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# Review Spring 2024

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## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF THE RUDGWICK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

### An Old Beginning - 40 Years Ago in Rudgwick Roger Nash

Once upon a time...on Tuesday 26 June 1984, at 7.30pm, a Public Meeting was called by Stan Smith and a steering committee in the Village Hall "to form a Preservation Society, if you: care for our village – wish to preserve its historical and architectural features of beauty and interest – want to control future development – co-operate with local authorities for these purposes". It ended, "Please come, Rudgwick needs you!" on the reverse was a useful sketch map of the parish, its five settlements, some outlying farms, the Downs Link (the railway having been closed for 19 years at that time), and the road network. One of those hamlets was still not part of the parish – Cox Green. But it was named on the map. Stan rightly saw we could not function as a parish group if we did not include its neighbouring hamlets, and so we still do.

Issues raised from the floor were familiar, care of footpaths, speed limits, heavy goods traffic, and how to warn people in advance of impending development (email, Facebook, of course! Oh, Mr Zuckerberg was not even born then), and geographical representation on the committee. Anyway, a draft constitution written by said steering committee was adopted. The idea for RPS was agreed unanimously, followed by a ten minute interval for any naysayers to leave! It is not recorded if they did. Nationally, this was the year George Orwell had predicted a society in which we would all be enslaved, the end of democracy - surveillance, propaganda, and language control. Thank goodness for RPS! It was also the year of Wham!, Frankie Goes to Hollywood, U2, Phil Collins (well, he lived in Loxwood), Stevie Wonder, Madonna (Like a Virgin anybody?) and Lionel Richie. I am sure you can fill in the gaps. Your society chairman lived in Horsham, but several stalwarts of our society were involved from the start, and still here now. We must have done something right! Dr Bill Jarratt (#) nominated Stan Smith as chairman (thanks, Bill). Vanessa Lowndes (#) was nominated as hon sec, Leslie Hawkins (#) as hon treasurer, Lesley Catchpole (#) for Rudgwick, John Leach for Haven, Paul Frencham for Baynards, as committee members. It was left until later to find someone from Rowhook and from the parish council. Subscriptions were taken. Our first ever meeting with a talk took place on 19 November 1984 (a November tradition upheld ever since). By an unintended coincidence, the talk was on Trees in British Gardens, by Alan Mitchell of The Forestry Commission, not so far removed from this year's AGM talk from the Woodland Trust.

Moving on to 1985, the first AGM was held on Monday 29 April (creating a precedent up to today for our bi-annual April/November meetings). The final constitution was adopted, proposed by Keith Mantle (#). Although the accounts were in surplus, concern was expressed that we had to pay the council for planning applications! Changes to the committee included Ian Shaw as assistant treasurer, and June Beresford for Rowhook. Nobody left the committee. The talk was from Desmond Gunner from Sussex FWAG on farming and wildlife. A pattern had been set, which has changed little over 40 years (well, we are a *preservation* society). The talks continued and, from our extensive archive, these are the ones we had over the next few meetings:

Autumn 1985: Architectural Heritage of West Sussex, D Hull, lecturer in art history; Spring 1986: Rudgwick Now & in the Future, panel discussion; Spring 1986: Wildlife in Rudgwick, J & C Griffin, Rudgwick residents; Autumn 1986: Any Questions, panel discussion; Autumn 1986: Echoes of Rudgwick's Past, M Francis, Rudgwick resident; Spring 1987: Rudgwick in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, M Francis, Rudgwick resident; Autumn 1987: The Four Seasons, G McCarthy, wildlife photographer; Spring 1988: Looking at Old Houses, J Harding, Surrey Domestic Buildings; Autumn 1988: Notable Trees, A Michael, Forestry Commission

Of the names I mention, nine are still both alive and members (# symbol). Another early member was Geoff Ayres (#), who

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still organises our walks (see page 12), and who wrote knowledgeably of butterflies in early Newsletters. The minutes in 1985 included mention of our Guided Walks, so they started almost from the very start. Congratulations to Malcolm Francis (#) for his two talks listed in 1986/7, and for a stream of sometimes slightly offbeat but always interesting articles in the Newsletters (later Reviews), commencing in 1989 on the Rudgwick Band, and continuing for another 118. Yes, you read that correctly! Malcolm joined the committee in 1987. Congratulations, too, to Vanessa Lowndes, now our president, no less than 40 years not out on the committee. Wow, the staying power! Vanessa Sanderson continues the Smith family tradition (Stan's daughter), joining the committee around the time he died. Finally, early contributors (above) were #Chris and #Joe Griffin on wildlife, an early speciality of the Society. The value of such members is their collective memory of Rudgwick over generally much longer than 40 years, which I value greatly as a newcomer in 1993. Is 30 years enough to be accepted as a native? There must be others reading this with long memories. Glad to still have you aboard! Stan Smith generously gave way to John Cozens as chairman in 1987, stepping down to vice-chairman. Norman Bassett became our first president. It took a year or two to get the Newsletter properly up and running. The first one from our archive (online in our website now) was in Spring 1986, just four typewritten pages, A3, folded. In Spring 1988, the quality was updated, introducing a dated masthead top, and set out as a printed document, but still only four pages. Our tree logo was introduced from Issue 1. Reproduction of photos and maps were still a few issues down the line, and when they came, were of poor quality, of which I know some of you will have mixed memories.

This issue of the Review is dedicated to the anniversary, with a strong retro feel, Enjoy it.

## **And first this contribution from our longest serving committee member, from 1984 - our president: Vanessa Lowndes!**

**40 years!** The inaugural meeting to form The Rudgwick Preservation Society took place at The Rudgwick Hall, Bucks Green on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 1984, 7.30 p.m. Its aims were to care for the village and a wish to preserve its historical and architectural features of beauty and interest. Stan Smith gathered an embryo committee together spurred on by an application to demolish Buckhurst Cottage in Church Street and replace it with a new development, now Foxholes. Ruth Ward, Secretary of The Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies, helped steer the meeting. 150 attended and there was a unanimous vote 'yes' to start The R.P.S. Our first committee meetings were held at the old Rudgwick Health Centre, Bill Jarratt was our treasurer. We were lucky to have a parish councillor as an ex-officio member of our committee. The first public meeting, everyone welcome, was held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1984. It was National Tree Week and our speaker was Alan Mitchell who gave an illustrated talk on 'Trees in British Gardens'.

The Society has commented on nearly every planning application in the Parish and beyond and there have been many highlights over the years.

