

## Chairman's report

We are very sorry to be losing our membership secretary at the AGM, but understand the pressures of her busy life. Judy Buckley has served on the committee for many years, and nobly took on her role to help the then treasurer. Now the role will return to the treasurer, who promises it will be streamlined in tandem with his banking and other duties. Thank you, David! So vote him back onto the committee, please.

We would therefore welcome a new member of the committee. There will be no special responsibilities. Could it be you? Think about it, but not for long, as we need any nomination to be in before the day of the AGM.

We are sad to hear that Eric Slade, until recently on the committee, has left the village for family reasons. We shall miss his cheery face, and Jill too. Eric has been one of our walks leaders for many years – another vacancy! If anyone would like to become a walks leader let me or Geoff Ayres know as soon as possible.

The society needs more members. It is no secret that we all get older, and we need to attract a younger generation to our ranks. We can only flourish with strength in numbers. Please do your bit to persuade your friends and neighbours that £2 or £3 is excellent value for a newsletter, for watching brief on planning, and safeguarding our history, environment and buildings. Anyone who cares for Rudgwick's past, present and future should belong.

To hear what we have done this year do come to the AGM. The talk afterwards promises to be a good one. Sussex Wildlife Trust deserves our support. Those of you who attended the November talk on pub signs were well entertained, and we beat the snow by a matter of hours.

I have written before about the South Downs National Park. The business of running a Park begins in earnest on 1st April. The SDNP Authority will be the Planning Authority and have overall control for all planning matters large and small. What they have done is to enter an agency agreement with the 15 existing Local Authorities within the SDNP area to provide the infrastructure for dealing with minor applications. Large scale applications or mineral applications which would have been dealt with by the County Council will be considered directly by the

National Park Planning Authority. This affects parishes close to us such as Pulborough and Wisborough Green This arrangement has taken some working out, and remains controversial. The park authorities are not to get so much money in the new order of things, so the birth of "our" Park comes at a difficult time. RPS wishes them well, even if it is about 65 years late.

Rudgwick will not be the same without Secrett's. The company tried hard to keep going, but times are such that they have had to revert to their core activities in Milford at which they excel. Many of us will have a theory why the business model for Rudgwick failed. Mine is that without much parking, and therefore with a catchment not much greater than our village, the threshold population of customers simply wasn't there, and must have dwindled, whilst costs rose, in these difficult trading times. I would however like to thank them for their ability to sell so many of our walks books and other publications, and for their willingness to advertise our events.

**Roger Nash** 

## **Planning Matters**

Vanessa Sanderson

### Localism Bill

The new Localism Bill includes a requirement that developers consult with communities before submitting **planning applications**. The Coalition agreement promises radical reform of the planning system to give people more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their residents live. The Localism Bill will;

- increase community influence on planning applications and reduce frustration by giving local people a chance to shape proposals at an early stage,
- reduce the costs of the planning process and speed up the system by improving the quality and sensitivity of developments and this will reduce refusal and appeal rates.

The description of which developments the requirement will apply to will be set in secondary legislation. One option is that it may only apply to larger scale development – the devil will be in the detail of course.

In February Grant Shapps the Housing Minister announced the first cash bonuses totalling almost

£200m for communities building new homes and confirmed details of how local house building will be transformed through incentives that will encourage communities to back rather than oppose development as they get to choose how these bonuses are spent. The Government has set aside almost a £1bn to kick start this scheme and ensure that those who go for growth will benefit now

Through the New Homes Bonus the Government will match council tax raised from new homes for the first 6 years and the bonus available for an **affordable home** will be up to 36% more than for a similar market home equivalent to £350 per house premium every year. Empty properties brought back into use will also receive the cash bonus. The Minister advises that this initiative will provide significant funding at a time when public finances are tight.

A new **Community Infrastructure Levy** is a levy that local authorities can choose to charge on new developments in their area. The money can be used to support development by funding infrastructure that the council and neighbourhood want to support growth and benefit the local community. It should provide developers with more certainty up front about how much money they will be expected to contribute and

ensure greater transparency for local people because they will be able to see how the new development is contributing to their local community.

The Localism Bill will also encourage the development of neighbourhood plans which will apply to rural areas such as Rudgwick and Parish Councils and neighbourhood forums to take a lead role in this type of work. In this Parish we have already made significant strides with the production of the Parish Plan and Design Statement which would be given a statutory footing in the proposed legislation.

The Governments plan is for the bill to be given Royal Ascent by November 2011 but as always this is subject to the vicissitudes of the Parliamentary timetable. If this goes ahead as planned it will become law by spring 2012.

In the meantime Horsham have produced a Draft Interim Statement entitled **Managing Development in the Horsham District – January 2011** which is a non statutory planning guidance document to maintain control of development proposals in the interim having regard to the Governments forthcoming Localism Bill. The full document is available on the HDC website www.horsham.gov.uk

## **ANY OLD IRON**

## **Malcolm Francis**

I was presented last year with a bag of old letters and notes that included paperwork relating to Rudgwick's effort to recycle a lot of waste material in the early years of the second world war. The paperwork originated from a Mr M.R.K. Burge who was the chairman of the parish council. I must stress that the paperwork at that time would have seemed of little interest



historically but now it gives a fascinating glimpse of the village war effort. There were various fund raising and savings schemes instigated throughout those years, but until reading the old documents I was not aware of the effort that was put into collecting metal and general waste. Here is part of one of the documents that illustrates the way each community was encouraged to recycle.

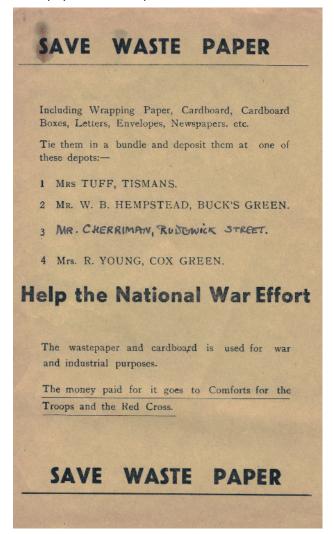
## Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence Salvage Department Memorandum

"Salvage has become our plain duty, yet another form of patriotism. We must extract usefulness from every commodity and practise every economy and care over trifles, so that we may reclaim all waste and dormant materials. If we do not save them, we must buy from abroad. To buy from abroad means using men, ships and money, which are urgently needed for the necessities of life and for raw materials. You are called upon to see to it that the maximum value is extracted from all utilisable waste materials."

