Wells in Church Street, and was a stalwart of the parish church.

The new building in Bucks Green was completed by 1880. The land on which the school was built was a far corner

of Lynwick Farm, then owned with Canfields by the Braby family, long time benefactors to education in the village. The school's 140th anniversary is in October 2017. Other Rudgwick children attended The Haven School or Ellens Green School if they lived nearer. Rowhook had closed well before 1914.

Walter Watton's Headship

1912 – 1914. In 1912, the Managers interviewed for a new Head, with Rev Arthur Young in the chair, and fellow managers Messrs John Hunter-Jones (Hyes), William Churchman (valuer, Alexandra Villas), Edwin Stanford (farmer, Exfold), and Claude Barker



Walter Lee Watton

(Gaskyns). Mr Watton, Lurgashall, and Mr Woodman, Rackham, were interviewed. Mr Walter Lee Watton was chosen unanimously, to begin 12 April. He had previously been Headmaster at Lurgashall School, W Sussex. He was a Londoner, aged 31, and recently married to Ada Knowles, with a baby boy, also Walter. He took on a school with 134 pupils. The classes were known as Standards in those days. Roman numerals were used to number them. Thus, the 28

Infants were taught by Miss Ethel Booker; St I (15) was taught by Mabel Tate; St II and III (39) by Mr H F Graeber and St IV to 7 (52) by Mr Watton. The leaving age at the time was 12. Six in St 7 were aged 12-13. A typical year group was 15-20 in number. Miss Booker was new to the staff in 1912, having come from a school in Redhill. Subsequent school booklets use the name Graby or even Braby for Mr Graeber, but no evidence of who he was has emerged!



School Photo 1910. Miss Mabel Tate is on the right

Mabel Tate, described as a Supplementary, was aged 26, in 1912, daughter of William Tate, shoemaker, Clark's Cottage, Church St. Her younger

sister Kate had been a rural pupil teacher (RPT) at the time of the 1911 census. Tate's Way (where the modern school is situated) was named for their brother, Charley. He served in the Great War, in Palestine. All the Tate brothers served in the Great War and came home. Charley worked for his brother Harold, the builder, and then became a professional bass singer. He in course became bass vicar choral at St Paul's Cathedral, and sang at three coronations.

The hierarchy in teacher status around the wartime years was, from the bottom up, monitress, RPT, Supplementary (all uncertified) and assistant teacher (certified). The latter survived into recent times. The first two levels were more or less straight out of school. A monitress could be an ex-pupil as young as 13, and an RPT only a few years older! The years covered by this article were notoriously difficult to staff, not only because ours was a small rural school (actually there is evidence of young girls commuting by train), but also of course as the wartime shortage of "man"power took not only potential men from the profession but also enabled women to pick and choose where to work, to Rudgwick's detriment. Teachers would be able to claim exemption from military conscription later in the war, but many volunteered in 1914/15. However, by then there was a pool of better educated young people from which to draw on to enter the still young profession. The author's mother came into teaching in 1924 as an RPT, having been at school herself during the war. She was 14 when she started her initial 3 years at Loxwood School as a monitress, where she had been a pupil, then a year at the RPT section of the new Horsham High School. A testimonial says she could teach up to Standard V, but she actually taught infants "babies", first at Denne Road in 1924 on a salary of £93, then at Clarence Road School, Horsham.

Fortunately, before the privations of war, in the summer of 1913, Rudgwick School had something of a makeover by WSCC. The builders were Reeves and Port of Cox Green:

- New pump and water tank – the water had to be tested as it was unsatisfactory.
- New "offices" (earth closet toilets and wash basins) for Infants, and the fence put back to add to the playground – Mr Boxall to provide a supply of fine dry earth and empty 3 times a week (Mrs Boxall was school cleaner). However, teething troubles led to unbearable smells from the cesspit in warm April weather in 1914.
- A new lobby complete with drying stove.
- Removal of a gallery (in Infants room) – noted it will reduce storage for coal (presumably formerly in the space below).
- Asphalt for the playground; extra step and new door to the boys playground.

- Ventilators in the windows, and frosted glass in the main classroom ("a great comfort")
- To build a shed big enough for carpentry lessons (completed 1914).
- To paint the school inside and out (also completed 1914).

It fell to the Head, who had no other clerical or janitorial help, to order all supplies for cleaning the school. These included Duzmo, for collecting dust, Jeye's Fluid and Lawe's Fluid, disinfectants, carbolic powder for soap. In June 1914, getting ready for the winter, he ordered 6 tons of coal, 75 faggot bundles and 25 (wood)chip bundles from Mr Francis, the coal merchant. For more educational purposes, he ordered, mostly from ESA, a galvanised wheelbarrow, 18 packing mats, brown paper, Plasticene and a new cupboard. The education year began in June, so he had the funds to order at this time.