In 1985 Stan started our guided walks published in a booklet by West Sussex County Council. In 2001 WSCC stopped publishing the book and RPS, with the help of Geoff Ayres, has continued a very successful guided walks programme.

Oak Cottage, Ellens Green was put on the market for 'renovation or demolition'. It is one of the 3 smallest mediaeval hall houses in Surrey. Stan Smith managed to get it listed at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour and this important house was saved. The Edward VII post box was restored in Tisman's Common again thanks to Stan and funded by the Society.

We are very proud of 'Development of Timber Framed Buildings in The Sussex Weald, The Architectural Heritage of Rudgwick' by Diana Chatwin. Diana was a great supporter and President of RPS and she and Stan worked for over 8 years inspecting and recording all our timber-framed buildings. The book was launched at Hope Farm,

The Haven, by kind permission of Brian Murgatroyd and one guest told me it was the best launch they had ever attended! Since our first publication Roger Nash has written and published several excellent books on behalf of the Society.

In anticipation of the Churchman's Meadow development, RPS requested tree and hedge preservation orders on the perimeters of the site. It was necessary to point out to Horsham District Council that the trees were hornbeams and not beech. In 2002 The Society produced Christmas cards based on pictures of the Village taken in the winter of 1909 – packs of 10 (5 of each design) – sold out! Our 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary was celebrated in style with an event at the Rudgwick Hall: displays, refreshments and the achievement of managing to gather the original Committee together once more. Music provided by The Falloons!

The Society has been very lucky with our supporters over the years: those who have served on the Committee, interesting and amusing speakers and contributors to our Review. Helen Long, Stan's niece, designed our posters for many years. Norman Bassett was our President for 5 years and attended every committee meeting. Alan Siney researched and wrote several articles for the Review. Cecilia Butcher audited our accounts for many years. Barbara Kenward enabled our planning secretaries to view plans at the Parish office without the need to go to Horsham. I cannot name everyone but we are very grateful to each and every one of you!

The Society continues at strength. Committee meetings were held on zoom during the pandemic and public meetings started again as soon as possible. We enjoy a good relationship with the parish council and give our support when needed. Several Committee members took part in the forming of The Village Plan and The Design Statement, statutory documents. RPS. is proud to be responsible for The Queens Canopy at the Recreation Ground and the Rudgwick sign near the shops. It has been a good 40 years for me. I have met many varied and interesting people and learned a lot! I can see the Society going on for another 40 years. We have a vibrant and hard-working Committee in 2024 led from the front by Roger, but we do need younger villagers to join us and take the Society onto the next stage.



We have continued on a quiet spell in Rudgwick. I wonder how long it will last? There have been issues, of course. We have discussed and acted on potential tree work at Boreham, the plans altered in a rather devious way. It is to be hoped that no trees are removed, none damaged by ground work, and that common sense prevails in the erection of permitted new houses in a sensitive location.

Committee member Christobel Avery is recovering well from knee surgery. It is with regret that I report on our Planning Secretary Vanessa Sanderson falling badly at home on the stairs. She is progressing slowly, and painfully, but has been able to come home where she is well supported. We all wish her a steady recovery in this our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. We are picking up the pieces of planning, but it does highlight the need for a diligent member of the team. If anyone would like to use this as an excuse to join the committee to help (with plenty of advice and training) let us know. You know you should!

You will have spotted our membership drive in the Rudgwick Magazine. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join the society. Strength in numbers is so important to raise the prospect of us being listened to in planning, and they miss out on everything else we do.

The 'Rudgwick board' by the Co-op bus stop has pleased us and we hope you too. There is no doubt any more that you have arrived in Rudgwick! it also highlights our 40 year history alongside the 100 years of the railway and nearby station, also the Martlet Hotel which once stood where the shop is now. The railway connection led to us to choose old London Brighton & S Coast colours rather than Southern green. Our thanks go to the Parish Council for letting us use their redundant posts, and to Paul Kornycky for obtaining the board to our agreed specification.

This month is consultation month on the new Horsham Local Plan. There is little directly affecting Rudgwick – housing is as expected in the Neighbourhood Plan, so really very little compared to other places. There are concerns that, despite ruling against the Sussex Topiary site for travellers, the Plan proposes more pitches in Naldretts Lane. This needs to be questioned. This is not the place to write in detail about it. With an election within 12 months, it is a difficult time to look in a crystal ball concerning plans for the future, whoever wins.

There is potentially good news for The Mucky Duck. The business has definitely been sold to a local business person from Wisborough Green. Rumours in Tisman's area that it would be transformed into a boutique hotel and restaurant, whatever that is, seem to be true. Expect it to be closed for renovations for a year or two. We shall lobby for the word Cricketers to return where it belongs.

Our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday AGM is on **Monday 15 April** this year (the society was founded in June 1984). Please do come and make it special. We will start at **6.45 for 7.00 pm** to give more time for you to meet, chat, have a drink and some nibbles, view our photographic displays, pay your subs, and buy books (as always). After the AGM, we will have a talk from The Woodland Trust. Information on other commemorative activities and special editions of the Review will be sent by email.

Finally, we have been invited to make a contribution to the Parish Meeting, held this year on **Monday 29 April** (a fortnight after our AGM). You know what we are likely to say, but your support would be appreciated, and last year's extraordinary turnout has to be matched! Happy birthday, one and all!

**Back to 1984!**

*Report from the West*

*Sussex County Times*

*29th June 1984*

# Group checks on new development

**RUDGWICK is to have a preservation society, formed to meet increasing pressure from developers and the expansion of Gatwick.**

About 2,500 people live in the Rudgwick parish area, which covers Tismans Common, Rowhook, The Haven, Bucks Green, and extends almost to Five Oaks.

Already there is a Haven Preservation Society and a Rowhook Amenity Society, but there is a strong feeling that an organisation is needed to cover the whole of Rudgwick parish.

At the moment there is no proper plan for Rudgwick. Horsham District Council does have an interim plan for the village which restricts development in existing residential areas, but the Rudgwick Society would take a closer interest.

"We don't want to stop change," said Stan Smith, who is convenor of the new group. "We just want to make sure the

change will fit in with plans which we will work out for ourselves. Sussex is very popular and people want to live here. But people have to be vigilant — or land and buildings that are part of our heritage may go by default."

Rudgwick has already had several controversial planning applications in recent years. Mr. Smith mentioned an application for flats in the village High Street. "Villagers and the parish council had different views, 95 villagers signed a petition against the development."