#### **Waste Paper**

"The Paper and Board Mills are crying out for more clean waste paper. They need four times the amount that they are getting at present. At least two hundred and fifty thousand tons of household waste paper is required each year to replace wood pulp, a raw material usually imported from Norway, Sweden, Finland and Canada. Today we do not wish to expose our men and ships to avoidable

risks. All classes of paper, cardboard, old letters and food wrappings are wanted, except for greased and tarred paper and cellophane.



If you tear a piece of newsprint and look along the edge of the paper you see the fibres which industry requires. Paper can be used over and over again. Food cartons, including those for the troops, can become cigarette packets, and may well have served some other purposes in between and yet live on. Clean waste paper is practically 100% salvage – ton for ton.

A million tons of waste paper finds it way into the dustbin year by year. STOP THIS WASTE. Try to keep your waste paper and newsprint CLEAN AND DRY. IT IS MORE VALUABLE. Tie it up tight and tidy, ready for collection. Four hundred and fifty copies of the *Times* weigh 1 cwt."

#### **Textiles**

"All classes of rags, (linen, cotton and wool), old clothes, silk stockings, carpet, baggings, etc, even old and dirty, are used by industries for the manufacture of paper, felts, shoddy, etc. This class of waste can be tied up in bundles and is collected with waste paper."

#### **Bottles**

"Bottles of every kind (including chemist bottles) should be saved wherever a local market can be found."

#### **Household bones**

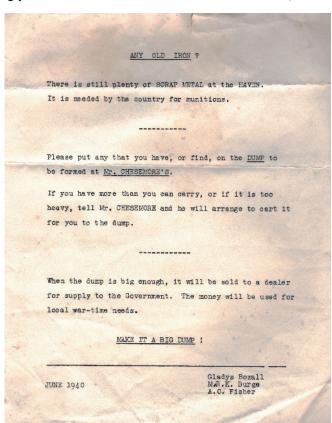
"Household bones, cooked and uncooked, including chicken and game but not fish bones, are urgently needed, however small for;

#### 1 Glue

For war purposes and civilian needs. There is no known substitute for glue. It is necessary in almost every factory, both military and civilian. Six or seven tons of bone produce one ton of glue. Glue is an essential war material. Its elastic and resilient quality, its clarity, adhesiveness and strain-resisting power are vital to industry. Glue is used for shell cases and in the manufacture of aircraft. It is used in making of matches. In short the uses of glue are legion.

#### 2. Fats

These are used for industry. One ton of bones will yield about 3 cwt of fat suitable for soap, ointments, glycerine, etc.



## 3. Fertilizer

Rich in nitrogen and phosphate - invaluable to crops. Thousands of acres of land are being put under the plough and many new allotments are being made to increase home production of food stuffs. Additional fertilizers are therefore essential. The bone is finely ground down giving quick availability."

The local records also show that Rudgwick collected 10 ton of waste paper in the first year of this scheme.

## RUDGWICK'S CORONATION PLANS 1937

## MALCOLM FRANCIS

The following slightly amusing account is part of an article that was originally reported in the West Sussex County Times and Standard in February 1937 when the village was preparing for the Coronation Day of King George VI. The references to the Jubilee celebrations two years earlier make one wonder how much "hype " was written into that report as the reference to the attendance of the "old folk" seems rather contradictory. One is fascinated by the detail that was reported by the press in those days.

## "Celebration Costs to be borne by the rates., Rudgwick's Coronation committees elected"

Rudgwick Coronation celebrations are to be no halfhearted attempts at merry making if the general views of a meeting at Rudgwick's (Jubilee) Village

Hall on Saturday are carried out.

Progress at the meeting was hindered to some extent by some of those present misunderstanding the capacity in which it met. This difficulty was dispelled when the vicar, the Rev A.N. Wynn, explained that it was a public meeting and not a parish council meeting. Mr S.D.Secretan was in the chair and said he thought the finance would be the greatest

difficulty and invited suggestion on how the money should be raised. Capt. Brutton suggested a penny on the rates all round, adding "and then we shall all be taking part", Mr H Tate proposed a two penny rate.

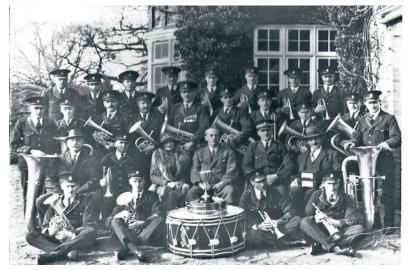
In reply to a question Mr Secretan said that the Jubilee celebrations had cost about seventy pounds. Mr A.D.Bacon (local school headmaster) proposed a threepenny rate but the chairman said he could not agree to that. The solution came from Mr M.R.K Burge who said he understood it would be in order to suggest a penny rate with a recommendation to the parish council to increase it if necessary.

The chairman asked for suggestions about the form the celebrations should take. A Mr W.Piper said "The celebrations will be primarily for the children, we look back at similar times that we were given and we should like to give our children a similar time now". Capt. Brutton proposed that there were sports and teas for the children, adding "If there are enough funds, and if the old people turn out, we give them a "do" afterwards. At the Jubilee they did not turn up and we were quite disappointed"

Mr Wynn proposed that all children of school age and under should be given mugs, as at the Jubilee, and also flags. The part of the proposition concerning mugs was carried but the flags not decided on. In a reply to Mr Tate the vicar said he had not suggested a service on Coronation Day as he thought everybody would want to listen to the wireless.

Mr Wait said that members of the Old Comrades

Club would prefer not to parade to church but go separately with their wives and children. It was decided to have a special morning service the Sunday before and invite Rudgwick's Silver band to parade on Coronation day. The fact that the accounts for the Jubilee



**Rudgwick Silver Band at Gaskyns** 

celebrations had not been published raised a query. The two new committees that were to be set up for the Coronation celebrations would want to get guidance from the previous budgets. In reply Mr Wynn said that they were to have been published in the Parish magazine but there was not enough room to print them (in those days the parish magazine was a very slim publication, one assumes because of the cost of printing). No papers were left over and what became of them he could not say. "I will take the blame", he said, "whether you're going to put me in the pillory, or what you're going to do to me, I don't know, I'm sorry".