After the Woods era, in which most of the staff had been long serving members of his family – his wife and two daughters – the Watton era saw staff turnover which considerably disrupted teaching. Mr Graeber was first to go, replaced by Miss Hilda Lerwill in Summer 1912, and in Summer 1913, Miss Booker left to go to Horsham, replaced in the Infants room by Miss Lilian Terry, an RPT poached from Mr Watton's old school at Lurgashall. Miss Lerwill was a newly qualified certificated teacher trained at a small establishment in Salisbury, but as will be seen, no asset to the school.

What were the children taught? The "older scholars", as opposed to Infants, had lessons in English, including Oxford readers & Palmerston readers; Arithmetic; Geography; History; Nature Study; Gardening & Woodwork, boys only; Needlework & Cookery (latter at Slinfold), girls only; Singing; Physical Training; Drawing; and Moral Instruction. The Infants had English, including Handwork & Reading; Number; Object Lessons; Occupations, e.g., modelling and games (all correlated with other subjects); Singing & Recitation; Drawing; Physical Exercise; History; Geography; Moral Instruction; and Needlework.

How well were they taught? By November 1914, Mr Watton wrote, wearily, about his serious concerns for standards in Arithmetic, the state of exercise books & spelling. "The children in St III came to St IV in an unfit condition. One or two require strict discipline. Sts I and II are left to their teacher more than I would wish, to make St IV into a fair St V. Exercise books are not marked; there are few corrections. I have spoken seriously to the teachers" [aimed mainly at Miss Lerwill]. Nevertheless, the results of the "Labour Examination" allowed Jack Buss and Alice Fuller, both farm children to leave. The exam allowed a pupil to leave for work before the official leaving age of 12.

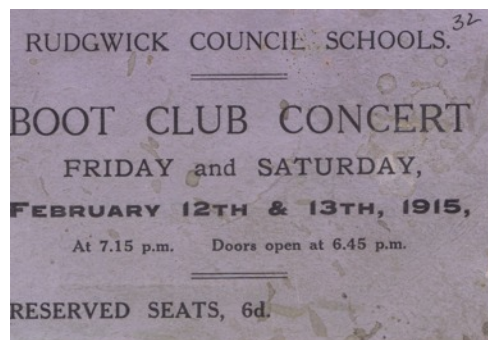
The log book does not refer to the outbreak of war, as of course the school was enjoying the summer "harvest holidays" from 31st July 1914 (and as has been described in Rudgwick Magazine, the Sunday School trip to Bognor was on the very day war was declared). The Head did, however, receive a letter about military service in the holidays. On 21st September, he wrote that the Attendance officer, Mr Card, had volunteered for active service. On 21st October, he received a circular from the Council about why we went to war. The year, nevertheless, ended on a sweeter note: at the end of term concert Eleanor Jeffery's recitation of 'The Day' was particularly good, and children were sent home with sweets and an orange from the staff.

1915 – 1916. Numbers peaked at 150 (building capacity 144) in 1915. In January, the Managers were not satisfied with teaching of St I & II. "They will be glad to have the opinion of HMI". The Head was not satisfied with attendance either. He instituted prizes for perfect attendance, and was justified because the weather for much of the war was appalling, not just in the trenches but also in Rudgwick. 22nd Jan (snow): "Attendance this week the worst I have known, 65.8%". Even the summer of 1915 was extremely wet, 27th July: "only 62 Seniors & 17 Infants arrived, sent some home, too wet, just 66 registered". Spring term 1916 was particularly struck by poor weather, and more snow in February, with the term overall poor for attendance. One November day 1916, "the temperature in the Big Room is 35°, in the Small Room 33° and in the Infants Room 35°. Too cold to teach!"

Health was also taking its toll. There were cases of ringworm, in early 1915, a flu epidemic which affected staff, including the Head, as much as pupils. The nurse on her regular visits was complaining of dirty heads, including lice. The dentist came at least annually, and was wont to remove teeth from quite young children, on one visit from 12. Keeping the school clean had become something of an obsession. In July 1916, the Head was forced to write to one parent, a carter at Greathouse about his six "dirty and untidy children". In October 1916 two children from different families were sent home by the nurse with dirty undergarments. Attendance ran in families with one at Exfold causing such concern that word was sent to The Haven School to see if they had registered there. Eventually the oldest boy returned on 3rd Jul 1916 "after many weeks absence". Unsurprisingly he failed his Labour Exam. The impression is gained that a small number of farm labourer's families were living in some disarray. Christmas could not come sooner. "The concert was a huge success!"

A Boot Club concert and prize giving was reported in the County Times in February 1915 with nine pupils name-checked, no less than three of whom would

subsequently return as monitresses: Marjory Wycherley, Eleanor Jeffery and Bessie Marden. The Infants' singing of Chinese songs and nursery rhymes – trained by Miss Terry – was singled out. Eight pupils were given their prizes for perfect attendance, including another future monitress: Olive Reeves. The concert also raised money for unspecified war funds. A ticket for this concert survived under the floor at Godleys, rediscovered in 1957! The Boot Club took subscriptions from its members and supplemented its funds with concerts, providing footwear from a shop in Horsham.



