



Newsletter

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The Changing Face of Rudgwick

Farn Brakes on the cusp of demolition, February 2017



As the impact of development is felt in Rudgwick, this edition focuses on how our village has changed, and reflects on the impact of what is to come.



Windacres Lodge, soon to be demolished
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Chairman's Report

A personal reflection based on current events

Roger Nash

Rudgwick's East Side: Parsonage Farm

Threats From Developers Large and Small

Back in 2008, not long before the Rudgwick Parish Design Statement was finalised by a committee of which I had become chairman, the prospect of a 6.4 acres development at **Windacres Farm** became a possibility. A forum was set up in response to an approach by the owner, also rather reluctantly chaired by myself. It did not last, as he was equally reluctant to listen constructively to our ideas. We now know that this development ran out of time last year, unbuilt, and perhaps, unloved. In its wake, permanent changes occurred, namely the bringing of the field fronting Rudgwick Metals into the Built-Up Area of Rudgwick, and the continued designation of the land under a Site Specific Allocation of Land (2007), AL9, for future development. Over the intervening years, many of us have become inured to the fact that this land would at some time be built on. Maybe this explains the small number of objections from local people to the latest plan by Berkeley Homes (BH) lodged in December 2016 (compared to the viral outpouring of sentiment aimed at Messrs Gladman over

the Fairlee proposals last year). Of course, Christmas may also have had something to do with it. RPS cannot be faulted as we alerted members by email. The Planning Officers have recommended [DC/16/2917](#) for approval.

Parsonage Farm

On the '**Upper East Side**', **The Old Parsonage** looks down over its former farmland, which was never built on because it was glebe land of the rectory of Rudgwick. Rudgwick rectors have been lay people for centuries, a legacy of manorial rights appertaining to the church, itself built on Pulborough manor's land whose lord in the 13th century was Alard le Fleming. At the beginning of the 19th century the Duke of Norfolk was lord of a half of this manor, then called Hope, and lay rector. At some point in the 19th century, James Braby of Maybanks became lay rector, with responsibilities for the upkeep of the church chancel. The title descended to his son Ernest, who was also lord of the manor of Drungewick, where he lived. Kelly's Directories cite Ernest, who had no children, as the lay rector until his death in 1922. In 1907, James's two daughters had inherited The Parsonage together with Gravatts Farm as tenants-in-common. One, Flora died in 1913.

Constance Braby then became sole owner of The Parsonage, but like all her predecessors did not live there. The house was then let with some land (Pricked Field north and east to the county boundary and Godley's Lane) to the poet/novelist John Affleck Bridges. The rest of Parsonage and Gravatts was rented and farmed by John Botting of Wanford Mill. Constance was lay rector from 1922. Her disposal of the farmland was piecemeal, only 9 acres, most on the hill, remaining by 1926, when, after some legal wrangling, Miss Braby had to pay for repair of the chancel window. Mrs Harriett Reynolds bought the house and land in 1931. She then paid £300 to the Chichester Diocesan Fund as a 'get-out'. Present occupants of the land have no obligation to pay for church upkeep. See '*The Brabys*', Chapter 5.2, near the end, Roger Nash, 2013, available on [RPS website on the History pages](#).

In the Tithe Schedule, 1844, Parsonage Farm had 57 acres on the east side, almost as far as the (later) railway line. Another 24 acres on the west side was by then owned with the King's Head. My best effort to assign houses and roads to the correct field is made difficult because modern boundaries do not always follow old hedge lines. The sketch map on [page 5](#) may help.

Parsonage Farm comprised a string of fields beginning (1840s names) with **Barn Ham Meadow** and **Church Close**, both small enclosures on the slope below the farm, the former remembered for its 5th November village bonfire. The foot of the hill, appropriately called **Pond Meadow**, is renowned as a wet area, with ponds and occasional flash flow, once the site of a roadside village pond, infilled by 1900,



The Old Parsonage
© Doug Betts

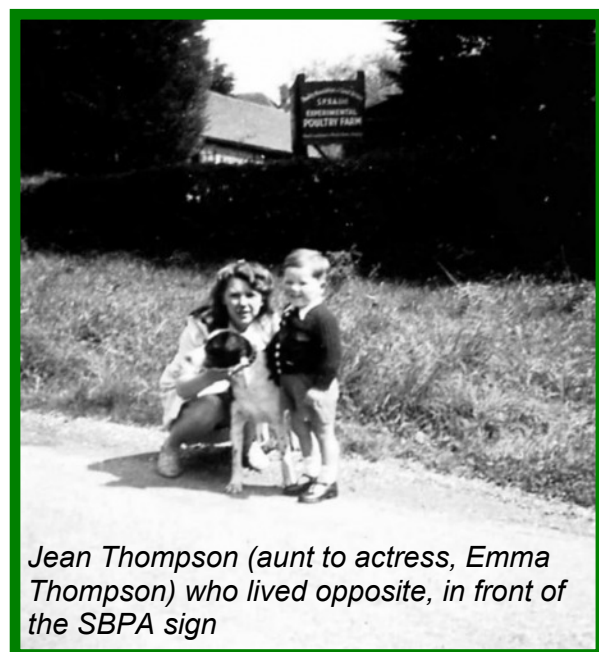
which may be where a 16th century ducking stool was sited (*Newsletter, Spr 2008*). On the next rise was **Pricked Field**, later called Bocker Field. Alan Siney referred to pricking an ox to make it move (*Newsletter Aut 2000*). Behind this is **Barley Croft**, the field where 55 houses are to be built. **Pit Field** may have had a pit for digging marl, or stone, perhaps the pond located on its northern boundary in 1840, filled in when new houses were built at Summerfold in 2002. The north and south hedges of this field are preserved in the public footpath to Windacres and the footpath to "Churchman's Meadow" play area.