Mr Bacon and Mr Tate thought that the vicar was taking too much blame as he was not the chairman on that occasion and there had been some difficulty with the accounts.......

## RUDGWICK'S TELEGRAM TO THE KING.

## **MALCOLM FRANCIS**

This article is based on a report that was printed in the "West Sussex Times and Standard" in May 1935. It certainly shows how different the world was at that time and by the report people seemed to have had more time to enjoy themselves.

Always to the fore, Rudgwick was perhaps the only village in the district from which a telegram was sent to the King and Queen on Monday (King George V and Queen Mary) Rudgwick's Silver Jubilee celebrations were an outstanding success. The sender of the

telegram was Mr Fred Fleming who with Mr A.O. Fisher was hon. ioint secretary. The message was " Rudgwick Village, Sussex, sends to Your **Majesties** sincere congratulations. May God bless you. Fisher, Fleming, joint secretaries." A reply was received on Wednesday as follows: "The

King desires me to express to all who joined in your message, His Majesty's best thanks for your kind congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee. Clive Wigram"

"This reply", Mr Fleming said, "will be framed and treasured for many years to come, so that Rudgwick will have at least two permanent memorials to remind them of the Jubilee, the telegram and the recreation ground, which it is intended to provide". With regard to the celebrations themselves, these lasted from early morning until late at night. The church bells started to ring at 6 a.m. and the fireworks display and bonfire going on until well after midnight. Between those two events the hours were crowded with incidents and the villagers enjoyed themselves to the full.

They commenced with a mustering at Bucks Green school of over 400 people, including the Church Lads Brigade, Girl Guides, Overseas and ex Servicemen, villagers and visitors and led by Bandmaster Harold Tate and Rudgwick's Silver Band, they paraded to Holy Trinity Church, Rudgwick. Here the Rev. A.N Wynn. M.A, the vicar, conducted a service which included the wireless reception of the service from St Paul's Cathedral. The service at Rudgwick concluded with "God Save the King" played by the band.

The procession formed up again and marched back to the Queen's Head Hotel for the dismissal, and shortly afterwards the proceedings continued with a lunch for 70 old folks at the Queen's Hall. All were served an excellent repast by the proprietor Mr F.E.A. Crouch. Each resident was invited to a free glass of liquid refreshment during the celebrations to drink the health of Their Majesties.

(The hall was a small wooden building that was used as a function room, it stood alongside the Queen's

Head. It was demolished in 1975, years before the Queen's Head was shut). Sports were then held for children and adults on the cricket ground by permission of Mr D. Jamily.(owner of Gaskyns). During the sports the children were served with tea in a large marquee and presented with Jubilee mugs. In connection with the adult sports. there were so

Queens Hall and Pub 1974

demol 1975, the Qu was sh Sports held for and ac cricked permis D. Jan of Gar During the ch served a large and pr Jubiled connecting the additional connecting and properties of the page of the pag

many entries for the events, and the competitors entered into them with such a hearty spirit that they lasted for two hours longer than planned!

After the distribution on the sports prizes by Mrs M.R.K. Burge, dancing was held on the cricket ground to music by the band, until it was time to light the bonfire and fireworks in an adjoining field, which closed one of the biggest days in Rudgwick's history. Much of the success was due to the untiring efforts of Messrs. F. Fleming and A.O. Fisher, the joint hon secretaries, Major D. Wauchope, OBE Lieut. Col P.H. Wilson, DSO., Messrs S.D. Secretan, J.R. Harvey, Mrs Brutton, Mrs Bacon and a host of assistants, as well as Viscountess Tredegar, of Honeywood House, Rowhook, for her financial support.

**Note**: The Barker family were the previous owners of Gaskyns House (now Pennthorpe school), they had always given permission for use of their grounds for village sports activities. Mr Jamily was a retired Indian judge; there seems there was some friction between him and the village. In those days there were race issues and he was never accepted into village "society". This was recounted to me by my late mother in law Babs McWilliam.

One can see why there were plans to acquire a new site for the village recreation ground.

# Rudgwick Centenary Census 1911 Roger Nash

Many readers will quickly recognise their own house in these census summaries, (see below and pages 8,9 and 10). However, as with earlier censuses, there is some doubt about unnamed cottages which are tantalisingly tucked into the lists (and this may have created one or two errors in what follows, for which, apologies). Some are easy to work out either because we know where someone lived at the time or because we can recognise the route the enumerator took as he went from house to house, along the same side of the road in most cases. RPS have attempted to match every house to its occupant, and thereby to understand which properties existed in 1911. A few have been demolished, not to be replaced; a few have been totally rebuilt on the plot; many have been extended and altered, leaving, I think, enough familiarity in the streetscape for an imaginary 1911 resident to recognise their house (this being just beyond 'living memory'), even though its setting may have altered dramatically.

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There were 1246 persons in Rudgwick (compared to around 3000 today). In 1911, only two side roads existed on Church Street (a name not yet in use) – Station Road and Kings Road. In the north-west of the parish some properties were listed as Baynards, as they were within the orbit of the station there. Otherwise the hamlets were much as we know them today. The lists give glimpses of business and social life as instructions were to list uninhabited buildings such as lock up shops and places of worship. There were only a few unoccupied houses, of which the most notable was Tismans. It is helpful that both Pike's Blue Book and Kelly's Directory published a volume each in 1911 which puts flesh on the bones, giving occupations and addresses, but with distinct class overtones, dividing commercial entries from private residents. Many do not appear at all in

Kelly's whereas Pike's lists everybody. Newspapers also give a flavour of what was important, including national ones such as can be read in The Times Archive. For example, Hale, "A Sussex manor-house of exceptional charm" was auctioned in 1910 but was withdrawn as it did not reach the reserve of £4000.

Household size, though larger than today, had fallen. The very large number of children, perhaps with three generations of a family, who lived in the cottages of the late C19th was giving way to smaller families. There were exceptions such as at neighbouring Bignor and Hoglands in The Haven, where there were 7, 11, 8 and 10 in 4 households. Most other large households were those of wealthy residents with numerous mainly female servants living in - not forgetting other employees, such as the appropriately named Mr Sadler in Pallinghurst stable flat, living in estate accommodation. At Gaskyns (now Pennthorpe) were 8 members of the Barker family, and 11 others. Social mobility may have still been difficult, but geographical mobility was part of the warp and weft of life, as girls left home to go into service, and boys to work in the towns such as Brighton or London. A more detailed analysis would doubtless reveal a surprising number of incomers of all ages and classes in Rudgwick. Rudgwick had had railway connections for 45 years. Ernest Moorhouse, the station master, could have told a few tales, to be sure.