That HMI inspection also came in February 1915. "The Headmaster is active and energetic. Staff look good on paper but not well adapted

to the case. The certified assistant comes from College and has had to teach two Standards. Needs time to improve. The Supplementary teacher has little power to employ the children. has difficulty retaining their attention. The Infants are more than she can cope with. Handwriting, gardening and drawing are good. Reading, spelling, composition are weak. Children are not bright in sums. Many backward children in St II. Good record keeping." Today, that would warrant Special Measures, and repeat visits from OFSTED. The good thing is that both managers and Head had flagged it up, and that would have counted in their favour today. Co-incidentally, Mabel Tate resigned in April on her marriage to shopkeeper George Marden, but the managers' minutes show that if she hadn't she would have been given notice. Miss Lerwill also left under a cloud in July. Again, however the labour exam in May 1915 saw success for Elsie Budden, Margaret Smith and Herbert Mayers.

The managers also had financial concerns, so in an otherwise inexplicable move, decided to replace Miss Lerwill with an uncertified teacher, a move which got them into deep trouble. Miss Janet Comper was appointed after a couple of supply staff got the school through the rest of term. Janet started off as she intended to go on – not turning up, ill, on day 1 in September. She travelled in from Pulborough by train and bicycle. By October she had to be reprimanded for arriving late three times in one week. In November she resigned to work in Durrington, and was not replaced. Meanwhile Olive Downs replaced Mrs Marden. She was a better member of the team, but could not cope when asked to take on Miss Comper's needlework classes. In December 1915, Mabel

Marden was asked back to teach needlework for the princely sum of £10 pa. Olive was though something of a home bird, her parents keeping her home one snowy Monday in Singleton. Then in Summer 1916 she also left, to go to a post in Bognor, nearer home. She was replaced by Miss Althea Stoner. Miss Terry also had problems at weekends but at least she stuck it out in Rudgwick for longer. Her story becomes interesting now, as she had a fiancé in her home town of Newhaven where she visited him on leave more than once before he went on active service November 1916.

In early 1916, a year on from that inspection: January – “Of course, things cannot go on as in normal times, but nevertheless I hope to improve St III & IV, and they badly need it!” February - “I find it impossible to keep all the school subjects up to the standard in St III to VII single handed, but I am giving special attention to the 3Rs. I am greatly handicapped by the fact that St V came up from IV in a very backward state while the present St III & IV are far from satisfactory.” The poor man was teaching 71 children in 5 year groups spanning the ages up to 13. For a while in 1915, he had had a little help from his former pupil Eleanor Jeffery, now a monitress. The managers tempted her in vain to stay with a higher salary! Incidentally, she was the daughter of the blacksmith at the Lynwick Estate. She was replaced by the equally young Marjory Wycherley, who was soon promoted to RPT, and later is found helping with the older classes. Another monitress was appointed before Christmas, Eva Illsley, whose family had just taken on Canfields Farm, and she too was soon fully recognised as RPT. It was not until March 1916 that staffing came up to strength again, when an older married lady was appointed, a sign of the times! Mrs Edith Heasman, nee Scriven, had taught in Surbiton. In April the managers thought they might lose Mr Watton to conscription. He went through the medical but got his exemption just in time, “in view of the circumstances of the school”. HMI visited again in September 1916 and remarked on the good tone of the school, but “intelligent reasoning to be cultivated in the middle division”. Any other comments are withheld from the log book.

The war was making itself felt little by little. There was relaxation in the rules allowing pupils to leave for agricultural and other work. “Albert Barnett left for farm work.” (March 1916) William Cheesmore and Nellie Gent left school (May 1915). There was talk of contributions to the Red Cross Red Rose Fund to which pupils could contribute 1d a week and get a red rose badge. The Head spoke to the children about War Savings (the first National Savings). Compositions were written on the role of the navy for a Navy League competition. On 18th Nov 1915, a circular arrived about fuel economy (oil for the lamps as well as coal). From 22nd Nov 1915 until the Spring, the afternoon session was shortened to 1.00 –

3.15pm by knocking off 5 minutes from each lesson. This was repeated each Autumn of the war. In the summer, school was ordered to stay open until 3rd August. That followed the cancellation of the Whit Monday holiday (when few attended despite the order) for greater productivity. On 15th November 1916 the staff became entitled to a War Bonus. However, although the Chrysanthemum Shows had ceased during the war, there was a closure for Lady Oram’s annual jumble sale, presumably for a war charity, in 1916 (and again in 1917).

