

RPS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2007

STAN SMITH

7th May 1912 – 27th October 2006

An appreciation

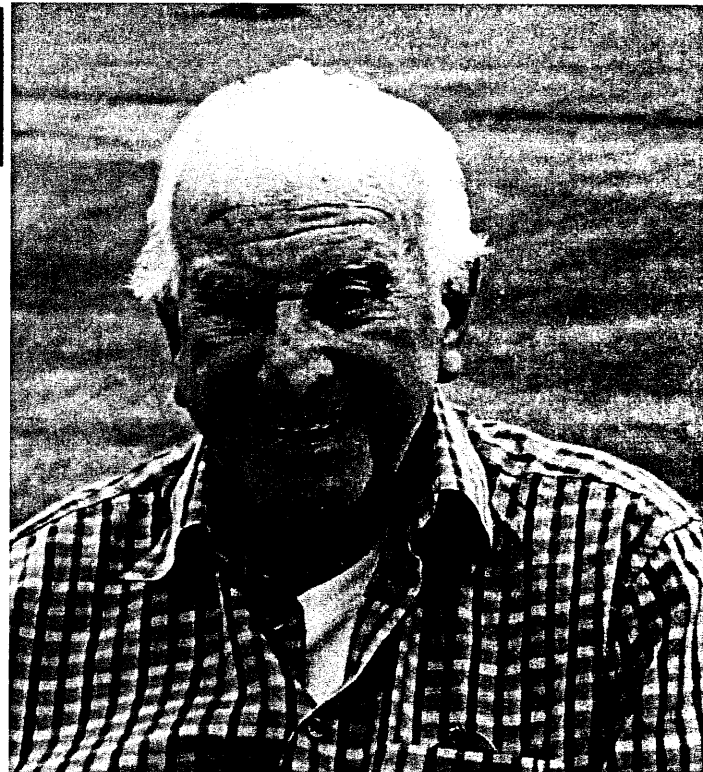
Our President Stan Smith died on 27th October 2006. Here we pay a tribute to the life and work of a man who devoted much of his time over the last 25 years to the work of the Society and to the Village which he loved.

A Eulogy

One of my enduring memories of Stan will be of him ringing the door bell at 10 o'clock at night or later, wearing flip flop shoes with his wicker basket in hand. Sometimes the basket would contain runner beans or something from his garden but often it would contain some report or other which he felt I would be anxious to read before I went to bed. Quite often he would say "Oh while I'm here I thought you might like to know about ... and before I knew it he had let himself in and we were engaged in discussion about some burning issue or the other. Stan seemed to have a different body clock to the rest of us.

Stan was born in 1912 in Primrose Hill in London. It is remarkable when thinking about his very long life that this was just 3 years after Bleriot first flew across the English Channel and was the year that Harriet Quimby became the first woman to do so. It was the year that the Titanic sank, Asquith was Prime Minister and George V was King. Stan lived through remarkable changes in the British way of life.

Stan was born the fourth of five children. He was a bright energetic child who early on developed a healthy disrespect for authority. He did well at School obtaining a Matriculation and a higher Oxford but was prevented from going to University by an unfortunate combination of factors. In 1930 when Stan might have been going to University, Britain was in the grip of a depression. Two of his elder brothers were out of work and his father concluded that he would be better off getting out into the world of work as soon as possible. This was possibly the only serious regret that Stan had in life. He went into local government, working as a financial services manager, and quickly rose through the ranks to become a very well respected Head of Department inspiring enormous respect and affection from his staff.



In 1940 he married Peggy. Their daughter Vanessa and her children Dominic and John were his life. He was a strong family man and adored his daughter and grand children.

He always had a wide circle of friends and was extremely competitive in sport where nothing less than winning would do. He constantly exhorted his grandsons with "coming second is nowhere – its being first that counts" and that was his philosophy. He would have no part of the alternative philosophy of 'it's the taking part that counts'. Apart from playing tennis until his mid 50's he was a very keen and serious bridge player, a passion which he shared with Peggy and which he played competitively for over 75 years only giving up when he did not have sufficient energy to play to win. He became a life member of the Horsham Bridge Club and often entered into protracted discussions and correspondence with fellow bridge players when contracts that were winnable went down. I remember

just a few years ago when he was about 90 he was unable to get to a meeting and said it was his night for "teaching the old ladies to play bridge".

In the 1950's Stan became attracted to the City Temple and through that connection worked voluntarily for many years as a group psychotherapist. Stan's own words on this interesting and fulfilling period of his life are far better expressed in his words than in mine. Stan wrote this when he was ninety.

"In 1950 I was attracted to the City Temple where Dr Leslie Weatherhead drew great congregations - apart from St Martins in the Fields it was the only Church I knew where worshippers queued to get in. In 1958 I became a member of the Church and subsequently a member of the Church Council. I worked with Leslie for 10 years who ran his own psychological clinic.

As a result I was introduced to Dr Roger Treadgold, Head of the Department of Psychological Medicine at University College Hospital and was invited to run sessions in Group Psychotherapy and this I carried out for the next 14 years. In an article in 1962 I wrote the following 'most people tend to avoid the use of the word love but one can say with reasonable certainty that love is the most potent force in psychotherapy. If this is true the second is understanding love thy neighbour as thyself. It is the tragedy of the neurotic that he is often unlovable and is unable to give or receive the thing that he so desperately needs.'

This experience served to reinforce my Christian belief and occasionally I took patients to The City Temple. So you see there are different ways to approach Christian Faith. Although my attendances to Church are now infrequent my religious views are strongly held."

This is an amazing insight into the way Stan was able to bring his strongly held Christian belief into helping others less fortunate than him. This was a happy and productive time for Stan and brought enormous satisfaction. Stan liked nothing better than to debate the religious issues of the day and even recently had entered into a long correspondence with a young close family friend, Abigail, about theology, the nature of belief and the Church.

In the early 1960's he moved the family away from Hampstead where they had 20 very happy and productive years, to live in Mill Hill. He lived there until 1975 and it was during this time that he developed his passion & very strong views about conservation and preservation. He was an active and leading member of the Mill Hill Preservation Society which flourishes to this day and is a force to be reckoned with.

