


Rudgwick Parish Magazine in Wartime, 1938-1947

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The monthly summaries below do not provide an exhaustive account of activities. The ones chosen will illuminate our understanding of numerous facets of the war years, and of the months before and afterwards (to 1949 and the unveiling of the war memorial).

Several monthly issues are unfortunately missing. Note that many reports refer back to the previous month's activities. A parallel document to this one can be seen here: [Rudgwick News in Local Papers 1939-1946](#).

1938 to August 1939

1938. Events begin before war breaks out. In 1938, the forecourt of the village hall (which we now call the Jubilee Hall), was tarmacked over, the fencing removed. The same thing happened on the forecourt of The King's Head. Progress or not?

A longstanding teacher at Rudgwick School, who came from Surbiton, Mrs Edith Hearsum, retired after long service since 1916. She was then 60 years old. It was calculated she had taught some 700 children in that time. She was described as reliable, hard-working and conscientious. This author remembers how she was a constant presence in his diary of the Great War in Rudgwick Magazine. Since then the 1921 census has become available, so we know that at that time she lived with her husband George at 1 High View Villas in Tisman's Common. He was foreman for Mr Cooper at Arundene. In 1939, they only moved down the road a little to Springside, since replaced with a new larger house.

In 1938, the flower show was again held at Gaskyns on 6 August.

The choral society, then an active village society, had its annual 1938 outing by coach and river boat to The Tower of London.

Girl Guides from Twickenham had their summer camp at Swaynes in 1938.

The possibility of war was acknowledged in 1938 by the beginning of the ARP (Air Raid Precautions) organisation in the Horsham area. Fifteen volunteer Special Police and Wardens from Rudgwick were in training, all passing their exams.

Slow progress was being made on the proposed recreation ground in Bucks Green. A WSCC Inquiry was held in September 1938.

1939. The death was announced of Sir Henry Oram, formerly of Hale Farm, who had been engineer-in-chief of the Royal Navy before and during the Great War. He had also had an extension built onto the Rudgwick War Memorial Club in Loxwood Road of which he was President, in memory of Lady Oram. Also announced was the death of Robert Henderson of Mill House, Gibbons Mill.

In May, the magazine reported at length on the 50th anniversary jubilee of the Annie McCall Maternity Hospital in Clapham, only the second such hospital in the country for women by women. The gathering was attended by Mrs Chamberlain, wife of the Prime Minister. Dr McCall, then aged 79, was a pioneer of maternity care, as well as the owner of the TB Sanatorium at Kings in Church Street Rudgwick which had been in existence for some 40 years.

The Evacuees.—I wonder who invented this horrible word. I was told that it was official and must be used. However, the children and parents that remain have settled down and seem to be enjoying the country. There is no doubt that Mrs. Bacon's canteen has been a tremendous help. All honour to her and her assistants! Then Mr. Jamilee has kindly given permission for the children to play on the cricket field. It was found that the new recreation ground was too rough. The County Council have rented the Lady Oram Memorial Hall for the children to use on wet days for their physical training and games. It is a bit out of the way, but it is much better than nothing and will be a great boon later on. I do not hear that the children are learning much, but I suppose that they have not settled down.

September to December 1939

September. Evacuees had already arrived, as the piece, above, indicates (Jamilee was a misspelling of Jamilly, David Jamilly being the owner of Gaskyn).

November. Blackout came to Rudgwick. The church had to ask parishioners to carry a torch to evensong. "Come through the darkness into the light". A new organist was appointed, Stanley Redford currently at Shipley church, but he was persuaded to retract his acceptance by the good folk of Shipley. Mr Holman of Hyes and Wiliam Port of Cox Green were church wardens, the vicar throughout the war was Rev AN Wynn, the lay missionary at Tisman's Common, Mr Thomas Campbell (Avonlea).

The magazine printed in full a letter from Ronald Young, a Rudgwick serviceman, "somewhere overseas". He is difficult to track down and his service branch and unit is unknown.

Extracted from a letter:—

Somewhere overseas.
6/10/39.

My dear Padre,
... the worst part of the journey here was trying to get away from Euston; it was just beyond belief. However, I did manage to get on to the midnight train, exhausted and torn to shreds. I did not know till I got on board at Glasgow where I was going; then I was not allowed to tell anyone. I struck a beautiful boat and was very comfortable. We dropped down to Greenock and stayed there two days. It was a marvellous sight when we left—10 crack liners, over 20,000 tons of British tonnage, eternally zigzagging and manœuvring, 10 destroyers and a battleship as an escort. We downed a submarine. We saw our destroyers dropping depth charges. They say that we got two others, but that I don't know. I learned to get into my lifebelt in record time. We were carrying a lot of troops and I suppose about 50 assorted civilians. On Sunday we had a service—a piano, low-pitched, well-known chants and hymns, and about 500 men. I reckon any submarine within 10 miles must have heard the singing. Everyone was very cheery on board after we had once got away. We took 14 days to get here. We were the first to leave the convoy. Well, this place does

not improve on acquaintance. It is the one place I'd hoped never to see again. At the moment it's still very hot and damp. I'm not used to it and dislike it intensely; also working again after six years in the open is somewhat trying. . . . I wonder how the old Church is going? Changes, I suppose.
Yours ever, RONALD H. YOUNG.

The Rudgwick District Nursing Association was more important than ever as we entered the war. It was short of funds, as an entirely voluntary body. Membership was a minimum of 4/4d. Evacuee adults were reminded they too could join and receive the benefits of the society's care. Mrs Gossage (Windacres) was treasurer, Miss Ingle (Saxes Plat) was Secretary.

The call for voluntary effort knew no bounds, even extending to the annual church Christmas sale, in 1939 in aid of the Church overseas. "The call had come to us as citizens of the British Empire to serve our country in this hour of need

in whatever ways we can". "We are fighting the spirit of ruthless tyranny as truly as the armed forces". "We are up against anti-God and anti-Christian forces". In short, "mission is the most urgent task facing the Christian church". So wrote, at some length, Mrs Margaret McLauchlan (Dunton, now called Wagonford, Haven Road) on behalf of her committee.

Deaths of older gentlemen continued with that of Patrick Wilson DSO of Lynwick House, a former artillery officer who had served in South Africa, and the Great War, with distinction, and a former church warden. Patrick Fleming also died. He was known as a musical man, singer, organist, composer, and shopkeeper in Church Street.

On Sunday 1st October, only weeks into the war, a special prayer was introduced to services on the command of the king, George VI.

There was an opportunity to lighten the gloom at Christmas with children's parties, two (under sevens and over sevens) put on by the Evacuation Committee held at the SBPA offices (now Freshwoods, Church Street). This location had been the reception centre for the arrival of evacuees in September.

REMEMBER BEFORE GOD

Those who have gone from this parish to serve their King and Country.

Sidney Allingham. R.A.F.
 Ted Bailey. Army.
 Humphrey Botting. Army.
 Valentine Botting. Army.
 Kenneth Boxall. R.N.
 Robert Broadbridge. R.N.
 Frank Butcher. R.A.F.
 John Cave-Brown. R.E.
 James Cecil. Sussex Yeomanry.
 Robert Cecil. Sussex Yeomanry.
 Cecil Christy. Army.
 Robin Duke. Sussex Yeomanry.
 Peter Fisher. R.A.F.
 Edwin Green. R.A.F.
 Archie Hyde. Army.
 Nigel Hendricks. Cameronians.
 Patrick Hendricks. Cameronians.
 Robert Jolly. R.N.
 Frederick Jackson. R.A.F.
 Albert Knight. Royal Sussex Regt.
 Harold Laker. Royal Sussex Regt.
 — Lillywhite. Army.
 Jock Macliesh. Army.
 Jack Marden. R.N.
 Geoffrey Marden. R.A.F.
 Charles Martin. R.N.
 — Osgood. Army.
 John Port. R.N.
 Peter Port. R.N.
 Benjamin Port. R.N.
 Holford Secretan. Royal Sussex Regt.
 Raymond Shrubbs. West Kent Regt.
 David Skinner. Army.
 Robert Sopp. R.N.
 Roy Stevens. R.A.F.
 Clive Temperly. Rifle Brigade.
 Leslie Thompson. Army.
 William Thompson. Army.
 Robert Underwood. Queen's Regt.
 Jack White. Royal Sussex Regt.
 Garth Wilson. R.A.
 Ronald Young.
 Roslyn Young. Army.

February. The evacuee situation was exercising minds. But some of the original 120 were returning to London in the "Phoney War". The two school shifts could be amalgamated from now on. The infants were to be taught in the War Memorial Hall, Loxwood Road, (where they would stay into the 1970s). the canteen was now serving 90 dinners per day (see next page).