The latter name remembers William Churchman's house Farn Brakes built for him in c1924 in **Pond Field**. He was an auctioneer and estate agent in Horsham. He had lived at Mill Farm next to Gibbons Mill. The field called **Farn Breaks** (think 'ferns/bracken') was behind the house. Pond Field has given its name to a modern road, partly in Pond Field, and in Kiln Field and Farn Breaks too. In 1998, we called the 35 new houses added to Pond Field "Churchman's Meadow", and many will remember the alarming issues there were with the building site at the time. These field boundaries

are almost untraceable today. Between the wars, Tom Newman's 1922 farm, **Scientific Poultry Breeders Association Ltd** (SPBA, see below), at Freshwoods occupied most of Pond Field. Kilnfield Road however is in former **Kiln Field**, as is Jubilee Road. Next, **Long Field**, small and rectangular, is where the recently closed shop is situated (it began life as Birchmore's bakery).

A 1926 map in the deeds of Windacres suggests the southern Parsonage fields, from Pit Field to Long Field, had previously been sold by the Brabys to Maj Edward St John of Slinfold Lodge. He then sold the land in 21 Lots in the 1920s. Lots 1-13, were in Pit Field, where Newman built a house, **Pitfield** (later renamed Summerfold). Another smaller house called **Ridge** was built for Dr Boxall. Lots 14-20 were long strips of land of varying frontage width from Church Street, backing onto Gravatts Hanger in the case of Kiln and Long Fields, or Home

Field in the case of Pond Field and Farn Breaks (see sketch map). Evidence from deeds makes clear that these fields,



Jean Thompson (aunt to actress, Emma Thompson) who lived opposite, in front of the SBPA sign

(Pond, Kiln, Long and Farn), were combined in one 20-acre field, known as Row Field, before the 1876 OS map was made, confirmed when James Braby's daughters inherited in 1907. Who bought these 1920s Lots, and how they became the properties there now is still to be discovered. *RPS would be very grateful to any householder whose deeds can shed light on it.*

From about 1918 to 1965, Spencer Secretan owned Swaynes Farm, which included part of Gravatts. He also played a part in this developing area. Windacres deeds show he owned Home Field in Gravatts Farm. In the 1930s, he also offered land for a village hall opposite the Co-op in a plot between The Hollies and The Beeches. Thurne Way was created instead. How different Rudgwick might have been, and how small the hall car park! I understand the Secretan trustees still owned Churchman's Meadow as late as 1998, which suggests some of the above Lots passed through his hands.



Rudgwick from above Windacres, 1957, with Windacres Farm (and cows), site of Rudgwick Metals, and shortly 55 houses, centre (with permission of J Newell)

The field, in which Thurne Way was made, was **Southers**. Rudgwick's '**Lower East Side**'. It was partly developed much earlier, in the 1900s. A group of late Victorian, Edwardian villas, Dale Cottage the earliest in 1900, were originally built with very long gardens. The northernmost plot became Kings Road. Later, the south of Woodfield Road was built behind them, shortening gardens. There was, by the way, no "Wood Field", at least not here, perhaps the road was so named as the houses back onto Gravatts Hanger.

One aspect of the street scene which has just about survived is the wide verge which abuts the ditch and hedge of the original fields – the closest Rudgwick gets to common land. The more driveways and side roads, the more this is eroded. A long lay-by has also eaten into the verge. The old flagstone path to the church has gradually disappeared under the grass (I found a flagstone as far down as Windacres Lodge). Diseased elm trees at the foot of Church Hill have died. Not everyone realises this verge, its ditch and hedge, is part of the

the annoyance of some people). Why a sad loss? The original 1927 house was where some 300 babies were born from about 1940 to 1968, and that includes me! I understand the house would have been Dr Frank Boxall's retirement home, had he lived to see it finished. His daughter, Joan, a midwife, and her sister Gladys as housekeeper, turned it into their place of work, and made many friends in the process. They were keen gardeners too, and immersed themselves in village life. The large plot was just too tempting after their deaths. The front ditch and hedge have been preserved, an attractive feature of the street, with several large oaks in the vicinity.

Freshwoods was Tom Newman's empire (SPBA): offices and experimental farm, his home at adjacent Pitfield. There is no space to explain the story here - *website Newsletter Archive, Spring 1999* – except correct a mistake: Newman had arrived in Rudgwick in 1914 to commence in business, but did not buy land for his growing enterprise until 1922.

