

## Planning Matters

### Vanessa Sanderson

There is not a great deal to report since the last newsletter so this is a short update taking into account the Horsham District Councils key plans for 2008/09.

The Council presented their case at the Site Specific Allocations of Land Examination Hearings in June/July 2007 and at the General Development Control Policies Examination Hearings in September 2007 leading to receipt of Inspectors' Reports finding these documents 'sound' and to their subsequent statutory adoption and publication.

In June 2007, HDC formerly adopted the revised Statement of Community Involvement in order to help ensure community ownership of the Local Development Framework and to strengthen community involvement in planning over time. They also adopted the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document in June 2007 to provide details on the necessary provision of affordable housing, services and facilities where planning obligation is sought.

The Secretary of States Proposed modifications to the SE Plan are not now expected until July 2008 when the Council will assess the decision and respond within the consultation period as well as take account of these provisions in the evolving review of the Core Strategy.

More importantly, as far as Rudgwick is concerned, HDC are committed to working with Rudgwick on the Parish Design Statement in order to provide the local vision & character context for future development. Once completed, the Council will aim to adopt the Design Statement as Supplementary Planning Documents provided that we subject them to the necessary consultation and are in accordance with relevant planning policies. Additionally the Parish Council have recently agreed to proceed with a general housing needs

survey in Rudgwick in partnership with Action in Rural Sussex. This is important because the last housing needs survey was completed in 2004 and needs to be updated in order to assess the level of housing need in the parish. The resulting analysis will inform the level of social housing requirement in Rudgwick in any future development.

### Rudgwick – A Farming Village

Most of Rudgwick's land is in the hands of those who gain their living from it. They do so in an economic and political climate that has been extraordinarily tough for many years. Expected to be the main sustainable guardians of our countryside and of many buildings, they must also make a living, and provide us with their products, mostly through a complex supermarket-driven supply chain.

On top of that they have been hit by crises - animal health, delayed payments, world price changes. Recently farmers have had to buy feedstuffs and fuel at much higher prices. The threat from bluetongue hangs heavily over the livestock sector in 2008. It remains to be seen whether the vaccine, available shortly, will enable us to avoid the ghastly impact of this disease on Rudgwick's grazing animals that has ravaged the livestock industry of Northern Europe and especially Belgium, but vaccination of all susceptible farm livestock is the objective.

The Year of Food and Farming is an opportunity to educate our children in particular, where food comes from, and about the countryside. RPS is doing its bit, with a talk at the AGM from Steve Podd, Farm Conservation Officer with the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group at Plumpton, and in this and the next Newsletter we showcase farmers and growers of Rudgwick through their own words.

**Roger Nash**

# A Rudgwick Land Girl

Cecilia Butcher BEM

*A badge will acknowledge those surviving members of the Women's Land Army who worked on the home front to provide food and timber for the Nation during World War II. Badges will be awarded to surviving members as of 6 December 2007. Environment Secretary, Hilary Benn said: "It is absolutely right that we at last recognise the selfless efforts these women made to support the nation through the dark days of World War II. This badge is a fitting way to pay tribute to their determination, courage and spirit in the face of adversity."*

*Posters encouraging young women to join the Land Army sported healthy young girls set against an idyllic countryside. In England and Wales, the WLA was mobilised before the war started. By the outbreak of war in September 1939, 17,000 women were enrolled.*



*Britain imported about 60% of its food before the war; now, she would have to grow most of it. The Women's Land Army filled many of the jobs left vacant when men went to fight. The Land Army was started by Lady Denman and by 1943 there were some 90,000 young women, called 'Land Girls', employed on the land.*

*Work on the farms was very hard. At harvest time they worked during all the daylight hours, and in winter it was very cold. Farmers at first doubted whether they could do the job, but many proved how useful they could be - even beating local men in horse-ploughing competitions. The Women's Land Army remained in existence until 1950.*

**Cecilia Butcher, our former Post Mistress, and member of the WLA, writes:**

I was evacuated with Selhurst Grammar School when war started. My mother and my sisters were on holiday at Shoreham-by-Sea when war was declared. She had to take my twin sister and I to Hove Town Hall. We were then taken to our billet in Hove. We had to move away from the coast when fighting started and eventually I was evacuated with my school to Guildford.

I had a very happy stay with the Wilton family in Chantrey View Road. They decide as they had young children they would like to keep a goat, so Dainty joined us and I learnt to milk her twice a day - in the morning, before I went to school. We had a large garden and a quarry where she was tethered. I left school when I was 17½ years old and decided I would join the Land Army.

I enrolled and eventually was told by the Rep. they had a job for me in Rudgwick. I was taken to Canfields Farm, Lynwick Street, farmed by Mr & Mrs Kensett, where I would learn to milk cows. A new Land Girl was

trained every month to milk but I would be there permanently. When I arrived at the farm Mrs Kensett welcomed me, and showed me the layout of the house, but first showed me outside the back door where the privy was in the woodshed - no lock on the door and newspaper hanging on a nail by a string! Indoors, a sink with only cold water, and no bath, a dining room-cum-kitchen with the range for cooking, and where we ate. Upstairs in the bedroom we had a washstand with

a jug and basin where we had to wash, no electricity or heating - candles when we went to bed. To get hot water we had to go to the boiler in the feed shed and bring the water upstairs in a bucket. What a change for me after being with the Wiltons!

Vera was another Land Girl at Canfields; she bottled up the milk and did the milk round for the Kensett's. Vic Durrant was cowman and he taught me to milk. We had two cowsheds and about 50 cows. The cows were still out grazing and Vic would call them in and we had to wash their udders before we started milking. Vic and I got on well. He taught me well and I soon learnt - 6 a.m. we started work. In the winter we milked with lanterns illuminating the sheds. It was nice and warm leaning against the cow in the winter. Mr Kensett brought us a cup of tea, and when we had finished milking and cleaned out the stalls Vic and I would go in for breakfast, toast and cocoa. Len the carter looked after the horses and the bull. I learnt to handle the horses and I was taught to plough. We grew kale and mangolds for the cows.