June. The Parish Council began to organise scrap iron collections, and was already collecting waste paper. There was payment for collections, the first receipt being nearly £9. Tins were

December. By the end of 1939, it was possible to list those who had gone off to war. Later on, this was probably impossible to keep up with so a list never appeared again.

1940

January. Another letter was published from someone serving in the BEF in France.

With B.E.F. Somewhere in France.
 19/12/39.

... At the moment, believe it or not, I am positively enjoying the army. I am up at Cold Comfort Farm on a course—that is to say, a series of special lectures. It's called a Specialist Course, because it is meant to train chaps to be specialists. A specialist in an Artillery Regiment is, roughly, the chap who chooses the target and shows the gunners how to aim in order to hit it. Very important and responsible work, which is just the same as being a surveyor in civilian life. There are about 20 of us on the course under an instructor who happens to be the Regimental Sergeant-Major—a very high and important personage. He is a perfect gent and a very decent chap. Treats us all as his equals, and lets us take things very easily. The work is fascinating, but by Jove, it is difficult.

We are sleeping in what is normally the Sergeants' room. And we are so comfortable—why, it is just like home. Imagine a disused cattle-shed about 12 ft. by 15 ft.; trusses of straw all around the wall, making a sort of ledge about 2 ft. above another 18 ins. of clean straw on the floor. We've made containers out of boxes for our bits and pieces (I have a bookshelf to add tone). There is a washstand and plenty of hanging room; and in the corner there is a nice red fire in a brazier, on which a couple of plum puddings are boiling happily. Being Christmas, there are Christmas cards

and a great box full of good things. I'm sitting on a sack of chaff, looking very clean, having just had a good wash in hot water, smoking borrowed tobacco in my new pipe. The other two are either writing letters or fussing about the plum puddings. Through the wall the farm boy is grooming his cart horses with loud horsey cries in ... It's freezing outside, and I believe there is a war on somewhere—who cares?

Last night we had a Battery Christmas supper and concert, one of three which are booked to happen. Lots of holly and streamers. Wassail! ... I must pack up now as the plum pudding is cooked. Happy New Year.

VIVAX.

Rudgwick Council Schools.—The problem of the evacuee children has not been an easy one, but the people of Rudgwick have loyally done their best to give their war visitors a real welcome and to make them as happy and comfortable as possible. There is no doubt that the children have benefited greatly in health and physical fitness by their stay in the country; but the running of the Day Schools on a two-shift system, with the local children in the morning and the evacuee children in the afternoon, could only be a makeshift born of the necessity of the times, and now that the number of evacuee children has been reduced from about 120 to between 50 and 60, it became clear to the Education Authorities that it would be better to amalgamate and form one school for the future. Steps are being taken to carry this out. It is suggested that there shall be six groups and that the infants shall all go to the Memorial Hall. This new arrangement will make for better grading and for greater efficiency in teaching. We trust that the parents and those in charge of children will give their cordial co-operation to the scheme.

deemed not worth the effort of collection. There were also three War Savings groups, one by the WI, involving large numbers of residents. See also [The Milward Burge Salvage Documents. Any Old Iron?](#)

Women and the Home Front was the subject of a meeting at The Queen's Hall, Bucks Green on Empire Day (24 May). The messages to be got out included, not to hoard food, buying whatever a shop has in stock, taking part in a Savings Group, collecting paper and card, scrap iron, and rags, understanding where the first aid points were, getting names on a list of emergency child minders, providing more billets for evacuees, not grumbling and not spreading rumours. A film of evacuees in Scotland was shown. The organiser was Mr Alexander Holman (Hyes).

Cricket continued that summer, hoping to make up teams consisting of the older and younger members.

December. The Nursing Association paid for the village to have a District Nurse (Miss Edith Bray), and the time had come (despite petrol shortage) to get her a small car, cost about £100, for which £25 was in the kitty. The Association organised various events including a concert in January, raising £10.

The ARP team were beefed up with four new wardens, total now 12, with three in Church St and 2 in Bucks Green, others scattered in the hamlets. The WVS (Women's Voluntary Service) was organising a Housewives Service, assisting old folk and the infirm, mothers with children in case of bombs falling near their house. Stirrup pumps were on order, so that they might tackle fires. The AFS (Auxiliary Fire Service) was now trained to use a fire engine vehicle. First aider volunteers were ready too, with dressing stations scattered across the parish. One weak spot was that there was no Rescue Squad, slowed down by the sudden death of Harold Tate. The Home Guard and Special Police were trained for this role already. It was pointed out that at the end of the day people should rally round to help their neighbours and themselves.

It is perhaps surprising how little the war affected the content of the magazine, but already paper was scarce, and pages were limited, and would get more limited in time to come. The vicar only included what was sent in.

1941

January-February. The savings groups reported on their success in 1940.

Cousens-Rudgwick: 129 members, £491.

WI: 137-94 members in different sessions, £1,497.

Maybanks: 15 members, £24.

Hyes: 32 members, £219.

Rudgwick School: 59 members, £81.

Wanford: 43 members, £120.

Tisman's Common: 36 members, £121.

Over 500 members had invested £2,555. As the years rolled by, it will be seen how astonishing the amounts the villagers saved in the national interest. The school group also contributed £8 to the Spitfire Fund, and £2 to the Lord Mayor of London's Fund.

There had been a Christmas Party organised by the WVS. A small donation was made by the LCC for the entertainment of the evacuees, including for those under school age.

The lay reader, Thomas Campbell, left the village. His replacement was Henry Drury-Courtenay from a mission in London's East End (which could not afford to keep him on as so many of the population were bombed out and had left the area), who would later have to leave the village under a cloud.

The issue of finding a church organist was partly resolved by asking Mrs Margaret Brown-Greaves (Middle Gingers) and Mrs Hilda Young (also Cox Green) to share services with Mr MacDonald who as manager of the Capital Theatre in Horsham was overstretched. Another issue for the church was a shortage of boy choir members. Because of blackout, practices were moved to Friday afternoons.

March. Firewatchers reported there had been incendiaries dropped in Tisman's Common, and around Aliblasters. Further fire watching was arranged for Tisman's Common. Short sharp blasts on a whistle sounded the alarm. Everyone should have sand bags ready. Those with a stirrup pump should post a prominent notice announcing the same.

Following urgent appeals on the wireless for saving waste paper, more frequent collections will be made as well as opening the depots at the homes of Mr Frederick Cherriman (Buckhurst Rudgwick), Mr Austin Tuff (Exfold Wood, Tisman's Common), Mr Bernard Hempstead (The Laurels, Bucks Green). Money received for our paper was given to local knitting funds and other war charities.

April. 12-19 April was War Weapons Week in Horsham District. The aim (£25,000) was to increase savings, National Savings Certificates and War Bonds, from the post office, raising money directly for the government. Rudgwick by now had six savings groups, and held competitions for children, and also held a procession with fancy dress and vehicle floats from Church Hill to the school on 12 April. The prizes were savings certificates, or savings stamps (the post office to record the amount of business each day). The readers were impressed that this was a war of expensive machines to be bought from general taxation and savings as a loan to the Treasury.

May. A report of War Weapons Week. A tank was obtained to lead the procession. Examples of floats were a cart laden with vegetables, a pony & trap for salvage, a dig for victory float, a kitchen front float, decorated carts and horses, the AFS fire engine, the ARP service, an ambulance and VADs, many pedestrians and “hundreds” of school children, each representing a coin or savings certificate, a bombed-out family, munitions worker, farm workers, nurses, sweeps, scarecrows, St George and the Dragon, John Bull, Uncle Sam. 70 prizes were awarded to children at the school. The national anthem was sung, and everyone went home. Money raised in Rudgwick was the astonishing sum of £20,666, of which £14,725 was in War Bonds. £5,941 went through the post office.

Corporal Y

Early on the 16th April in Belfast, it was reported that there were believed to be some people buried under debris in a house which had been demolished by a German high explosive bomb. This N.C.O. at once volunteered to get them out, in spite of the fact that he was suffering from a septic hand, having only come out of hospital the day before.

He, with others, got into the kitchen of the house, although the roof was in great danger of collapsing, and started to break a hole in the wall. Eventually he got a hole large enough to admit head and shoulders, and was then successful in getting out eleven people, three of whom were alive.

It was whilst getting the last person out that Corporal Y showed the utmost indifference to danger, this person was a girl of sixteen years of age who had been fully conscious the whole time.