In 1975 on retirement he & Peggy moved to Rudgwick to be near his older brother Will who lived in Wallis Wood and he quickly became actively involved with village life. For the first two years after moving here Stan worked as finance manager for the Coastal Counties Housing Association, fully retiring in 1977. In 1979 his daughter Vanessa moved to Rudgwick. Malcolm Francis recalls an incident which occurred

soon after Stan moved to the village which shows how quickly he had become deeply involved in local conservation and preservation matters. There was a proposal to build 12 large houses at the junction of the Haven Road and the road that leads down to the Blue Ship. There was a cottage on the site which was occupied by an elderly couple who were under pressure to sell. Stan called a meeting in the Jubilee Hall to which a representative from Horsham District Council planning Department was invited to attend. After the District Council Officer had his say Stan got up and in Malcolm's words "tore him to pieces over the next 20 minutes". Clearly he won the day because although the cottage is no longer there, there is only 1 house on the site.

Sometime around 1983 there was a proposal to build an estate of houses on the site of Buckhurst Cottage, which is now the site of Foxholes. I think Stan's view initially was that it should be left as it was; he hated to see older cottages replaced with modern developments. He got together a group of people, me included, to oppose the development of the site and this was the catalyst for the formation of the Rudgwick Preservation Society. He became the first Chairman from 1984 to 1987 and the Preservation Society from then on became his life. He worked tirelessly to preserve what he saw were the precious things about Rudgwick. We are fortunate that he chose Rudgwick as his adopted home but I don't think it would have mattered where in the country he had decided to retire, he would have been just as energetic in trying to preserve the natural and historic environment around him. To him it mattered; it mattered that ancient houses were being destroyed for ever, that buildings that he considered to be our heritage were being altered from their original character, that historic sites were being dug up, that the very character of the village itself was being destroyed by intrusive and over-development, that trees were being lost and that wild life was being destroyed. His view was that this generation are the custodians of all that has gone before us and that we should look after it and cherish it. Although to some this may have come over as unwarranted interference in matters that were not his concern, to Stan this was a deeply held and sincere conviction.

Soon after the Society started, Stan was alerted to the fact that a bulldozer was seen in the grounds of an old cottage in Cox Green – Oak Cottage. Stan contacted Joan Harding of the Domestic Building Research Group who immediately realised it was one of the three smallest medieval hall houses in Surrey. Stan persuaded the owner to hold back on demolishing the cottage and Joan Harding obtained an emergency listing of the building. The cottage was saved. Stan often cited this as one of his most important achievements.

The project of which Stan was most proud and which engaged him for over 8 years was the study of timber framed buildings in Rudgwick which he undertook with Diana Chatwin. This culminated in the book written by Diana and published by the Society. Stan and Diana identified all 97 of the timber framed buildings in the

Parish and Stan set about making contact with the owners and arranging for him and Diana to study each building in detail. Stan always accompanied Diana on these visits and they became good friends. Diana recalls that after the first few visits, which usually involved her having to go into dusty lofts, Stan realised she was emerging covered in dust and cob webs. After that he always brought along a clothes brush so that he could brush her down. Always the perfect gentleman! After the buildings had been surveyed Stan wanted a photographic record of the houses and although a keen photographer himself, persuaded me that I was better than him and that perhaps I could come along with him to take photos. We spent much time re-visiting the houses and taking photos inside and out. I remember that in Two Wells we both got into the roof space to take pictures of the timbers. Stan said "Leslie mind your head that's a Crown Post", but such was his love of these old buildings that I felt that he might have been more concerned about the crown post than my head. This was a fulfilling and productive time for Stan, and he was immensely proud when the book was eventually published.

Stan initiated the walks programme in 1985 when he was Chairman. He led 2 walks in 1985, 3 in 1986 and by 1989 there were 8 walks and these had become part of the West Sussex County Council Walks Programme. Today there are 15 walks each year, now organised by Geoff Ayres and have become a well established part of the Society's programme, attracting people from the village and much further afield.

In 1996 Stan became President of the Society. Although this is a honorary position as you would expect Stan remained closely and actively involved. He rarely missed a committee meeting or a public meeting. He regularly attended outside meetings on our behalf and kept us all up to date with the very complex area of the politics of planning strategies. His enthusiasm for the work of the Society never diminished. Two weeks before he died when he was admitted to Honeywood House, he asked the Matron why the building had never been listed.

Outside of the Society, Stan was a vice president of the cricket club for over 20 years. He loved to watch the cricket and to support his two grandchildren, Dominic and John who are keen and talented players. He didn't travel abroad very much because he was claustrophobic and never flew. But he had a great love of England. Family holidays were always taken in Cornwall & the Lake District which he thought were two of the most beautiful places in England. He often debated which was the most beautiful but I don't think he ever came to a conclusion.

There is a quote from William Wallace which seems to fit the moment. "Every Man dies – not every man really lives". Stan really lived. He lived for the things he really cared about. He had a long, full, productive and enjoyable life. He touched the lives of all those around him and we will miss him. I for one will miss the late night knock on the door, the wicker basket and the flip flops.

Leslie Hawkins

A Stan Smith Archive for Rudgwick

It exists already, of course, but we can add to it *ad infinitum*. A few months before he died, Stan began to hand over to me some of his precious collection of files. I sensed then that I was privileged to see and handle the documents that had fired his and other colleagues in the Preservation Society to persevere with the issues of past years, from the beginnings of the Society in June 1984 through to the HDC Local Development Framework last year.

I quickly learnt what 'filing' meant, and it wasn't always my definition! First, place items in an old envelope, preferably with some significant source that might indicate the contents, then randomly fill envelope with something different, adding one or two things irrelevant to the first ones you placed in it; finally label some of the contents (being sure not to get it fully correct) in bold green biro or felt-tip. Vary the routine so that some envelopes have only one topic and others up to five (not necessarily all labelled). Make sure the envelopes are all of different sizes; add string to one or two to give an air of mystery, and hand over with a flourish and some oral memories of fights and battles won and lost. Oh, and make sure that some items are done in several copies (or even a dozen) to bulk out the files. Don't give him everything, of course, because that spoils the fun.

Tongue firmly in cheek, I know, but that is mostly true, and Vanessa, his daughter, is as capable of joking about it as I am. Stan, bless him, obviously knew where everything was. To him it was the equivalent of the garden shed – it might come in useful one day. So, naturally, after Christmas there were several more boxes to go through with Vanessa. Some of the dross could be binned, but not much. I came away with more than I bargained for, a job well done in clearing out the house, and a problem of storage with which to confront Anne-Marie. With some boxes and files bought with the Treasurer's agreement, I am now able to sort into proper order, label, and store. The first is completed, and I can report there are 123 files and other items at the present time. When I have labelled and boxed it all properly, there will be almost instant access to any topic.