I was very happy at Canfields; we had some nice girls each month and I was sorry when they left. Mr Kensett was a horse dealer. He went by train to Wales where he bought carthorses for local farmers, e.g. Mr Holman at Hyes. The horses would arrive at Rudgwick Station next day. Len and I would go down to the station yard where the horses, four of them, would be in a wagon - they had been watered and fed en route. I can remember walking up the street with these two huge horses - the worst bit was going down Lynwick Street; I had to hold them tight!

Mrs Kensett worked hard and fed us - food was very basic. We all worked hard. One day Vera told me she was taking me out to a pub (I'd never been in one before). We went to The Cricketers, now The Mucky Duck, walking there. We met Frank Butcher and Harold Boxall, two local chaps. Frank, son of Billy Butcher, butcher at Southdown House, worked at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough on radar. I got to know Frank, met him at the local dances we had in the

Home Guard Hall, Bucks Green, and when he took me home to meet his family his mother said I could go and have a bath there regularly.

The Kensett's rented a field up at Highcroft and I remember when the hay was cut I went up with Len and Vic in the cart. In those days we built a haystack and I was in the 'pitch-hole' when the men pitched the hay up to me – gosh, there were so many thistles in the hay! I continued to work at Canfields until I was 20 years of age, leaving there two weeks before Frank and I were married at Rudgwick Church on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1945.

*Cecilia and Frank Butcher ran Rudgwick's Post Office for many years, and her article 'The Village Post Office', was in RPS Newsletter, Spring 1992, continues her story from 1945-1992.*

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## **RUDGWICK ORGANIC BEEF, PORK AND VEAL AT CANFIELDS**

### **ERICA BARGMAN**

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The Bargman family have farmed at Canfields in Lynwick Street, Rudgwick, since 1960, starting with a pedigree Friesian milking herd. But in 1979, after milking twice a day for 19 years Peter decided to sell the cows to a pedigree breeder in Somerset. At that time Peter felt the farm was like a 'ghost town', so he bought six Friesian cows and started milking again on a small scale, selling milk and cream from the farm-gate from 1979-1988, bringing in young stock from his original herd. Peter was returning to the farm's roots. The Kensetts, who owned the farm just after the Second World War, had also retailed milk from the gate, besides dealing in horses. Peter's direct sales to the consumer, have included, meat, vegetables, fruit, milk and cream.

The Kensetts originally rented Canfields from Colonel Wilson at Lynwick House in the early thirties. Phil Kensett wrote: "Early in the War we commenced a training scheme for 'Land Army' Girls, who, on completion of a month's training, were required to milk four cows an hour and have a good, general knowledge of work on a farm. They worked seven days a week, 5.30am – 5.30pm, with one half day off per week. Thereafter, we employed two girls on the farm, and received two Trainees per month. They received 15/- per week, out of which they paid Board and Lodging.

Among the many visitors to Canfields have been Cecilia Butcher and Erica March who were Land Girls at Canfields. Cecilia Butcher has written her memories of this time in her separate article.(Page 2). Erica Marsh wrote: "Came to Canfields as new Land Girl (aged 17 lied about age – should be 18 to join in 1943). Had one

month's training then went onto Cowfold. Learned to milk and swear!!! Have a lot of memories from those days – entertainment was dancing and mostly Whist Drives in the local Pubs."

In 1988 Peter sold the dairy herd to Fred Cooper from Shipley, and the following year, he started a suckler herd (beef mothers with calves suckling for five to eight months).

In 1993, Canfields joined the Farm Assured British Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme to assure its customers of its high standards. The Inspector wrote "A small herd kept to a high standard of care and attention – stress

free". The herd stands today at 36 home-bred mothers from the original three – Peggy, Fox and Delight.

You may find it surprising we supply veal, but remember traditional veal is raised outside on grass and milk in summer. In winter milk and hay make up their diet.

In 1994, Canfields started the 2 year conversion period to organic farming in order to deliver sustainable

organic produce to this understandably expanding market. This is just one of three diversification projects. A horse livery yard generates extra income and a courtyard of redundant buildings has been converted to a very high standard to create two self-contained holiday cottages. Diversification has been an essential policy to ensure that Canfields Farm can remain economically viable in the future.

Today when you walk up Lynwick Street from the A281 on the right you will see the hedge has been laid by Tim and this is a policy we aim to continue.

For further information on Canfields go to [www.rudgwickorganic.co.uk](http://www.rudgwickorganic.co.uk)



**Canfields farm - Lynwick Street**



# BARNSFOLD NURSERIES

## 1964-2008

### Nigel Wait

I was seven when my parents Bill and Isobel Wait purchased a derelict six acres of land in Tisman's Common, Rudgwick. They set about removing many old useless apple trees and scrub from this disused wasteland. Next door was an old Nursery that had a few old timber vinery greenhouses on it and my Father negotiated an affordable rent for one of these in the early days, which was later to become part of Barnsfold Nurseries.

I can remember delivering tomatoes, weighed up in brown paper bags, with Mum throughout the village, from my push chair. The outside ground was cleared and crops of Chrysanthemums, Dahlias and Asters were grown, with Strawberries and Raspberries being delivered to London's top Hotels.

The wooden greenhouses were replaced with modern aluminium glasshouses with automatic ventilation systems and benching in the early seventies. We saw the first bedding plant seeds germinated in Mum's airing cupboard before being pricked out into wooden seed trays and eventually being sold to the few garden shops, green grocers and market traders.

In the late seventies we saw the first Garden Centres appearing which created a huge demand for our bedding plants. Open fields were filled with glasshouses, the weather-dependant cut flowers and fruit crops were phased out and replaced with more predictable bedding plants in the spring, and cyclamen and poinsettias grown in the winter.

Modern machinery was installed - automatic potting machines and seeders, later transplanters and an environmental computer saving heat and controlling the humidity. Automatic watering and feeding systems were installed to give the plants exactly what and when they wanted it. Everyone wanted our bedding plants and hanging baskets. We showed at Chelsea Flower show for years, and the Garden Festivals around the country.