By this time the building in which the N.C.O. and the others were working was getting in a very dangerous state. The fire in the debris was getting so much beyond the firemen's control that the officer in charge would accept no further responsibility for the safety of anyone in this building. Added to this a delayed action bomb had exploded some 150 yards away, bringing down more debris.

Corporal Y worked methodically, clearing away the debris and having jacked up a beam which was supporting about 15 feet of masonry and debris, got his head and shoulders under it and secured a rope round the girl's waist.

Five or six men pulled on the rope to

Alongside it was a piece requesting people to donate a few vegetables to the WVS who were collecting for the men on the minesweepers. The firewatchers of the AFS were actively practicing for the unthinkable, an incendiary bomb dropped by the west door of the church, their methods limited to a

June. A lecture was arranged on 'gas'. This topic allowed villagers to learn of the risks of an attack, the different types of gas, etc. the lecturer also explained how to use a respirator (gas mask).

July. Two collections of scrap iron in 1940 yielded £20, which was divided between the Savings Bank and blankets for the firewatchers.

August. The heroism of Corporal Y was recognised with pride. Other sources confirm the identity of this man. He was Corporal Rosslyn Young, the only son of Lindsay and Norah Young of Oakdene, Guildford Road. The article was printed before anyone knew that this man, despite being a serving soldier, was to be awarded the normally civilian medal, the George Cross, the highest distinction available, and certainly the only one awarded at any time to someone from Rudgwick.

drag the girl out, but when half way the rope came adrift, and the supporting beam collapsed at one end.

Corporal Y, without a moment's hesitation again crawled into the hole and re-tied the rope round the girl, and eventually got her out alive. She was the last person out, and the whole building collapsed two minutes later.

Corporal Y worked incessantly, and with every disregard for danger during all this operation, which lasted from 10.00 until about 16.20 hours.

stirrup pump and a sand bag. Once the tower was “ablaze” they sent for the fire service and the squad at The Fox Inn, where the engine was kept in the barn we still see by the roadside. The pond at The Old Parsonage was to be used, but the pump placed in too shallow water. Eventually a jet was sprayed on the tower, then divided to create two jets of water. A casualty was discovered in the churchyard, so the first aid post in the village hall was called in, who sent a stretcher up. Hot water bottles and blankets were readied. All had gone well. One outcome was the installation of a telephone, No 89, at The Fox. Villagers were encouraged to place the number by their telephone. Another practice was with a real incendiary bomb.

October. A winter warning about blackout was issued.

The harvest festival celebrated more than usual, the national food production being paramount in wartime. Hay and corn crops were good, apples and stone fruit not so good, but blackberries excellent.

There had also been a 4th National Day of Prayer, on 7 September.

21 September was the first celebration of Battle of Britain Day, the anniversary of the day in 1940 with the most intense fighting, and when victory became clear, and saved us from invasion. The WI comfort knitters were busy making items for the RAF.

The firewatchers made an appeal for some new volunteers.

November. The savings groups reported that the summer campaign had yielded as follows: Cousens £324 + £10,410 in bonds; School £144; Wanford £60; Tisman’s £313; WI £764 + £300 in bonds; Hyes £45. Total £1,653, with £10,710 placed in War Bonds or Savings Certificates. The school had aimed to pay for a dinghy and a parachute, but collected twice this. The Tisman’s group aimed to pay for a machine gun, but raised more than twice this. Warships Week coming up next.

December. The firewatchers met to review the winter months ahead. The proposal was that firewatching should only be done when there was an alert. Instead, the discussion was to only watch for the first session, only when there was an alert, or continue double sessions. The status quo prevailed. Three new volunteers meant there was now only one session uncovered.

1942

January. The children’s Christmas party was given by the WVS, who struggled to get sweets to give the children, and no crackers, but plenty of sandwiches and cakes. Mrs MacAndrew presided, giving each child a 3d bit, and Mrs Bacon provided the food.

February. The school held a week of paper salvage collection, 19-23 January. No less than 1,088lbs was brought in. £4 16s was also raised for the Aid to Russia Fund. A letter was sent to Mrs Churchill, who replied. One boy even raised money by going ratting.

Mrs Fitzgerald held a children's New Year party for some 70 or more at Warhams. She was assisted by two teachers from the school, Miss Lawford and Miss Simmonds. Providing food and drink was a challenge successfully done, somehow.

Other news from the school was not so good. Mrs Maxwell, who had taught there alongside LCC evacuees, but had to leave to return to Streatham, London, had died of heart failure on 1st January. She had been a much admired teacher, quiet and painstaking, and a good singing teacher.

A canteen for troops was now open at the village hall in Church St, three evenings a week, 6-9pm, just right for winter evenings (hidden agenda - not a pub!). The boy's club now only had Friday evenings.

It was in February that it could be announced that Rosslyn Young had been awarded the George Cross for his rescue work in Belfast, printed anonymously (above) as his name was then withheld.

Warship Week was 21-28 February. The aim being to fund a submarine in Horsham and district, £345,000. It being too wintry for a procession, the Saving Groups relied on prize draws, competitions, and attracting new members. The village contribution was even larger than that in Weapons Week in 1941! They saved £29,422, no less. Cousens raised £1,127 (+ £15,000 through banks), the WI £712, Hyes £31, the school £87, Wanford £57, Tisman's £1,921. New members were 38, now over 700 altogether. The WI had raised £ 4,641 since the start.

The Nursing Association had to reorganise as Mrs Faith Wilson (Lynwick House, longest serving member) had left the village, and Mrs Margaret Gossage (Windacres, treasurer) resigned to take up war work. Mrs Georgina Paparritor (Tisman's Common) became the new treasurer.

April. The arrival of Canadian soldiers at Buck Green Camp must have triggered this announcement. It was an Order from the Registrar General. In every case of the marriage of a Canadian soldier, the permission of the man's Commanding Officer must be obtained, with documentary evidence. The marriage must be so endorsed. The vicar was instructed to take note, and receive the document before Banns are read.

This month also saw the first Home Guard Sunday on 12 April.

Paper salvage encouragement was given by this announcement: 1 newspaper = 3 x 25lb shell caps; 1 magazine = internal parts of 2 mines; 6 books = 1 mortar shell carrier; 1 soap powder canister = 4 aero engine gaskets; 5 medium cartons = 1 box for cannon shells; 1 old envelope = 1 cartridge wad; 12 old letters = 1 box for rifle cartridges.

The death was announced of 24 year old Ft Lt Percy John Fisher, an RAF officer, who died, initially posted missing, in March during a flight over Benghazi, Libya. He was an Old Cranleighan, a London University graduate, who joined up before the war, and had survived being wounded and a hospital admission in 1941. His father lived in Rudgwick; his late mother was the well-known novelist, Margaret Peterson.

May. For the first time, the village contributed to the PoW Parcels Fund. With two whist drives, a bridge afternoon, and donations. Over £15 was sent for buying comforts to send to PoWs who had no next of kin. £8 adopted one man for one year.

The WI are famous for their jam making and fruit canning during the war and afterwards. It must have been done in 1941, because it was "continued" in 1942, Middle Gingers (Mrs Margaret Brown-Greaves) being the centre. An appeal was made for jam jars, which were paid for, 9d per dozen. Fruit was called for too, to be brought to the WI market stall (location?) on Wednesdays or dropped off at the house. The produce was presumably then sold at the market.

June. The Ellens voluntary hospital (Ellens Green) was to close, it being surplus to need, there being other ambulance stations in the neighbourhood. Over 300 patients had used its wards.

August. The firewatchers had some slightly alarming advice. The latest advice being to contain a fire before thinking of the bomb. The likelihood of a bomb containing explosives was said to be 3 in a hundred. It was apparently easy to pick up a bomb by its fins and "throw it away if you are on the spot and are quick". In London, boys used to use them as torches until they got too hot to hold. [This must refer to incendiaries]. The list of firefighters was: Godfrey Halsey, Billy Butcher, Robert Richardson, E Waller, Brenda & Muriel Humphrey, Hugh & Elsie Westgate, William Port, Beatrice Cecil, G Boxall, Lina Burge, Hilda Young.

The First Aid List was also appended. Too many to name, there were 10 groups, in Church St, Lynwick Street, Bucks Green, Home Guard at Bucks Green, Hyes, Hale, Tisman's Common, Collins Cross, Memorial Hall, and an Independent group, 39 individuals, all women.

Rudgwick flower show took place on 25 July, organised by the Home Guard, the purpose to raise money for the equipment they needed (no funds from government). It was hot, and demand for refreshments exceeded wartime supply. The vegetable show was thought to aid Digging For Victory. All vegetable entries were given to minesweeper crews. There was a Baby Show, jam, cake and needlework competitions. Prizes were given by Col Morgan (CO?). Special prizes went to members of the various wartime organisations. The evening included a whist drive. Much credit went to Platoon QMS Thomas McCreedy and Lt Duncan.