Incoming wealthy families, of whom I have written at length before, were at the height of their influence, both benevolent in providing a focus for village life and employment, and exploitative in retaining local staff on low wages, many of whom saw little option but to work for them if they were not to join the exodus away from kith and kin. Taken together, the large estates at Pallinghurst, Lynwick, Oakwood Grange, Gaskyns, Swaines, Hermongers and Hyes, and absentee landowners such as the Duke of Norfolk (manor of Dedisham), the St Johns (Slinfold) and Rev MJ Simmonds of Godalming (Garlands estate), directly employed or rented land to much of the farming community, which was still a majority in a largely pre-mechanised age. Those of you who watched Edwardian Farm and Downton Abbey will have grasped the flavour (if not always the accuracy) of their representation of the Edwardian age.

Princess Colunna of Oakwood Grange (Honeywood House) was not in England, but in any case she was to sell the 313 acre estate, partly in Rudgwick, partly in Surrey, in September 1911. Erwin Schumacher was at Pallinghurst Park, and may have by then have purchased Tismans. John Aungier, Irish stockbroker and owner of land and railways in Argentina, had acquired most of his ever growing estate in the locality, abutting that of Pallinghurst and Baynards Parks, and stretching across the parish from Tismans Common to Cox Green. At first it seems strange that he was at Aliblastairs on census night, not at Lynwick. There is evidence he let Lynwick at times, but in this census it was occupied by a sole caretaker. It is entirely possible both Tismans and Lynwick were undergoing renovations. The description of both Lynwick and Aliblastairs, at the time the estate was divided in lots for sale in 1922, is of two very similarly and well equipped houses with all post-Edwardian mod cons. Aliblastairs had clearly been rebuilt, so was the more modern of the two in the sale particulars. Whichever he lived in, Aungier must have rattled around in a multibedroomed house far too big for his bachelor needs. Another noteworthy resident was Mrs Teshmaker Busk at Hermongers, a widow not yet to know she would also lose her two sons so tragically in the forthcoming war. Many a family in Rudgwick was unaware of the trauma that war would bring to the young of the parish, and of the beginning of the end of the big estates that employed them. Some signs of a rather flat property market were reports in The Times that attempts to auction Hale in 1910 and Hyes in 1913 both failed with their reserve prices not met (£4,000 for Hale, 70 acres; £8,100 for Hyes, 200 acres)

The railway had not put Fred Street, the carrier, who lived in one of the Riddens Cottages on Loxwood Road, out of business. Kelly's tells us his 'van' went to Horsham three days a week, returning the same day. George Standing at Dale Cottage (well placed opposite the road to the station) was available to hire out a fly (a small horse drawn carriage) - a forerunner of Rudgwick Cars, perhaps. However, the mail was so reliable at this time that typically, a postcard posted 6.30 p.m., would arrive the next day at 7.30 a.m.. Post cards had become the e-mail of the day, which explains why so many pictures of Rudgwick survive from this period. There were three postal deliveries a day. Ernest Coudery kept the Rudgwick Post Office, Harry Street the one at Bucks Green (also a money order & telegraph office) and William Cheesmore the one at The Haven. There were additional letter boxes at Tismans Common, The Cricketers, Rowhook and at the station, collection four times a day.

The Headmaster at Rudgwick Schools (girls and boys) in Bucks Green was still Charles Woods who had been appointed when the school opened. He had educated almost everyone born in the village since 1870, and now his daughter taught the infants. In 1913, the school, under County control in Chichester, was due to get an extension. The school at The Haven (located on the parish boundary) was 107 on roll, Bucks Green 132. The one at Rowhook had recently closed, but that at Ellens Green still continued serving families on that side of Rudgwick. Although unoccupied in the census, the Pike's Blue Book 1911-12, which may have been based on slightly later data than the census, refers to a Preparatory School at The Beeches in Church St. This house, constructed as its prominent date states, in 1907, was unoccupied in the census but was then taken by St John Canfield-Payne from Barnet Herts, a teacher. He was later headmaster of the village school in Crawley Down. A grandson, also St John Canfield-Payne. is an insurance consultant in East Grinstead!

One curious surname in Tismans Common was that of John Backlog, the policeman ('constable in charge'), living in one of the Highview Villas, named grandly in Kelly's as the police barracks! No doubt he had to keep a watching brief on the pubs which still had pre-Lloyd George opening times, prices and beer strengths. All our familiar watering holes were there. Alexander Hill was landlord of The Chequers, William Townsend at The Cricketers, Francis Eeles at The Blue Ship, Edward Booker at The Fox, Emily King at The Queen's Head, Edward Grinsted at The Martlet and Kate May at The King's Head. The Plough had recently closed. Sad to say, two more have since closed.

Finding shops and businesses in the lists in 1911 is a little tricky as those which were also homes are not necessarily named as shops. Visits to Horsham were still a rarity for many families, maybe once a year for items like shoes for poorer families, so the shops were the lifeblood of the village. Each hamlet could supply its local families with necessities. **Tismans Common** had Betsey Borrer's shop

at Exfoldwood, and also a lock up grocer's run by Amy Galloway probably in the garden of Fairmead (then Althorndean). Tismans Common had had a name for growing fruit for 20 years or more in the Arundene and Barnsfold Nurseries area, then called Arun Bank, based on a fruit farming school run by Admiral Goodridge at Rudgwick Grange. This is a nice example of horticultural evolution and continuity to the present, though a curious outlet for the skills of a distinguished navy man who had spent most of his career in the Far East. An advert in The Times in May 1911 stated: "FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FARMING SCHOOL, Sussex. Special short courses for intending Colonists. Rudgwick Fruit Farm, Rudgwick". It is hoped a future article can be published on Goodridge and the fruit and nursery businesses that flourished here. As well as Goodridge, there were Frederick Dahse, Hearsum Brothers and Street & Lambert.