Freshwoods was converted into a bungalow c1952, with a hard tennis court near the road. Derelict in the mid-1990s, it was sold to BH, c1999. Another curving entrance led to a practical layout on a much flatter site than the two so far mentioned. The hedged frontage was preserved, with four houses set well back.

Summerfold followed, about 2002, further back from the road, interesting architecture, and an inconspicuous road for 7 properties. The house of that name (originally Pitfield) was demolished. There are now no signs of Tom Newman's house. A gate into the orchard made Summerfold Phase 2 possible. Marketed by Thakeham Homes as Clayshaw Place, which may or may not be an ironic joke, 25 houses will be completed this



Development opportunity?

The opportunity to build on Rudgwick's East Side for the first time in nearly 800 years began in 1926. Soon, large private houses were completed: **Windacres**, 1927, set in 5.5 acres, so far back it was in Gravatts Farm; **Pitfield**, (also 1927, later renamed Summerfold); **High Croft**, c1934, each hidden from the street except for a private drive, and at Windacres, a 1932 lodge. Gradually, other plots were built on, several close under Church Hill, most set back from the road, all the way down the street. Other large plots were **Freshwoods**, 1922, then the SBPA (see below), associated with Pitfield, and **Ridge** (1927 again). There has been infilling here ever since. By 1974 the OS map had a modern layout.

Conservation Area. Moreover, building at the front of plots was restricted. This has contributed to the open feel of the East Side.

One of the purposes of writing this is to draw attention to the planning issues on the East Side. With many large plots, and single dwellings in each, it was inevitable there was infilling, defined as adding dwellings to an already developed plot. The first of this kind was a group of 4 houses on a stubby and raised up cul-de-sac opposite Hencocks built around 1970. Without meaning to cause offence, this is poor planning, not to be repeated, however nice the houses may be.

Next, 1996, came the sad loss of the chalet bungalow called **Ridge**, replaced by some handsome, but quite costly, houses on a curved road, now called 'The Ridge' (to

year. The loss of Newman's orchard even before planning permission was requested was intensely annoying, the more so as it was listed as a heritage orchard. A very few trees have survived this hatchet job, but the developer has incorporated what remain in the landscaping of the current development on 4 acres, retaining a green buffer between original houses and new. Naturally, neighbours defended their narrow road with its hidden entrance to the site, alarmed at traffic, loss of countryside, a pond, etc. Building 20 houses (10 affordable) was rejected by HDC in 2013, and the appeal dismissed: the inspector stated the layout did not respect the contours of the sloping site, nor did it reflect the existing vegetation. Thakeham came back with combative bravado with an

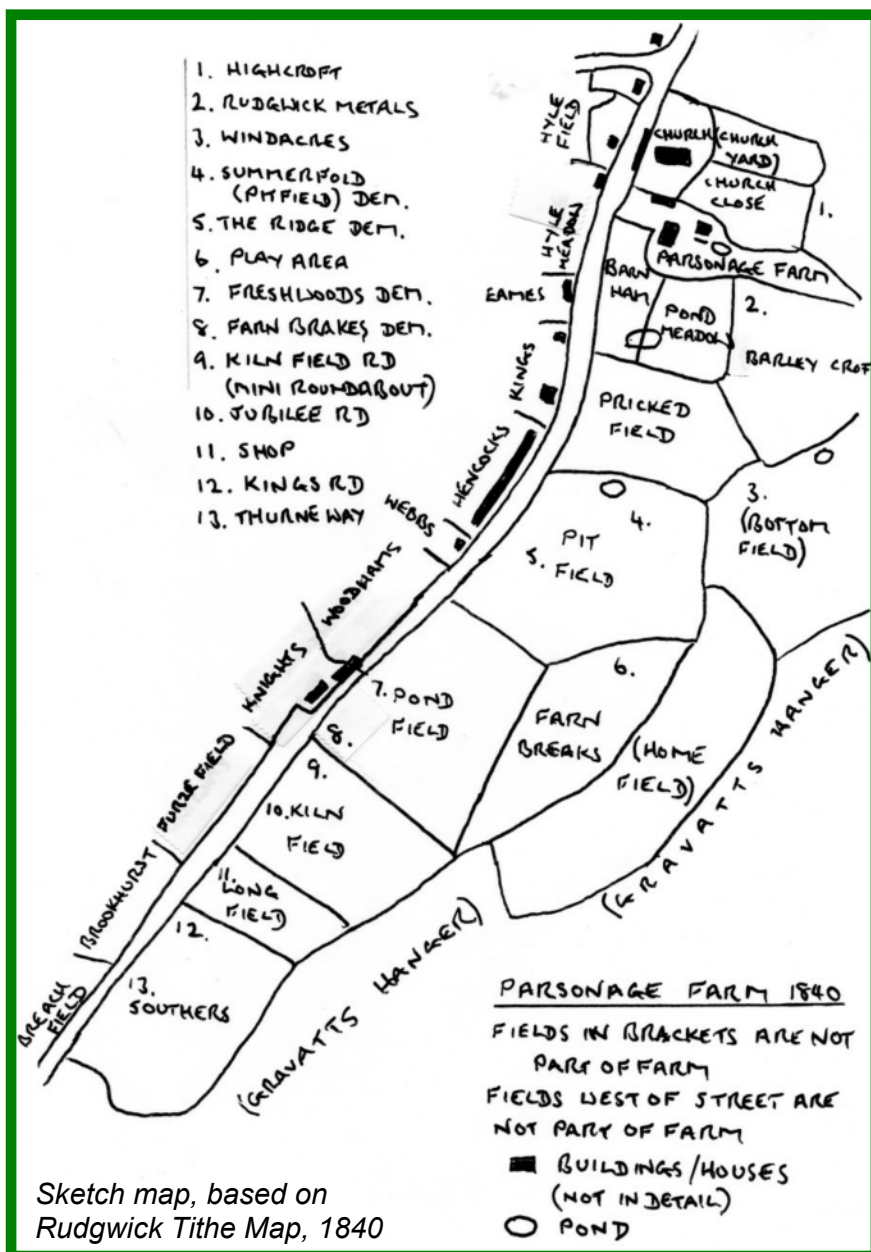
even bigger proposal, but no increase in the affordable component. It was accepted by HDC! Picking ourselves up off the floor, we realise the new proposals have a better layout. Now, the site is beginning to look as good as we could have hoped for in a development this size. Yes, there is a traffic issue; there always is. Yes, we have lost some countryside, but the houses make the most of the terrain, and make a pleasing grouping. Almost all are now sold. The site is completely invisible from Church Street, Will it mature into Rudgwick's best planned neighbourhood?