It was announced that the Savings groups had done so well in 1941 that they were mentioned on the BBC. Their aim for 1942 was to increase this by 20%. If that was achieved by any village group they will have a tank named after them. It was later announced that although the district fell short of its target, both Cousens and Wanford would have their names on a tank.

September. 3 September was a National Day of Prayer to mark the third anniversary of the declaration of war.

October. The Rabbit Club is first mentioned, though it began in July. Rabbits were a useful addition to the wartime diet in the countryside. Their diet should contain shepherd's purse, but any weeds will do. Membership of the club allowed access to some additional bran.

Those involved with collecting vegetables for the minesweepers had a letter of thanks from a Godfrey Halsey.

Paper salvage news: it was sorted into six kinds before sale to a contractor, which got double the price. Two of the team went on a factory visit near London. The processes clearly fascinated them, but the abiding memory was that it was well worth sorting the waste. The variety of use of the paper made was wide, some they "might not mention".

The PoW parcels paid for by Rudgwick donations went to Driver C Wicks (RASC, captured in the Middle East) and Private E Couling (RASC, also captured in the Middle East). Both were held in Italian camps. Wicks came from a family of eight, with their father an invalid. Couling's wife refused to send him parcels. The Rudgwick parcels contained a vest, pants, shirt, pullover, blanket, muffler, gloves, 2 pairs socks, 2 handkerchiefs, razor and blades, shaving stick, toothpaste, some patching material, chewing gum, sewing kit.

November. The saga of our local star, Rosslyn Young, now promoted Sergeant, awarded the George Cross, reached its zenith with a presentation by the King at Buckingham Palace. He was described as a Maritime Anti-Aircraft Gunner. Young had not long been back from his ship, from India, and from his marriage. His parents Mr & Mrs Lindsay Young of Oakdene, were of course there. Research shows he travelled a lot and became a colonial planter after the war.

The Savings Groups reported that both Wanford and Cousens groups had exceeded their targets in 1941, and that a tank would be named after each. Overall an extra £500 was saved in Rudgwick compared with 1941.

Rosslyn (Jimmie, as we now learnt that he was called) Young, GC (of Belfast fame – see above), was married at Pyrford to Anne Wittington.

December. Armistice Day was renamed Remembrance Day (and Sunday). The service in 1942, was not so well attended, there no longer being a band or even a bugler, and no parade by the Rudgwick Pals (Great War veterans).

The following week was different. It was designated National Thanksgiving Sunday for the victories in North Africa. The church was full, and the bells rang out for the first time since 1939, notwithstanding that only five ringers could be found, and one of the ropes was rotten. Some attention to the bell trunnions, etc, from Percy Hedger, a village carpenter, the day before was essential. The WVS attended in force, but not the Home Guard, or any other army unit.

The whole Boxall family from Ridge, Church Street, attended Buckingham Palace for the award of the DSO to Commander Kenneth Boxall RN. Only his wife and daughter were allowed into the palace. At the party afterwards, they were joined by Hugh Ringer who used to live in Rudgwick. The award was for bravery and skill whilst minesweeping.

The WVS organisation was made public. Mrs May MacAndrew (Pallinghurst) was Parish Organiser, Mrs Lina Burge (Cousens) her Deputy. Mrs Gladys Brutton Weyhurst Copse) and Mrs Margaret Adams (Northolme) were Shelter Marshals. Mrs Dorothy Cooper (High Croft) was Head Housewife.

1943

January. A piece lamenting the Bramley train attack by a German raider before Christmas was published, though even this magazine could not reveal the location. Eight were killed, none from Rudgwick, but a number were injured. Names were given: Marguerite Leaney, daughter of the school headmaster, was seriously injured in the face and an eye, her infant baby getting off with a scratch. Mrs Viola Long and her daughter Silvia, Mrs Maud Farley and her daughter Monica, all four neighbours in Bucks Green, were on a Christmas shopping visit to Guildford. Mrs Leaney on the other had had been to show the baby to her soldier husband before he went overseas. She subsequently received plastic surgery at East Grinstead Hospital. Details are in [The Bramley Train Attack, 1942](#), an article in the website selection on the war.

The Red Cross set up a week of First Aid lectures in the village during February.

The school children had been given a Christmas party by the Canadian unit at Bucks Green

Home Guard Entertainments. — The Rudgwick Platoon of the Home Guard has instituted a series of weekly entertainments —socials, dances, whist drives. It is Government policy that entertainment should be provided for leisure time in rural areas, without recourse to transport services. The proceeds of the entertainments will be devoted to two purposes (a) the establishment of a fund (to be managed by a Committee appointed by the Platoon) for the supply of cigarettes and comforts to Rudgwick men in the Forces, former members of the Platoon, etc. (b) the establishment of a separate fund to be known as the Home Guard Village Hall Fund. The purpose in the latter case will be to help towards the building, after the war, of a Village Hall, suitable for social occasions of all kinds. This fund will be invested in the Post Office Savings Bank, under the supervision of a Committee consisting of O.C. Platoon, C. F. Woodrow, Esq., Sgt. Boxall and L/Cpl. Griffin. Both funds will of course welcome contributions from outside sources, and grateful acknowledgement is made of the receipt of £14 13s. 11d., proceeds of the collection of a sale of scrap metal early in the war by three members of the Parish Council. This means that, with the sum to be paid from the proceeds of the first two entertainments the Village Hall Fund will start with a credit of £20. The accounts of both Funds will be posted every month in the H.Q. of the Platoon.—M. R. K. B.

Camp. They saw films of Popeye, and Abbot and Costello, a conjurer, Father Christmas with 'candies'. The soldiers had drawn on their own rations for the food and candies.

The PoW funds were boosted by a Bring & Buy at Hyes, raising £100.

February. The Rabbit Club proposed its first show, to be held on 21 March. The government was pleading with people to keep rabbits.

March. Mr Burge was reported as having gone to Canada, no reason given, but it meant he was no longer involved with salvage, and no longer in the Home Guard or the parish council. Mrs Young of Cox Green now undertakes paper sorting, and Mr Halsey collects.

This piece, left, was written by Milward Burge, before he left, about Home Guard Entertainments.

April. There had been floods at Wanford. Children were brought to school in a lorry. The lay reader fell in!

There was a plea for new choir members, so many being absent on war work, or in the services.

Petty Officer Thomas Port, a former member of the choir, on leave from the navy, was married to Iris Cridge at Stedham. He was a career navy serviceman, hoping soon to be a CPO.

There was a rabbit show in the village hall, with nine classes for all sorts of breeds of fancy rabbits.

May. The Home Guard determination to provide all Rudgwick servicemen and women with cigarettes meant they now were able to invest £25 from their social events to enable each one to receive 2s worth of cigarettes. They also gave the date for the flower show in August. In asking for volunteer helpers the membership of the entertainments committee was given as Sgts Bradshaw, Cherriman, Boxall, Cpl Parsons, L/Cpls Griffin, Francis, Ptes Jackson, Standing, Boxall. The Management Committee was GH Woodrow Esq, Sgt Boxall, L/Cpl Griffin, and OC Platoon (unnamed).

The WI Preservation Centre at Middle Gingers was gearing up for the summer. Prices paid were strictly on controlled conditions. Owing to the shortage of metal there would be no canning in 1943.

£51 had been raised for the PoW Fund, much more than the £16 raised last year. Three PoWs were now helped, Pte Couling, Driver Wicks, and Pte Pears, who was in Stalag IX c, Germany. Quarterly parcels had been sent, a thank you received from Couling, the first parcel he had had in two years. The increased money mainly (£25 of it) came from a Games Afternoon at High Croft.

July. An announcement was made about the playing field. RPC as trustees had been about to launch an appeal for money in 1939, but with a grant from a King George V legacy fund, and some money collected, the project was put on hold. The accounts were made public. In essence, receipts were £1,554 (an anonymous donation of £1,000 included), expenditure was £1,241, mainly for purchase of the field in Bucks Green, and some children's play equipment. It is known that the field reverted back to arable, cultivated by former owner Mr Hugh Ireland of Exfold Farm, for several years. See [King George's Field](#).

Rudgwick Red Cross Society was run by Mrs Ida Hemsley of Alabasters. Information on PoWs was one of its remits. Linked to this, the funds raised for PoWs by the village elicited a letter thanking the organisers for £50. As a result the village now had adopted five PoWs.

