

No.79

# Review Spring 2025

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

## Chairman's Review of our 40th Anniversary Year in 2024

Roger Nash

Well, we are about to have our 41<sup>st</sup> AGM on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April, this year a week before Easter. The year of looking back, and celebrating the present has been a pleasant experience. Our photographic display was popular at both meetings, the quizzes less so, but thank you to Malcolm Francis for putting the challenging questions and photographs together. I refer you to the previous two Reviews for the other things we did for the anniversary.

This year, we will be remembering the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of the Second World War. This RPS Review and the next will echo the last two in looking back. Not only is there some backward looks at past Newsletters/Reviews, but there is also fresh research. We hope you enjoy both the nostalgia and the history.

We hope too that we will get some more memories from older RPS members of the war and its aftermath, either for you or your parents. Please get writing, a paragraph or a page, with or without any illustration, photo or document, whether local or elsewhere. It is easy to forget, and no use wishing you had done more! I asked for this by Easter, and I would still like that, but later submissions will of course be gratefully accepted.

There is not much to report on planning except for another mention of The Mucky Duck. The application is currently being considered by HDC. It is not very different from the one we saw at an exhibition last year. As with the Forest School in Rowhook (still not decided), the decision is not an easy one. Yes, we want a pub, but are some of the elements too much to swallow? Can they be resolved with some sensible conditions attached, or will the owner have to go back to the drawing board? Some local residents are very unhappy, others not so. Opposition is not as intense as it is in Rowhook. When resolved, it could possibly put Rudgwick on the map as a destination!

You will find elsewhere in this Review a list of the surprising number of articles which we have published about the 1939-45 war in our Newsletters and Reviews. I hope you will take the trouble to read some of them on our website. We also celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rudgwick Chapel. Few institutions are as old as our churches; our 40 years is dwarfed by this anniversary in 2024. Thank you Charlie Sanders for writing this specially for us.

Last but not least, **we need some new and younger people to step up to join our committee.** In order to take us forward we need to think about replacement before it is forced on us. If you are approached, do not be surprised! But don't wait to be asked. To have a new name or two at the AGM would be uplifting, but we can co-opt at any time. If you would like to come to a committee meeting to see what is involved, please let me know.

### New Website Articles, World War 2

Our History tab has another tab at the bottom of the list, easily overlooked. Within it is a growing treasure trove of articles about World War 2. Most are either original or based on past Rudgwick Magazine articles, a supplement to this year's Reviews. One in particular tells the story of the SOE in our area, something only recently come to light. Craig Thomson has done some research aided by members of RPS, and by expert researchers, into the activities at his house in Baynards Lane, just inside Surrey, a house then owned by Bernard Prance, the Punch cartoonist.

Other matters covered include the now complete project to create a biographical Roll of Honour of all those on the Rudgwick War Memorial (and some more besides). There are too many other titles to name here, so take a look at <https://rudgwick-rps.org.uk> and click on **History of Rudgwick** then go to the bottom of the list: **World War 2**. We do not intend to publish a book on the war, so the website and the 2025 Reviews will try to cover all the many topics on which we can find information.

**In this issue:** Chairman's Review, page 1; Planning Matters, page 2; Rudgwick Chapel Bicentenary, pages 2-4; Rudgwick's Preparations for War, pages 4-5; Rudgwick in 1939, Part 1, pages 6-7; Alfred Bacon at War, Rudgwick Primary School, Part 1, pages 7-8; Rudgwick School photographs, pages 9-10; A Rudgwick Land Girl, page 11; A Child's Wartime, page 12; Any Old Iron, pages 12-13; Wartime Rudgwick, pages 13-15; The Village Bomb, page 15; Summer Walks Programme, page 16

My previous report noted that “Horsham’s new local plan is well advanced and has been submitted to the planning inspectorate with hearings scheduled for December 2024 and January 2025”. I’m sure you will have heard by now that at the end of week 1 of the hearings in December, the Inspector suspended the process because of his concerns. Quite what these concerns are no-one really knows because he has still not written to Horsham District Council (HDC) to explain. It is understood that HDC has written a letter to the Planning Inspectorate to complain about the lengthy delay but this document has not been published.