## Isolated

There was also the case of Naldretts Barn, which was left isolated after Naldretts estate was sold and a developer put in an application to build three houses there. "Both the parish council and Horsham District Council turned it down, but now it has gone to appeal and we are waiting for the result," Mr. Smith said.

The Hyes estate, which was sold off in small parcels, also caused concern among the villagers. "Nothing improper was done — but that estate was lost," Mr. Smith

said. The new society would not be at all political, which Mr. Smith believed often happened with statutory bodies. In outline, it plans to care for the village, preserving its historical and architectural features of beauty and interest and to control future development.

Under that umbrella the society will consider planning applications, nature conservation, listed buildings, a Rudgwick plan, footpaths and bridleways and monitoring of the conservation area, among others.

Downslink, which runs right through the Rudgwick parish, will be the focus of some attention. It is an old railway linking the South and North Downs. It is to be used as a continuous bridleway, and preservation society members will inspect it to make sure it is clear and free from litter.

They also hope to inspect and clear footpaths and other bridleways. Although, generally, there tends to be apathy about preservation, villagers have expressed enthusiasm for the project said Mr. Smith.

The organisation, which has formed a steering committee held its first meeting on Tuesday.

It has been a very long wait, but finally, on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023, Horsham District Council, under its new leadership, finally unveiled its draft new (regulation 19) local plan to run to 2040. Then just 8 days later, on December 19th the government finally published its (long overdue) new national planning policy framework (NPPF). This version incorporated the long promised and extensively touted change to treat the Standard Method calculation of minimum housing need as an 'advisory starting point'. For Horsham District this 'over hyped' feature proved of little help, as (unsurprisingly) none of the exceptions for departure from the Standard Method apply to Horsham district (e.g. the district has no designated Green Belt, no high student population, nor is it an island!).

This appears to vindicate the approach to 'press on' with the local plan and use the exceptional constraint of water neutrality to restrict the housing numbers for the district from the 1100 per year proposed in July 2021 to an average 777 per year now. Remember that the current local plan is for 800 homes per year. Crucially, the new plan will have a stepped target, with less than 500 homes per year scheduled for the first 5 years, whereupon the local plan (including the housing numbers) should be reviewed again anyway.

In Rudgwick Parish, our green-field allocations remain unchanged with a total of around 66 homes across the two adjacent sites in Bucks Green, both bordering the A281 (north side) and east of the Lynwick Street junction. Fortunately we escape the large strategic site allocations that the communities of Southwater, Billingshurst and Ifield are objecting to. There has been much press about whether the new plan should have had even lower

numbers, thereby reducing the impact on these communities somewhat.

This argument has mainly centred on the standard of water consumption expected and designed into new build properties (but not actually monitored). The R19 plan sets this as 85 litres per person per day. Clearly, if this had been set at say 100 l/p/d the fixed amount of available water (generated from Southern Water initiatives) would have serviced fewer homes. Personally I don't know if 85 l/p/d is realistic, but I do know that the (subsequently aborted) July 2021 plan approved by the Cabinet of the previous district council had an even lower limit of 80 l/p/d for all sites of greater than 200 homes, and 100 l/p/d otherwise. So the (vast?) majority of homes built under that policy would have been presumed to use even less water! The word hypocrisy readily springs to mind.

A concern in the draft plan for Rudgwick Parish is the proposed allocation of a further 8 traveller pitches at the Topiary site in Naldretts Lane. Given Horsham planners strong objections to an increase of 4 initially proposed in 2019/20 and with appeal dismissed in 2021/22, it is difficult to understand why this even further expansion is now considered acceptable. Hopefully those readers that wished to comment on the R19 draft local plan have already done so, as the consultation closed on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Later in the year we can expect the hearings (held in public) whereby (as is usual) developers will be challenging the policies in the plan, especially those developers promoting sites that are unallocated. We can also expect the water neutrality assumptions and calculations to be heavily scrutinised. What a tortuous planning process we have!

## Planning Matters from the first Newsletter, Spring 1986

Stan Smith

*Editor's note: I have removed references to certain properties, but those with long memories and/or great familiarity with the parish may recognise them. Some familiar themes here!*

Rudgwick, like anywhere else these days, is having to contend with enormous pressures for expansion and development. The Preservation Society is anxious to ensure that as far as possible this development is in keeping with the rural character of this part of Sussex. We also strenuously resist attempts to needlessly destroy or alter buildings with outstanding architectural or historic value. For these reasons a lot of time is spent considering planning matters. Here are some of the more important recent planning applications that we have made representations about.

1. Outline planning permission was sought for the erection of a bungalow at Woodfalls, Loxwood Road. Woodfalls is delightfully set in, and completely surrounded by, open country and lies outside the defined "built-up" area. This was regarded by the Committee as an essential strategic gap between Bucks Green and Tisman's Common, and therefore we opposed the proposal. The application was

opposed by the Parish Council and refused by the District Council and on appeal.

2. Application was made to demolish ..., Cox Green, and to erect two 2-storey "Tudor Style" dwellings in its place. This lies in an area designated as having Great Landscape Value, and we opposed this mainly on the grounds of over-development. The application was refused by Waverley Borough Council but has gone to appeal, the outcome of which is awaited.

3. Two mobile homes arrived at ..., Baynards Lane, without planning consent. An enforcement notice was issued for their removal, but this has gone to appeal. Our sympathies are entirely with the alarmed residents and although we believe this will be refused, it will take some time to remove this eyesore.

4. An application was made to erect three dwellings on land at Cox Green .... This is in an area of Great Landscape Value, and was refused both by Waverley Borough Council and on appeal. We were represented at the appeal and succeeded in gaining a tree preservation order ....

5. Planning permission was refused for the erection of a dwelling at .... We strenuously opposed this application



mainly because we believe this area is already over-developed. This has now gone to appeal.

6. Planning permission was granted for a barn conversion at ... into a dwelling despite our strong opposition. It was contrary to Countryside Policy and against clearly stated policies on barn conversion outside defined built-up areas. Furthermore, it lies on a site of considerable archaeological interest. It lies at the centre of the Ancient Rudgwick Ironworks. This decision was environmentally damaging and irresponsible and one which we sincerely regret.

7. Pennthorpe applied unsuccessfully to build an assembly hall for 500 people. We were not unsympathetic to the needs of the school but the area required was quite out of proportion to the whole school complex and the design had the appearance of a warehouse. However, this has gone to appeal, the decision of which is awaited.