Another Rabbit Show, at Hyes, 102 entries, took in £47, net £33. £30 was given to the Home Guard.

Home Guard dances and whist drives continued, and were now popular with local troops. £88 was given to Wings for Victory Week. it was the 3rd anniversary of the formation of the Home Guard in 1940. A church parade was organised.

August. The wedding of Nancy (Twinkie) Cooper of High Croft to FO Henry (Harry) Payne, RAF, took place at Holy Trinity in July. "All the outward signs were propitious". Bells could now be rung - since the victory in North Africa in 1942. Sadly, living at High Croft and stationed at Dunsfold, Harry Payne was killed the next year in a plane crash near Godalming, his military funeral in the same church, just weeks before his wife gave birth (details of his loss and CWGC headstone in [Rudgwick Roll of Honour 1939-1945](#) in these website pages).

Muriel Secretan (Swaynes) had been attempting to set up a Girl Guide company in Rudgwick, but owing to the small number had arranged for them to join Broadbridge Heath Company in a Rudgwick Patrol.

There was another Rabbit Show, this time outdoors in the Vicarage garden. The purpose, it was emphasised was to provide food. Billy Butcher the butcher at Southdown House, as buyer of rabbits, had sold 200lbs in the last quarter.

September. the death of Walter Easton of Tolt Garth, Cox Green, was announced. He died suddenly in his garden. A retired architect and surveyor, he was very musical playing strings in orchestras. During the war he had worked with the ARP and Home Guard creating maps and scale drawings.

The death of William Churchman was also announced. He had lived all his life in Rudgwick, mostly at Mill Farm, Gibbons Mill, and latterly in Farnbrakes, Church Street. He was a valuer and auctioneer with Churchman & Sons, and locally a parish councillor for 38 years and supporter of the church. He had been present at the laying of the foundation stone of the school "in 1885" (note, the school was built in 1880!). He was also one of the best shots in the district.

The Home Guard reported cigarettes had been despatched to 28 Rudgwick men overseas. Their dances were proving a great success, a further £7 raised. The flower show on 7 August, a huge success, raised £200, expenses £99. Mrs Powell had given two pigs (roasted?)

December. The Home Guard Entertainments Committee (RHGEC) was building its reputation for being the organiser of numerous events. Six dances had been held in October and November, four more planned for December, all in aid of cigarettes for all servicemen and women from Rudgwick parish. Two whist drives had been held. The children's party was scheduled for 18 December.

The Rabbit Club held a Christmas Show. Carcases were for sale at government prices.

The Girl Guides gave a party in aid of the Red Cross on 29 December.

1944

January. The December Rabbit Show was a small affair.

The Home Guard supper on the other hand had an excellent muster for the parade. The supper? Rabbit with trimmings, and a trifle. Entertainment was a N***** Minstrel Troupe of "local talent", i.e. members of the Home Guard.

February. An accident at the top of Lynwick Street involved a Canadian army lorry and a small boy, Teddy, son of Mr & Mrs Biram. The boy was standing on a heap of road sand and slipped as the lorry came very close, his leg run over. Worse was to come as his leg had to be amputated in hospital in Guildford. But Edward Biram's funeral was reported in September. He was 5½.

Old Black Watch soldier, Sgt Maj James Kirk-Smith died. He had been at the fighting to relieve Gordon at Omdurman, and in France throughout the Great War, having first moved to Rudgwick in 1910. His seven children were all serving in the war as were his grandchildren.

March. It was proposed to send copies of the parish magazine to servicemen abroad. A plea was put out for their addresses.

The Rabbit Club now had 40 members, Peter Standing (Dale Cottage) secretary.

Mrs Norah Young's waste paper depot (Oakdene) had sorted 3 tons since February, which seems a huge amount, also 3cwt of rags, and earned £20 for the lot. The money was given to the RAF comforts group and the Royal Navy book fund.

April. The Home Guard reported that their dances are attended by Americans, Canadians, and airmen (Dunsfold?), and a good number of local people. They now had a minstrel troupe. Cigarettes have been distributed to all servicemen in UK, and shortly to those overseas who will get 200 each. Will relatives inform of any omitted. A free whist drive was to be held to teach the Americans how to play.

Fresh vegetables for minesweepers were needed; the supply has dwindled. Please deliver to Mr Godfrey Halsey, Mavis, Cox Green.

A Rabbit Show attracted 100 entries, subscription for members 1/6d, new members sought.

May. The Junior Red Cross Link group had a surprise parcel of sweets and other items from their link friends in USA.

The Prisoners of War Fund raised £54 at three whist drives, £30 in donations. £40 will be spent on parcels of clothing for five PoWs, sent out quarterly. One of "our" PoWs escaped from his Italian camp to reach British lines, another was repatriated from Germany. Two others have been allocated to Rudgwick. The five names were: L/Cpl Pears, Ptes Morgan and Come, Drivers Wicks and Catlin.

June. The jam centre opened again, cans available this year, but each household limited to 12 18oz cans providing notice was given to Margaret Brown-Greave by 1 June, and they can prepare their own fruit. Jam jars bought for 6d per dozen.

The Home Guard dances had been attracting our own troops. The flower show was to be held on 12 August. 28 men overseas had received their 200 cigarettes. The rules forbid saying they are from Rudgwick, so relatives were asked to tell their men. The names of the committee were: L/Cpl Griffin, chairman, Sgt Cherriman, secretary, Sgt McCreedy, Sgt Bradshaw, Sgt Boxall, Cpl Parsons, L/Cpl Francis, Pte Jackson, Pte Standing, Pte Boxall. The Home Guard celebrated their 4th anniversary in May with another church parade. Capt Hamlyn, CO, took the salute. This may be Harold Hamlyn at New House Farm, a solicitor.

The WI Knitting Comforts for the Services group, under Mrs Margaret McLachlan's leadership, received a letter of thanks from Lord Leconfield, the group having made 168 khaki items in the year. He told her that Sussex had used 2,814lbs of wool to knit 15,940 garments.

The Nursing Association, Mrs Ida Hemsley, chairman, Mrs Kathleen Worlidge, secretary, provided an unusually comprehensive report. Nurse Pearson had left in March, replaced by Nurse Bertha Croucher (back in 1939, the nurse had been Edith Bray, living in the purpose-built Nurses Bungalow in Bucks Green). The nurse was assisted by several local women as auxiliary nurses, and by Dr Robert Miller and Dr Brendan Concannon (GP Dr Kelsey was away in the RAMC – Concannon stayed until 1947). Mrs Mary Newman (Pitfield) replaced Ida Hemsley (Aliblasters) as chairman. Money raising seemed to be very effective, for example, £58 from a jumble sale.

August. The Tisman's Common War Savings Group, run by William and Eleanor Ingle (Saxes Plat) took in £2,004 over the year, the target having been £300.

An update on the playing field confirmed what had seemed the case earlier in the war when money had been set aside for it, that there had been a children's play area in the field, probably near the entrance as most of it had been ploughed up for crops. By August 1944, however, it had been cross-ploughed, mole-drained, and sown with grass seed. It was stated that in a couple of years, the grass would be strong enough to play on, and when suitable buildings can be put up, it should be a "centre of village sports and games".

A very modern idea, for the time, was instituted at the end of term in the school – a Parents' Day. Children's work was put out, text and writing books, needlework. The children sang some of their Festival music, but otherwise carried on normal work, "seeming to enjoy it".

A Rabbit Show attracted 141 entries in no less than 19 classes in the village hall.

October. The flower show was reported by RHGEC to have raised £500 to be invested in the PoW Fund and the Village Hall Fund. £24 was raised at dances for the Dedisham Children's Home in Slinfold. The children's party was to follow in December.

The marriage of Harry Payne and "Twinkie" Cooper is described above in August 1943. The account, left, by the vicar is Rudgwick's only known and informative tribute to these two

IN MEMORIAM.

We were most distressed and grieved to hear about the flying accident in which Harry Payne and Cornelius Waardenburg lost their lives. They were taking up a machine for a test flight, but before sufficient height had been gained, one of the engines gave out, and the machine dived to the ground. Mr. and Mrs. Payne were married in our Church about a year ago, and many of us were at the wedding. It was such a happy and bright one, and the bride and bridegroom looked so radiantly happy. We feel for Mrs. Payne, who takes her bereavement so bravely. We pray that God may be with her in this hour as He was with Christ on the Cross. Sometimes He gives us hard things to bear, but if we trust Him He gives us strength and faith to overcome. Mr. Payne's great friend was Cornelius Waardenburg, and it was fitting they should be buried side by side in our quiet Churchyard. He was a Dutchman, and we do not know his relations, but they have been told of how his body lies in our Churchyard, and we shall remember them both, and think of them as brave men who risked their lives in our cause, and counted not the cost. God be with them in that other world.