Leslie Hawkins keeps the photograph collection. So that is one less filing nightmare for me. However, far from being a nightmare, most of the material is absolutely fascinating. There are family trees of Rudgwick families; research on ironworks at Dedisham/Furnace Ponds, and Vachery in Cranleigh; a complete set of the Timber-Framed Buildings book's chapters in manuscript (and researches house by house); many old maps, and a copy of Alan Siney's map of the parish in book form; a lot of Alan's work on various projects; a survey of barns on many

properties; reminiscences by various former Rudgwickians; correspondence on the origin of our pubs from King & Barnes; an incomplete set of back issues of our Newsletter and lots of proof pages in colour; and some hefty tomes from Horsham District Council. I could go on!

What do we do with it? Well, for the time being it is kept in my house, and anyone who wishes to search it is welcome to contact me. I also have an Excel spreadsheet, which lists the titles of the files. On other worksheets I have a list of all the speakers and their topics that we have had at our bi-annual meetings, and an index to all the article titles and authors in the Newsletters from the very first one in 1986 to the most recent, sorted by date and by author (but excluding the multi-topic planning articles). I can email this to anyone who requests it (paper copies available if you do not have email).

It would be even better if we collected new material for the Stan Smith Archive, and I am very willing to receive any material pertaining to the environment, history and development of Rudgwick. It can be original documents, copies of deeds etc, photos, correspondence, back issues of the Newsletter and so on. We would particularly like to have complete or near-complete sets of the Newsletter to present to local libraries, where there is none at present. Any sets of photographs will go to Leslie Hawkins, unless they are integral to a wider collection. Material can relate to your family, your house and any land, village organisations or research that you have undertaken, and would like to share. It can be very historic or very recent. It can be on CD if you prefer.

Long term, it may be desirable to place some of our material in Horsham Museum, which has agreed that their volunteers will copy it to CD, which they return to us, and store originals in correct conditions in their storeroom. That is a decision for the future. In the meantime let us grow the Archive ourselves, in memory of Stan Smith. We shall attempt to keep it up to date with contemporary happenings in the village too, so please feel free to lodge anything appropriate.

I would particularly like to thank Vanessa Sanderson for her co-operation and trust at such a difficult time. For research, or to add to the Archive, contact any member of the Committee in the first instance, or phone me, 822581. (email: rjnash@southdownhouse.co.uk)

Roger Nash

Transformation of Hedgecock's, a Rowhook Farm

Many RPS members will be aware that Stan Smith, our President, was taken to Honeywood House Nursing Home when he really could not cope with being cared for at home any more, and so he died there some days later. Apparently he asked the staff on his arrival why such a wonderful building had not been listed. A good question! Perhaps you too have known a relative or friend who has been or is a resident at this beautiful care home, and wondered what its history was. Honeywood House (originally Hedgecock's) is located right on the Surrey-Sussex border in the northeast corner of the parish, part of Rowhook. Until the matter was corrected in the 1990s the parish/county border went right through the house and the middle of the drive!

Hedgecock's has a relatively ordinary history prior to 1871. Its origins are in the manor of Denne in Warnham. The name 'Hedgecock', and its variants, means 'son of Richard', especially common in Kent. Possibly, like many others in Rudgwick, this farm is named after an early occupant. 'The West Sussex Land Tax 1785' (ed A Readman et al, SRC Vol 82, 1997/8) shows that Hedgecock's is owned by the executors of Edward Michell of Hermongers, farmed as part of an estate extending east to Godleys. In 1841, Michael Jay, 40, a journeyman carpenter, his wife Ann, & his mother in law lived there. In 1844 the Tithe Apportionment Schedule shows it was owned by Richard Gates Esq, of Bramley,

a yeoman farmer in Thorncombe Street, and occupied by Daniel Mann. This may be Daniel Mann, 70, a carrier living in Church Street, whose son James was next door at Honey Lane in 1841.

Subsequent censuses give:

1851, John Nye, farm labourer, 52, b Duncton, wife Mary and 4 children, eldest also farm labourer;

1861 William Walker, farmer, 64, b Worth, wife Ann, 2 sons, one labourer living in;

The occupation of what is probably a rented house throughout this period constantly changes, and only for a short while does it seem to have been a separate holding under Walker.

George & Betsey Nash.
Farm bailiff, Ridge and Millfields
Hedgecock's 1870-1881

My interest is also very personal, as I believe my grandfather was born there. His parents, George and Betsey Nash lived at Hedgecock's, from their marriage in 1870 to his father's death in 1881. George's parents John and Sarah were at Ridge Farm on the opposite side of the Horsham Road. They had lived at Ridge (or Rudge) since 1837 (Little Millfields 1834), and another John (d. 1820) and Sarah Nash (d. 1836) before them certainly back to 1786 (Land Tax Returns). However, the

link between the two Johns is circumstantial and unproven. The 1844 Tithe Apportionment Schedule names George Marshall, timber merchant of Godalming, owner of Ridge Farm and Blacks Cottage. John Nash had increased his acreage from 80 in 1851 to 120 by 1871 with the help of three sons; he then retired from active farming, and died in February 1881 aged 82, at Ridge. George Nash, my great grandfather, became farm steward, or bailiff, probably on his marriage in 1870, for both Ridge, and Millfield House (180 acres), 300 acres in all, including, I believe, Hedgecocks.

A gentleman farmer named Timothy Coleman Johnson of London Irish ancestry and formerly a property developer in Shoreditch lived at Millfield House (to which he gave the title of 'House' – it had been referred to as Great Millfields in the past to distinguish it from Little Millfields) in 1871 and 1881. Johnson seems to have been a law-abiding fellow as there are two cases heard at The Old Bailey where he or his father were witnesses for the prosecution for miscreants who were convicted. One case saw three petty thieves transported for seven years on his evidence. He had acquired Millfields from another incomer, John Hack, from near Berkhamstead, his Canadian wife, Matelina and a string of Canadian-born children, and whose origins are otherwise obscure. He farmed only 100 acres in 1861, as did the Stanfords who preceded him in 1851.

My grandfather was baptised Timothy Coleman George Johnson Nash in 1878, in deference to his father's employer, Johnson. The family moved back to Ridge immediately after John's death (1881 census). His mother Sarah moved to Hoopwick, on the other side of Furzen Lane. Significantly, Johnson, now 'landowner' at Millfield House, had increased his acreage by 1881 to 300 acres. Kelly's Directory listed Johnson at Millfields and John Nash at Ridge, both farmers in 1874, but in 1878, it listed Johnson at Millfield House and George Nash as his farm bailiff at Hedgecock's, John Nash having dropped out. In 1882, the year Johnson died; George Nash is Farm Bailiff to the executors of JC Johnson Esq. In 1887 George Nash is farmer at Ridge, the land split up again. All his seven children were born at Hedgecock's or Ridge.