8. Two applications were made to develop land in Lynwick Street. One of these was next to ... for one dwelling and the other at ..., both of which were approved. Although both these plans seem appropriate, and represented reasonable in-fill, a careful watch must be maintained to see that Lynwick Street is not subjected to development that might spoil its rural character.

9. The County Council has applied for planning permission to develop the Old Primary School (now disused) into 4 units with a totally dangerous access near the bottom of the hill on the A281. This fine old building was built in 1880, and served the Village for over 100 years. I believe it

to be both architecturally and historically important. Quite rightly the Parish Council feel strongly about the over-development of this site, and in this we entirely support them. Our counter-proposal was for the School to be converted into a single dwelling, and for the Old Headmaster's House to remain in occupation. We proposed that a new access be sited at the top of the hill where the pre-fabricated canteen now stands. The latter to be demolished. Any access on the A281 will be dangerous, but our proposal would minimise the inevitable traffic hazard. Unfortunately, the County Council is not subject to planning law, but we must hope that the efforts of the Parish Council and the Preservation Society may help to change their minds.

10. Unfortunately, problems with Rudgwick Brickworks continue. Local members are worried about fumes, pollution and excessive noise from the firing sheds. Reconstruction plans were submitted to the County Council, and in our opinion insufficient has been done to introduce safeguards to deal with lighting, noise and pollution. Natural gas was introduced last September which seems to have worsened the situation. The Environmental Health Officer in his report recommended refusal of the planning application to re-site the drying and firing sheds unless those matters were clearly controlled and minimised, as a condition of approval. This recommendation seems to have been ignored. We are continuing to press for improvements in all these environmental problems, and have enlisted the help of our County Councillor.

## Nature Conservation in the Village

Chris Griffin

*(From the first Newsletter, Spring 1986)* Having lived in Rudgwick for nearly 40 years, I have seen vast areas of woodland cleared for agriculture or planted with conifers. Many old meadows have been ploughed up and hedges taken out. In the village, most of the "waste land" (a human term for good wildlife habitat) and many former orchards are now "tidy" gardens or housing estates. With these changes in mind, I wonder how all the common wild plants and animals will remain so, and where they will be found.

Among the possibilities are churchyards, the older parts of which are often rich in wildlife although the tidy areas needed close to the church and recent graves are not so good. For example, in June, in Rudgwick churchyard, I found many different plants, 15 of which were in flower. Oxeye daisy, cats-ear and common vetch were being worked by both bumble and honey bees. Numerous other insects were present including ladybirds, flower beetles, longhorn moths, shieldbugs and froghoppers. Many species of grass were in flower and these, as well as being attractive, are the food plants of the family of brown butterflies which includes the meadow brown, hedge brown, speckled wood and the wall brown, which was flying at the time. Blue butterflies were also seen. Caterpillars of the common blue feed on vetches, trefoils and clovers, while the food plants of the holly blue larva are holly and ivy. Ivy is often maligned and senselessly cut down although it is a very useful plant, providing autumn nectar and shelter for insects, especially butterflies, and nesting places and berries for birds.

Birds were much in evidence. Swifts were flying around the church in their characteristic screaming parties of ten landing high up in the eaves at their nests. Lower down a pair of collared doves were nesting in one of the beautiful old evergreens and a green woodpecker flew up from where it had been feeding on an anthill. At part of the northern boundary of the churchyard is a thick, mixed hedge which provides food and shelter for many insects, birds and small mammals. At the end of this, by the tool shed, are some stinging nettles on which I found rustic sailor beetles and various weevils together with a great many caterpillars. This was not surprising as nettles are the food plant of some of our most colourful butterflies including red admirals, peacock and small tortoiseshells. These are a few of the things to be found in our churchyard. Many other churchyards, including Dunsfold and Warnham are mentioned in the well written and beautifully illustrated book 'God's Acre' by Francesca Greenoak. In describing the wildlife and maintenance of churchyards, the author makes the point that surely it would be a pity if these disappeared in the name of tidiness.

*(Readers had been asked for articles depicting life in old Rudgwick This contribution from Miss Ivy Port is a graphic description of how villagers entertained themselves in the days before television and videos. Miss Port had recently celebrated her 90th birthday).*

A flower show was held annually in the cricket field, which was then next to the Queen's Head. It was a great event and all the village turned out in their Sunday best to attend it. Many of them were exhibitors, of course. The Rudgwick Silver Band played merry tunes and for the children the greatest thrill of all were the swings and roundabouts.

Then there was the Annual Fair, always called the Rudgwick Club, which took place in the field opposite the King's Head. Another annual event was the Cherry Fayre held on one Sunday afternoon in, of course, the cherry season. Sometimes this was held at the Fox Inn and occasionally at the now demolished 'Martlet' (The Martlet Hotel used to stand on the corner of Station Road and Church Street). As a child I thought this was very dull because all you did was to stand and gaze at the men swilling down mugs of beer or buy a few cherries which were arranged on a trestle table outside the pub. I think it really was an occasion for the publicans to sell their drinks. Eventually, I believe, there were no cherries although it was still called the Cherry Fayre.

There were great activities in the village on November 5th. A torchlight procession through the village headed by the Rudgwick band started the evening. I think the torches consisted of rags on sticks soaked in creosote. Most of the bearers were in fancy dress. The procession ended at a huge bonfire in the field opposite the butcher's shop, Southdown House, Church Street, and the proceedings ended in a grand display of fireworks. There was plenty of drink circulated and the whole performance became very merry. Mr William Butcher, our butcher, was the leading light in organising Bonfire Night. For weeks beforehand he would collect fireworks and rubbish for the fire. He was a merry fellow and without his vivacity and personality it wouldn't have been such a lively evening or nearly as exciting. (William Butcher, known to everyone as Billy Butcher, was the father of Mr Frank Butcher of the post office)

In the winter months the village hall (Church Street) was frequently used for Penny Readings. I suppose at one time one had to pay a penny for admittance but in the early 1900s it was raised to the terrific price of 6d front seats and 3d back seats. Four large tables were pushed together to form a platform. The performers mounted it by a chair or box. Local talent was well displayed by songs, recitations and dialogues which, although practically the same programme was presented every time, was thoroughly enjoyed, and there was a great demand for encores. Dr Boxall was the star turn at the Penny Readings. (Dr Boxall used to

live in Church Hill House and his daughters of course still live in the village in The Ridge in Church Street). He was so popular in the village and to hear him sing old country songs on the platform, dressed up as Farmer Giles, was a great thrill. We stamped our feet and clapped in all his choruses. "The Village Pump, the Village Pump, the Village Pump, pump, pump, pump" was suited for thunderous stamping when we all joined in the 'pumps' with an extra thud on the last 'pump'. Another was "Wire in my lads" - the chorus lent itself to great applause and more stamping. "Wire 'in my lads, keep on living till you do (die). If you keep on living long enough you'll live as long as oi (I)". The turmit (turnip) 'oeing' was another and he'd scrape the platform with his hoe while he was singing. "The floy (fly) the floy the floy be on the turmits, and its all my oi (eye) if you do try to keep 'em off the turmits". Of course it needs to be sung to appreciate the fun of it all.