Development 2017

I come to the present time with some trepidation. Firstly, the issues at the Rudgwick Metals site are still live. Secondly, the

precedent of the developments described above leaves the door wide open for further change. Infilling is a competitive sport. Dominoes can fall. We have few planning defences against further higher density change, with potential detriment to the street scene, to our fringing countryside, to the setting of existing houses on the West Side, to village traffic, and to overloaded services including foul water disposal, a list with which to constantly remind HDC.

In February, the satisfactory conclusion to the long-running planning of additional dwellings at **Farn Brakes** took an alarming u-turn. Change here had been cut back to just two new chalet bungalows behind the existing 1920s bungalow, retaining and refurbishing the latter. The new layout was landscaped and looked good. The new developer then asked for two semi-detached houses on the site of the existing bungalow, blocking views and out of scale, we think, with the just-occupied properties behind. Despite vociferous objections by neighbours, by RPC, and by RPS, councillors decided to approve it, after our District Councillor found no objection, citing previous infilling in its favour! He also considered the houses on that side of the road to all be a reasonable distance apart, and finally could not see any planning reason to object, in agreement with the council's officers (the discussion is currently online, sound only, at <http://horsham.moderngov.co.uk/ielistDocuments.aspx?Cld=148&Mld=240&Ver=4>). Two councillors spoke with mild tones of disapproval. Officers define overdevelopment as causing visual harm, and/or harm to amenity of neighbours, which they argued this did not. This is catch 22; the more you infill, the more you can argue that more of the same is OK. Farn Brakes disappeared in a trice in early March.



So how appropriate is a development of 55 dwellings at **Rudgwick Metals**? It is now more difficult to play the overdevelopment card, especially as it is out of sight of the street. If 2 new units replace 2 demolished ones at the entrance, there is no gain, but will they enhance the street scene? Why are they so large? Neither house faces Church Street. This was one of the objections to a proposed development at Boreham, refused in 2006. We understand they will be handed back to the owner on completion. The other 53 are tightly packed, leaving areas for roads, parking, water retention pond, and other buildings for commercial use, but little usable open space. This is a bigger development than Churchman's Meadow, or any other in the village. Issues of sustainability include the perennial one of foul water disposal, considerable traffic movement, unanswerable questions over the long-term future of Rudgwick Metals itself, impact on the adjacent countryside, and on the Conservation Area, not to mention the impact on democratic decision-making in our Neighbourhood Plan. Counter that with its "inevitability", described above, a good developer in BH, demolition of eyesores, both on Church Street and at Rudgwick Metals (making this at least partly a brownfield site), and a good percentage of affordable houses (with Moat Housing Association). The RPS and RPC asked BH to go back to the drawing board to make a more pleasing layout, with fewer houses, to enhance the fringe of Rudgwick, not suburbanise it. They have tinkered with it. [DC/16/2917](#) gained approval on Tuesday 7th March. Work is expected to start this Summer, and last two years or so. You can listen to the debate at <http://horsham.moderngov.co.uk/ie/ListDocuments.aspx?CId=148&MId=241&Ver=4>. Click on the blue button top left in agenda item 8. The Report on HDC website makes interesting reading. At the end are the 29 Conditions.