The garden shops disappeared, the greengrocers were struggling and the supermarkets rose into giants. They came, they looked, they wanted, but we resisted. Their offers were tempting and many of our colleagues were hooked. It was too good to refuse - they paid them well and wanted more each year, but sadly now they are no more.

My father developed the first side ventilation to be installed in a polythene greenhouse, so the old glass cold frames were no longer required for hardening off the bedding plants. Manufacturers came, looked and copied and it transformed these unbearable structures in summer into cool ideal growing conditions.

In 1995 we bought Newbridge Nurseries at Broadbridge Heath, Horsham and developed a retail Garden Centre where we could sell our plants to the public. Many of you have seen the transformation of not only Barnsfold Nurseries over the years but more recently Newbridge Nurseries, where it soon became known as The Garden Centre That Grows!

We have been fortunate and have employed many fantastic staff from Rudgwick and the surrounding area over the years. Many have been with us for over 25 years and have helped and seen the nursery develop into one of the countries leading Bedding and Pot Plant nurseries.

The industry rewarded us for the many years hard work and in 2004 we won the coveted award of The British Bedding Plant Grower of The Year. Sadly it came too late for both my parents who had devoted their whole life into making Barnsfold Nurseries what it is today.

# FAMILY FARMING, THE HARRISON WAY

### Charles Harrison

#### R.Harrison & Sons

The Harrison family has farmed in Rudgwick and the surrounding area since 1948, having been in Pulborough since 1928, starting with pigs at Woodsomes Farm, Lynwick Street then expanding to dairy cattle, taking on Pallinghurst Farm on the edge of the parish on the Guildford Road, towards Alfold, and Dedisham Farm running to Slinfold at the other end (see map). Our outlying Hullbrook Farm in Shamley Green holds more young stock and also 100 acres of maize, well suited to the lighter Greensand soil. The business comprises of eight family members, three machinery drivers and eight herdsmen. We produce six million litres of milk annually from our thousand cows, which can be seen grazing along the A281. We also have a young-stock unit at Weyhurst Farm, where we rear a number of our replacement heifers, who once calved will enter the dairy herds. The cows are a mixture of Holstein Freisian and Jersey breeds, which produces a dark brown/black looking animal, able to produce high quality milk from grass and look after itself on our simple farming system.

All the cows calve outside from August to October, inundating us with concerned motorists thinking the cow is dying! We try and graze the cows outside for as much of the year as possible but we are very much controlled by the weather and the heavy clay, which "poaches" very easily when wet, even with our smaller-framed cows (450kg). The surrounding brickworks on Lynwick Street and Knowle Lane are testament to the soil type. During the winter the cows are fed on grass and maize silage stored in large concrete floored pits. They have 24 hour access to the feed and their straw bedded cubicles. Silage making affords our greatest effect on Rudgwick life by slowing up traffic behind our silage trailers in the last week in May, for which we thank your patience! We try and minimise the effect using JCB Fastrac tractors capable of 40mph and larger field machinery which turns a six week operation thirty years ago to a one week operation now.

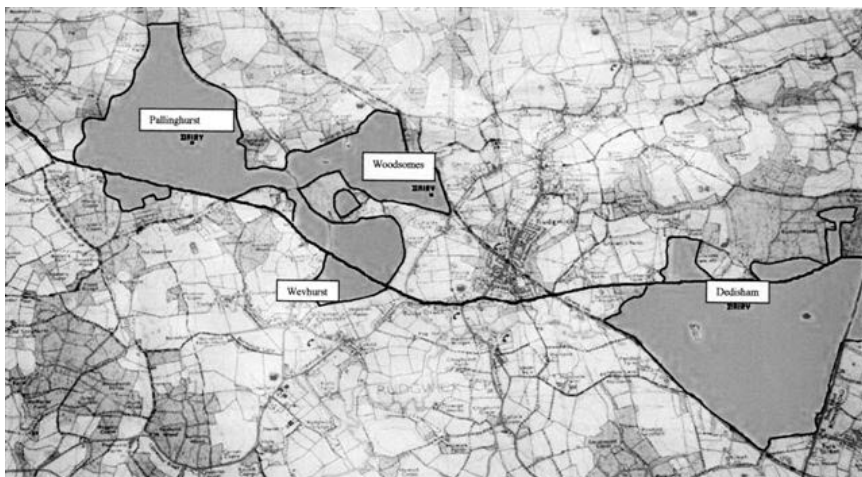
The major concerns facing us at the moment are milk price, Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) and labour. Due to world shortages our milk price has thankfully risen in the last few months which has allowed us to contemplate reinvesting in the business. NVZ's are concerned with the amount of nitrogen leaching into the water table and we have to monitor amounts put on the fields as slurry and ammonium nitrate. We try and utilize the slurry as efficiently as possible as it is an organic form of nitrogen and has great potential to help our grass to grow, despite the downside of a rather potent niff!

We are members of LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) and FWAG (Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group). FWAG have been very useful supplying advice on the Entry Level Stewardship Scheme. ELS is a 'whole farm scheme' that gives farmers access to funding in return for maintaining land in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition.

We have some owl boxes up to encourage barn owls and have a fairly healthy seasonal population of lapwings. Our fairly low key method of farming also encourages biodiversity. We have pheasant shooting syndicates renting woodland and they do a very good job in clearing scrub and creating active habitats. The badger population is increasing (a good census method is how many are seen knocked down on the A281) but we are concerned greatly with TB which is marching eastwards.

**Continued.....**

Finding good quality labour is very difficult due to a decline in agricultural colleges and people willing to work in all conditions from five in the morning. We are very lucky to have a long term dedicated workforce. While the Foot & Mouth fiasco caused us many sleepless nights the appearance of Bluetongue is equally unwelcome, and will affect movements of cattle later in the year. In order to add value to our milk we started a joint venture with Bookham Cheese & Pasta at Twineham Grange in



making an unpasteurised cheese, called Sussex Charmer. We are very happy with the cheese and have just started marketing it ([www.sussexcharmer.co.uk](http://www.sussexcharmer.co.uk)). Sussex Charmer, in style a Cheddar-Parmesan cross, is made from only the morning milk from our herd of grass fed cows. The milk arrives daily at Twineham in a purpose built milk tanker towed behind our JCB Fastrac. Sussex Charmer got through to the finals in the Tesco Cheese Challenge 2007 and is now available at many delis, farmshops, farmers' markets and selected Budgens Stores throughout the South East.