In **Rowhook**, Lois and Alice Harding had a grocer's at Little Millfields, which their father had run before them. The delightfully named Moses Muggeridge, of a local family still in the district, operated a threshing machine from Stringersland Farm (Chequered Oak), a forerunner of the modern agricultural contractor.

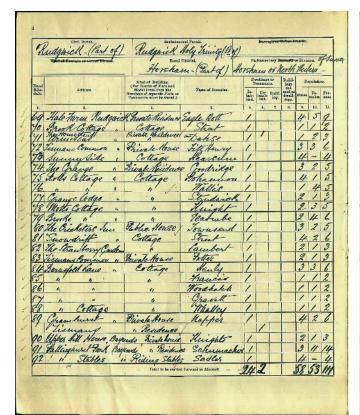
In **The Haven**, the baker's shop, Birchmore & Son, was opposite the Post Office (The Old Post House), which was also a grocer's shop. Henry Wheatcroft & Son was a coal merchant's, possibly where Gamehurst Farm is now. Henry had been a butcher in 1901. The entry for Gibbons Mill is interesting for its reference to 'water mill now used as an [hydro-] electric system and workshop', though the house was unoccupied, and remained so for many years. The mill was no longer in use as such, and was on the market in 2011, to be bought by Robert Henderson of the adjacent Mill House. Also in The Haven, George Gumbrell was making bricks in Marles Lane; the depressions in the ground are still there, though his house is not.

In **Bucks Green**, there was Ernest Buss's tiny shoe repairer's shop at the triangle (where you can now buy a BMW). The Post Office (Old Stores Place) again doubled as a shop. Wanford Mill was still actively grinding corn, augmenting water power with steam power. John Botting had diversified into selling hay and straw, grocery and even insurance. The smithy was still busy under William Meeton, though he had moved house to Wagonford. His former house, Forge Cottage, is believed to have been Phenice Croft at this time, a name given to it in the 1890s by a Scottish writer, William Sharp. The other smithies in the parish were no longer operating. Farriers in Tismans Common had closed in 1904. The upper smithy in Cox Green had been removed to Greathouse Farm by John Aungier.

Rudgwick Post Office (The Old Bakehouse) was described as baker, draper, grocer and provision merchant, and Isabella Philpott who lived in part of the premises would make you a dress. Billy Butcher, the butcher, was at Eames House down the hill, where he had his own slaughterhouse. Next door at Little Kings were Thomas and Oliver Tidy, agency and repairers for cycles, and at Lavender Cottage, Louisa Grinsted had a draper's business. Leonard Marden could make you a sign at Cobblers and George Marden had the grocer's and newsagent's at Clarkes (The Old Stores) which would later be known as Fleming's (same family). Walter Page, one time landlord of the King's Head, was now a dairyman at The Cottage. William Tate mended shoes at Autumn Cottage. William Francis & Son, coal merchants, were next to the Martlet Hotel (the Co-op), conveniently located for delivery by train, though William

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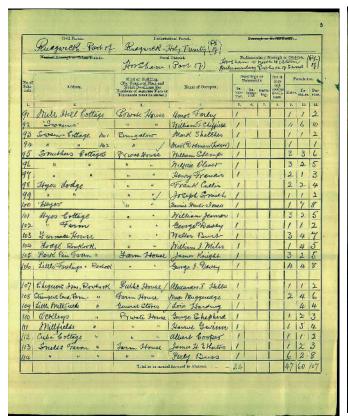
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50			Thomas & Hors Gold	1				3	2	43
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was aged 71 in 1911, and the business was run by his son James. There were other tradesmen and craftsmen too numerous to mention.

Besides the horticultural activities in Tisman's Common, there were also a number of poultry keepers, this being close to the Horsham district, where it has been said, more Dorking fowls were kept than in Dorking area - both having access by the same railway to the London market. In 1911 Charles Sendall, Church Cottage, and Robert Shepherd, Moorlands, Pensfold Lane were poultry keepers. W Sayers had Woodlands poultry and game farm – but where was this? Poultry keeping would grow in importance in inter-war Rudgwick as the market expanded, most notably in Church Street where Tom Newman started scientific breeding of poultry in 1921.

Cox Green has not been mentioned yet. Mary Stanford had a grocer's shop at Crouchers. Rudgwick's only listed building contractors (there were several bricklayers and carpenters in the village) were Reeves and Port in Cox Green. Edwin Reeves lived in Oakfield and William Port in Jasmine Cottage. Oakfield was part of the Lynwick estate. Could Reeves and Port have built the house, which Alan Siney dated to c1890, with a view to its use for their business, and to the benefit of Aungier who had numerous building projects? Whilst writing this article, I also came across a reference to their restoration of the old barn at Hyes.

One name that stands out because of their business interests is that of Churchman. This family were discussed in the article I wrote in the last Newsletter, Autumn 2010, in connection with the Braby family. By the way, in 1911, Ernest Braby was at Drungewick. John Churchman & Sons of Horsham were a prominent local 'auctioneers, valuers, house, estate, tithe and insurance agents' run locally from the home of John and William Churchman at Alexandra Villas in Rudgwick Street, the pair of Edwardian semis known today as Avonlea and Heathcote.

The other half of these villas was the home of retired Revd Benjamin Drury, vicar of Rudgwick for 43 years, who passed away in November 1911, aged 89, and whose grave is near the church door. Another death in Rudgwick that year was of John Whately Simmonds JP of Godalming who also lived at Garlands, a relative of Revd Simmonds whose estate was referred to above. JW Simmonds, whose family firm was Simmonds & Morton, corn merchants and millers, had been a director of the Prudential. His father had acquired the Rectory manor in Godalming, though without the rights attached, about 1860. The Rudgwick estate was to remain with his son Mark until his death in 1933. Father and son were buried in Rudgwick, and there is a window dedicated to their memory in the church.

On a happier note, John and Harriette Hunter-Jones of Hyes celebrated their son Leigh's marriage in Colombo Ceylon where he was serving with the 14<sup>th</sup> (King's) Hussars; whether they attended is not known. John was a civil engineer working in Egypt, where his company had earlier built the first Aswan Dam but was not in Rudgwick at the time of the census, probably abroad.