There was still a place for other events, such as Trafalgar Day (21st Oct), Empire Day (24th May, always addressed by the vicar and the doctor), the centenary of Waterloo (18th June 1915) – “made a good deal of it”, and the tercentenary of William Shakespeare’s birthday (3rd May 1916), each of which was celebrated in style with the flag raised, and children sent home early. The flag pole was worn out by 1917 so had to be replaced! There were Boot Club concerts every year. There was early closure for a visit of the National Mission to the village. In the summer of 1916, Rev Arthur Young left the parish. The chair of the managers went to his successor, Rev William Chambers. Although Rudgwick was never a “church school”, successive vicars had taken a strong interest since the early days of education in the 19th century.

1917. The big change in 1917 was that Mr Watton decided to move on in the Summer, after 7 years, to be Head of All Saints School, Roffey. The catalogue of woes which seemed to beset him in Rudgwick continued into the New Year, with Mrs Heasman in hospital and off work for 3 weeks in January. Snow reduced attendance in early February (attendance 63% on the 9th), and in early April, when just 68 children attended on 2nd. The school roll was reducing slightly, 137 on 1st June 1917. Mr Watton had fewer to teach in 1916 and 1917: 44 the year before, now 40. Two “mentally defective” children were taught with the older children by Mrs Heasman to reduce numbers in Miss Stoner’s St I & II. With Mrs Heasman, Miss Stoner, and Miss Terry in post the school had been up its correct staffing level since September 1916. But it was not to last. Mrs Heasman decided to go in July, and Miss Stoner followed her in October, at the same time as the Head.

The war intruded as usual. A poster was provided by County about National Service. Mr Watton, always the keen gardener, encouraging the boys, took on one of the allotments in the village (where The Marts is now) to contribute to boosting food production. With 20 sq rods, the first crop planted in March was potatoes. These became a problem as he felt obliged to harvest them himself in the holidays (when he was leaving) because of blight. The school was also collecting waste paper, and the sum of 6d

was spent on string to package it up to send to the mills. The managers discussed War Savings, but no conclusion was noted.

Interviews for a new Headmaster took place in the harvest holiday. Mr Alfred Douglas Bacon was appointed on a salary of £120, but was not to take over until 5th November. The handover was clouded by the funeral of Mr Watton's mother just days before, which necessitated closing the school for want of a responsible teacher to run it. Walter Watton's last message on 12th October read, "I feel very keenly having to leave the children of this school as I have got on splendidly with them. I am sorry to say that owing to so many changes of staff during the war, the children are not as forward as they ought to be. The fact of having been without a teacher for St III and IV since the holidays has made it impossible for me to leave classes in as good condition as I had wished."

Memories in the village of this time are inevitably at this distance in time in short supply. However, in the 125th Anniversary booklet for the school in 2005, our own Malcolm Francis, who readers know so well from his articles in the newsletter, provided some interesting memories of his father Frederick Francis who was at the school from about 1910 to 1918. His description of Mr Watton was of a "fiery little man" – he was 5ft 3½ ins with fair hair and blue eyes according to his RAF records, below) – and very strict, commanding absolute silence in class, with 3 sizes of cane, which he used with some force, especially once on the local policeman's son. He was an excellent head, knocking the school into shape after Mr Woods had apparently let it go at the end of his long career. Frederick remembers the new tarmac playground as much safer than the old gravel one. Walter Watton introduced the children to science, including even the principles of space flight. The late Norman Hedger who lived to over 100, was another pupil with memories of the conditions getting to school from Hermongers Lane, that have been described above, leading to the family moving nearer in Church St. He was too shy to meet Mr Watton's stern gaze, so Norman had his chin pushed up, "He frightened the life out of me with his piercing blue eyes". He remembers the Christian ethos of a morning prayer and grace before lunch – a sandwich and cold tea, the children brought with them, supplemented by hot cocoa, which Norman could not wait to drink, as the outstanding benefit of the war! Further reminiscences of the school when Norman was one of the older pupils will be in the next part of this story.

Whilst writing this, a stroke of luck browsing the internet led me to Philip Lee Watton, who is a great grandson of Walter Lee Watton. Philip has kindly agreed that the Preservation Society archive can have copies of several images of and relating to our

former school Head. Although none of these relate directly to Rudgwick, we learn a lot about the man and his life story. Quite unexpectedly, we learn he had enlisted in the 2nd VB, Royal Sussex Regiment,

Signalling Section, (in the days of semaphore and flashing lights) before he was a teacher. In 1904-5 two photos show the young L/Cpl Watton in very smart uniformed groups. Certainly before 1911, he had moved back into civilian life at Lurgashall.

At All Saint's, Crawley Road, Roffey, he must only have stayed until the following Summer, living at 48, Kings Road, before re-enlisting (despite the exemption from conscription he had had in Rudgwick) "for the duration of the war" in the fledgling Royal Air Force, at the age of 39, on 4th September 1918. RAF records show he was soon sent on 29th to France and on to the former RNAS training camp near Vendôme in central France. After the armistice, in early December he was posted to the No 1 Aircraft Depot at Guines in the north. He was not "deemed discharged" until April 1920. It is possible he was back teaching before then,

having seen no active service.