At this stage there are most likely only two outcomes.

- (1) The Inspector re-starts the examination process after requesting additional sites to be put forward to increase the housing numbers in the plan. At the moment the plan has an average of 777 homes per year versus a ‘formula calculated’ minimum annual need of 917. Quite what number would satisfy the Inspector is unknown but given his questions over ‘duty to co-operate’ and ‘water neutrality’ it’s almost certain there will need to be some more site allocations.
- (2) The Inspector rejects the submitted plan and the whole process starts again but this time the annual need target becomes an absurd 1,357 (minimum) due to the sledge-hammer changes to national planning policy (the NPPF) imposed by the deputy Prime Minister (Angela Rayner) after a ‘token’ public consultation.

So, we currently remain in the situation that the in-force local plan for the district remains as the HDPF which was

adopted in 2015 and runs to 2031, with a requirement for a minimum of 800 homes per year. Unfortunately, because the adoption was over 5 years ago, the supply/delivery tests no longer use this 800 figure, but standard method calculations which are significantly higher. For the 5-year land supply test the very latest figure is used, so 1,357.

Because these tests are being failed, planning decisions for the district are subject to the ‘presumption in favour of sustainable development’, otherwise known as the tilted balance. This means that for a refusal, harm must ‘significantly and demonstrably’ outweigh benefit, and even development not in conformity with the plan (e.g. unallocated and outside of settlement boundaries – so called ‘speculative development’) has some prospect of approval.

Although the district has been in this situation for some time now, the water neutrality requirement has thwarted many of these unwanted applications. However it is possible that this requirement may soon fall away, in which case it will be ‘open season’ for unscrupulous developers.

So we must hope that the Inspector does resume the examination process and HDC secure an adopted new local plan as soon as possible and with an ‘achievable’ housing requirement.

Will this all mean additional, or increased, site allocations in Rudgwick parish? Quite probably, I’m afraid.

In conclusion, the important matter is to have a new (up-to-date) plan in place and ‘leading’ development so as to block speculative applications and avoid the tilted balance.

Will the new plan achieve this? It certainly should and that would be everyone’s expectation.

But we shall see; I am unconvinced.

## Rudgwick Chapel Bicentenary

Charlie Sanders, Elder of Rudgwick Chapel

During 2024, Rudgwick Chapel, which is located in Church Street, opposite the new housing developments at Summerfold and Windacres Farm Lane, celebrated its bicentenary. A photograph of the original chapel, which came to light (courtesy of Malcolm Francis) late in the year, interestingly shows a circular plaque above the porch, which says ‘Congregational Mission Church 1823’. So the chapel was actually built in 1823, but the church - i.e. the formal grouping of worshippers and the trusts under which the church operates – was not established until April 1824. The trust deeds refer to ‘the Chapel or Meeting House, lately erected’, which is consistent with the fact that the chapel was actually built the previous year.



*Original chapel*

Rudgwick Chapel was one of 4 village chapels established by Horsham Congregational Church (now Horsham United Reformed Church) – the others being at Slinfold, Maplehurst and Barns Green. These chapels were founded at different times during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but Rudgwick Chapel appears to be the oldest. In the early part of the century, people from the villages surrounding Horsham were travelling to the Horsham Congregational Church, but Rudgwick was deemed too far away, and so the chapel was built in Rudgwick.

The village chapels were served by lay preachers from the ‘mother church’ in Horsham.

The trust deed says that the building was ‘to be used for the public worship of Almighty God and for the preaching of the Gospel’. The document states that the preaching was to be ‘strictly conformable with the sacred and inspired writings commonly called the Old and New Testaments, which are the only infallible rule for the regulation of Christian faith and practice’. The deeds also tell us that the chapel was built by voluntary contributions.