The funeral, which was on the afternoon of Saturday, Sept. 2nd, was taken by the Vicar, and the Dutch Chaplain read the lesson. There was a large muster of English and Dutch airmen at the service. The coffins were draped with Union Jacks, and the bearers were R.A.F. men. The firing party were formed from Dutch Marines. At the close of the service at the graveside, the Dutch Chaplain gave an address in Dutch and in English.

men. It omits to say that Twinkie was near-term pregnant with their child, and glosses over the asserted suggestion that Cornelius (Cees) flew low over some land girls at Peper Harow near Godalming, clipping a tree. The full story is in [Dutch Courage, The Story of Cees Waardenburg](#) and [Rudgwick Roll of Honour 1939-1945](#). See article on next page.

The 3 September was marked by the 5th National Day of Prayer on the anniversary of the outbreak of war, with a parade service led by the Rudgwick and Slinfold Home Guard. Capt Hamlyn, Commandant, read the lesson. There must have been some amalgamation of the two parish patrols; Capt Hamlyn was promoted to Major.

There was an Bank Holiday village wedding, Kenneth Hawksley married Miss Betty Butcher, a daughter of Billy Butcher, the butcher at Southdown House, and sister of Frank Butcher (best man) who later married Cecilia, who together became well-known in post-war Rudgwick running the post office. [Cecilia Butcher, Land Girl](#).

The RHGEC flower show raised £200.

November. In the most significant bombing incident of the war, a flying bomb landed near the church. stained glass windows in the church were badly damaged. The NE window (near the vestry) was so badly damaged it was sent to London for repair, but the report found the expense was more than the church could afford, with no government grant available for

artistic windows. It was replaced with plain diamond glass, and so it remains to this day. Coke for winter fires had arrived, so the church would be kept as warm as possible.

The Red Cross group raised £13 to send to Aid to Russia.

Major Cambell Hendriks, of Mill Hill, a South African War veteran, Munster Fusiliers, died. He had also served throughout the Great War. Both his sons were serving in the current war, Nigel a Brigadier in Burma, Patrick (MC) a Major in France.

The "U.K." — Home Again.

It is true to say, probably, that all those of us, in any of the Services, leave a part of ourselves behind us when we proceed "overseas" with the rest: even in Peacetime, those of us who have made our work and our home abroad continue to regard the "U.K." as our Home and, presumably, this is true of all Nationals; so strong is the tie of the particular earth from which we spring, merit of the particular corner whence we issue, the tie of our relatives and friends, together with whom we have lived and had our being.

In Malta, where the area of land is limited, and where the countryside does not offer much variation, and where, from April to October, the same brilliant sunshine, the same blue sea and sky, and never a cloud, the same dazzling rocks and glaring buildings obtain, one found oneself mindful to see, once more, hedgerow, meadow and tree, an overcast sky, or to feel the sting of sleet or rain, or even to lose oneself in a good old London fog.

Flying over Sicily, which, from above, with blue mountains in the distance, and a land-locked lake, and what might be peat-bog ground, looks very much like Scotland or Ireland, one experienced a thrill of excitement to see again ploughed fields, or-

chard, cattle, and the billowing smoke trail of a railway engine. The part of it in which we found ourselves stationed, with white-washed cottages, gaily painted carts and decorated harness, wayside shrines, and the numerous domestic animal about the door, might instead have been somewhere in Ireland.

Most of us must have experienced a similar reminder of home, sometime, somewhere, nothing gave more pleasure than a letter from the "U.K." This pleasure arose partly from the fact that such a communication was the only form of contact with those left behind, and partly from the fact that the letter contained, in local colour, a description of every-day happenings; this gave us, as it were, a "reviver," a breath of British atmosphere.

A "build-up," each his own picture of England, was common to all of us, and, as in most cases where the imagination takes over, the image proved more vivid than the actual picture.

So, on return, although our first impression was thankfulness to be back, the second was very much in the form of an anti-climax. Everything seemed to be much the same, but less vivid, even dowdy, by comparison with that which we had imagined, and, for a time we underwent an acclimatization—a re-forming of our imagination with the actual picture.

Our first sight of England was through a sudden clearance in otherwise typical Irish sea weather, when the sun burst forth and lit up the low sandy shore of Liverpool Bay and, to the southward, the blue Welsh Mountains.

Our second from the train which it was expected, would take us through England's "green and pleasant land," led us through many miles of "backs"—grimy houses, grimmer windows, and grimmest washing, far worse in that they were more extensive than anything we had seen overseas. We had forgotten this side of England, but even so, to those that must have gone out from those grimy houses, they were "Home," and a different picture would have accompanied them.

Then—Home. There is where the image which we have made for ourselves so exactly fits the real picture that, before we have been at home many days, we almost

December. The RHGEC reported on yet more successful dances, the whist drives doing better in attendance. They had the assistance of Albert King, landlord of The Cricketers, to get the Home Guard Hut at Bucks Green Place ready. There were to be more dances leading up to Christmas, a special Christmas whist drive on 22 December, and the annual children's party on 16 December. Punch & Judy was organised. A novel competition: £15 prize for anyone who could predict the date of the end of the war.

The Rabbit Club had another successful show with 150 entries.

The WI reports were seldom written in the context of war, but for the November meeting a Miss Ross spoke at length of her experience in a German internment camp in France, where she was incarcerated in a former cavalry barracks in Besançon. She was particularly grateful to the Red Cross for parcels, but hated the feeling of being shut in, unable to help in the war, and having nothing much to do, except sewing with parcel string, putting on concerts. Report after report shows a WI which resolutely remained as normal as possible. It never faltered in its regular meetings, always reported at length.

Rudgwick won the Silver Shield for the highest amount of savings for its population. Eight groups exceeded their quota in Salute the Soldier Week.

1945

January. Just before Christmas, Arthur Woodhatch of Pallinghurst Lodge was killed in an accident with a bus on his way back from work in Guildford. The newspaper report hinted at drunk driving..

The RHGEC children's party had 161 children attending. A Punch & Judy Show was again the highlight, other than food, obviously. In the evening the adult's social was attended by 200, who enjoyed a conjurer, the Minstrel Troupe, and free cigarettes. Nearer Christmas, the Home Guard dinner was held, and a Christmas whist drive with 35 tables. This would be their last Christmas.

February. Service personnel were being repatriated. Above, previous page, and above right, a fascinating account from a flyer in Malta. It is rather long, and anonymous.

April. The Rudgwick detachment of the Red Cross gave a party for 42 at the village hall, at which films were shown. They also had a compelling talk from an Assistant-Commandant in Dorking on her experiences and the value of her role in wartime. Then a visit to Roffey Park Rehabilitation Centre, near Horsham, was arranged, where treatment and results were explained on a tour of the house, gymnasiums, workshops and gardens by the matron. The centre opened in 1943 to care for people in industry who were suffering from overwork, strain and depression.

Miss Rachel Secretan (Swaynes), a junior Commander in the ATS, formerly in FANY, was

have forgotten that we ever have been away from it. The village is not altered, the road still leads up over the hill, the Church, the school, the pub, and the farm—all are as we left them; the people a little older perhaps—we had forgotten we were; many, if not all of our contemporaries—and this perhaps is the most noticeable difference—are away, as, until now, we have been. There may be a few trees down, some more palings gone, but the mind seems to skip such details: for it, it is the same home and the same village.

As a peice of furniture or an article of clothing takes to itself and reflects the use it gives it's owner, so seems to do the Home; so, in relation to its inhabitants, seems to do the village; and so, in relation to its people, seems to do the country. An atmosphere is bred, which grows so slowly that we cannot perceive it or perhaps ourselves are absorbed by it, that we almost are not conscious of it; an atmosphere to be cherished—it is enough, the "U.K."—Home again. R.A.F.

married to PO John Venables.

May. The St George's Day parade of 1st Bucks Green and 2nd Horsham cubs and scouts, together with Girl Guides (with Miss Eileen Tuff) was at St John's Tisman's Common. Named scouts were Douglas Turner (station master's son), Eric Thompson (later TV's The Magic Roundabout creator), and cubs J Weller and T Lindfield. The 1st Bucks Green scoutmaster was P Mordaunt. It was the second such parade in Rudgwick.