He stayed at Roffey for the remainder of his career, retiring in 1944. A newspaper cutting from that year described his time in Horsham where he was the first superintendant of the Horsham Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade in 1926-9, a Special Constable for 26 years, a singer with the Sussex Choral Association, attended St Mark's church, where he was one of those involved in its reopening. He and Ada retired to Worthing. After her death in 1961, Walter moved to Birmingham, near his son. He died in 1967, aged 86.

Next time

The first years of Alfred Bacon's Headship



Peter and Anneke Adorian

An appreciation

Simon, Mark and Antony Adorian



Peter Adorian was born on 28 November 1933, the oldest of 3. The family moved to the Mill House, Gibbons Mill Farm in the Haven in 1952. He went to school in Sunningdale and then to Eton and in 1953 he went to Queens College, Cambridge to study agriculture.

In 1956 a group of Oxford students beat the record for walking between Oxford and Cambridge. The same

week Peter resolved to wrest the record back to Cambridge with a friend. There was no training- they beat the record by 64 minutes, walking the 82 miles in 21 hours 24 minutes.

Anneke Adorian was born in January 1938 in The Hague, the first of 4 children in the van Roosendaal family. Her first memories were against the backdrop of the German occupation of Holland. The family home was sometimes used as a hiding place for Jewish families or men avoiding conscription into the German army.

Anneke slept in the same cellar alongside other local families during night-time Allied bombing raids. In February 1945, houses in their street were requisitioned by the Germans and householders given 2 hours to leave. The family loaded whatever they could onto a cart which her father hauled for 10 miles before they were put on a train to the north of Holland where they were lodged for the rest of the war.

In the summer of 1956, with a year of High School to go, Anneke was sent to spend a few weeks in England. On 25th July 1956 she attended a party. Peter Adorian was **not** invited but turned up due to a breakdown of his vintage 1922 Berliet car. It was love at first sight. Four weeks later Peter proposed to Anneke. When Anneke returned to Holland to break the news of her engagement, her father was less than impressed and told her to forget it.

From 1956 to 1958, Peter carried out his National Service as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 5th regiment of the Royal Horse Artillery, and was responsible for training drivers. It was here that he developed his knowledge and love of engineering. During this time love prevailed and in September 1958 Anneke and Peter were married. They moved into a wreck of a cottage at Gibbons Mill Farm which became the family home and had 3 sons: Simon, Mark and Antony. Her life from then was characterised by her total commitment, unswerving loyalty and devotion to her marriage, family, household and the farm. They were the strongest of partnerships: side by side they tackled every challenge and enjoyed every adventure with energy, resourcefulness and generosity. They made a formidable team and their love was an inspiration to many.

At Gibbons Mill in 1958, Peter started his farming career with 6 cows, some pigs in the woods, a chicken unit in the mill and a few sheep. Never one to shy away from hard work, he put in all the hours possible to develop his business. His prevailing tenet was "to keep it simple"

He loved challenges: when much of the country was in darkness during the power cuts of the 1970s, Peter Adorian revived the water turbine in Gibbons Mill to generate his own hydroelectricity! His expertise in drainage even led to him to redrain the football pitch at Wembley Stadium in the 1970s. In 1973 a further challenge of grit and tenacity came in the form of The London Inflatable Marathon. Teams of two had to navigate, carry and drag inflatable dinghies over 40 miles of London rivers and canals, a gruelling endurance course containing numerous tall locks. The first ten teams to complete were all in the Armed Forces, except that is for the team that came fifth. It was from Rudgwick and consisted of two men in their forties – Peter and his good friend Brian Pilcher.

He had a lifelong passion for vintage motorbikes. His true motorbike love was the Martinsyde marque. His most legendary trip was in 1972 when he rode his 1922 Martinsyde to an airbase in Finland.

Having been a specialised dairy unit through the 1970s, change came in the 80's with diversification into pedigree sheep. It wasn't long before one of Peter's ewes made it into the Guinness Book of Records for having the most live lambs in one lambing – 7 in total

He started to export breeding rams. One client was close to the Romanian border near the area of Hungary that Peter's family had hailed from. He was keen to visit so he crossed the border and was horrified by the conditions and the oppression that he found in Ceausescu's Romania.

Forward wind two years and the Iron Curtain of Eastern Europe started to unravel. As soon as the uprising began in Romania, Peter sprang into action. He purchased two tonnes of medical supplies and on December 22nd 1989 headed to Timisoara, the city that had been the flashpoint of the Romanian revolution. Groups of vigilantes with either guns or clubs stopped him at various points but he succeeded in making his delivery to the hospital, and so started the defining chapter of his life. For the next 19 years he worked tirelessly to improve the lot of various orphanages and hospitals in Romania.