Left. The extent of the Harrison Farms (grey shaded) in Rudgwick

## RUDGWICK'S DUCKING STOOL ERECTED IN 1596.

Alan Siney.

This interesting account appears in the Rudgwick Churchwardens' Book 1579 - 1835 held at the West Sussex Record Office. It is a remarkable book considering that it was in the regular use of dozens of churchwardens for over 2½ centuries, and is a testimony to their care and the quality of the paper and its binding. Until about the mid-19th century, all

paper was made from woollen waste by a laborious process and was relatively expensive, and for that reason writers usually crammed their entries into minimum space, but this expense account for a ducking stool - then called a cucking stool - is well spaced.

Before

translating the details it is worth studying handwriting, as it is a good example of old handwritten English. Although letter forms were more or less standardised to type for the printing press, there was but little uniformity in individual handwriting, with many of the letter forms quite unrecognisable today, Old Court Hand Restored published in 1818, illustrates a large variety of 16th and 17th century letters in both large and small case: add to this the degree of literacy and the dexterity of the writer; the acceptable phonetic approximation of the spelling, the use of archaic names and terms long gone out of use, and the widespread use of individual abbreviating symbols, you will hopefully excuse the gaps in my translation.

*Imprimis to Nicholas Nightingale for timber of .....buck.....which is paid for.  
Item to Hendrye Humfrye for the cucking stool which is levied  
Item to ..... Martine 13 pence  
Item to Hendrye Thayer (Thayer) 3 shillings 3 pence  
Item to Thomas Hopkins 12 pence  
Item to Jhon (sic) Butcher 2 shillings 1 pence  
Item to Allan Stranga? 2 shillings  
Item to ..... 4 shillings*

Regarding the quoted figures: Arabic numerals had yet to be generally accepted, and with i being the Roman for 1, which was interchangeable with j, so the number 4 appears as iiij, which was handwritten as a squiggle ending with a tail, and the number was determined by counting the dots, which is why these two small case letters are still dotted today. This

substitution of J for I is found in old documents and monumental inscriptions, and conversely the opposite particularly with Scandinavian names; Bjorn for example, where i is substituted by a silent j. with periodic and regional differences, handwriting gradually evolved to its present universal form.

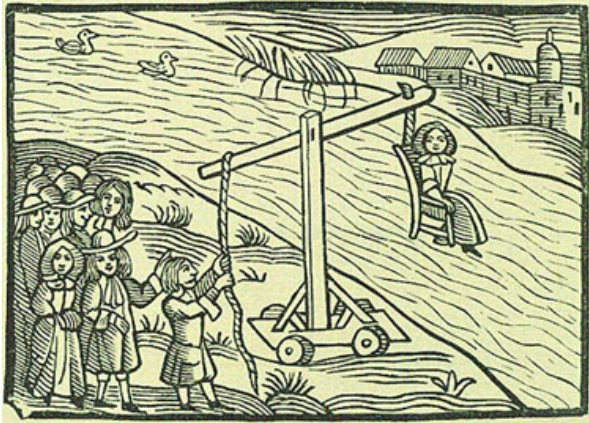
I transcribe this (above) as:

Imprimis (in the first place) to Nicholas Nightingale for timber of .....buck.....which is paid for.  
Item to Hendrye Humfrye for the cucking stool which is levied  
Item to ..... Martine 13 pence  
Item to Hendrye Thayer (Thayer) 3 shillings 3 pence  
Item to Thomas Hopkins 12 pence  
Item to Jhon (sic) Butcher 2 shillings 1 pence  
Item to Allan Stranga? 2 shillings  
Item to ..... 4 shillings

It seems that Nicholas Nightingale — who was possibly one of the two churchwardens — had commissioned the project and paid for the timber probably from a parish rate, and the



work was supervised by Hendrye Humfrye, who apportioned the remuneration to the individuals accordingly. It would have consisted of a stout beam with a chair fixed at one end and pivoted between short parallel posts, and required a blacksmith's services to forge the iron pin and any strengthening bands and brackets. (Dedisham Furnace and Forge were in high production at that time, as shown by a lawsuit brought in 1595, so the iron was almost certainly produced in Rudgwick). Of the named individuals, Martine was probably he who occupied Canfields during this period, and from whom Martins opposite was named, and John Butcher' held Greathouse. Two men having the Christian name of Hendry seemed unusual, but it was agreed by W.S.R.O.staff.



At that time, churchwardens virtually held autocratic powers over the parish with very few to question their authority. Beginning with the Old Poor Law Act of 1552, Overseers of the Poor were nominated according to rules set out by Justices of the Peace, then an Act of 1602 ensured that parish vestries were formed to jointly govern church and civil affairs, with only ratepayers being qualified to attend meetings: they nominated parish officers from within their ranks, and appointed a salaried assistant surveyor. He was the parish clerk of the day with the responsibility of collecting parish rates and taxes from all liable householders. Churchwardens continued to be respected members of the parish, but no-one had overriding powers as all nominations and resolutions could only be resolved by a show of hands amongst the ratepayers present, with the vicar as the figurehead. It was the first step towards a democratic parish government albeit by an elitist group, and the vestry continued to control church and civil affairs for nearly three centuries, until dissolved and separated by the 1894 Local Government Acts.

The churchwardens decided to equip Rudgwick with a ducking stool at a time of strengthening Puritanism, which sought to purify the Church of England from the remnants of Roman Catholic 'popery' and purify the souls of the population by an oppressive regime demanding a strict moral code and punishment for minor infringements. The ducking stool was intended as a humiliating punishment to shame wrongdoers in front of their neighbours, primarily for woman scandalmongers and dishonest tradesmen. Nevertheless, to be strapped to a chair and submerged in cold water must have been a terrifying experience with possible dire consequences to anyone of a weaker constitution.