The 11 trustees who were originally appointed included a Protestant Dissenting Minister and a farmer from Wisborough Green, a bricklayer and a glazier from Rudgwick (George and Henry Port), a timber merchant from Arundel, a yeoman from Horsham, a couple of ‘gentlemen’ from Brighthelmston (now Brighton) and Middlesex, a sugar refiner from London and the cash secretary to the Home Missionary Society, London. What brought these men together from such geographically and occupationally diverse backgrounds is not known.

The other trustee was Thomas Honeywood, a builder from Horsham, who was presumably a relative of Mary Honeywood. Mary, and her husband John, lived in Horsham and were probably members of Horsham Congregational Church, but Mary owned land in Rudgwick which she conveyed to the original trustees in 1824. The deeds are

very hard to read, but it appears that this may have been for as little as 5 shillings. This land provided a frontage to the chapel on which an extension was later built. (Incidentally, Mary and John's son, another 'Thomas', born in 1819, was known for his contributions to the fields of archaeology and photography in Horsham during the Victorian era. He is recognized for introducing photography to Horsham and inventing a new photographic process known as "Nature Printing." He made significant archaeological discoveries, including the preservation of the Horsham Hoard of medieval pottery. He was also an entrepreneur, establishing his own museum, and held notable positions, such as Captain of the Horsham Volunteer Fire Brigade. However, as he was only 5 when Rudgwick Chapel was founded, this 'Thomas' is unlikely to be the 11<sup>th</sup> trustee!. We know nothing of how things progressed over the next few years, but sadly, in 1846, it seems that the chapel was closed for 7 years, until, in 1853, it was reopened at the request of the Sussex Congregation Union. By 1865, only 2 of the original trustees were still alive and new trustees were appointed by indenture in that year. In 1884, according to a newspaper report, the inaugural meeting of the Rudgwick temperance club was held at Rudgwick Chapel. 'Seven pledges were taken and great interest was created.' In 1907, perhaps, once again, due to the lack of surviving trustees, the Sussex Congregational Union became trustees.

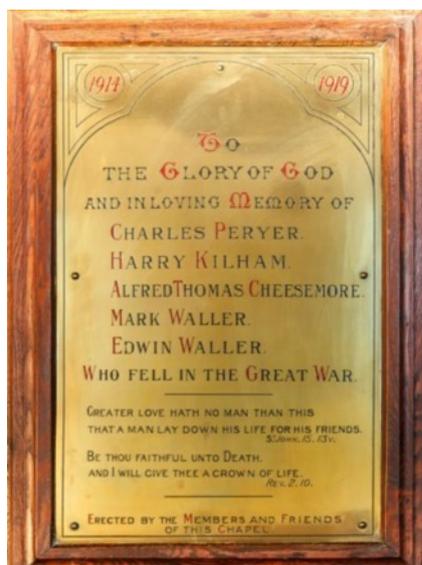
A few years ago, a very encouraging document was discovered. It must have been written in about 1908 and is entitled '**An Urgent Need**'. It recounts how that 4 years previously the situation was '*most disheartening*'. A mission was conducted by the then minister of Horsham Congregational Church, Rev. W.C. Talbot, following which '*a small company of earnest souls ... pledged to pray until God gave the increase. For nearly 12 months they persevered in patient hope. Then ... God sent willing helpers into the village.*' An evangelist, Mr Cranham, came to the village and as a result, '*the good work at Rudgwick has developed gloriously. A considerable number of young men and women have been attracted to the services. Twenty-three persons have been received into church fellowship. A Senior Christian Endeavour Society has been formed, which now has upwards of forty members*'.

The chapel which, at the time seated about 100 people (thanks surely to long pews or benches?) was proving too small and was often crowded on Sunday evenings and the need for enlargement was



urgent. A building committee was appointed and they duly recommended '*a frontal addition of 18 feet, reconstruction of the roof, additional side windows, improved ventilation, the building of a vestry and an iron palisade and gate in front.*' A strip of land to enable a side path leading to a toilet was purchased from Annie McCall at 'Kings' in 1909 and the extended building was eventually opened in 1912. This is the building we see today.