The Station Master was at first a Mr Brightly followed by Mr Moorhouse. I cannot remember much about the songs by Mr Brightly but Mr. Moorhouse who came on later sang the well-known songs of those days such as "Annie Laurie" and "Home Sweet Home" and when he suddenly leapt into something more modern such as "Mary Ann, she's after me," we all thought he had gone slightly off course and that he was sailing rather too near the wind. The older people were easily shocked by anything up-to-date. The vicar, who was then Rev. W.H. Chambers, sobered us down a little when he recited long poems by our great poets. They were usually very long. One I remember was "The green eye of the little yellow god". It seemed to go on and on but we thought it was great because it was recited by our vicar.

Then the Magic Lantern was popular and occasionally there were shows given by the vicar or someone who was au fait with the working of the lantern. This was also given in the Village Hall, Church Street. Slides were put through the lantern which threw the picture on to a large white sheet hung on the wall. Sometimes there was a slight hold-up because the lantern jibbed. A strong smell of paraffin permeated the air and the room seemed full of smoke. However this was part of the show and it all added to the fun as we had to sit in the dark for a bit.

Bucks Green School was another centre for entertainment. The Annual Chrysanthemum Show took place there in the autumn and was very popular both for exhibitors and the onlookers. Displays of marionettes were given there, too, and occasional concerts. The great thrill was when a silent movie was shown, one of the very first - very primitive but to the villagers it was a great affair and talked about for days. Rudgwick would have been considered very go-ahead in those days and the people of the village would all join in and take an active part in one way or another. All very primitive and simple yet all thought it was great.

## Rudgwick Band, by Malcolm Francis - his first article for the Newsletter, Spring 1989

In these days of instant entertainment at the turn of a switch, it is easy to forget how much music making took place in any village in past years. In particular, in Rudgwick during the latter half of the last century, the Rudgwick Band was established in 1861. It was made up of musicians, known as the 'Thurlow Volunteers', set up by the Rev Thurlow of Baynards Park, who was the moving force in the founding of the Band (he had donated the original pipe organ to the parish church).

It was likely that some of these musicians had formed part of the church band, which had played for services until some years previously, when the first organ (most likely a barrel organ) was installed. The band was taught by a Mr Tunnel of the Guildford Militia Band, and one of the early bandmasters was John Tate. He was followed by his son, William Tate, who was also the church sexton, and whose memorial can be seen on the north wall of the church tower.

The band used to rehearse in the 'club room' at the King's Head, the room nearest the village, and they played at social events in Rudgwick and in surrounding villages, including at fairs, fêtes and flower shows.

With the advent of World War I in 1914, the Rudgwick Band enlisted as a band, and many of its members saw service overseas, including the Middle East. Its then current bandmaster, William Tate, died in 1918, and following the end of the war the Band was re-established under the leadership of his son, Harold, its President being Mr. G. Claude Barker of Gaskyns (now Pennthorpe School). It was at this time that my uncle, Harold Francis, was able to fulfil the ambition he had since hearing the band practice when he was a boy, and join the Band, at the age of 17, when he went to work for Mr Harold Tate. Mr Tate, who was a major local builder, and who also owned the two local brickworks at Lynwick Street and Marshals Farm, as bandmaster, naturally encouraged his employees to join the Band. He was, of course, in the ideal position to ensure that they had plenty of time to practice when a competition was imminent, and practices now took place in a purpose-built band room, on land behind Willow Cottage, Church Street, which belonged to the Tate family. In fact, a number of Mr. Tate's employees were orphans selected for their musical talent.

The original band uniform looked rather similar to contemporary American military uniform, and was dark blue with gold braid. This was superseded by a blue uniform with red trim, and then by the last uniform of Rudgwick Band. This was very smart, being chocolate brown, with a gold trim, I still have an example of this uniform, which was worn by my father, Mr Frederick Francis, who played solo cornet and tenor horn, and who, assisted by his brother Harold, acted as deputy bandmaster.

During the 1920s and '30s Rudgwick Band went from strength to strength, and entered band contests throughout the district. It was at this time that the woodwind section of the original band had to be dropped, since the contests were only open to 'brass', or in Rudgwick's case, silver bands. The first contest that the band entered was in 1921, and by 1936 it reached its zenith, entering the National

Band Festival at Crystal Palace. For the more important contests the band received professional tuition, some of it obtained through Mr Tate's younger brother, Charley, who was a professional singer, as well as a keen band member.

The band was in great demand during these years, to play for local events such as flower shows, carnivals, charity events, and church parades. Among these events were the 'Cherry Fairs', held at various pubs in the district, with stalls selling cherries and also wheelks! Another high point in the band's calendar was Bonfire Night, when the band, in fancy dress, led a parade from the Fox Inn to the bonfire site at the bottom of Church Hill.

During the summer months, on a midweek evening, the band would play on the lawns of the large houses of the village and locality, such as Hyes, Hermongers and Maybanks. The programmes included popular dance tunes of the day, and many of the young people of the village learnt to dance at these informal gatherings. In the 1930s, in response to an obvious need, and to help fund competitions and charity events, the band developed a small dance band called the 'Novelty Seven'. This group played for dances at the Queen's Hall, which was adjacent to the Queen's Head, and had its own uniform, comprising light blue shirts, dark blue trousers and ties, and with music stands draped with blue velvet. With the coming of World War II the band, naturally, was forced to give up, the majority of its members having gone into the services or into war work. Its bandmaster, Mr Harold Tate, died suddenly in 1940, and although his brother, Mr Charley Tate, made an attempt to re-form the band at the end of the war, social conditions had changed so much that he was unsuccessful.