So where was this fiendish device installed? It had to be close to the village centre where the word could be put about and spectators gathered. Its position is open to speculation, but there is one likely spot; a pond at the bottom of Church Hill that was kept filled by the run-off. The 1898 Ordnance

Survey sheet annotates a well on the wide verge on the opposite side of the road about 25-40 yards north of Kings, but this information is questionable, as all other public wells scattered around the parish were maintained by the parish council and occasionally mentioned in the minutes. Like the other wells, it would have consisted of a brick filter box to dip buckets into. The existence of the pond is proven by a Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting of April 12th 1900, when it was resolved that 'the pond near Kings to be filled up at the cost of the Council'. This was done by Edwin Stanford at the cost of 12 shillings. (60p).

Roadside ponds were quite common for watering, but the question arises was this pond purposely made for the ducking stool and included in the churchwardens' account, and did the residents of Rudgwick ever enjoy the spectacle of one of their number being plunged into it.? That we will probably never know.

Source: *Rudgwick Churchwardens' Book 1579 - 1835.*  
(W.S.R.O. PAR 160/12/1) Reproduced here by kind permission of the County Archivist

## FREE COPY OF "THE GEOLOGY OF RUDGWICK PARISH CHURCH"

The Preservation Society has published a booklet, written by Roger Birch, on the **Geology of Holy Trinity Church**. With this newsletter you will find a free copy which we are distributing to all our members so that you can appreciate more of the history and construction of our Parish Church. We hope you will find it of interest. Further copies will be on sale at the AGM, £1.50 to members and £2.00 to non-members if you want one for family or friends or contact Roger Nash (number below)

Also on sale at the AGM (price £5) will be a re-issue in DVD format of the videotape that accompanied Diana Chatwin's book, **The Development of Timber Framed Buildings in the Sussex Weald**. If you have not got one, or would like one in DVD format, you can buy or order one at the AGM, or order one through Roger Nash (Tel; 822582) price £5.

# Transformation of Hitchcocks

## (3) Honeywood House, Rowhook

### By Roger Nash

**Lady Katherine Agnes Blanche Carnegie, 1867-1949**

**Viscountess Tredegar (from 1926), lived at Honeywood House 1914-1949**

**and her son Evan Frederic Morgan, 1893-1949**

**2nd Viscount, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Tredegar (from 1934), frequent visitor to Honeywood House, and his only residence 1948-9**

In 1914, Viscount Tredegar bought Oakwood Grange from Mr C. J. Wood, owner for just two years. The history of the property, originally Hitchcocks or Hedgecocks, was related in the Newsletter Spring and Autumn 2007. In 1914 it extended to 166 acres of fields and woodland to the east of Horsham Road, including also the farmland and cottage of Honeybush (abutting Honey Lane where it meets Monks Lane) to the north east of the house. Perhaps his wife renamed it Honeywood House, for it was she, youngest of the 11 daughters of the 9th Earl of Southesk who lived there. She grew up at Kinnaird Castle in Angus in Scotland, the family seat. On the fringes of royalty, as a young woman she was one of the more lively members of the Victorian Court. She had a great passion for the arts and made friends with many of the great artistic and literary characters of the day.

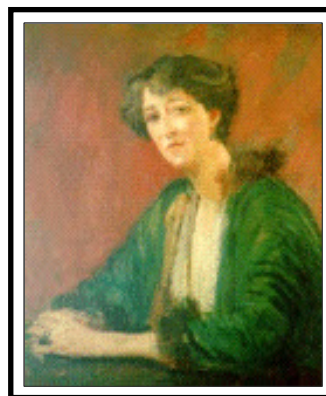
In 1890 Katherine married Courtenay Morgan the nephew of the then Baron Tredegar of Tredegar Park in South Wales. Thus an ancient Scottish family became linked with an ancient Welsh one. The marriage produced two children: Evan who eventually became the 2nd Viscount Tredegar, and Gwyneth who died tragically young at the age of 29. The marriage was not, however, a happy one. The artistic Katherine's temperament clashed with that of her hunting, shooting, fishing husband and the two drifted apart, living in different houses for the most part. That is why Courtney bought Honeywood House, as a main home for Katherine, while he spent his time in Wales. Courtney inherited the barony, and later gained a viscountcy, dying in 1934. Both titles and the estates then passed to his son, Evan, who also spent time at Honeywood House (as did Gwyneth).

Tredegar House came down in the Morgan family line for six centuries, but they claim descent from as far back as Bledri, d. 1120. The Carnegie family claim descent from William the Conqueror, and an earldom created in 1633.

Katherine was known as a great eccentric and society was awash with tales of her rather curious hobby. She had a wonderful affinity for birds and made bird's nests

as a way to pass the time and as a therapy for her arthritic fingers. To her they were like works of art, she would, with great dexterity fashion twigs, moss, string, grass and mud into a quite accurate nest. She could

do different kinds, Kingfisher nests being her favourite.



Unfortunately as the years went on, she got more and more eccentric. Hating noise, she became an invalid and her eccentricities grew more pronounced. She once made a bird's nest big enough to sit in, and society grabbed such a golden opportunity for

excited gossip: it was whispered that at times Lady Tredegar thought she WAS a bird and would sit in a nest.

Evan Morgan took after his mother in many ways. He was a poet, artist, writer and was totally unpredictable. He also had a remarkable way with birds, and looked strikingly avian himself. His luggage usually contained exotic birds, and his 'familiar' Blue Boy, a large malicious macaw would perch imperiously on its master's shoulder.

Katherine lived on at Honeywood. Quite how accurate the stories are about her is debatable. Evan used to joke quite openly after an evening's revelry: "You must come back and meet my mother. She makes the most wonderful bird's nests. We are quite a bird family!" Certainly many of the eccentricities were exaggerated, but there was no smoke without fire. The bird obsession is well documented, and at Honeywood, Katherine would order that her dog be taken for a 'walk' in the back-seat of her chauffeur-driven car. She thought an actual walk far too dangerous for her pet!