STOP PRESS: FAIRLEE APPEAL

An appeal has been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate regarding the proposed and refused application for 65 houses at Fairlee, Bucks Green. Gladman have requested a full inquiry which will take at least a week, but will not be held yet, possibly not even this year. RPS will continue to vigorously oppose this development. However, the legal and planning defence of the refusal is by a team representing HDC who will now be batting on our side. We (and you) can submit additional written evidence, and also speak at the inquiry at the discretion of the Inspector. Any member of the public may attend and listen. There will be a thorough site visit, probably at the end of the Inquiry. Inquiry documents from Gladman are already being put on the HDC Portal ([DC/16/1490](#)).

A Soggy Day

Malcolm Francis

I was recently sorting out some very old sheet music that belonged to my late father; which went back to the time when Rudgwick village had a thriving Silver band and a small dance band, prior to the Second World War. My father played horn in the band and the violin in the dance band (in the days before the guitar became king). I came across a piece of paper with a list of folk dances: "The Ropes, Spider Web, Come Lassies and Lads, double plait," etc. and then, when I turned over the paper the penny dropped; it was a list of maypole dancing tunes, written on the back of a Sports Day events programme sheet, that were to be danced on Coronation Day on June 2nd, 1953. My memories came flooding back of that day. The weather was atrocious, with rain and strong winds; Rudgwick Primary School put on a display of maypole dancing. The school had been practising for many weeks for the big day. I can remember being miffed at not being chosen to be in the Maypole team. My father was to play the dance tunes on his violin with some audio amplification, supplied by Mr Morley whose equipment was always present at local fêtes. My father had some sheet music as he didn't know all the tunes that were requested. The wind was

so strong that I had to sit in front of my father holding down the music stand, with clothes pegs clamping the score in place. I can remember some of the dances did not go to plan as the ribbons tangled in the strong wind, producing some "interesting" maypole patterns. My parents and I had seen some of the Coronation events that morning on a **very** small television set owned by family relations, who lived on the Baynards estate; we returned to their farm after the maypole interlude on the recreation ground to see the latter part of the Coronation.... I must admit to not taking part in the sports day...

Sports			
TO BE HELD			
On Coronation Day			
at Rudgwick			
IN			
KING GEORGE'S RECREATION GROUND,			
2 TO 5 P.M.			
★			
Ages 5 to 16 years on the day--June 2nd.			
NO ENTRY FEE.			
INFANTS	5 to 7 years	...	40 yds.
JUNIOR BOYS	7 to 9 years	...	60 yds.
JUNIOR GIRLS	7 to 9 years	...	60 yds.
JUNIOR BOYS	9 to 11 years	...	80 yds.
JUNIOR GIRLS	9 to 11 years	...	80 yds.
SENIOR BOYS	11 to 13 years	...	100 yds.
SENIOR GIRLS	11 to 13 years	...	100 yds.
SENIOR BOYS	13 to 16 years	...	100 yds.
SENIOR GIRLS	13 to 16 years	...	100 yds.
BOYS OPEN HANDICAP		...	220 yds.
GIRLS OPEN HANDICAP		...	220 yds.
THREE-LEGGED OPEN HANDICAP		...	80 yds.
(2 yards per year)			

Housing White Paper

On 7th February the Government published their long awaited Housing White Paper

including proposals with regard to the rented housing sector and house building. Broadly the Government proposes to 'fix' the broken housing market and build more homes across England. Proposals include:

- to reduce obstacles to house building and help local authorities, developers and SME builders build homes Britain needs
- to improve affordability and protections for renters and home purchasers
- Proposals to help fix the housing market so that more people from across the country can have the security of a decent place to live

The government has set out measures which they believe will ensure that the housing market works for everyone including people on lower incomes, renters, disabled and older people.

However whilst the White Paper has generally been welcomed many housing commentators and professionals feel that it is not radical enough and is merely a sticking plaster. On the big issues such as up-to-date local plans for all areas, a radically simplified method to measure housing need, more small sites and more social rented housing, it does not propose to do very much. The

White Paper is positive about private renting but it is much less interested in the social rented sector. This is unfortunate because social renting is the main source of genuine affordable housing – which means rents low enough for households on the lowest incomes.

A serious increase in the **socially rented** stock would need new funding on a different scale both to create new stock and replace that sold under the Right to Buy Scheme. Options include lifting bars on council borrowing and allowing the recycling of Right to Buy receipts but the White Paper does not consider these options. The modest increase in the Affordable Homes Programme to £1.7 billion over 5 years mentioned repeatedly in the White Paper has already been announced in the Autumn Statement. The only new announcement is that the programme which was previously restricted to shared ownership, in future will also be available for social rented homes.

A major omission is the impact of our **ageing population** and ignores a fundamental reason why the market needs to be fixed. Over the next 25 years the proportion of households where the oldest person is over 85 or older will grow faster than any other age group and homes that meet the needs of older people will be in greater demand. Further understanding of the housing options should include measures that incentivise downsizing.

There needs to be appropriate housing options within the area they want to live and across all tenures which are accessible, adaptable and affordable.

The Government wants to put pressure on housebuilders to get on with it and get building and it will use a £3 billion fund to encourage smaller firms back into the market. It will also slash the maximum time developers can sit on a site with planning permission without building anything from 3 years to 2 in an attempt to prevent land banking. Those are the sticks: the carrot is a streamlined planning process, which among other things make it easier to add extra storeys to increase density in urban areas.

The CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England) broadly welcomes the Housing White Paper in particular on addressing market failure in the house building industry. They look forward to seeing the Government's plans to turn unused planning permissions into homes and brownfield sites regenerated to bring life to towns and cities. For those who care about our countryside the outcome of this consultation is the acid test. Until local authorities are able to set realistic and deliverable housing targets, with an emphasis on meeting genuine housing need rather than aspirational demand, the countryside and Green Belt will continue to be threatened by poor quality and speculative development.

Signs of Spring

Photos © Doug Betts



Rudgwick, like every other village in the country, expects to have the services of our National Health Service and access to a GP. One is aware at present how stretched these services have become. This is not an article regarding those problems but let's turn the clock back to the late nineteenth century. In the latter years of Queen Victoria's long reign Rudgwick did not even have a resident doctor until Frank Boxall came to live in part of the house called Cousens at the top of Lynwick Street in 1890. I have read that a Cranleigh doctor used to visit Rudgwick on horseback twice a week. Research carried out by Roger Nash indicates that there were surgeons living within the parish in the preceding century, which was rare. One account recalls James Harbroe, surgeon, who died at the age of 88 years in 1830 and also the sad story of a surgeon, William Howard, breaking his back in a fall near to the Kings Head after tripping on a gravestone, in 1841.

Church Hill house was built for Dr Boxall in 1896, with a purpose built surgery. One is well aware that in those days the NHS did not exist, but another fact researched by Roger highlighted that from 1912 a National Health insurance was introduced across the country. The charges were two shillings and six pence for a visit to the doctors or one guinea for a home visit. When one considers how little money the village poor were able to earn, requesting a doctor's visit or even going to the surgery was often not possible for many within the parish. Doctor Boxall was very well liked as quite often he would "forget" to send in his bill if the family was too poor. Doctor Boxall died in 1926. His family moved to the house he would have retired to in Church Street called "Ridge"; older Rudgwick residents might remember that house as it was the village Maternity Home run for many years by Dr Boxall's daughter Joan Boxall and her sister Gladys ([see page 4](#)).

Doctor Miller became Rudgwick's resident doctor in the 1930s and into the Second World War years, still using Church Hill House as the surgery. After the war Dr Peter Henderson joined Dr Kelsey who was running the practice at Church Hill House. Dr Henderson had his own surgery located at his family home "Oakdene" on the A281. My wife's late father, Ronald McWilliam, came to live in Rudgwick in 1948 to become the resident pharmacist at Church Hill house, as Rudgwick's population grew.

The demise of Rudgwick's railway line and station in 1965 and its eventual demolition enabled the building of the first purpose built Health Centre for the village. Unfortunately the building developed major subsidence and had to be completely rebuilt.

I will now move onto another aspect of the excellent health service that we in this country do take for granted. GPs used to have to be on call for all the medical emergencies within their practice, day or night and also called out to attend serious road accidents as well. The first steps to get some better cover came about when many doctors joined a co-operative scheme so that doctors could share those unsociable hours. Rudgwick's practice for some years was part of a co-operative based at Billingshurst. The Medical Centre at Billingshurst had its first floor turned into a control centre for the out-of-hours service. The doctors were driven by dedicated drivers to the emergency using cars normally sponsored by a local main dealer. Billingshurst's Nordoc (North Downs Doctors on Call), always used Toyotas from the local main agent, the cars looking remarkably like police cars. I drove for that organisation for a couple of years, part time, before I went back to my old company after initial retirement. One had to take a driving test before joining the team and every twelve months an Advanced Driving examiner would

check one's skills. The cars always had to be checked, at the beginning of a shift, to ensure that all the emergency equipment was aboard and serviceable; defibrillator, oxygen cylinder, nebuliser, etc. Each car carried a set of drugs and medications. NorDoc covered an area from north of the South Downs up to the Surrey border, east as far as Hickstead and Petersfield to the west. The drivers were mostly retired police drivers except for a handful, like myself, from other careers. The organisation was very good, and people employed to drive the doctors had a very good knowledge of Sussex and its many obscure lanes and hamlets. The job gave one an insight into the care given by the doctors on those emergency visits. The calls that were out of hours, after the local surgeries had closed, were handled by a small team of qualified nurses and despatchers. There were always "base doctors" assessing the problems with their decisions passed to the mobile doctors. Patients who could make the surgery would be seen by appointment only; quite often, especially on a Saturday evening, there were worried parents bringing in a sick child. This was over ten years ago when mobile phones were backed up by pagers, before the introduction of today's smart phones. Quite often there would be a lack of information about a certain patient or their history. One such incident illustrates the care of the doctors; one evening my doctor said to me that he was concerned about a call and that we should drive as quickly as possible to Pulborough; a lady had said she was unhappy about her son's wellbeing. She turned out to be a sprightly 93 year old and her son had just gone into a diabetic coma. Another

incident I remember concerned a patient living close to Hickstead, the doctor was with the man for one hour. There were many calls from base wanting to know how much longer the visit would take; only late into the visit did the doctor find out that the patient had had a heart transplant!