*I am indebted for much of the above information to my wife's mother Mrs Babs McWilliams, who is the niece of Harold Tate, and to my Uncle, Mr Harold Francis who was secretary of the band. (Written in 1989 - ed.)*



William Tate (senior),  
bandmaster,  
Rudgwick Band  
c1905

*(Colourised, ack.  
Malcolm Francis)*



Harold Tate,  
bandmaster,  
Rudgwick Silver  
Band 1928



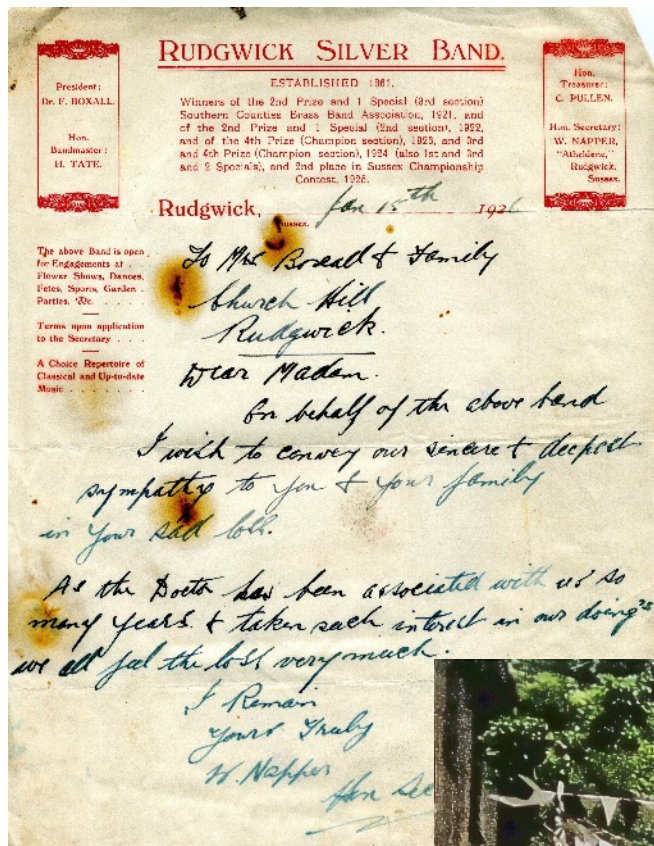
## Rudgwick Band (contd.)



Rudgwick Band, about 1905, at Barns Green flower show.  
Charley Tate, 10 years old, seated far left;  
his father William Tate, standing second from right.  
(photo colourised, ack. Malcolm Francis)



Rudgwick Silver Band, Tate brothers:  
Harold, John (standing)  
Charley, William (seated).  
(photo colourised, ack. Malcolm Francis)



Letter of condolence from the  
Rudgwick Silver Band on the death  
of their President (and Rudgwick's  
Doctor) Dr Frank Boxall, 1926  
(ack. Malcolm Francis)

The band leading the  
parade in Church Street  
for the coronation of  
George VI, May 1937

(Photo colourised, ack.  
Malcolm Francis)





The position of women in society has changed radically in the last 100 years. Opportunity for careers, particularly in the professions were practically closed to women until the First World War. For a woman to qualify as a doctor in 1884 was a rarity indeed. It must be remembered that it was only in 1918 that women of 30 were given the vote; and, in 1928, for the first time, women given equal suffrage with men. Today we have had a woman prime minister for nearly a decade and who knows, we may soon have women priests and even bishops! It is against the background of 100 years that we can appreciate the achievements of Annie McCall.

She qualified at the London School of Medicine in 1884 and subsequently took her M.D. at Berne in 1885. She trained in obstetrics, mainly in Vienna, and devoted nearly all her life to the practice of this branch of medicine, and to the training of women medical students and nurses in practical midwifery. In 1889, at the age of 30, she founded the Clapham Maternity Hospital, mainly by her own efforts and with those friends interested in the advancement of women's education. From there many doctors and nurses went abroad to the mission fields, and women also came from overseas to train as midwives.

She practised conservative midwifery, allowing as little interference as possible with the course of labour. Her results were remarkable, infant mortality in this hospital being almost unknown. She was a law unto herself, and cared little for the opinions of others. She was a great believer in fresh air and open windows and, subsequently, in addition to her work in obstetrics, she became a pioneer in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis, establishing a sanatorium in Rudgwick for open-air treatment. Rudgwick Sanatorium is clearly marked on Ordnance Survey maps.

Dr McCall lived at Kings at the top of Grinstead Hill (as that part of Church Street was then known); and Ily Port can recall her father, a local builder, constructing many of the outbuildings on the site. The Boxall ladies have clear recollections of her. Dr McCall was a rigid advocate of temperance, speaking at meetings with great conviction on the subject. She had much sympathy for the plight of unmarried mothers and their inability to find accommodation for their confinements other than the workhouse infirmary. This remarkable lady must be remembered as having done much for obstetrics when this branch of medicine was looked on as beneath the notice of the physician and surgeon, a period when it was thought bad form in social life to mention pregnancy and childbirth. She will be remembered as having made the world a better place for mothers. Dr McCall died in Rudgwick on 9th September, 1949, aged almost 90.

*The following 1910 ad accompanied the original article, transcribed here:*

## **RUDGWICK SANATORIUM, SUSSEX**

### **OPEN AIR TREATMENT**

**Pure bracing air. Good nursing. Generous cuisine. Lovely country with extensive views over Hindhead and South Downs. Terms, 2½ gns inclusive. Fritton Open Air Colony, Long Stratton, Norfolk, is an open air colony for visitors and convalescents from Rudgwick, at 25s. weekly for those willing to do light work. Visiting London Physician: DR ANNIE McCOLL, 165 Clapham Road, London, S.W., to whom applications may be made**

*Here is an original ad from 1914:*

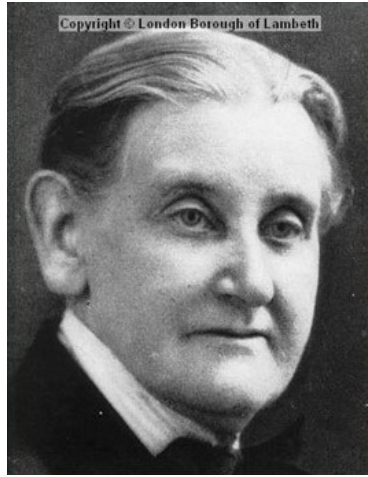
**RUDGWICK SANATORIUM, SUSSEX.**  
**OPEN-AIR and REST TREATMENT.**  
Pure bracing air. Good Nursing. Generous Cuisine. Single bedrooms only. Tuberculin Treatment (Dr. Canac Wilkinson's method). Satisfactory results. 2½ guineas inclusive.  
**FRITTON BEECHES, LONG STRATTON, NORFOLK,** for Visitors or Convalescents, at 2 guineas, or 25/- if willing to do light work. Revolving shelters and chalets. Delightful walled garden. Tuberculin Treatment.  
Apply—Dr. ANNIE McCALL, 165, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.