Entertainments and sport in Rudgwick in 1911 were, unsurprisingly, home grown. The Barker family at Gaskyns were well placed at the centre of the village to offer their grounds for village use. There are photographs from 1909 of an Empire Day (24 May) "Masque of Empire" in which

many of the village performed. In the field now used by Pennthorpe for a playing field, many young Rudgwickians played cricket and other games in the days before the playing fields at Bucks Green became available. Our cricket club was already a venerable club by then, having been founded in 1849. However, there was no football club until 1915.

Claude Barker had given a new organ to the church in 1910 in memory of his father. Services at the church were given by the vicar, Revd Arthur Young, who like all his predecessors, lived at the Vicarage in Lynwick Street. William Tate was Verger and Sexton. The Jubilee Hall had a library of 330 books in the charge of Mr Claude Barker, the hall looked after by Frank Boxall, who lived next door at Church Hill House. Dr Boxall was the local doctor, and his car was one of the few seen about the village, driven by chauffeur George Crummett who lived at Ebenezer Cottage. George had come to Rudgwick from Norfolk because of links with Dr Annie McCall who had her TB sanatorium at Kings. There were three Friendly Societies, two meeting at The King's Head (one was the Independent Order of Foresters), the other at The Cricketers. These lodges were very significant in both financial and social terms at the time. Rudgwick's rifle range opened in 1904 on the site of Martlet Court.

Finally, it is worth reflecting on what the village looked like in 2011. There was no village as we know it today. Even Rudgwick was little more than a hamlet, and was predominantly on the west side of the street. However, the little cluster of houses near the station and the Martlet Hotel was a foretaste of things to come. Bucks Green too had spawned a row of houses along the main road by then, and Tismans Common had its row around the Exfold corner. The remainder of Loxwood Road, Church Street, the top of Lynwick Street and Cox Green awaited the infilling of mid century and the estate roads of the late 20th century which would transform Rudgwick from its historical loose knit settlement pattern to a linear one. As is often stated, The Haven has probably changed least in the last 150 years. Electricity was only available in the very biggest houses which had their own generator (and someone to run it); water from the Hurtwood Water Company was even rarer. larger houses employing a pump engine from a well – some poorer villagers having no well (but Edgar Napper in Bucks Green would dig you one). Cars were a rarity, aeroplanes unheard of, horses and carts common, and bicycles too. Yet, by May 1914, oblivious still of impending doom, The Times ran a story about a motoring journey through "the roads of Surrey [where] it is almost impossible to escape the other cars" to what it described as the "Alice in Wonderland" roads of Forest Green and Rowhook, where it would be "well to ask for Rowhook Hill", en route to Roman Gate, thence by Stane Street to Arundel, returning via Steyning, Crawley and Reigate. To make this possible, "the Road Board in association with the Treasury" was dispensing money to WSCC for eight road improvement projects in 1911, one of which was the surfacing with "tarred granite" of 2 miles of the [A281] road from Rudgwick to the Surrey border at a cost of £2,483 (The Times, 1st May). In Rudgwick, children all walked to school, as did their mothers to the shop and their dads to work and the pub. Telephones would not arrive in Rudgwick until the 1920s. Let us also not forget the rich wildlife of a countryside where such rarities as glow worms, cowslips, lapwings and sparrows were commonplace, and the night sky a brilliant panoply of stars.

## Walks Programme

## **Summer 2011**

All walks are on Tuesday evenings, are open to all and start at **7-00pm**. Again this year, we are able to run the full programme of 15 walks. The late Stan Smith started these walks to be included in the WSCC booklet, which was an

early casualty of the now ubiquitous budget cuts. But the Preservation Society will continue with our walks which are on our website (see rudgwick-rps.org.uk), will hopefully also be on the WSCC website, buried deep in Tourism & Leisure, and in the Parish Magazine.

The average walk is 4 miles in 2 hours. 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. If you take any photographs of the station, please do not post them on the Internet. Thanks also to our excellent local pubs: please support them with your custom.

2011- Sunsets: May 3rd 20.28; Aug 2nd 20.48; Aug 9th 20.36.

Bank Holidays: Mon 2nd & 30th May.

Tuesday	Leader(s)	Starting at Grid	Ref TQ-
May 3rd	David Buckley	The Fox (Bucks Green)	078330
May 10th	Geoff Ayres	The Blue Ship (The Haven)	084305
May 17th	Roger Nash	Mucky Duck (Tismans Common)	067323
May 24th	John Connold	Whitehall lay-by (Cranleigh)	078380
May 31st	Bridget & David Cozens	The Red Lyon (Slinfold)	118315
June 7th	Anne-Marie Nash	Dedisham Farm (A281)	109329
June 14th	John Connold	The Sussex Oak (Warnham)	158337
June 21st	Malcolm Francis & Geoff Ayres	King's Head (to Baynards stn.)	090343
June 28th	Bill Jarratt	King's Head (Church St.)	090343
July 5th	Roger Nash	Onslow Arms (Loxwood)	042312
July 12th	Eric Slade	King's Head (Church St.)	090343
July 19th	Keith Linscott	Mucky Duck (Tismans Common)	067323
July 26th	Bridget & David Cozens	Chequers (Rowhook)	122342
Aug 2nd	Keith Linscott	The Blue Ship (The Haven)	084305
Aug 9th	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 East 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 the A281; ideally approach the entrance from the Horsham side. At the Onslow Arms, park in the canal car park behind the pub. 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** 

# WANFORD MILL AND THE ALLBERRY FAMILY ALAN SINEY

In the year 1342, King Edward III ordered the Nonae Rolls, a parish by parish report on the wealth of the church. During the previous decade he had begun the 'Hundred Years War' with initial successes by which he assumed the title of King of France in 1340, but in the process had bankrupted himself and seriously drained the nation's resources. He always had a tendency toward repudiating Papal supremacy – later openly declared – so it is little wonder that he should cast his covetous eyes towards the wealth of the church. When three nominated men of Rudgwick delivered their report under oath at Lewes, no detail was omitted – even the vicar's chickens were counted – and included in the rectory's possessions were two water mills.