During the First World War, 5 men associated with the Rudgwick Chapel, lost their lives. They are remembered



on a brass plaque inside the chapel.

Among them were 2 brothers, Mark and Edwin Waller. Another brother, Thomas, whose name does not appear on the plaque, was discharged as unfit for service after contracting rheumatic fever in the wet, cold trenches. He died in 1919 – considered too late to be recognised as 'war dead'. Their mother Fanny had already lost 4 of her 12 children and her

husband before the war and she herself died (from a broken heart?) in 1920. Charles Peryer, the village postman, left a young wife, Annie and 2 young daughters. She did not remarry and she is remembered in an inscription on the chapel's old hymn board, which says "*In memory of Annie Peryer, who worshipped here for over 50 years and served as Band of Hope leader, Christian Endeavour leader, Sunday School superintendant and teacher, treasurer and secretary.*" Wow! What would Rudgwick Chapel have done without her?! A long-time member of the chapel still remembers Mrs Peryer, when she was a girl.

Again, we know little of the period between the wars. In her book, 'Rudgwick Memories', Peggy Walker recalls going to The Band of Hope at Rudgwick Chapel as a child – signing the pledge at age 10(!), treats and picnics, learning Bible verses and amusing memories of the organist, keeping time as she played, with her clicking dentures! One family in particular, became key in the life of Rudgwick Chapel. Arthur Francis was a lay preacher, but it was his son, Harold, the secretary, organist and Sunday School superintendent, who was the mainstay for many years, ably assisted by his wife, Lucy, his brother, Fred (and his wife, Elsie) and Lucy's brother, Ralph (and his wife, Flossie). Malcolm Francis (Fred and Elsie's son) has many fond memories from his time growing up at Rudgwick Chapel – the American organ which was played by both Uncle Harold and Auntie Lucy (eventually replaced by an electronic instrument); the large text on the wall behind the pulpit area proclaiming 'God is Love'; the re-laying of the floor after a shoddy job by a previous contractor; the solid fuel heating system, which was eventually replaced by electric heaters; the sights and smells of the Harvest Festival with many contributions by Uncle Harold, whose display of flowers, fruit and vegetables 'was as good as any flower show'.

In the 3 decades following the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, things began to pick up, helped by the influx of a number of young families. During this time, the Sunday School grew and a uniformed youth movement, called Campaigners, was adopted. This organisation really flourished with 2 separate age groups for both boys and girls, games, crafts and badges, outings and camps, as well as regular Bible teaching, and at one time, as many as 70 young people

## Rudgwick Chapel Bicentenary (contd.)

could be seen parading up Church Street for a special service, with their smart uniforms and banners held high and led by their leaders – or chiefs, as they were known. During this time, the pews were replaced by wooden chairs.



*Harold & Lucy Francis with Sunday School*



*Girl Campaigners on Parade in 1970s*

In 1974, when the Congregational and Presbyterian denominations merged to form the United Reformed Church, Congregational churches were given the choice to either become part of this new union or to become independent. The members of Rudgwick Chapel chose to become independent and a number of individual trustees were appointed. Several years later, the chapel became affiliated to The Fellowship of Evangelical Churches (FIEC) – a loose association of churches, currently numbering more than 700 across the UK. Some of the individual trustees had died or moved away and the remaining trustees agreed to relinquish this responsibility and instead appoint FIEC as corporate trustee.

During the 1980s/90s, under the ministry and leadership of Pastor Graham Wright, who had grown up at the chapel as a boy, the congregation and membership rapidly grew. He

introduced many new initiatives and a baptistry was installed under the raised platform on which the pulpit stood. In the years that followed, further alterations were made, including carpeting of the floor, replacement of the wooden chairs with upholstered ones and replacement of the pulpit with a smaller lectern. A new electric heating system was installed and the toilet updated with support for people with disabilities, including wheel-chair accessible baby-changing facilities. The frontage is currently being improved with raised beds.