The doors of Gibbons Mill were open to family, friends, agricultural students, farmers, Romanian lorry drivers, and motor cycle enthusiasts to name but a few. In addition to all of this for a number of years, Anneke offered relief fostering for children from Brighton to have summer holidays on the farm.

Her hospitality was legendary with family and their strong circle of friends. One special group of local friends – known as the Boiled Eggers – would gather on the first Sunday night of every month for over 30 years.

Anneke threw herself into the workings of Gibbons Mill Farm with the same dynamic energy as Peter. Every Spring for 25 years she took on alternating 36 hour long shifts over a 3 week period in the lambing shed.

Her energy and resourcefulness extended beyond the family and the farm and into the local community. For 20 years Anneke organised fundraising events for the Save the Children Fund; she was one of the guarantors who helped to set up the Rudgwick Tennis Club, was a member of the committee that ran it, and a regular player in the tennis team; she helped run the shopping rota to support the residents at Hawkridge; she was one of those who put together annual Harvest Suppers in the Rudgwick Village Hall; she supported Rudgwick church; she delivered parish magazines; she organised school fetes. She just loved her involvement in Rudgwick and its community.

Anneke had many cultural interests: a deep love of music, opera, theatre, and literature, all of which played a big part in her life. She was extremely well read in English literature - no mean feat when you consider that this was her second language. In a real crisis she would be the calm tower of strength. Her ability to think clearly, combined with her strong moral compass, made her the ideal person to turn to when you had a problem or a worry. No subject need be off limits and she would always listen carefully and offer constructive and wise advice. She showed kindness, patience, encouragement and a readiness to counsel and to help. These qualities meant that she made a difference to many people's lives.

She was utterly selfless - always concerned about other people and never about herself, and this quality was never more evident than at the end of her life. In her last weeks she faced her final challenge with calm courage and a constant consideration for the well-being of others in the family. She showed leadership, helping the family to keep strong. Everything she did and said was underpinned by strong values and an unwavering faith.

The day before she died, when every breath was hard work, she said calmly, "People think this is frightening, but, you know, there really is nothing to be frightened of."

Anneke died on February 9th 2013.

The last few years of Peter's life were overshadowed by illness, suffering and pain, and whilst he remained stoical throughout it, after the loss of his wife he was like a ship without a sail.

A full obituary of Peter Adorian would include references to his wide range of interests and passions: his involvement in local amateur dramatic societies both as actor and sound technician; his love of literature and poetry, and his skill as a public speaker; his public service as a Governor at the Weald School, and at Brinsbury College of Agriculture; his involvement in developing the Rudgwick Tennis club and far more recently the Rudgwick Sports & Social Club; his founding role in the Haven Preservation Society; and his annual performance as commentator at the Cranleigh Show.

Peter Adorian was a man of strong principles and character; and in many respects he represented the all-rounder virtues of a bygone age: here was a man who worked the land, understood agriculture and veterinary science; loved animals; was a skilled engineer who could strip down a car or motorbike engine; was well versed in the classics and literature; loved philosophy and religion; and enjoyed travelling.

Peter and Anneke's was a powerful and loving partnership and his part in it was defined by an integrity and a determination to do the right thing and to see the right thing done - no matter what the cost.

Peter died on 5th June 2014

Rudgwick Brickworks

Correspondence

From Tim Harrison, R Harrison & Sons Ltd,
Pallinghurst Farm RH12 1LU

We would firstly like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all members of the Preservation Society who have supported our application to restore the former Rudgwick Brickworks Quarry to Agriculture. I am delighted to inform you that on 7th October full planning permission was granted by West Sussex County Council for the restoration to agriculture of the former clay pit (application: WSCC 38/14/RW). The scheme comprises the re-use of on-site minerals abandoned by Wienerberger, together with the importation of inert soils and topsoil materials. In determining the planning application WSCC concluded that the site met all the qualifying criteria of their Policy W8 (WSCC Minerals and Waste plan 2014) to be considered as a "recovery operation". Right from the start, it has always been our intention to use a single haulier for the restoration work and we are delighted to be able to proceed with our partners in this project, Andrew and Roy Axtell of Axtell Ltd. They are a local, family-run business with whom we have created a great working relationship, having used them extensively within our farming activities and also for the restoration of the buildings at the brickworks. We very much look forward to continuing working with them.

We intend to set up a company for the sole purpose of restoring the quarry for the duration of the project, "Restoration to Agriculture Ltd" RAL is joint venture company co-owned by the Harrison Family and national restoration specialist James Maclean.

As you will know, permission now enables us to proceed with the final part of our plan to restore the old quarry back to agriculture as grazing and silage ground for the dairy cows at Woodsomes Farm. The restoration will allow us to restore the former hillside back to a shape that reflects the landscape prior to the quarrying activities, together with boundary tree planting, and the creation of streams and ditches to improve and manage the site drainage.