Katherine herself was a very lonely figure. She did not attend her daughter's funeral or her son's wedding and

was very rarely seen in public. She suffered from acute insomnia, and would sometimes sit in complete darkness, or even in a closet, to shut out the outside world. She did, however, maintain her passion for art and patronised such figures as Augustus John, Ambrose McEvoy and Gaudier-Brzeska. The portrait (above) of Katherine hangs at Tredegar House and was painted by Augustus John, who became a good friend of both Katherine and her son. Katherine, Viscountess Tredegar died in 1949. In her will she left a work of art to Augustus John, and explicitly stated that her ashes were NOT to be taken to Wales!

The website <http://gwyneth-erica-morgan.tripod.com> will give an insight into her daughter Gwyneth's short life, and early death in 1925<sup>1</sup>. She would have visited her mother in Rudgwick whilst living in London.



Evan was the first member of the Morgan family to be Roman Catholic for centuries. He was converted by the Archbishop of Algiers during World War I, and even went to the English College in Rome to study for the priesthood. He never made it however, as he apparently sent his

valet into his lectures for him!

Evan married twice, to a film star and a Russian Princess. On April 21 1928 he married Lois Sturt, daughter of Baron Alington. Unfortunately she died of a heart attack. His second wife was the Russian Princess Olga Dolgorouky, whom he married in 1939. They divorced in 1943. Despite his two marriages, Evan had no children.

"Evan Tredegar came to our house in Lancing most Sunday afternoons to see Bosie. Sometimes we hired a car to get him from his house 'Honeywood' near Horsham, sometimes I drove up to get him myself. There was a wonderful Japanese (*sic, actually Chinese*) room in the House - most beautiful furniture. Sometimes he would bring his week-end guest with him, I remember Terrence Rattigan and Lord Anal, the latter I think was a Master of Foxhounds. Evan quite often brought a bottle of brandy for Bosie.....Apparently one young man arriving at Honeywood said 'All this and Evan too!' " <sup>2</sup> *Extract of letter from Sheila Colman to Paul Busby, biographer of Evan Courtney. 'Bosie' of course was Lord Alfred Douglas, poet and friend of Oscar Wilde.*

After the Second World War (where, among other things Evan was court-martialled and his marriage was dissolved) times grew grimmer for the once exuberant, brilliant, Viscount Tredegar. Money problems started to mount and, in 1946, he closed Tredegar Park, the ancestral home, and moved into his London home, 13 South Audley Street, but, within a couple of years, he

closed that too, and went to live at Honeywood House with his mother. It was here in Rudgwick that Evan died in 1949, aged 56, of pancreatic cancer. In his will he left an 'iron box currently in my library at Honeywood House' containing all his papers and books to two friends so a biography of his exotic life could be written. The recipient's family no longer have the iron box (and indeed have no recollection of receiving it). Katherine died a few months after her son Evan.

Some pithy comments on Evan Morgan:

A little red absurdity, with a beak of a nose, no chin, and with the general likeness to a callow but student bantam cock that has run to legs and neck. *Virginia Woolf*

He should not have lived in this century. He should have been born in a doge's palace. *Sir Walter Monckton*

A birdlike sort of man. Possibly because his mother, the dowager Lady Tredegar, built the biggest bird's nest in all the world...She apparently hatched nothing in it except - who knows - Evan? *Gore Vidal*

The lines that best sum up Evan Morgan (and perhaps the era in which he lived) for me, come from Tennyson's Ulysses: "How dull it is to pause, to make an end, to rust unburnished, not to shine in use!" *Paul Busby*

Evan Morgan was never in any danger of rust. He preferred fantasy to reality and who could really blame him? His outlook on life seemed to be: on to the next adventure, the next horizon, but, never, ever, stop moving, not for a second. He was a quite extraordinary man. For all those who would sneer and degrade Evan Morgan in his lifetime, there would be an equal or greater army who would defend and sing his praises. They would speak of a man who fought a constant battle against pomposity and dullness and routed the pair of them. They would speak of acts of great kindness, of an incomparable host, raconteur and friend. Of a man who was always surrounded by laughter, because he generated it himself. Fearless, impetuous and eccentric to the point of madness, he always lived life on his terms. He was the sort of person who made life more interesting, more fun, and more exciting. He was a poet, novelist, artist, musician, gourmet, pilot, occultist, papal chamberlain, collector, arts patron, bird tamer, journalist, parliamentary candidate, diplomatic attaché; Major in the military, part of the secret service....the list goes on and on.

MI8 under Evan Morgan even devised a plan to launch a deception over the English Channel when it was believed that a major German offensive was being planned. The goal was to drop thousands of pigeons (birds again!) over the channel and fill the German lofts with more pigeons than the Nazis could handle in the hope that it would totally confuse them, thereby slowing down any information which might be sent by



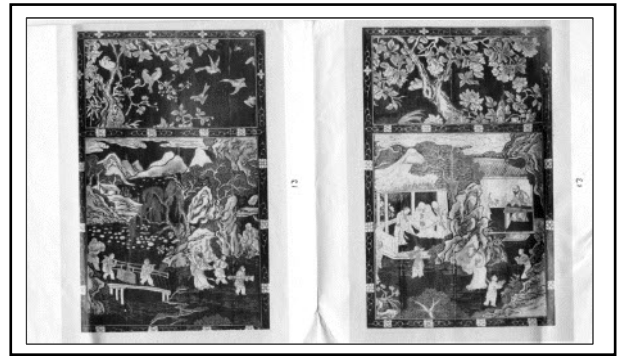
the Nazis spies. Of course it failed. But it ended when he was arrested and thrown into the Tower of London for treason. Apparently, following the annulment of his second marriage, he dated a young girl, who was not cleared by Intelligence, taking her on a tour of MI8 offices and telling her all about the pigeon fiasco. When released, he was of course retired immediately.