The building of a water mill was an expensive undertaking even in its basic medieval form: it required major modifications to the river little different in principle to that required centuries later by which time a mill would have been rebuilt and enlarged. The river had to be dammed with a leat to give precise control of the flow at the sluice to the waterwheel, and a diversionary stream was necessary with a floodgate to protect the mill when in full spate. A mill race also had to be excavated to carry the water away from the mill to rejoin the river downstream at whatever distance it took to equalise the height differential at the mill, therefore determining the type of wheel and the power it could produce. The structure also had to be built on solid stone foundations, particularly under the axle tree mountings if the mill was not quickly to shake itself to bits. So, having established a mill site it is very unlikely that it would later be abandoned in favour of another. The two mills on the River Arun at Rudgwick were Wanford Mill, being closest to the village, and Gibbons Mill about two kilometres to the southwest. It was Wanford Mill which was to feature prominently in the history of the Allberry family.

For several centuries Wanford was part of a large estate held by the Naldrett family of nearby Naldrett House or Place, whose roots there went back to the Aldrettes of the early 13th century. A deed referring to the estate dated Nov 1st 1463, is a quitclaim (renunciation of claim or rights) 'from Nicholas at Hache to John Naldrott, son of John Naldrott, of lands and tenements in Rudgwick and Billingshurst held by ffeofment from the said John Naldrott' (an archaic form of conveyance by grant made in trust, often made verbally before witnesses) (1)

Further evidence of Naldrett's holding of Wanford is a grant dated June 24th 1478, 'from John Hervy of New Windsor and Annabull his wife to John Naldrytt of Rudgwick and Ideyn his wife, of lands gardens water etc, in the hurst of Wanfordbrygge inherited by Annabull from her father Thomas Sharpshaw'. (Wives were not usually parties to land deals, they were probably sisters sharing a legacy) (2)

What appears to be an amicable agreement between neighbours was signed on Nov 6th 1582, as a grant 'from Thomas Michell of Rudgwick, gent; and John Michell of Shipley his brother: to Richard Naldrett of Rudgwick, yeoman.' It recites that 'the said Richard Naldrett is seised (possessed) of a mill called Wanford Mill and that by pennynge (damming) the mill stream has customably flowen (flooded) a part of lands called Estlands and Serrells belonging to the Michell Brothers'. The latter permitted this to continue for a two pence annual rent so that Richard Naldrett 'can heyton or ryse the water the better to grynde with the water of the said pond '(3). The estate continued in Naldrett hands until George Naldrett died in 1778 without direct heirs.

#### THE COMING OF THE ALLBERRYS.

Henry Allberry married Mary Henning at Lurgashall in 1726 and moved to Ewhurst as newly weds. Their first child was baptised at Rudgwick less than two years later. They had evidently taken a farm in the Cox Green or Ellens Green area as all subsequent burials and baptisms relating to the family were taken at Rudgwick. (Unfortunately, the relevant Ewhurst land tax returns only names the payers and the amount paid without specifying properties) They lived to a ripe old age for that time, with Henry being buried in 1785 aged 82, and Mary in 1792 aged 85. Four of their six children survived to adulthood.

Henry's first son died in infancy, and his second son William, b 1730, had two sons, William b 1765, and John, b 1772. In 1794, John married Anne Napper of a prominent family of Rudgwick landowners and had eight children, all were baptised in Rudgwick with John being described as a miller, indicating that he was a proprieter and not just a mill employee. It does appear that he and his brother William jointly held the mill on leasehold. William died in 1828, and almost immediately by indenture dated July 1st of the year, Wanford Mill was conveyed freehold to John from Robert Strudwick his brother in law, his elder sister Mary having married Strudwick in 1781. (4). John Allberry continued to prosper: he bought properties at Bucks Green including Snoxall with 22 acres, previously owned by his brother in law Edward Napper, and Burnells and Tanners with 15 acres, which Edward Napper Sen had previously conveyed to John Butcher in 1801, so at the time of the tithe apportionment of c1840 he owned the mill with nearly 18 acres in addition to the properties above. Now nearing 70 years of age he had left the running of the mill to his eldest son Henry, b 1801, who was named as the occupier of the mill, whilst he lived at Snoxall and took an interest in parish affairs at vestry meetings. 1845 was a very bad year for him: his wife Anne, eldest daughter Anne, and son John all dying within about eight months. He died in 1852 aged 80 and left his properties to Henry.

Henry Allberry married Elizabeth Churchman, daughter of another prominent Rudgwick landowner, in 1829, and like his family before him had eight children, all born at Wanford Miller's House, and unusually for that time all surviving infancy. It was probably at this time that he greatly extended Miller's House to accommodate his growing family. He prospered to the extent that on the 1861 census he was 'Miller and farmer of 120 acres employing six men and a boy'. He built Wanford Cottages at the lower end of Barn Field Pasture to house employees, and Wanford Villa (later called Wagonford) on rising ground in Floodgate Meadow, which was occupied by Ellen Hunt his eldest daughter, and her husband. Being very active in parish affairs at vestry meetings, he was one of a committee of four nominated to decide the new seating arrangements in Rudgwick Church in 1852.

Henry Allberry died March 10th 1864 aged 62 years, according to his grave inscription after a 'long and painful illness'. The death certificate gave his cause of death as 'Lepra Vulgaris (nine years certified)' Could this be true: had he suffered a lingering death ostracized as a leper, when a medical book of 1875 stated that the last death from leprosy in Britain occurred in the very early 19th century? Yet there were certain facts to indicate that it could be so: the nine years certified coincided with the year he stopped attending vestry meetings, and his youngest daughter Jane had married in 1860 at the parish of the bridegroom, which normally only happened if the bride was of no fixed abode. The Wellcome Institute in London was very interested in the case and promised to investigate, and sent the following information.

"It is now clear that he suffered from the inherited chronic skin disorder of Psoriasis, which an eminent physician had separated from Lepra Vulgaris in the early 19th century. However, for a long period of time both terms were used synonymously to describe the condition we know as psoriasis, until the term Lepra passed into disuse." Psoriasis has since been linked to Rheumatic Fever, and this inherited genetic disorder was to dictate the future of the Allberry family as millers. The estate passed to Henry's eldest son Henry, b1830, an enterprising young man. On Jan 1st 1855 he took a 14 year lease on the Horsham Town Mill, the largest in the district, with five pairs of stones driven by an overshot waterwheel, with two floodwheels and an auxiliary 8 horsepower steam engine, and on Jan 18th he married Catherine Holden, daughter of Charles Holden, the innkeeper of the Kings Head at Slinfold. (Now the Slinfold Inn) However, Catherine died four years later leaving Henry with two infant children, who were cared for by their unmarried aunts.