We are currently discharging planning conditions with WSCC and are at pre-application stage for a Bespoke Environmental Permit with the Environment Agency. It is anticipated that site operations (enabling works) will commence in early 2015, and that full restoration operations will commence in Spring/Summer 2015.

29 Oct 2014

Rudgwick's Goods Yard

Malcolm Francis

Rudgwick's old railway line was closed in the Beeching railway cuts in 1965. The station, with its little goods yard being visible from the railway bridge, was often photographed to appear on numerous picture postcards. It is very interesting to study the various pictures that give an indication on just how busy the yard was and also the various changes to the station building.



Railway Station and Goods Yard 1905

From these photographs and others that I have seen, I presume that there must have always been draught problems with the station's domestic coal fires; the various chimneys all have extra cowls, to increase draught and one chimney on the single storey section is seen to grow by several feet in height over the years.

The first picture (above) was taken in 1905, with a Horsham bound train just departing. The view towards Lynwick Street was much more open compared to the present day. The signal box was then positioned on the southern side of the track and was not much more than a little shed. The station building had for many years a large growth of ivy that gradually spread over its walls, it would take until 1913 to cover the whole of the end wall. The goods yard was full of wagons, a lot of them being coal wagons as the village would have consumed many tons in a year. Notice the two carts and horses that were waiting patiently whilst goods were being unloaded. The railway wagons had to be emptied within two days of arrival by the recipient, otherwise a charge would be made.

The second picture, taken in the 1920's, shows a few changes to the station. The ivy covering the main building had all been removed, and its walls painted in a light colour. This, according to a friend of mine who has a vast knowledge of railway

history, was when the many railway companies within the United Kingdom were grouped in to four companies. This happened in January 1923 when Southern Railway was formed. A new signal box located at the end of the platform, appeared to be painted in green and cream, the new livery colours of Southern Railway. One of the chimneys on the station had grown a lot. The goods

yard was still very busy and in this photo you can see a little more of the approach road to the station. Note a railway wagon on the right hand side of the picture that was standing on a little extra siding; it was a good way of adding capacity to the little goods yard. There was a small turntable to connect with the main siding. There is one truck actually on the turntable that had SR painted on it which is another clue that the railway line was under new management. The wagons would have been manhandled around the yard, without the aid of a shunting engine; there is a story that one day a wagon

escaped on to the main line and trundled off towards Slinfold.

This photograph (below) shows two members of the railway staff on top of a wagon that appeared to be loaded with some type of large bales. The bales did not appear to be the shape that was produced by agricultural balers of that era, so the cargo will remain a mystery. One forgets that hay and straw bales, using wire to tie them, were produced as far back as the 1900s!

A final observation, note the large oil lamp standard close to the siding, complete with its little ladder. There was no mains electricity supply to the village until the 1930's so oil lamps would have been the only form of illumination for that yard, what a far cry from the lighting that would be have been used today if Mr Beeching had not used his infamous axe on the Horsham to Guildford line.



Railway Station and Goods Yard 1920's

Fill her up...

Malcolm Francis

I have recalled in a previous article how in the 1900's a Mr. George Standing ran a taxi service in Rudgwick. In those days the transport was a horse drawn "fly". A fly is described as a public coach or delivery wagon that was let out for hire. It has been recalled that George Standing and his son met every train that stopped at Rudgwick Station, their business being based at Dale cottage, just at the top of Station Road. In later years naturally motor cars replaced such a transport service but perhaps one could argue that a horse drawn service was much "greener" and probably more reliable.

Traditionally a taxi service always seemed to have been attached to a local garage and filling station. One only has to look through the advertisements in any old parish magazine to see that there was often a taxi service offered at the garages in Rudgwick, along with long forgotten

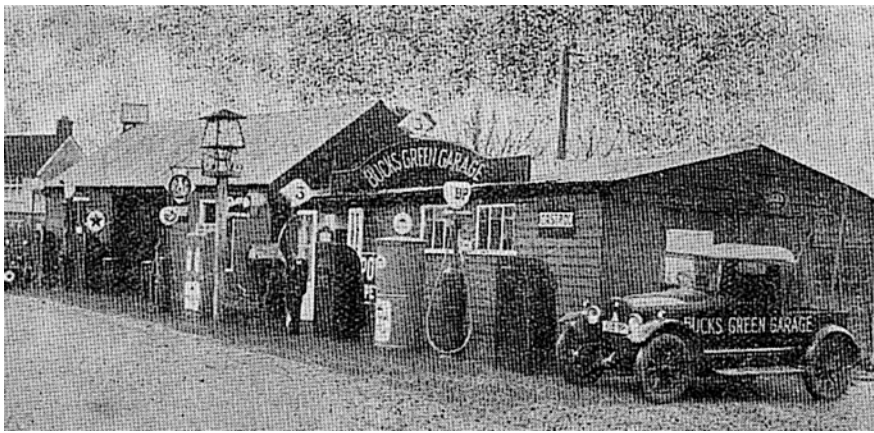
services such as battery charging, etc. I remember that my late mother in law, Mrs. Babs McWilliam, worked during the Second World War at the Cranleigh Motor Company. The garage was linked to aircraft fuel tank production and Babs' duties included driving a large lorry to deliver the finished tanks, as well as driving their taxi when required. As petrol was heavily rationed I understand that a taxi business had an allowance of petrol, more than most people.