Post-War (after VE Day)

June. The post-war era opened on 30 May with argument (described however as "interesting and amusing") in a meeting, convened for the purpose, concerning possible sites for proposed HRDC council houses. Mr Longley (chairman) and Mr Kay (architect) represented the RDC. Council houses would have priority for building materials. Rudgwick was allotted 12. The parish apparently already had a site it owned in Lynwick Street abutting the railway. To a suggestion from the floor that land in Gaskyns estate would be best, the council had to admit the existence of plans for a Bucks Green bypass in the future. HRDC were clearly unaware of plans for the Recreation Ground, the planner also insisting wrongly that the old ground in Gaskyns was parish property. It was also revealed that the proposed sewage outfall would be next to the Recreation Ground. It annoyed local opinion even more that houses were proposed in its vicinity. From the floor, two sites in Church Street were discussed. Eventually, a vote was taken: 1st, opposite The Fox, 2nd, Lynwick Street, 3rd, no votes for the Recreation Ground. The meeting viewed the plans for the houses, deemed excellent.

The church had a large quantity of 4ft blackout felting in lengths 8 or 9ft to be disposed of. Anyone wishing to purchase some to come forward. Lagging pipes and tanks was suggested.

Gas masks should be returned to local ARP wardens.

A report on VE Day explained that despite its suddenness, the village was full of flags, and blackout was abandoned. A hurried organisation of Holy Communion and a thanksgiving service were arranged, the church full for the latter. The bells tolled before and afterwards. See [VE Day, Rudgwick and Horsham.](#)

The brief use of Bucks Green Camp for returning PoWs was coming to an end. The women of the village had been very busy sewing for them. At the end, the workers there were invited to a sherry party at Gaskyns, preside over by the officers in charge.

July. The Home Guard was disbanded. However, the RHGEC reformed itself as The Rudgwick Entertainments Committee (REC), with the same objectives, the entire profits now to go to the Village Hall Fund and local charities, currently standing at £500, invested in a Post Office Savings Account under the trusteeship of Maj Frederick Hamlyn (New House) and Cyril Woodrow (Woodfalls), now "civilians", and £106 in hand. The reformed committee was to be chaired by Cliff Griffin (Haven Garage). All the new committee were ex-Home Guard. The intention was to have another flower show on 11 August, and to continue the dances, still well attended including by the "camp boys".

The latter were at Reception Camp 101, aka Bucks Green Camp, for returning PoWs. The Red Cross Detachment found it a privilege to work with them: information re routes home; guides for the frail to cross London; arranging hostels for leave, or for those who were friendless; supplying cars to the station, providing a Red Cross room and sick bay bright with flowers. See [Gossage, Windacres and Bucks Green Camp](#).

August. The church clock needed repair, not having struck the hour for several years. However, it was reported it was not worth the cost of repair. The installation of a new electric clock was being investigated, its installation perhaps in memory of those who lost their lives in the war.

There were only passing references to Scouts and Guides during the war, but in this month it was clear that both existed, with a combined sports evening on the "field in Bucks Green, next to the cricket pavilion". Was this in King George's Field at this point in time? Had a new pavilion already been built? The land was said to be owned by Mr Ireland, who owned KGV Field. The Guides also attended a rally at Collyer's School. It was reported they were supporting the International Fund to restart guiding in the newly liberated countries.

It was reported that Moses Humphrey was better, but unable to work in his shop at the top of Church Street. His son Geoffrey had now obtained leave, hoping for discharge from his unit, to come home to run the shop, deemed essential war work. Miss Elizabeth Cooper's draper's shop next door had closed, and was shortly to become the post and telegraph office.

Mr Spencer Secretan, (Swaynes), chairman of HRDC, was taken to hospital in London. He recovered, not to die until 1965.

Alfred (headmaster) and Marguerite Bacon gave up their work in the canteen which Marguerite had famously kept going throughout the war, but opened their house to a new canteen, enabling children to no longer eat in the classrooms (cabbage smells?). A new supervisor was urgently needed. Much needed school repairs would be done in the holidays. Some of the older children were assisting with removal of blackout blinds.

The WVS was appealing for goods for those whose houses had been bombed. Horsham area had collected 13 tons, Rudgwick the second highest amount. Geoffrey Humphrey lent his shop premises for collection.

The Home Guard, although no longer in existence, used its funds in one last gesture to send 20 men 200 Players cigarettes each. The 4th (REC) flower show was on 11 August. Whist drives, however, were to cease for lack of support. Dances continued every Thursday.

Mrs May MacAndrew (Pallinghurst) received a letter from Maj Gen Harrison thanking the WVS for their reception work for returned British and Allied PoWs. It is probable that this refers to the use of Bucks Green camp for this purpose, as above.

September. The wedding took place of Florence Ireland, daughter of well-known local postman and former footballer Teddy Ireland, of Old School Cottages, to Staff Sgt John Kelly, who was from Manchester.



The scouts were now known as 1st Rudgwick (as they are today) and attended a summer camp in Bognor Regis with other patrols, and Girl Guides. There was swimming and camp fires. Eric Thompson was now an Instructor. RPS has been donated two photographs of this camp, taken at Clymping beach, on a wartime defence, already looking battered by the sea.

The vicar used his letter to thank God for peace. He reminded people not to take American lend-lease for granted, and to continue tightening belts, probably for the next five years. The village had put up the flags again on 15 August on the Japanese surrender (VJ Day). There was another thanksgiving service. £8 in the offertory was to be put towards the new church clock, agreed by the PCC as a war memorial. No costs were available as yet. On the Sunday following Commander Tidd (Lavender Cottage) read the lesson as a representative of the Senior Service.

The WI Wartime Knitting Party had been at work since 1940. At first, garments were sent to local men and women in the Forces, later adding parcels sent to the Royal Navy, the RAF and Sussex County Forces (all branches of the army), to the British Sailors Society, Mission to Seamen and the Merchant Navy. From summer 1941, wool was scarce, so only wool bought from authorised service depots could be used, and all garments sent to them. The knitters expanded beyond WI members. About 16 parcels were delivered each year. By 1945, 2,131 garments had been made, 219 for the navy, 799 for the army, 845 for the air force, 174 for the merchant navy, 46 for the Russian navy (1941-2), 58 to the Indian army (1944-5). Up to December 1943, all wool was bought by the WI, from then on a separate fund was created which received donations from paper salvage and the jam depot, together with some issues of free wool. 680lbs of wool had been knitted. They were now closing down. Mrs Margaret McLachlan (Dunton/Wagonford) had been in charge. Little had emerged about this during the war.

November. Remembrance Sunday was for the deaths in both World Wars. The 2-minute silence was at 11.00am, the service beginning 10 minutes earlier. Members of the former Home Guard were cordially invited to attend.

Shortages of food included at the school canteen which put out a plea for surplus vegetables.

The WI arranged an October Victory Tea Party for the children of the village in the (Home Guard) Hut. Over 100 were catered for, with flags and streamers aplenty. A conjuror performed. As one might expect, the tea was well supplied with cakes. All children left with 1/- in their pockets. When the WI realised the little children had been left out, a second one was arranged for children and parents.

The jam and canning centre was now closed. The full wartime quantities were: 2,389lbs of jam, 278 lbs pickles, 978 cans for sale, 6,053 cans for private use, total 7,031 cans. 4½ tons of fruit passed through the centre, the greater part of which would not otherwise have been preserved. It was hoped that the products still filled the shelves of people's homes during the current winter of severe shortages. Margaret Brown-Greaves, as Controller, thanked her band of volunteers, who had worked throughout including when plagued by wasps without grumbling, and working happily with a sense of fun. Thanks too were given to the Girl Guides who worked in the school holidays.

The first meeting of a new youth club was held in September at the school, with Col Charles Hemsley (Aliblasters) in the chair, welcoming Miss Daniels the county youth organiser and Miss Rawlings the Horsham organiser. The purpose of youth clubs it was explained was to encourage best use of leisure time in handicrafts, dramatics, physical training and talks. There was support from the youngsters. Wednesday was to be the day, at 7.00pm in the (Home Guard) Hut. Mr Percy Stevens (19 year old son of The Fox Inn landlord)) had provided a radiogram. The vicar would be chairman of the management committee.

At the end of the war, the magazine listed the officials in the parish, as every month. The war ended with no change in the vicar, Rev Norman Wynn, the lay reader Henry Drury-Courtenay, churchwardens Alexander Holman (Hyes), William Port (Cox Green). Chairman of the PCC Col Hemsley (Aliblasters), organist Mrs Margaret Brown-Greaves (Middle Gingers), Mothers' Union Organiser Mrs Henrietta Wynn,, vicar's wife, District Nurse Bertha Croucher.