William & Mabel Renton **Hedgecock's, 1881-1895**

By contrast the subsequent development of Hedgecock's as the home of gentry and aristocracy has left a well-documented paper trail (made accessible by the internet). Within weeks of the death of John Nash in 1881, William and Mabel Renton replaced the Nash family, possibly initially renting it from Timothy Johnson. Living with them were Mabel's brother Hugh Drury and two servants.

William, a wealthy 33-year-old 'fundholder', was born in Edinburgh 26th January 1848. His wife was the second child of the vicar of Rudgwick, living at the Vicarage in Lynwick Street, and vicar for over 30 years. The Rentons were newly married (21st October 1880). She presumably wished to live near her parents.

In 1871, Renton was a 23-year-old Stock Exchange clerk, with three servants and a gardener, living at Bradstone Brook, the country home of his father, just off the

Common at Shalford, Surrey, which subsequently was occupied by his younger brother James well into the 20th century. Now a listed property, it won an award for its renovation in 2006. Its grounds are gardens of some note with a notable 19th century gazebo, but also include the playing fields of Royal Grammar School Guildford. The house is now home to several businesses. It is likely they still lived at Shalford until the opportunity to move to Rudgwick came.

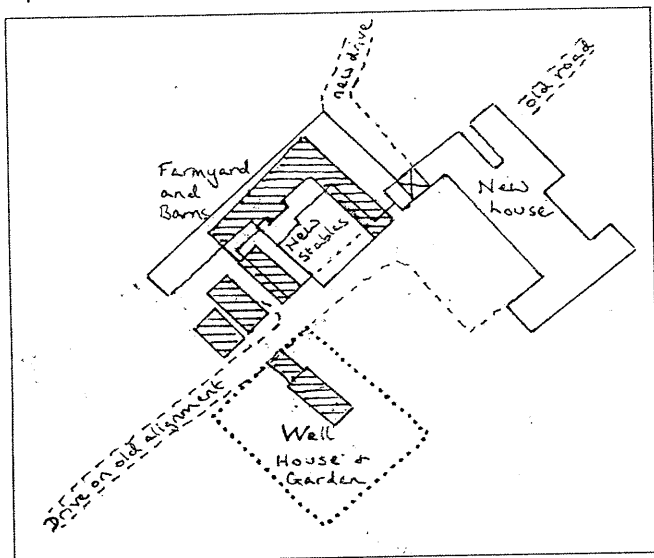
Renton's father, John, originally from Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh came to London, where in 1861 he was living in style in Kensington and making good money as a Member of the Stock Exchange - more than enough to buy Bradstone Brook in Shalford, and set up his children with property. In Chelsea in 1871, still a Member of the Stock Exchange, he was now a landowner too. Maintaining two homes, though normal for one of his standing was very expensive and required two sets of domestic staff, as the census makes clear. John Renton was also a Surrey JP and family historian, writing a history of his family, with a pedigree from 1698, at Shalford. Originally from Birsley, Eastlothian in 1698, he had descended from of a branch of the Rentons or Rentouns of Renton, a barony in the parish of Coldingham, Berwickshire, 14 miles from the border, and hereditary Foresters of the Woods of the Priory of Coldingham (Roman Colania) from the 16th century.
(<http://www.dkrenton.co.uk/familyhistory/rentons.html>)

Peter Renton had moved to Edinburgh in 1745 to become a damask weaver, marrying into another important weaver family. A descendent married Agnes, William's grandmother. The National Library of Scotland in 2005-6 celebrated the acquisition of "a remarkable example of Victorian culture: an elaborately-bound Bible presented to William and Agnes Renton of Edinburgh on their golden wedding anniversary in 1852. The inside board has a family tree incorporating locks of hair of the couple's 22 grandchildren" – including William's. Agnes was a feisty woman, supporting the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, and the Corn Laws, supporting Catholic emancipation, Parliamentary Reform, temperance, abolition of slavery and pacifism.

William met Mabel in his social circle in the Surrey-Sussex borders. The two families were obviously close because in 1891, the link with the vicar's fell into place. Benjamin Drury's granddaughter Elizabeth Mabel Renton, aged 4, was visiting them at the Vicarage. Was her mother travelling outside the country, or visiting relations in Scotland? She was not at home. Listed at Hedgecock's in Kelly 1895, they then moved to Clare House, Newport Street, Tiverton, with Elizabeth and another son John, after her mother had died in 1895, and where they were in 1901. Clare House is a Regency villa, listed grade II, and a doctors' surgery. In 1891 John and another older brother William had been at a small prep school in Eastbourne. William not found in 1901, was probably serving with the Army in South Africa. Mabel had been born in Hennock on the edge of Dartmoor, where her father was then curate.

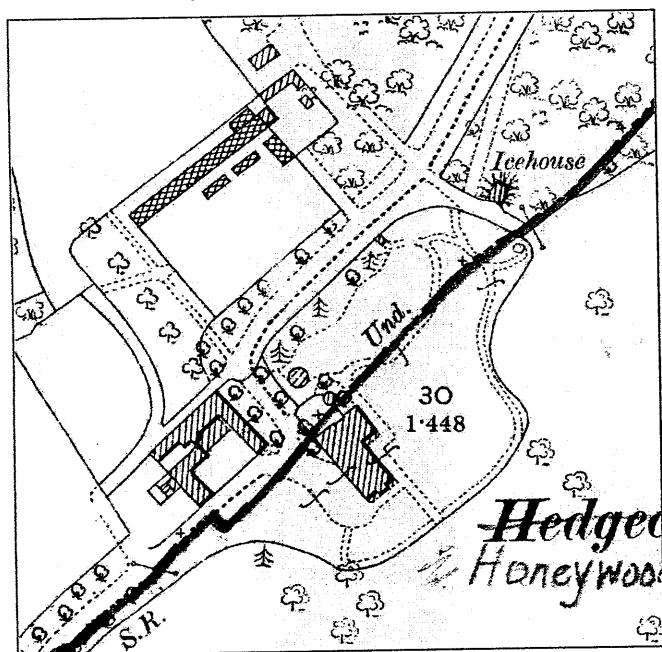
William snr ran his estate at Hedgecock's, and managed his affairs. In 1891 (and 1901) he had 'independent means'. He must have put a huge effort into rebuilding the

house, because the whole central section of the present house was built during his time in Victorian style with gable ends and mock-Tudor timber at front and rear. The change in the plan of the property between the OS 25" to 1 mile maps of 1879 and 1897 is profound and total.