By 1949, the Morgans of Tredegar had become one of the most heavily taxed families in the country. Some £4,500,000 had been paid in death duties in the 20th century. After the death of Evan, Viscount Tredegar, in 1949 an elderly uncle Frederic George Morgan succeeded to the title of Baron Tredegar. Frederic was 76 years old and crippled with osteo-arthritis. The spectre of yet more death duties loomed large. Frederic, to avoid these, immediately passed the Tredegar estate onto his son, John, whilst keeping the title for himself. Frederic, 5th Baron Tredegar retired back to his Mayfair flat leaving John Morgan to assess the situation. John decided that "due to death duties, heavy taxation and increasing costs" the ancestral home was to be closed. In 1951 Tredegar House and 200 acres of immediate land were sold to the Sisters of St Josephs, an order of Roman Catholic nuns, who converted it into a school. Most of the contents of the House were sold and John looked for a fresh start abroad. In 1954, the death of his father meant that John became the 6th and last Baron Tredegar. By this time John was married and living in the tax-haven of Monte Carlo.

Back home, the remnants of the once mighty Tredegar Estate were being sold off. J. C. Deakin, the final Estate Agent oversaw the sale of the Morgan's remaining property. Along with Tredegar House went Honeywood House in Rudgwick and in all some 53,000 acres of land. In essence it was the liquidation of an estate that had taken the Morgans centuries to obtain. John Morgan, 6th Baron Tredegar died childless in 1962 aged 54. His death signalled the end of the Morgans of Tredegar.

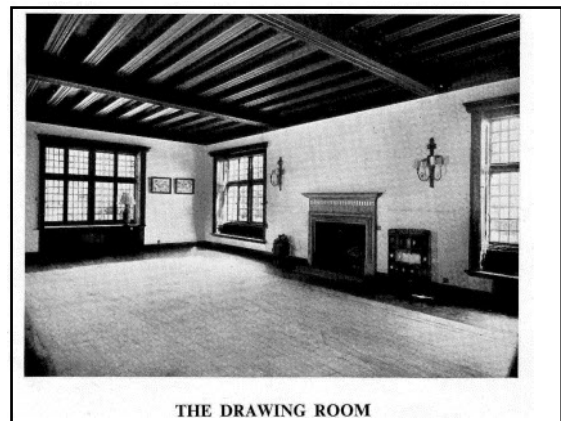
Kelly's Directory 1915 lists Lord Tredegar as 'private resident' at Honeywood House, along with his Clubs, and two London addresses. In later editions, the Viscountess is listed in her own right. As far as can be understood the Dowager Duchess remained at Honeywood during the war. The current matron believes there may have been a military presence there during the war. I suspect this was in the grounds, not the house. One incident is recorded from this time. A Mustang plane crashed near the house on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 1944.

From study of maps it seems that the Morgans made no obvious additions or changes to the house and other buildings during the 35 years the family owned it. One small addition was a small well-built wooden summer house in the rear garden which, though in poor shape is still watertight and has one (of two) surviving stained glass window depicting birds – surely of Tredegar vintage. Internally, however, the room in



the front projection of the south wing was decorated (above) with Chinese lacquer panels. These were not removed until the present trustees needed money for re-roofing the entire building, and they were sold as a major contribution to the cost. Though understandable, it is sad to know they have gone. The room has also lost its integrity with a dividing stud wall to create better office accommodation. Fortunately the other principal rooms (entrance hall, staircase, drawing room and dining room) are intact.

Honeywood House estate had been offered for sale through Knight, Frank & Rutley as a single lot, (advertisement in The Field, September 1949) after the death of Katherine and Evan, but did not sell. The next crisis forced a sale in 1954, when the estate of 172 acres was split up into eleven lots.



- Lot 1 The house with 8 acres of grounds, was sold to new proprietors who set up a registered charity for a luxury 'Convalescent Nursing Hotel', founded by Messrs S. Miller and J. Bellord with Miss C. J. Sparrow as the Matron
- Lot 2 South Lodge
- Lot 3 Honeybush Cottage, with 55 acres of farmland and woodland (house and farmland, let to Mr J Sumner on a yearly tenancy, rent £76 pa, woodland in hand), whose daughter and husband live there still
- Lot 4 Oakwood Wood and Frenches Copse, 53 acres
- Lot 5 North Lodge
- Lot 6 Woodland area to north west, 4 acres
- Lot 7 Woodland area to north west, 4 acres (where Tanglewood is now)
- Lot 8 Farmland and woodland to the south of the house, 35 acres (above Honey Lane Farm, which was not part of the estate)

Lot 9 Two grass fields with buildings to the south adjoining Honey Lane, 8 acres (near Honeyghyll Farm)  
Lot 10 A semi-detached cottage with garden, 1 acre, occupied by Mr P Geering, gardener, on a service tenancy (Southern Rose)  
Lot 11 A semi-detached cottage with garden, 3 acres, occupied by Miss Stanford, former employee, life tenancy, rent free (Rose Cottage).

An undated brochure states that the Convalescent Hotel had 16 acres of grounds so the buyers must have acquired more than just Lot 1, auctioned in 1954, shown above.

Honeywood House Nursing Home opened in 1963. It is very much a working business with 26 bedrooms, run by a trust. Given the tight constraints there are today in running such a business, the trustees<sup>3</sup> have kept the house well, but it is understandable that, if listed as Stan Smith hoped, it would be difficult to make improvements that may be required in future. The Preservation Society should have an understanding but watchful brief on the property, not least because of the fascinating array of characters that have graced its portals, and the status of its architect, Sir Ernest George.

The original Hedgecocks farmhouse, dismantled by about 1879, was described in a sale catalogue of 1876, now in WSRO, as "small brick and noggin-built and Horsham slate and tile-roofed" with "a barn, capital stabling, cattle sheds, cart lodges, granary and lewings". It was let on a yearly tenancy (98 acres @ £35) to John Nash of Ridge Farm, and occupied by his son George, the author's great grandfather, though with notice to quit. The purchaser is believed to be Timothy Coleman Johnson of Millfield House (whose signature and handwritten notes are on the document), who possibly then sold the farmhouse to William Renton who rebuilt the property, truly a transformation.

Over the years a large number of people, many born locally, have worked at this house, as builders, maids, cooks, gardeners, chauffeurs and recently as nurses and cleaners. Theirs is a largely untold story, but an important one nevertheless. It is a shame that little is known of them, but they should not be forgotten.