A very odd incident occurred when searching for a house in Midhurst; the address was a house with a very high number and vague postcode; we mistakenly thought it was one of the Cowdray Estate cottages whose numbers run consecutively into the hundreds all around Midhurst and Petworth Estates. The mysterious house number "1905" (the year it was built) was finally spotted incorporated into its end wall in white bricks, nearly invisible on that dark night. We had not been given any of this information by the original caller!

The organisation had up to three cars covering the area at weekends with just a red eye shift overnight when the area was covered by just one doctor, the driver and the despatching staff.

The Billingshurst base had some sleeping facilities for the very rare night when there were no emergencies.

An amusing side to the job was that most doctors and drivers ran on coffee and biscuits; sometimes there had to be an emergency stop to pick up extra sandwiches to cover the doctor's hunger after he admitted he had missed a meal. One evening a doctor asked me to confirm the distance to an address nearly into Petersfield...he said that was definitely a three biscuit trip!

The Billingshurst control centre was closed in 2005 when the whole out of hours service was re-organised across the country. The control headquarters were transferred to Worthing, with the local out-of-hours consultation rooms transferred to Horsham and Crawley. One final anecdote: one of the doctors who I knew quite well, was also a Simcas doctor. He would be called to go to serious road crashes when there was a need for a doctor to attend. He owned a high performance car and portable blue lights. He confided to

me that he was getting too old to be driving to such accidents at over 100 mph..... In the seven years that NorDoc was based at Billingshurst there were quite a few "breakages"; four NorDoc cars were written off in road accidents during that time!

One sad anecdote recalling Rudgwick's doctors: I understand that the following epitaph was erected in the early 18th century in Rudgwick's church tower, in memory of Edward Haines, Surgeon, who died 30th April 1708, aged 33. *"Amongst all the doctors, tho' there are many, He is as much missed as any, Like to most mortals to his practises he was a slave, He caught the small pox and died, and is here in his grave"*



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Signs of Spring

Photos © Doug Betts



Australian Connections

Malcolm Francis

There were quite a few schemes in the Post War years to encourage families from Britain (and also the Irish Republic) to emigrate to Australia and also New Zealand. The Assisted Passage Migration Scheme, often referred to as the "Ten Pound Pom Scheme" enabled many people to start a new life in the Southern Hemisphere for the payment of only ten pounds for every adult with children going free. The scheme ran between 1945 and 1972 and attracted over one million people from the British Isles. The sting in the tail was that the migrants were expected to stay in their new country for at least two years. It was really a one-way-trip as the cost of returning to Britain would have been more than £120 in 1945 which is equivalent to nearly £5,000 today.

I can remember as a boy, growing up in Rudgwick in the Fifties, quite a few families leaving for Australia; it must have taken a lot of courage to leave one's roots. One Rudgwick family that took that step was related to my wife Nicola. Harold Tate's daughter Margo was a first cousin to Babs McWilliam, Nicola's mother. Harold Tate who had been a very successful builder here in Rudgwick, and also bandmaster and choir master, died suddenly in 1940 at the age of 52. His daughter Margo was married to Percy Longman and in 1950 they emigrated to Perth, Western Australia with their three children and Harold Tate's widow, to start a new life. Percy Longman, who had been a police patrol officer here in England ran a driving instruction business in Perth. The years rolled by and the three children all grew up and "flew the nest". There was regular correspondence between the Australians and Nicola's family over the years and in 1977 Keren, Percy's eldest daughter arrived back in England with a travelling companion. They arrived in February, I presume that the flights were at their cheapest, and stayed with various relations. Nicola and I were their hosts for a few days and

because the weather was fortunately dry (but very cold), we took them on a short tour of Wiltshire and Dorset to show them the sights. Our guests were really amazed by the age of our houses, churches and cathedrals.... we take it all for granted. Keren recalled life growing up in Perth and that there was resentment amongst Australians when British emigrants ran businesses that were successful. Keren also told us an amusing "small world" story; she said that her father, when working as a driving instructor, was waiting in his car when a lady asked him directions. She was lost and admitted that she had recently arrived from the "old country" and was from Yorkshire. Percy said that he was from Sussex, the lady replied that the only village she knew in Sussex was called

Rudgwick, where her best friend lived! Keren has been back to England many times since her first visit as her husband's career enabled them to travel widely. Keren's husband Tony loves all of Rudgwick's history; we took them on one visit to see the Roman Palace at Fishbourne and a quick sortie to see Bosham's high tides...they were impressed.