Above – sketch of the 1879 farm superimposed on the 2007 layout. The farmhouse, in its square garden, was in front of the new house, next to the drive, on what is now lawn.

Below – 1897 map, with Renton's rebuilding complete.



The main entrance (gable on the right) may have led to the new principal rooms as it still does. In the 1880s, Hedgecock's became a small country house, set in a landscape, itself altered to make the 'pleasure grounds'. The 1897 map, clearly shows an area of garden with paths and a curving southern boundary that is similar to today's. Renton built both the lodges, and the kitchen garden with glasshouses. He built an icehouse in the woods, still externally complete. He completely destroyed the old house and barns to make way for the carriage drive, a wide turning area, and the stables, which remain today, as does the gravelled drive to North Lodge in Oakwood Hill, which is now the Sussex Border Path. The 1897 map show this border.

How much land he owned is not known, but his gamekeeper lived in one of the two cottages he built, and his coachman the other (now Rose Cottage and Southern Rose). A cook, a parlour maid and two housemaids, one of the latter being 14-year-old Mary Etherington from Honeybush next door, lived in.

William Renton chose to gentrify a property with a view (though not as good as that from Pitch Hill). The marvellous prospect from both the garden and the house is of the Sussex Weald to the South Downs. Hedgecock's is on the same ridge (290 feet above sea level) as Rudgwick church. The surprise is that Renton built facing west, not south. It would be the next occupants who would try to put that right. Apart from being near his in-laws, the location is not far from Rudgwick station (for Shalford), from Horsham. (Horsham Road, a former turnpike, had a tolerable surface for a carriage) and by the north entrance from Dorking or Ockley. Access to a station was essential. In addition land was cheap at the time because agriculture was in depression with competition from the Empire, particularly for wheat. Farmers were having a tough time and labourers were deserting the villages for town jobs, or emigration, with unoccupied cottages in Rudgwick.

George Nash turned to farm management for the new class of urban incomers like the Johnsons, but left Ridge Farm about 1888 to manage another farm near Haslemere, then Shillinglee near Plaistow, Guildenhurst near Billingshurst, finally retiring to Ifield, where and Betsey are buried. George jnr (he of the long name!) ran a tobacconist/ hairdressers in Crawley for a while until in 1914 the call of the land brought him back to Andrews Farm in Warnham. By extraordinary coincidence, his son Jack lived in the former North Lodge of Honeywood House with his family in the late 1950s.

Benjamin Drury had been rector of Rudgwick for 43 years from 1865 to 1908, died in 1911, aged 89 and was buried next to his wife Mary. Their grave is near the church porch. Another daughter had married the curate, Algernon Dornberg Faulkner, and was later buried in Rudgwick in 1913, as was her sister Winifred in 1933. But Mabel Renton and her husband were not buried in Rudgwick. I have been unable to find their deaths in England. Their son Captain William Renton serving in the 1st (Royal) Dragoons however was killed in the 1st World War. There is a memorial to him inside Rudgwick church, which states he was killed in action at Chateau Hooze. A nice touch, as the family had left the village long before, and his grandfather had died four years earlier. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records state he was killed in action 2/6/1915, Son of William and Mabel Renton, of Clare House, Tiverton, N. Devon. Served in the South African Campaign. Decorated by the Emperor of Austria in 1906 with the Austrian Order of 1849, at Vlamertinghe Belgium.

In further instalments of this story in the next two newsletters: new evidence on the first re-building, the occupants of Hedgecock's increase its size and rename it twice. They include a princess from Italy, and a viscount from Wales and his Scottish mother (both as eccentric as each other).

Roger Nash

ODD but TRUE

FIRST ASCENT BY ROBERT LAMBART DUNVILLE (1893-1931)

28 July 1908 from Chelsea in the balloon La Mascotte (50,000 cu ft)

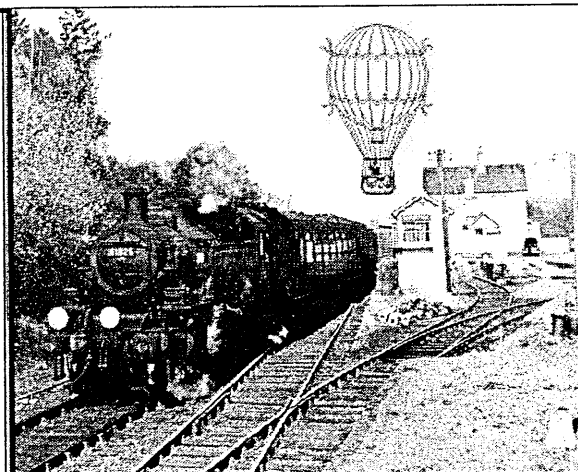
Name of aeronaut: John Dunville

Names of passengers: Mrs. John Dunville, R.L. Dunville (aged 15 years, first ascent), Lieut. Pöe R.N. (first ascent)

Place of final descent: Rudgwick Station, 7 miles from Horsham

Remarks: Got false lift let go 1½ bags to clear Railway signal box; Got Equilibrium 800 ft

(Thanks to Geoff Ayres for finding this)



Follow the Plough.

Malcolm Francis

The BBC TV series 'Tales from a Green Valley', where historians lived for twelve months on a farm using 17th century farming methods, made one very aware of today's reliance on oil power. We use it to produce our food, rely on it for motive power and production of modern artificial fertilizers. The programme included ploughing using a purpose built replica wooden plough and a team of oxen. It demonstrated just how labour intensive agriculture was in those times; gradually a technique was acquired in handling the oxen and progress was made, but a small field took a long time to complete.

For a thousand years or more, oxen (or bullocks) were the main beasts of burden on British farms and roads. On the land a team of six or eight oxen harnessed in pairs one behind the other was just too unwieldy to plough or harrow into corners of the new, smaller fields, but two or three horses harnessed side by side could do so with ease. In the 40 years from 1800 to 1840, they all but disappeared - hustled into history by social reforms, industrialisation and a growing need for speed. It was the Enclosures Act of 1801, in which large tracks of common land were fenced and with it the demise of a medieval open-fields approach to farming that started a rapid decline in the use of oxen as beast of burden. Before long new-fangled steam traction engines were appearing on the scene, each with the power of a dozen horses or twice that number of oxen.