His 14 year lease on the Town Mill carried a 7 year option to release upon 12 months notice: he took this option and in 1861 built his new steam mill in Worthing Road. He had possibly seen that the old mill was in a dilapidated state and its range of outbuildings, and in fact it was partly rebuilt and the site renovated in 1867. In 1865 he became a founder member of the Horsham Corn Exchange and one of its first directors. Sadly, he died on March 23rd 1871, just before his 40th birthday.

The cause of death was given as *Rheumatic Fever* (*Pericarditis*). Heart failure due to inflammation of the Pericardium. In 1872 the mill was bought by William Prewett, and it is his name that remains on the building today.

Henry's younger brother William was 22 years of age when his father died, and with Henry busy with his businesses in Horsham, he continued working the mill. The 1871 census states: 'William Allberry aged 31, miller and farmer employing five men and a boy'.(acreage not given) Soon after he married Emily Walder, of another family of landowners principally of Hyes. He died aged 37 in 1877 of 'Cirrhosis of the Liver with its associated Ascites'.(Dropsy) which suggests alchoholism. There can be no doubt that he was stressed with anxiety, having seen his father die so painfully followed by the early death of his brother. His Uncle John had also died at the age of 39. He must have been aware of a related disorder that could strike him. Almost immediately after his death, Wanford Mill was bought by John Botting, of a widespread family of millers and farmers.

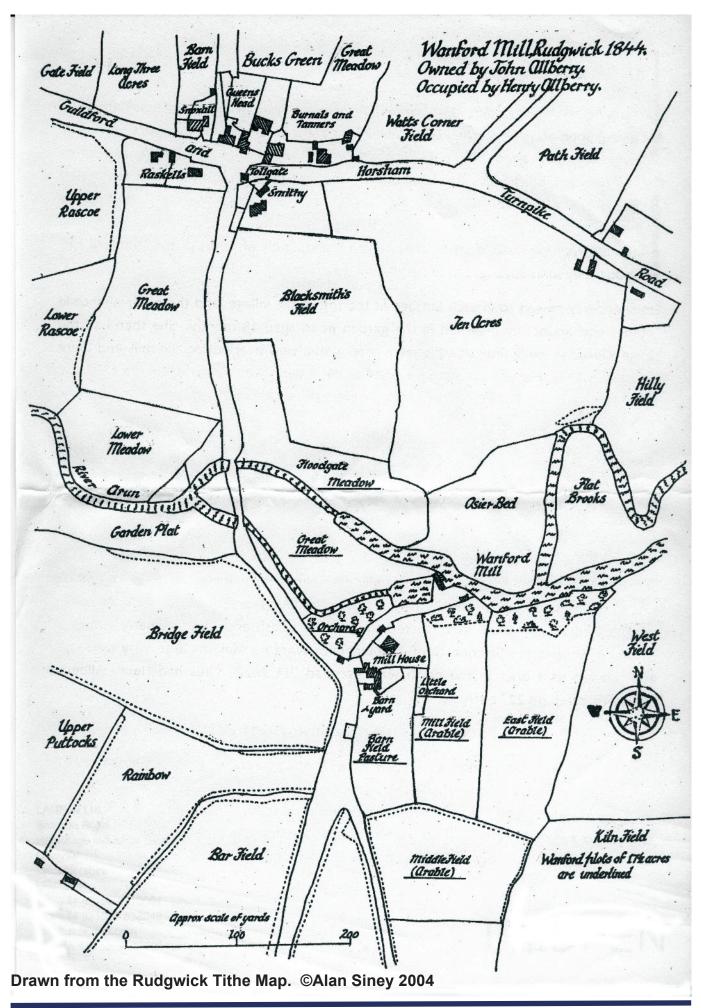
Emily Allberry moved to Church Cottage at the top of the village, and there her only child Thomas was accidently drowned in the garden pond aged 18 months. She then had the house 'Oakdene' built alongside the main road with a view overlooking the mill, and there she died in 1933. Henry's five sisters all died in the order of their births between 1893 and 1912, and with other family members their gravestones stand in a cluster alongside the northward churchyard path.

The tithe map: (see page 15). The Wanford lands at that time are underlined. Henry Allberry had installed an additional waterwheel beneath the mill, and had increased the storage capacity with a loop around the north side of the river through Flat Brooks to operate both wheels.

Footnote: Ric Allberry of Queensland is a direct decendant of the Allberry millers. In 1996 he printed a small book with 37 pages of the Rudgwick family history I had provided, which was distributed to all the widespread family members and relatives. In 1997, Ric and his wife Carole visited Rudgwick with other relatives from Kent, and on a nice summer's day I was pleased to give them a conducted tour of the parish and Henry Allberry's mills in Horsham. Mr and Mrs Slocock, the then owners of Wanford Mill, made us very welcome, and showed us a brick in the north wall inscribed 'HA 1822'. Thus had Henry Allberry commemorated his 21st birthday.

**Sources:** (1) (2) & (3). Title Deeds Horsham Museum Archives 958, 959, & 960.

(4) Much valuable information were from notes reciting documents in private hands. (not the mill owners) I tried to persuade the owner to allow me to put them in archives, or to take copies, but to my knowledge they remain with a solicitor in Yorkshire. All information relating to Henry Allberry and his Horsham mills are from Horsham Museum Archives, kindly copied and given by Mr George Comber of Horsham Museum Society.



PIS

Rudgwick Preservation Society

# SPRING MEETING and AGM

Monday April 18th 2011

At 7.30pm Rudgwick Hall, Bucks Green

# LIVING LANDSCAPES OF SUSSEX

HENRI BROCKLEBANK

Henri has worked at Sussex Wildlife Trust for 12 years as the manager of the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre and as manager of the landscapes team. She will be talking about the work of the Wildlife Trust and how it is moving from a focus on nature reserves to a 'living landscape' approach. Her talk will include the West Weald landscape project and the Trust's work in wetlands as well as its work with naturalists around Sussex.

The West Weald is a beautiful patchwork of farmsteads, fields and hedgerows, but also one of the most wooded landscapes in Britain, much of it ancient woodland, and home to more than 4,500 species of animals and plants. It's also home to some 15,000 people, living and working side by side with the natural environment.