I will now move the clock forward to the last couple of years. The Australian family now have a new generation who are finding their way in the world. One of Keren's nephews, John Clayton, came to England as an English teacher for a year and met a Welsh girl. Their wedding was last year in Wales. We had originally met up with John, when he was still single, not long after his arrival in England and

showed him some of the Sussex countryside and Rudgwick village. John's widowed mother and his brothers arrived here in England ten days before the wedding. It was the first time that his mother, Elaine, had been back to the England since emigrating as a toddler in 1950. They stayed in London to "see the sights" before a lightning tour of Sussex and their Rudgwick roots. I met the party at Guildford station and Elaine remarked how fast our trains travelled. The journey just from Guildford was interesting as Elaine kept pointing out all our pretty cottages, etc. (I did come down via Shamley Green). I had organised it so that our visitors could see the old family home "Autumn Cottage", in



The whole Tate family at Clarks cottage now Autumn cottage. The parents are Kate Caroline and William Tate (senior). The standing people are William Tate junior, Mabel Tate (my wife Nicola's grandmother) and Harold Tate who went on to be the builder as recalled in the main article. It was his widow and family that emigrated in 1950 The front row shows John Tate (lied about his age to fight in WWI), Kate Tate (school teacher) and Charley Tate who became a professional bass singer (6'7" tall) in London at St Paul's Cathedral.

2017 Summer Walks

Geoff Ayres

<p>Our 2017 programme has more walks than ever , expanding into August. The average walk is 4 miles , taking approximately 2 hours, and often ending 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 photos of the station, please do not post them on the internet. The walks are lots of fun, and everyone is welcome. We hope you'll join us this year.</p> <p>Please remember to park considerately. At the Blue Ship and the Mucky Duck, park in the lane beyond the pub. 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 the east side of the B2128. At the Onslow Arms, park in the canal car park behind the pub. At the Sir Roger Tichborne, use the new CP extension. At the Lime Burners please park only on the pub side of the road. Please note - dogs will not be allowed onto Baynards Station. At the Chequers park in the car park up the lane note at the front.</p> <p>Please Note: All walks are undertaken at your own risk.</p>	Tuesday	Start Time	Leader(s)	Starting at	Grid Ref TQ-
	May 9th	7:00pm	David Buckley	The Fox (Bucks Green)	078330
	May 16th	7:00pm	TBA	The Mucky Duck (Tismans Common)	067323
	May 23rd	7:00pm	Malcolm Francis	The King's Head (to Baynards Station)	090343
	May 30th	7:00pm	Geoff & Jean Ayres	The Lime Burners (Newbridge)	073255
	June 6th	7:00pm	Roger Nash	The Sir Roger Tichborne (Alfold Bars)	036333
	June 13th	7:00pm	Clive & Nicky Bush	The Red Lyon (Slinfold)	118315
	June 20th	7:00pm	John Connold	The Sussex Oak (Warnham)	158337
	June 27th	7:00pm	Geoff & Jean Ayres	The Chequers (Rowhook)	122342
	July 4th	7:00pm	John Connold	Whitehall lay-by (Cranleigh)	078380
	July 11th	7:00pm	Cliff Walton	The Scarlett Arms (Walliswood)	118382
	July 18th	7:00pm	Roger Nash	The Fox (Bucks Green)	078330
	July 25th	7:00pm	Doug Betts	The Blue Ship (The Haven)	084305
	Aug 1st	7:00pm	Roger Nash	The Onslow Arms (Loxwood)	042312
	Aug 8th	7:00pm	TBA	The Blue Ship (The Haven)	084305
	Aug 15th	6:30pm	Geoff & Jean Ayres	Pephurst lay-by (Loxwood Rd.)	056318
	Aug 22nd	6:30pm	Roger Nash	The King's Head	090343

Church Street, where their great grandfather had his shoe making business. I took them to see the church and then, at their request took them down to the coast to see Arundel and the best parts of West Sussex. One amusing incident occurred when Elaine wanted to show her sons the old family home in Littlehampton. I could not find the road at all; then we found out that the road was not in Littlehampton but in Hastings. Elaine had forgotten that was where the family had set off from when they emigrated. I took the visitors to Bosham, which was of course at its best, before taking them back to a pub in Wisborough Green

for a farewell meal. One of Elaine's other sons spent most of his time that afternoon and evening running his business in Melbourne from his smart phone; modern technology at its best! One final anecdote; Elaine and her other sons went, after the wedding in Wales, for a quick trip by Eurostar to Paris before heading back to Perth...I wondered what Elaine thought of that train ride.

It is always a pleasure to show our village and countryside to visitors and relations from overseas; we are really spoilt in living in such a beautiful area.

Thank you for your Feedback

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our newsletter survey. You told us that you like the length of the newsletter, but wouldn't want it any longer; you asked that we considered the font size; you suggested we create a Facebook page; and you had some great ideas on articles. Based on your feedback, we've made a few changes. You'll notice we've increased the font and spacing to make the newsletter more readable and you can now find us on [Facebook](#). We welcome your ideas, and we welcome any articles from members. If you have something you'd like to talk about get in touch and we'll put it in the next newsletter!

Signs of Spring

Photos © Doug Betts



Rudgwick Preservation Society

www.rudgwick-rps.org.uk

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Subscriptions: Please pay by Standing Order, subscriptions due 1st January. Cash accepted in advance at Autumn Meeting, or at the latest Spring Meeting. Membership automatically lapses after 2 years. Family £5, Individual £3, Over 60s £2. By Post: Membership Secretary, Weyhurst Copse, Tisman's Common, RH12 3BJ. New members: please enquire via website