In terms of sheer muscle power, an ox was generally considered to be half as strong as a good horse. But oxen had the advantage of being more robust than horses, less likely to get injured, and when times got bad they could survive on simply dreadful food - dodgy straw and mouldy hay of a type that no horse would touch. At the end of their working life oxen also made good beef - after a few months in a fattening pen.

Docile cattle were not specifically bred as work animals, but farmers and carters were always on the look out for big, strong, docile bullocks which could be broken to harness rather than sent to the butcher. When large droves of cattle were being walked to English markets from Wales and Scotland there was a good source of potential working oxen. After weeks or months on the road, such animals were lean and fit, while daily close contact with drovers and their dogs had usually got rid of that skittishness so prevalent among young cattle. Oxen usually worked in pairs and animals had to be carefully matched for size, strength and especially for height.

We are used to seeing today's farmers using tractors of huge size and power to plough and cultivate the land, that people of the

17th century could not really comprehend. It has been calculated that ploughing one acre meant that the ploughman and his team had to walk 11 miles to cover that acre therefore the amount of land that a team of oxen or horses could plough in a day was about an acre under good land conditions. It is possible to plough up to fifty acres in a day with modern machinery.

Additionally steam ploughing complemented horse ploughing in certain land conditions throughout the second half of the 19th century. The system was used in the USA to great effect and also in parts of England, for example East Anglia; where the heavy, wet soils could be ploughed with ease. Steam traction engines were coupled, usually in pairs, to a complicated winch system of steel cables that were wound onto integral winding drums. However most steam ploughing was not undertaken by small farmers; many farmers, other than the largest landowners, found the initial cost too high to justify this investment. Instead steam ploughing and cultivation was done by contractors. Each team of contractors usually comprised of four men and a boy living together in a living van which travelled with the engines, implements and water cart.

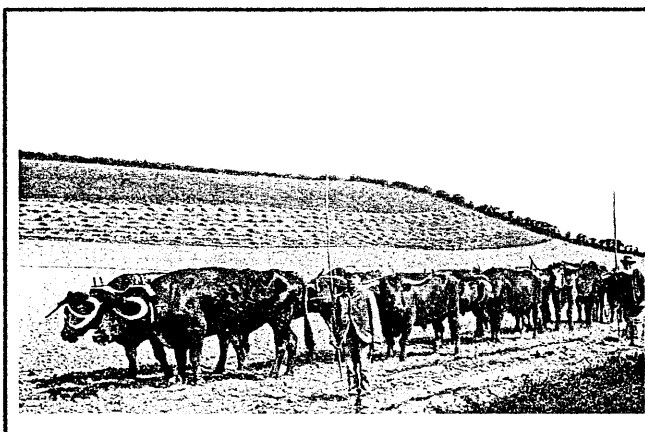
The sheer power of the steam traction engines meant ploughs with as many as six ploughshares could be used. The plough was controlled by a man that rode on top of it, as it was hauled back and forth across the land. It had two rows of shares that were handed, throwing the soil to the right or left; once the edge of the field had been reached the opposite handed plough shares were then engaged for the return run across the field. This principle allowed heavy soils to be ploughed without the heavy engines actually running on the area to ploughed.

In Britain in the First World War a very large order of steam ploughs was placed by the Agricultural Machinery Board, a branch of the Ministry of Munitions, to ensure the supply of ploughing engines to counter the German submarine menace that was threatening the British food supply. However steam and horse power gradually gave way to tractors. The First World War food production scheme saw a lot of American tractors appearing in England.

On a personal note I remember my father recounting that, as a teenager, he was tasked with trying to get one of the American tractors running. It had broken down on a farm at Dedisham and nobody could get it to run again; my father with his flair for mechanical engineering was successful. It was always very interesting to be with my father, in his later years, at museums or at a steam fairs where some of these very old tractors were exhibited because he could speak with such authority on their design and mechanical vagaries (One often gained an audience when my father was explaining some specific point, the best such incident was at Beaulieu Motor Museum).

I can remember as a boy, living in Lynwick Street close to Greathouse farm that I was always fascinated when watching the

fields being ploughed. The farmer, a Mr Corp, drove an old Standard Fordson tractor that pulled a trailer plough; that is a plough that is pulled along by a tractor but stands on its own three wheels. The ploughs had only three shares, that was as much as most tractors could pull. The little Fordsons usually had their back wheels changed for ploughing to metal wheels that had small sprogs (teeth) around their circumference to gain grip on heavy soil. I was sometimes allowed to ride on the very small ledge just behind the tractor driver's seat (you had to hang on tight but had a grand stand view of the action and after all there was no health and safety in those days!) Those tractors ran on TVO (a low grade fuel) and the exhaust fumes that belched out of the little tractor mixed with the smell of the freshly turned soil were an evocative smell. The driver had a series of controls on the plough that often had to be turned to keep the plough running at the correct depth, plus a large lever that lifted the plough clear of the soil when the headland of the field was reached. Turning any plough around at the edge of a field is an art in itself, especially with a trailer plough as you cannot reverse it. All ploughing had to be done in a series of "lands" because of the mechanics of turning over the soil in one direction; so when you plough back in the opposite direction the furrows will be thrown the opposite way. The reversible plough that consists of two "handed" banks of shares was an invention that got over that problem. I must admit that I have never used a trailer plough but I occasionally ploughed fields for one of my farming relations. The technology had already improved remarkably, from the time when I was a boy, because of a very clever patent introduced by Harry Ferguson. I hope that many people will remember the little gray Ferguson tractors that are as English as a Morris Minor. The Ferguson



patent three point linkage system, the heart of his tractors, enabled them to carry the weight of the plough on the tractor rather than using a trailer plough; this weight transference system meant that a little tractor could do remarkable feats of ploughing. There was a protracted legal battle over the patents of this system between Ferguson and the big American tractor producer Ford, who it was alleged stole the idea; in the end Ferguson won.

Another innovation that improves a tractor's ability to grip was the introduction of what is known as a Differential Lock, another pedal placed close to the driver's heel of his boot; this device locks the rear wheels together by stopping the differential gears from turning, so that the driving wheel that is not in the furrow maintains its grip on the ground. One always had to remember to disengage the "Diff Lock" at the end of your furrow

because until you did it steering the front wheels had little effect on your direction of travel...mind that hedge! These refined systems are a part of every modern tractor.