<sup>1</sup> Monty Dart and Will Cross are writing a biography of Gwyneth Morgan, *Through A Window Once I Saw You Dance*, which will also refer to Honeywood House, and have been helpful in sharing information

<sup>2</sup> I am indebted to Paul Busby and The Friends of Tredegar House, for this quotation, and for much of the above, including the photographs. Paul Busby is writing a biography of Evan Morgan, *Only Evan: The eccentric life of Lord Tredegar*, due to be published shortly.

<sup>3</sup> Mrs Margaret Cutler, the current matron and a trustee, has been very helpful in compiling this history, in particular lending me the sales documents for 1949 and 1954 and photos of the Chinese Room, showing me around, and for allowing RPS to visit the grounds in August 2007.

## Biodiversity Management Plan Surveys

Eric Slade

Early in 2006 Trevor Nash conceived the idea that the periphery of the George V Playing field, which was very overgrown and neglected, could be transformed into a nature conservation area. Trevor approached the Rudgwick Preservation Society (RPS) for support in this venture and I was asked to act as liaison between the Biodiversity Group (as it became known) and RPS, to work with Trevor to put his ideas into operation.

Initially our main task was to clear the undergrowth. Work carried out by volunteers of all ages. It was then possible to carry out surveys of plants, animals, birds, insects and wildlife existing in this area. I was asked to undertake these surveys. My first survey was on fungi, of which I knew very little, but with the help of literature provided by Pauline Chandler (West Sussex Countryside Ranger), I and a fellow volunteer carried out a search which resulted in identifying eight species with lovely descriptive names such as Cramp Ball commonly known as King Alfred's Cakes, Turkey Tail, Orange Peel fungus and Candle Snuff Fungus.

I was specifically asked to undertake a search to find the eggs of the Brown Hairstreak Butterfly which can be found on Blackthorn bushes in the winter months. What a challenge! They are about half the size of a pin head and are yellowish white in colour. I did succeed with the help of a magnifying glass- Sherlock Holmes has an equal!

Other surveys were to follow which took in birds, identifying them by sight and sound, plants, trees and butterflies. When undertaking these surveys it was not unusual to disturb rabbits, roe deer and foxes and on one occasion actually saw a stoat mesmerising a rabbit. Two surveys for moths took place in late evening using a strong lightbox covered with a sheet which was set up by Alec Macintyre a local entomologist. The better of the two surveys yielded sixteen different species which was a good result. For me this was a new experience which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Pauline Chandler arranged for two bat watches along the river at late evening using bat detectors which emit a clicking sound when a bat flies past. The children in the group were allowed to use these detectors which they found fascinating and it was both educational and enjoyable for everyone. During August, a pond dipping survey was arranged by Pauline who brought along nets and collecting containers. This was a great success enjoyed by Mums, Dads and children alike. The different species identified far exceeded expectations.

2007 ended with a second survey on fungi and this time nineteen species were identified (I must have learnt something in the past year)!

Copies of these surveys are sent to West Sussex Biodiversity Resource Centre at Woodmill. The forms have to state species, where found and rarity. It has been rewarding to find the amount of wildlife in our conservation area, which can be enjoyed by all Rudgwick residents. The work on the conservation area is ongoing and with the management of the site can only result in benefits to nature, which in turn can be of both educational and recreational benefit to the community.



Rudgwick Preservation Society

# Walks Programme Summer 2008

All walks are on Tuesday evenings  
and start at 7-00pm.

## OPEN TO ALL

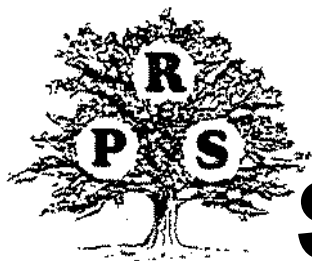
I am delighted to tell you that we have a full complement of 14 walks this year. Full details of the walks are published in West Sussex Summer Walks & Rides, obtainable from libraries (e.g. Billingshurst) at £1.50. We may have some copies available via the RPS. The average walk is 4 miles in 2 hours. 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.

Tuesday	Leader(s)	Starting at	Grid Ref - TQ
May 6th	David Buckley	The Fox (Bucks Green)	078330
May 13th	Roger Nash	Mucky Duck (Tismans Common)	067323
May 20th	John Connold	The Sussex Oak (Warnham)	158337
May 27th	Steve and Barbara Kenwood	Dedisham Farm (Roman Gate)	109329
June 3rd	Bridget and David Cozens	The Red Lyon (Slinfold)	118315
June 10th	Geoff Ayres	The Blue Ship (The Haven)	084305
June 17th	Geoff Ayres or Malcolm Francis	Kings Head (to Baynards Station)	090343
June 24th	Roger Nash	Onslow Arms (Loxwood)	042312
July 1st	Bridget and David Cozens	Chequers (Rowhook)	122342
July 8th	Anne-Marie Nash	Whitehall lay-by (Cranleigh)	078380
July 15th	Steve and Barbara Kenwood	Kings Head (Church Street)	090343
July 22nd	Keith Linscott	Mucky Duck (Tismans Common)	067323
July 29th	Eric Slade	Kings Head (Church Street)	090343
August 5th	Geoff Ayres	Pephurst lay-by (Loxwood Road)	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**





Rudgwick Preservation Society

# SPRING MEETING

and

## AGM

**Monday April 28th 2008**

**At 7.30pm Rudgwick Hall, Bucks Green**

# **Taking Farming into the 21st Century**

**Steve Podd**

*Kent and Sussex Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)*

**STEVE WAS BORN IN SUFFOLK WHERE HE FARMED FOR OVER 20 YEARS BEFORE JOINING THE KENT AND SUSSEX FARMING AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY GROUP 4 AND A HALF YEARS AGO. HE HAS A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN FARM BUILDINGS AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES. HIS TALK WILL DEAL WITH THE CHANGING FACE OF FARMING AND HOW THIS HAS CHANGED THE COUNTRYSIDE AND IMPACTED ON WILDLIFE AND HABITATS.**

**ALL WELCOME**