*(From 'London Remembers' website): One of the first women to qualify as a doctor, in 1885. Born Manchester. She studied abroad and in London. Once qualified she quickly started a clinic and school of midwifery in her own home at 165 Clapham Road. In 1889 with her cousin, Marion Ritchie, she founded the Clapham Maternity Hospital at 41-3 Jeffreys Road, Stockwell, staffed entirely by women. It was closed due to WW2 damage in 1940 and McCall retired in 1941. Died Sussex. Through her pioneering work in midwifery and childcare she achieved very high survival rates for mothers and children.*

# Dr Annie McCall and the Rudgwick Sanatorium



Annie as a young girl



left: Annie in one of the mosaics to commemorate significant women who lived in the Waterloo area, erected 2012 by Morley College

Below: the sanatorium at Kings (left: postcard 1903)



## Starting at The King's Head: a walk round Rudgwick in the 1950s, RPS Newsletter, Autumn 1991

Malcolm Francis



*Colourised photo of The King's Head, late 40s/early 50s (ack. Malcolm Francis)*

Rudgwick, like all villages, has changed over the years, but this change has been gradual, and it is only looking back that you realise how much has taken place in the last four decades. Let's take an imaginary guided walk through the village in the 50s, starting close to the church - the one building that remains unchanging.

In front of the church is Mr. Humphrey's grocery shop, It stocks a wide range of food and drink, including a very good wine cellar, and the adjoining Post Office, run by Mrs. Butcher; it is always busy. A few yards to the north is a grassy island at the junction of Lynwick Street, and from

here we can see Dukes Farm, with its neighbouring paddock and barn that will become the site of Hawkridge. The King's Head looks very quiet, what hours does it open?

Opposite is the large vegetable garden belonging to Woes Cottage: Mr Broadbridge is a keen gardener. Next to this a footpath runs down to the vicarage in Lynwick Street, which is used often by the Rev John Tanner.

As we walk down Church Hill past the Jubilee Hall - built in 1868 as a school and restored in 1897 as the village hall to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee - we come to Southdown House, the butcher's shop, and inside Mr. Haine is preparing meat on his large chopping block, made from the complete trunk of a tree. (There is another butcher's in the Loxwood Road which is run by Mr. Roger Clarke).

A very old Aldershot and District bus grinds slowly up Church Hill; there's little traffic through the village at present. As we continue down the village street we come to the Congregational Chapel, painted in sombre brown, and opposite is the entrance to Windacres Farm. And there's Harold Bailey and his sister Jinny driving the cattle out of the large orchard on the left. It will be many years before any houses are built on it.

We walk on down the hill to Mrs. Fleming's newsagents and general stores. It stocks a wide range of items, and



has a rare 'on' licence for wines. Mrs. Fleming also sells paraffin for heating and lighting - not all of the village is yet on mains electricity so rely on the little shop for that essential fuel. Several people can be seen chatting in the shop, and a large black cat is asleep in the window.

Church Street continues down the hill passing Furze Road on the right, this is the only 'estate' in the village at present, and just past it on the left is Mr. Eggleton's Utility Store, later to become Watson's Electrical shop; and a little further down is the small bakery and grocery store owned by Mr. Birchmore. On the right is Talbot Motors, this garage has a real 30s atmosphere, its buildings were formerly Buckhurst Farm. Further down on the right is the Martlet Hotel, an ugly Victorian building of red brick, with white quoin facing.

On the opposite corner of Station Road there is the wool and haberdashery shop run by Miss Coomber, and next to it Mr. Luff's radio repair shop, with radios awaiting collection or repair; a lot of these are pre-war, requiring their batteries to be recharged regularly. If we walk down the slope to the station, we smell the mingled scents of the lime trees and the coal in the station yard. Mr. Hempstead is in his coal office and there are two trucks being unloaded. The village consumes a lot of coal - there's no gas supply for nearly another 35 years. As we stand and stare, we can hear the approach of an 'up' train, a few passengers are waiting on the platform, and there's an excellent service to Waterloo, via Guildford in under an hour!

Returning to Church Street, on our right is the Station Garage, run by the Laudet brothers, Marcel and Maurice, and opposite Trickett's Fair is pulling into the Station field, which will later become Bridge Road. If we walk over the railway bridge and look left towards Swaynes, and the bridge on the Horsham road, we can see the track and sidings, and on the right of the track are the allotments that will become The Marts.

Continuing down Gaskyns Hill we pass the shrubberies of Pennthorpe School (formerly Gaskyns House) where Gaskyns Close will be built and then we come to the Victoria Farm Dairy, run by Mr. Davison who supplies the village with milk, and sells delicious cream and ice cream. Opposite is the wooden Scout Hut, and a few yards past it is the entrance to the former Canadian Army Camp, where building is planned in the near future. Until recently a number of families have been 'squatting' in the disused army buildings until the Horsham Rural District Council could provide them with accommodation.

We now turn right into Bucks Green, and a brown Bedford bus of the Hants and Sussex Bus Company trundles past on its way to Loxwood; the village currently has two bus services. We continue along the road past the Bucks Green Post Office, commonly referred to as 'Haymans', and on the left, on the junction with the Haven road is the Forge garage, on the site of the former forge.

The Queen's Head has alongside it the Queen's Hall, used for many village functions in the past, and next door is the Goblins Pool Hotel and Restaurant, which will become

L'Antico in the late 80s. As we continue westwards along Bucks Green, we pass on our left a small printing shop belonging to Mr. Percy Naldrett. He is renowned for his love of literature and his native Sussex, as well as for the fact that he knew the Sussex poet, Hilaire Belloc. Walking along towards the Fox Inn we pass Park View Stores, run by Mrs. Gibbs, who provides an excellent service for this end of the village and Tisman's Common.