One final thought about how far modern agriculture has progressed with modern machinery and plant breeding. If one looks at the yields that were expected from an acre of wheat in the 19th century three quarters of a ton would have been a good harvest, today that figure can be up to three and a half tons per acre. Naturally this is due today's plant breeding and modern fertilizer - alas all based on oil products! I wonder how the world will manage once fossil fuels run out; we will be back to using oxen for ploughing and be totally organic by necessity?

Very few photographs now exist to remind us just how widespread the use of oxen was in the British countryside as oxen were vanishing just before the advent of photography.

King George V Playing Field - Biodiversity Plan

The Preservation Society is playing host to the work underway to enhance and improve the facilities and wildlife habitat on the King George V Playing Field. The Society supports the programme of work which is aimed at mapping and recording the natural wildlife found on the playing field and the adjoining woodland and wetland areas and improving the habitats which will ensure that the wildlife is protected and enhanced over the years to come. One important aspect of the work being undertaken is the active involvement of the young people of the village which it is hoped will instil an appreciation of our natural surroundings and the value of protecting and preserving our natural heritage. We have received over £6,000 of sponsorship either financially or in



Rudgwick Scouts helping to plant Black Poplars

kind, over the last year. If you would like to help out please contact Trevor Nash (R 822047) or Eric Slade (R 822846)

RAINFALL WEYHURST COPSE TISMANS COMMON

2006

Don Muir

Last year I reported that 2005 started badly as we had little rain in November and December 2004. In 2006 the situation was even worse. It followed the lowest rainfall year in my 35 years of records and we had a hosepipe ban in place since the middle of 2005. The water table was low and any rain that fell did not penetrate the dry subsoil. Things did not improve in January and February, the former being particularly dry having only 20.5mm instead of the 90mm average. March was better, having just above average but April was again down. May was up but the next 3 months were all low, June being only a fifth of what we would expect. Things changed in September and we had good rains for the rest of the year. We had some very wet days resulting in floods and a hosepipe ban at the same time. As well as being wet it was also warm and, at times, very windy. At Weyhurst Copse we look for the first snowdrops in the garden by Christmas. In 2006 we had them in November. We also had several large trees blown down in the copse by the strong gale force winds. So we started the year very dry but ended it wet and got rid of the hosepipe ban in the New Year.

2007 has started off quite wet. January was down but February, at 99mm, was well up on the 58.4 average. March has started wet. By the fourth we already have a quarter of the month's average with a forecast of rain for most of the coming week. The water table is very high and the lawn is like a wet sponge. There is much to do in the garden but it is too wet to do it.

RAINFALL 2006 COMPARED WITH 36 YEAR AVERAGE

	mm	Average	Record High	Record Low
January	20.50	88.14	211.83	13.00
February	48.00	58.39	149.86	5.50
March	66.50	61.09	133.35	4.80
April	38.00	57.15	129.50	4.06
May	88.00	55.64	127.25	1.78
June	11.00	54.14	152.91	8.64
July	37.00	49.33	130.05	3.50
August	48.00	60.45	153.92	1.00
September	73.50	71.18	190.75	5.00
October	139.50	97.39	270.51	8.64
November	87.00	86.19	198.00	19.81
December	121.50	89.46	166.88	13.50
Annual (mm)	778.50	828.57	1178.50	587.25
Annual (inches)	30.65	32.62	46.40	23.12

Planning Matters

Vanessa Sanderson

In January, Inspectors Alan Foster and David Vickers published a long awaited report officially endorsing HDC's Local Development Framework Core Strategy after a three week inspection into the document in September 2006

The Inspectors said that the document would have to be changed in 5 key areas in accordance with their recommendations before it could be adopted as a blueprint for future development in the Horsham District. These changes are capable of being made in the Inspectors' view without making the whole Core Strategy unsound.

In their feedback on the core strategy the inspectors also told HDC to incorporate reserve housing sites for more development should annual monitoring demonstrate the need and to consider allocating sites solely for affordable housing in rural areas.

The legally binding recommendations also include reclassifying Broadbridge Heath from a category 2 settlement expected to accommodate only small scale development to meet local need to a category 1 settlement capable of sustaining large scale expansion, infilling and redevelopment. This has been met with widescale dismay by the people of BBH and this was reported at some length in the local press when the report was released. This relates to the proposals for some 2000 new homes for the strategic location west of Horsham.

The Core Strategy was formally adopted by the District Council, incorporating all the Inspector's changes, on 2nd February and can be viewed with all associated documents on the Council's web site.

How this affects Rudgwick

The main document relating to Rudgwick is the Site Specific Allocations of Land Document which is to be examined next with hearings starting on 12th June with a pre examination meeting on 16th April. The General Development Control Policies document hearing is scheduled for 4th September to agree the actual District Council policies for determining many planning applications and replacing those in the old Local Plan

It is the former document which allocates the land at Windacres Farm for mixed use development & some sheltered housing (Policy AL10), and to which various parties have suggested alternative sites, including land south of Summerfold and North of Bucks Green (ADS 58 & 63 in the Alternative Development Sites and Boundary Changes document. The Council have to justify why they have allocated the Windacres site in terms of the local needs and to defend the position on the alternative sites being proposed

As far as Rudgwick is concerned the Inspectors have supported the basic approach with the Category 2 requirements but reinforced it by virtue of expecting 100% affordable housing, unless there is an identified local need which can be addressed by some market housing being incorporated in a scheme.

The Council are committed to a Community led approach and to ensuring that local need is met and is sustainable. It is in this context that the views expressed by the people of the village as set out in the Rudgwick Parish Action Plan 2006 with regard to affordable housing are to be incorporated into any development proposal. Also that it does not 'fundamentally undermine the qualities which make the village and countryside setting unique and special'.

The Rudgwick Preservation Society will be strongly supporting the need for some affordable housing on whichever site is finally selected. In May 2004 Rudgwick Parish Council in partnership with the Rural Housing Trust undertook a housing needs survey which demonstrated an identified housing need for people with a local connection. The ratio of rented to shared ownership should be decided following a more detailed second stage survey.

SE Regional Plan

The Examination in Public of the proposals will be going ahead with the sessions for the Gatwick Area sub region and the Rest of West Sussex, which together cover Horsham District, on 7/8/9th May. The panel will report to the Secretary of State on their conclusions, including any necessary amendments to the SE Plan. There is already pressure to increase the amount of housing development even though the area is to have find 12,400 new homes between 2006 and 2026; effectively some 3500 dwellings –on Greenfield sites than already identified in the period to 2018.



Summer Walks Programme 2007

All walks are on Tuesday evenings, are open to all and start at 7-00pm.