1946

June. John Griffin had become landlord of The King's Head in 1940. His tenure it was said was made more difficult with the soldiers comings and goings, though his training as a Metropolitan policeman stood him in good stead, able to keep order with good humour. He died suddenly in May, a great shock to all. He was 62. His son, Alec, with the help of his sister Vera Hayfield, and mother Martha, were carrying on the business. Electoral registers show the tenure of all three lasted until 1952.

Education Act, 1944. Managers from Rudgwick School attended a meeting in Horsham Town Hall on 27 May. The Director of Education, Evan Davis, explained the changes. From April 1946, all children would be retained until their 15th birthday. There would be a shortage of teachers and accommodation, although in Horsham there was room for all that are to be taken into secondary schools. Centres for teaching handicrafts would be provided. New schools and new buildings would take a long time, but all schools are to be brought up to a standard, with playing fields, dining rooms, medical rooms, and assembly rooms. Classes were not to exceed 30. Rudgwick School would become an Infant School (may have meant Junior School). 11 year olds would go to the Horsham secondary schools.

There was a wedding of Joan Cooper (sister of Twinkie, who was married in 1943, and whose husband, an RAF navigator, was killed within a year). The Coopers lived at High Croft. Joan married Norman Barrow.

There was a fete organised by the REC, with sponsorship from the parish council, to

remember VE and VJ Days on 8 June at the Recreation Ground (KGV Field), one of the first events held there. It included races for children, a comic football match, decorated bicycles, side shows, teas (free to under 14s), followed by a whist drive at the school at 7.00pm. and a dance in the marquee, 8.00pm.



Rudgwick Church Choir at Chichester Cathedral, 1946.

This photograph was found among the copies of the parish magazine seen to put this diary together. On the right is the vicar, Rev Norman Wynn, on the left is probably the lay reader, Henry Courtenay-Green.

October. The question marks hanging over schools at this time were illustrated by a fraternally explained issue over

the proposed closure of Ashurst CofE School, the children to be bused to a neighbouring school. This school, founded in 1873, is still open today! Worse, at the time, was the proposal to close 35 of the 62 village CofE schools in West Sussex. The church in Horsham area was strongly fighting these closures. For Rudgwick, the arrangement proposed was to retain the school for 5-11 year olds, and to send the older children to "a new central school in Slinfold". The latter never happened, The Weald in Billingshurst opening in 1955. What happened in the intervening years is uncertain.

The Office of Information hired the village hall to show films of the final years of the war. The first showed the liberation of slave workers and their triumphant rejoicing, the second was of war disruption to food supply in the Middle East, along with the fight against locusts, how to feed a city such as Damascus, where villagers hoarded grain, persuading Egyptians to grow wheat rather than cotton, and how irrigation works had increased before Alamein had disrupted the whole area.

1948

August. The Sunday School outing, which had been going on for many decades, only stopped by both the world wars, resumed in 1947, to Littlehampton, and now in 1948 with an outing for 75 children to Bognor Regis. But now, instead of going by train, four coaches would take 29 in each by road.

The issue over where to build council houses had been resolved, and it was in summer 1948 that the first tenants moved in to Furze Road, several of them already housed in Bucks Green Camp. These poorly insulated huts were said to be too hot in the day, too cold at night.

In connection with this, the Welfare Hut at the camp held a tea party for all camp residents. Afterwards, Spencer Secretan (Swaynes), chairman of Horsham RDC, whose good offices

had gained permission for the use of the hut, to be used for social welfare, declared the hut open. It had a new floor, new paint, and a radiogram. Mrs Tilley, Mrs Baldwin, Mrs Mills, Mr Allen were elected to a committee to run the hut. There were games for the children, and music from the radiogram.

Rudgwick Youth Club, which opened at the end of the war, was now meeting at Maybanks, Cox Green, by agreement with the owner, Mrs Beatrice Cecil. The Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm were unchanged. A stoolball team had been started, four matches played.

The parish council reported that from March 1939 to July 1948, they had received £2,226 towards the purchase and equipping of King George's Field as a sports centre for the village. Included in this was an anonymous donation of £1,000, and £800 in grant from the National Playing Fields Association. The chief expenses so far were purchase of the field £1,455, levelling the field £268, the gates £60. Funds were urgently sought to complete the project.

Tom Newman, the driving force behind the SPBA poultry farm and offices on the east of Church Street, had died, aged 76.

October. The magazine wished the recently set up NHS all success, describing it as bold. With it went the poor law abolished for ever. Anyone needing assistance to get signed on should go to the post office and get Form 01.

The PCC had met to consider a report on the war memorial. A design had been submitted by CF Bridgman, stonemasons of Lewes, which was unanimously approved. Mr Bridgman was asked to provide a detailed design with the names in two columns. The cost estimate was £150. An appeal would be made for subscriptions. The memorial was to be in stone, to be placed on the wall in the space between the next two windows to the old memorial. The window sill in between was to be used for a wreath. Two flags were to be placed, one over each memorial.

1949

November. The unveiling of the war memorial was to take place this month with a service of dedication. Relatives of those remembered on it were cordially invited.

December. A further initiative in the new educational era was the formation of the Rudgwick Parent-Teacher Association. At its first meeting there was a talk from Dr Moreton of Billingshurst on its advantages for the children, on behaviour and discipline. A Christmas social was planned. Helen Griffin (Clovelly) was secretary. Her 'children' still reside in Lynwick Street.

On the next page is an account of the unveiling of the new war memorial on Remembrance Sunday, 1949.

The Dedication and Unveiling of the War Memorial.

On Sunday, Nov. 13th, 1949, at the 11 a.m. Service, a solemn Remembrance Service was held for those who died in the two world wars. The first lesson was the famous passage from the book of Ecclesiasticus, beginning "Let us now praise famous men," and the second was from St. Paul's epistle to the Philipians, in which he says that forgetting those things which lie behind, he presses forward to the goal for the prize of God's high calling in Christ Jesus.

There was a solemn beauty about the old familiar hymns, and the people sang with reverence, "O God our help in ages past," "God of our fathers known of old," and "O valient hearts." The choir sang the anthem, "God is a Spirit."

Earl Winterton, P.C., M.P., performed the unveiling ceremony. The Vicar dedicated the memorial, and then invited the Earl to address the congregation, which he did from the chanced step. He said he had recently been at the Remembrance Service at the Albert Hall, where he had sat next to the King. He was impressed by the various contingents of men and women from the Services, which finished with a procession formed by the Chichester Cathedral choir, with the banners of all the regiments, made a moving scene. The hearts of the English are stirred with such pageantry. He remembered taking part in the unveiling of a memorial at a neighbouring church at the end of the previous war, and he was glad to take part in a similar ceremony now in Rudgwick Church. He said that the two lists of names of the fallen in both wars showed what Rudgwick had given, and that we did right to be proud and to honour and remember the fallen with our two memorials.

There was a large congregation, who joined in the singing, and listened attentively to the Earl's address, and were evidently deeply moved.

Finally, who advertised in our magazine during the war? Taking December 1942 as an example, it was surprising to find so many Horsham businesses advertising, and so many advertising.

Rice Bros, Horsham, car sales etc
Trelfers, Horsham, jewellers
Charles Agate, Horsham, seeds and
sundries for the garden
WH Butcher, Rudgwick, butcher
CE Griffin, Rudgwick, insurance (a garage
business)
Laker's, Horsham, drapers & outfitters
BH Jenner, Cranleigh, coal merchants
HT Boxall, Rudgwick, builders, decorators
& undertakers
HR Camplin, Horsham, chemist
Percy Naldrett, Rudgwick, printer
Cherriman's, Rudgwick, car repairs, petrol
Horsham Building Society
John Churchman & Sons, Horsham,
Rudgwick, Billingshurst, auctioneers,
valuers, estate agents
JH Sayers, Horsham, fishmonger, poultry
and game
F Warren, Cranleigh, funeral furnishers,
monumental masons

EN & C Birchmore, Rudgwick & Slinfold,
bakers, grocers & confectioners
Philip Kensett, Rudgwick, dairy farmer
(milk & cream)
L Laker, Horsham, wood merchant
Dendy Bros, Horsham, drapers &
outfitters
William Port, Rudgwick, builder &
decorator
John W Clarke, Rudgwick, family butcher
Napper & Reed, Rudgwick & Warnham,
painters & decorators, glaziers
JW Josephs, Horsham, hair salon
SF Furlonger, Rudgwick, garage, car sales
Horstmanns, Horsham & Guildford,
optician
HR Williams & Son, Rudgwick & Cranleigh,
plumbers, heating engineers, electrical
fitting
JH Stephens, Horsham, tools,
wheelbarrows, fertiliser, cooker
distributors.