Then we come to the entrance to the Recreation Ground (properly called the King George V Playing Fields) and just inside is the Home Guard Hut, a narrow, green painted, wooden building with a diminutive stage and used for most village functions. A new village hall is planned when funds are available. Moving on from the recreation ground we see plenty of activity in Mr. Farley's builders yard, the joinery workshop smells deliciously of freshly sawn timber, and the office and showroom has a fine display of bath suites in the window. Adjacent to this is the Rudgwick Garage, run by Mr. Furlonger, there is a smart row of 'Shell' pumps on the forecourt, and it has a taxi service as well. Almost opposite, on the junction with the Loxwood road is the Bucks Green Garage, selling 'Regent' petrol. It is built of wood, well soaked with petrol and oil and must be a considerable fire risk. It boasts a rubber airline, to announce the arrival of a customer, much to the delight of the local small boys, who frequently stamp on it causing annoyance and confusion.

Backing on to the Fox Inn is Val Botting's little transport café and greengrocery - there's ample parking, and, after all, the lorries are small fry to today's giants. Walking past The Fox we come to the school, where some pupils will shortly be sitting their '11-plus' exams; those who pass go on to Collyers or Horsham High School for Girls, and there's a new secondary school being built in Billingshurst, which will be called the Weald School. To complete our circular tour we now turn right into Lynwick Street, a narrow lane rich with wild flowers in the verges and hedgerows.

On our right, in the garden of the first cottage is a small Plymouth Brethren Chapel, and we then pass a variety of houses, including Canfields Farm, which is only half its present size, before reaching the railway bridge. Here we can see a goods train rumbling down the line, pulling trucks from the 'Fullers Earth Works' at Baynards. Walking on up the lane we pass Rudgwick Brickworks on the left. This is very small when compared to today's operation, the clay is being dug from a small face, topped and surrounded by thick woodland.

As we meander up the lane, the hill becoming steeper as we reach the top, we meet Mr. Corp of Greathouse Farm leading a fully laden wagon of corn sheaves, pulled by two horses and with a skid pan of cast iron under one wheel, which provides an effective brake on the steep slope, and which scratches a white mark in the tarmac all the way down the hill. Following this is a Fordson tractor towing a binder, the evocative smell of T.V.O. pervading the air. Reaching the top of the lane we turn once again into Church Street, back to the Kings Head for some well earned refreshment.

# Summer walks programme, 2024, organised by Geoff Ayres

Walks are **open to all**. They are usually on Tuesday evenings with **one on a Friday**. Most start at 7pm, but the **first and last are at 6.30** due to daylight considerations. This year we are running a programme of 14 walks. The late Stan Smith started these walks and the Preservation Society have continued them. The walks are listed in the parish magazine, on the RPS website ([rudgwick-rps.org.uk](http://rudgwick-rps.org.uk)) and RPS facebook. The average walk is 4 miles in 2 hours. These walks are fun and often end up in a pub. Our thanks go yet again to the Claytons for their kind permission for our regular pilgrimage to Baynards Station. Please do not post photos of the station on the internet. Thanks also to our remaining local pubs - please support them with your custom, or we could lose even more of them.

Sunsets: May 7<sup>th</sup> 20.35; June 18<sup>th</sup> 21.22; August 6<sup>th</sup> 20.41. Bank Holidays: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May and 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Day/Date	Leader(s)	Starting at	Grid Ref
Tues <b>6.30</b> May 7 <sup>th</sup>	David Buckley	Rudgwick Village Hall (Bucks Green)	079329
Tues May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Roger Nash, Geoff Evans	Near The Mucky Duck (Tisman's Common)	067323
Tues May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Clive & Nicky Bush	The Red Lion (Slinfold)	118315
Tues May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Geoff & Jean Ayres	Pephurst Lay-by, Loxwood Road	056318
Tues June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Cliff Walton	The Scarlett Arms (Walliswood)	118382
Tues June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Kenward	The King's Head to Maybanks & Ruet	090343
Tues June 18 <sup>th</sup>	John Connold	The Sussex Oak (Warnham)	158337
Tues June 25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>The Alan Miles Memorial Walk</i>		
	Stephen Chandler	The Inn on the Green (Ockley)	147402
Tues July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Stephen Chandler	The Bat & Ball (Newpound)	060269
Tues July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Malcolm Francis	The King's Head to Baynards Station	090343
Tues July 16 <sup>th</sup>	John Connold	Whitehall Lay-by (Cranleigh)	078380
<b>Fri July 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Geoff & Jean Ayres	The Blue Ship (The Haven)	084305
Tues July 30 <sup>th</sup>	Cliff Walton	The Punchbowl (Okewood Hill)	134375
<b>Tues 6.30</b> Aug 6 <sup>th</sup>	Roger Nash	The Onslow Arms (Loxwood)	042312

Please 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. Pephurst Lay-by is on Loxwood Road, on the north side in the woods. At The Onslow Arms, use the canal car park behind the pub. At The Scarlett Arms, the car park is opposite the pub. At the Village Hall, park in the rear car park. At The Red Lion and The Punchbowl, the car park is behind the pub, or use street parking. At The Inn on the Green (on the A29) use the large car park to one side. Dogs will **not** be allowed onto Baynards Station.

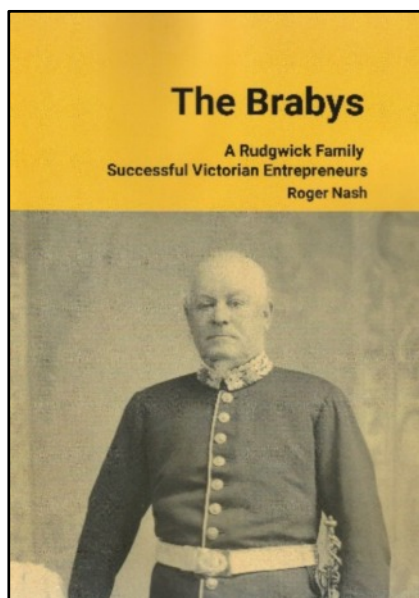
We urgently need **new walk leaders** - please contact RPS if you are willing to help keep the walks going

## A NEW RPS BOOK

The Brabys,  
A Rudgwick Family  
Successful Victorian  
Entrepreneurs

Roger Nash

On sale at the AGM  
118pp, £8



*(Right:.) East window  
of Holy Trinity  
Church, Rudgwick,  
commissioned by  
James Braby (before  
1870) in memory of  
his parents James and  
Mary Ann Braby, as  
restored 1920s*

*(Left:.) James Braby  
1890s*



## Rudgwick Preservation Society

[www.rudgwick-rps.org.uk](http://www.rudgwick-rps.org.uk)

**Chairman & Membership Secretary:** Roger Nash Tel: 01403 822 581

**Secretary:** Doug Betts Tel: 01403 822 649

**Treasurer:** John Newell Tel: 01403 822 130

**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