I am delighted to tell you that we have a full complement of 15 walks this year. Full details of the walks are published in West Sussex Summer Walks & Rides, obtainable from libraries (e.g. Billingshurst) at £1.50. We may have some copies available via the RPS. The average walk is 4 miles in 2 hours. Put dogs on leads when requested please. These walks are fun, and often end in the pub. Our thanks go yet again to the Claytons for their kind permission for our annual pilgrimage to Baynards Station. Thanks also to our excellent local pubs: please support them with your custom.

2007 Sunsets: May 8th 20.34, June 26th 21.22, Aug 7th 20.37. Bank Holidays: 7th & 28th May.

Tuesday	Leader(s)	Starting at	Grid Ref TQ-
May 8 th	David Buckley	The Fox (Bucks Green)	078330
May 15 th	Roger Nash	Mucky Duck (Tismans Common)	067323
May 22 nd	Eric Slade	Kings Head (Church st.)	090343
May 29 th	Geoff Ayres	The Blue Ship (The Haven)	084305
June 5 th	Bridget & David Cozens	The Red Lyon (Slinfold)	118315
June 12 th	John Connold	The Sussex Oak (Warnham)	158337
June 19 th	Geoff Ayres & Malcolm Francis	Kings Head (to Baynards stn.)	090343
June 26 th	Anne-Marie Nash	Whitehall lay-by (Cranleigh)	078380
July 3 rd	Bridget & David Cozens	Chequers (Rowhook)	122342
July 10 th	Steve & Barbara Kenward	Kings Head (Church st.)	090343
July 17 th	Roger Nash	Onslow Arms (Loxwood)	042312
July 24 th	Keith Linscott	Mucky Duck (Tismans Common)	067323
July 31 st	Steve & Barbara Kenward	Dedisham Farm (Roman Gate)	109329
Aug 7 th	Geoff Ayres & Susan Bostock	Lime Burners (Newbridge)	073255
Aug 14 th	Geoff Ayres	Pephurst lay-by (Loxwood Rd.)	056318

Please park considerately. At the Blue Ship & the Mucky Duck- park in the lane beyond the pub. At Rowhook the parking is up the lane next to the pub *not* at the front. At the King's Head use the far end of the car park. The Whitehall lay-by is at the bottom of the dip before Cranleigh, on NE side of the B2128. At Dedisham Farm- park as directed, on the grass verge near the bridge over the Arun. Take *great care* turning off A281; recommend you approach entrance from E. At the Onslow Arms- use the Canal car park on the far side of the pub car park. The Red Lyon at Slinfold was previously called The King's Head and the Village Inn. Dogs will *not* be allowed onto Baynards Station.

Geoff Ayres

The Preservation

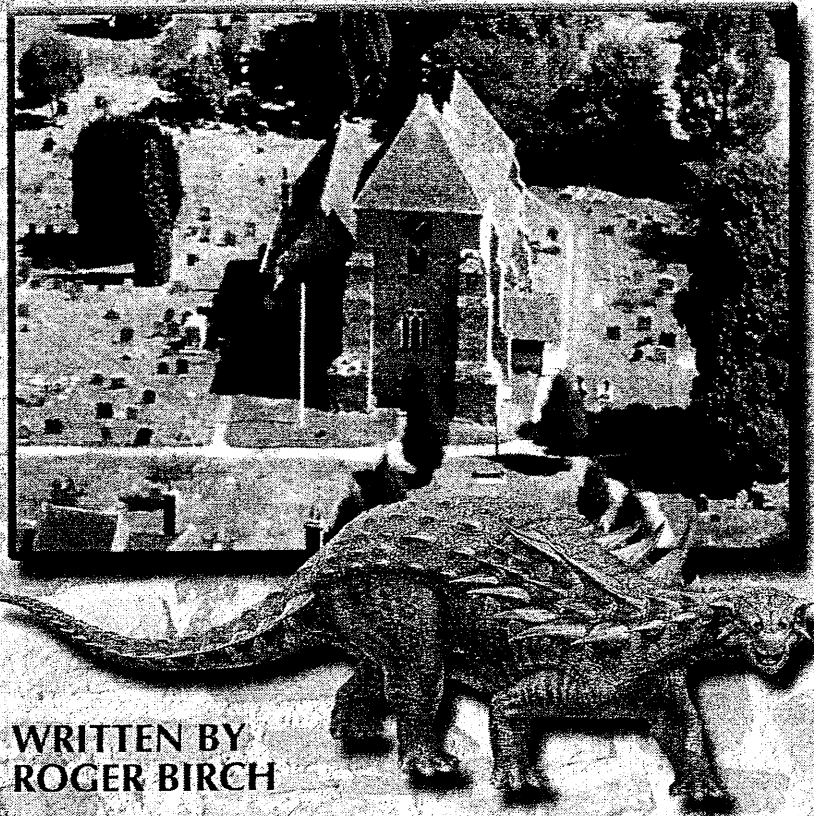
Society has published a booklet on the Geology of Holy Trinity Church. This unique study, written by Roger Birch, documents the many different types of stone used in the construction of the church (including the Sussex Marble Font). This high quality, 16 page booklet has a pull-out laminated front cover with a photograph of the church showing where to find examples of the various stones, which include recycled Roman tile and brick. The booklet reviews the building of the church and takes the reader on a tour of the geological features of each of the stones and where they may have been quarried locally.

The booklet has been able to be produced at a very affordable price by sponsorship from Rudgwick Metals, Rikkyo School, Pennthorpe School, Baggeridge Brick, and Dornworth Financial Consultants.

Price £2.50 or £3.00 by post (UK)

Obtainable from Leslie Hawkins (01403 822967, lesliehawkins@tiscali.co.uk) or Roger Nash (01403 822581, rjnash@southdownhouse.co.uk)

THE GEOLOGY OF RUDGWICK PARISH CHURCH



MAP MAN - The Work of Alan Siney

Members will know of the many interesting and detailed local history articles that Alan has written for this newsletter over many years. Included with many of these articles has been detailed maps which Alan has painstakingly drawn. Now there is chance to see more of Alan's work in an exhibition at Horsham Museum. Alan's fascination with maps is being celebrated in an Exhibition in the Hurst Room at the Museum, including his painstaking redrawing of the Enclosure Award for 1812 and the Tithe Maps of the 1840s for the area.

Come and see what this part of Horsham was once like.

HORSHAM MUSEUM

4th MAY to 10th JULY

Alan's book of the 1812 maps with survey and history is due to be published by the Horsham Museum Society next Month