In these days of ample fuel supplies I think it is easy to forget just how much petrol rationing affected everybody's lives during the Second World War. The amount of petrol that you could buy was governed by the amount of coupons that you had. These coupons were issued depending on your need for your motor vehicle for work purposes. Each car was allowed between four and ten gallons of Pool (Standard) petrol per month at 1/6d per gallon (8 pence). You were lucky to get much more than 27 miles to the gallon as engines were not very efficient. My father, who worked throughout the war at the Vickers Aircraft factory at Weybridge, pooled his motor cycle petrol coupons with another Rudgwick resident's, Reg Luff, who owned a small car, so that they could travel together to Guildford station to catch a train to Weybridge. The first train from Rudgwick to Guildford in the morning, left at about 6.30 a.m. but it still was not early enough to get them to the factory at Weybridge in time for the 7 a.m. start. The

shifts were twelve hours so it was usually 9pm before they got home. When petrol shortages became even worse and there was not even enough petrol to reach Guildford so my parents had to lodge with friends in Guildford for about six months, until a little more fuel was available.

In the 1960's Rudgwick garage in Bucks Green was owned by a Mr. Field. It was a busy garage and ran an old post war American Ford Lincoln as a taxi for some years. Joe Middleton, whose duties included filling customer's cars with petrol (no self-service in those

days) was also the taxi driver. The Lincoln was a beautiful shade of green with matching green leather. The car was powered by a huge V12 engine and it would never have passed an MOT in later years; it would produce a large trail of oil smoke as it hurried through the village.



Bucks Green Garage 1935

These days such an old classic car is worth a fortune, but I am sure it was scrapped soon after its duties were finished in Rudgwick. In those days there was none of the strict regulations that are now required to carry fare paying passengers. I am sure that a car used as a taxi had to be insured as a taxi, but the only other addition was that the driver often wore an old leather peaked cap.

I expect older Rudgwick residents will remember that for many years the forecourt attendant at that garage was Les Tilley, he gave amazing service to his customers that often included halting the traffic by raising his hand and marching out into the middle of the A281 assisting their departure. I understand that Les was awarded a top prize by the Shell petrol company because of his years of outstanding service at that garage.

On a personal note, I started driving in 1962, my first car was a Ford Anglia. On visits to Rudgwick Garage, or the rather down market Regent garage that was situated where the BMW garage is now, I usually bought two gallons of petrol that cost 10 shillings (50 pence). Some people might remember Marcel Laudet (who had his own small garage business in the village), he always quoted a petrol sales slogan of those years..."Happy Motoring"....at 25 pence a gallon it certainly was....



Rudgwick Preservation Society

AUTUMN MEETING

Monday December 1st 2014

at 7.30pm Rudgwick Hall, Bucks Green



Picture courtesy of Christ's Hospital School

In 1546 the buildings of the former Grey Friars Monastery in Newgate Street were given by Henry VIII to the City of London. Christ's Hospital was founded in London by King Edward VI for the orphan children of poor Londoners and was given the use of the old Grey Friars buildings. It admitted its first 380 children in November 1552 and was given its Royal Charter by Edward VI in 1553, being part of a foundation which included St Thomas's Hospital (for the sick) and Bridewell Hospital (for idle vagabonds).

After the Great Fire of London (1666) in which most of the buildings were burned down, the School moved to Hertfordshire acquiring a permanent site in Hertford in 1682 which it occupied for over 300 years. In 1902 all the boys from both the London and Hertford schools transferred to a new site in Horsham, and the school at Hertford became a girls-only school. In 1985 the Hertford site was closed and the girls transferred to Horsham, once again to form a co-educational school.

The distinctive uniform of Christ's Hospital is one of the Schools most public and enduring features. It is remarkable that in this age of rapidly-changing fashions, the outer long blue coat and distinctive yellow socks of the uniform have remained virtually unchanged for over 460 years.

Our speaker Bill Avenell, will outline the History of the School, how it ended up in Horsham and how it has survived and developed over its almost 500 years of history. Bill was a master at the School for 31 years and was deputy head for 5 years

**MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES WILL BE SERVED IN THE INTERVAL
MEMBERS FREE - NON MEMBERS £2**