*Chapel interior today*

In time, people moved away and older members died. The current congregation is quite small, but there is an enthusiastic core and signs of new growth are evident. People who visit the chapel describe it as warm and friendly. Amongst other activities, weekly services are held every Sunday at 10.30am and there is a warm welcome for all. A children's group called *Lighthouse* operates during the adult talk and an All-Age Family Service is held on the first Sunday of each month, followed by lunch to which all are welcome.

*Rudgwick Chapel would like to thank the Rudgwick Preservation Society – particularly Roger Nash and Malcolm Francis – for their help in researching aspects of the chapel's history for the Bicentenary celebrations.*

## Rudgwick's Preparations for War in 1939

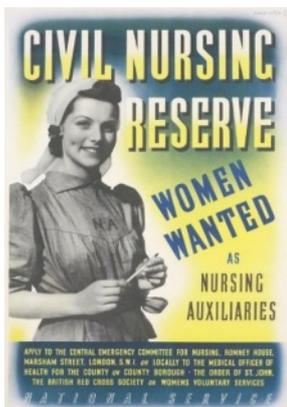
Doug Betts and Autumn 2016 Newsletter on ARP Malcolm Francis

**The 1939 Register** (see later article) includes information about residents of Rudgwick parish (and Cox Green) undertaking voluntary war-related work. Clearly this did not just happen in September 1939 and there had been a government-led campaign to encourage suitable volunteers. Here are the numbers and their role.

**Special constables: 21 men.** Their role was in maintaining law and order. They were chiefly unpaid part-time volunteers who could not serve in the military because of age or reserved occupations.

**Auxiliary nurses: 10 women.**

Nursing Auxiliaries (NAs) were women aged 18 to 55 without prior nursing experience. They volunteered through the Civil Nursing Reserve and received two weeks' training at a hospital covering first aid, home nursing and practical hospital work paid for by the government. Generally the role was a full-time position doing 48 hours per week. Once they passed training an NA could be employed in any number of



locations - first aid posts, casualty evacuation trains, medical aid posts in shelters or rest centres. The Nursing Auxiliary uniform (ARP Pattern 46) was in a blue cotton with a very fine white stripe. It featured a winged collar, a V-shaped yoke and the letters 'NA' embroidered in red on a small oblong of material that was then sewn to the front.

**St John's Ambulance: 1 man,** a volunteer for stretcher party work.

**Observer Corps: 2 men.** The purpose of the corps being to provide visual detection, identification, tracking and reporting of enemy aircraft over Britain. All its members were civilian volunteers who often had other jobs. They had a vital role during the Battle of Britain in 1940.

**ATS: 2 women.** The Auxiliary Territorial Service, the women's branch of the Army (they received two thirds of the pay of the men in the army). There was a nursing branch of the army for women (Queen Alexandria's) and there was **1 woman** who had volunteered for that.

**WVS: 1 woman.** The Women's Voluntary Services recruited women to assist in civil defence. They were primarily women who had responsibilities within the home, such as children or acting as a carer for elderly family members, preventing them from joining other groups.

**VAD: 1 woman.** Voluntary Aid Detachment was a voluntary unit of civilians providing nursing care for military personnel.

**Land Army: 2 women.** The women, who were known as Land Girls, replaced male agricultural workers who had been called up. The main aim of the WLA was to increase food production during the war. Many of the women had little or no experience of farming, nevertheless most of them had to learn 'on the job' to grow produce, plough with horses, drive tractors, milk cows, rear lambs or catch rats, for example. *(See also article 'A Rudgwick Land Girl' in this issue)*



**ARP: 15 men, 4 women.** Air Raid Precautions (ARP) refers to a number of organisations and guidelines for the protection of civilians from the danger of air raids. Every local council was responsible for organising ARP wardens, messengers, ambulance drivers, rescue parties, and liaison with police and fire brigades. From 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939, ARP wardens enforced the "blackout". Heavy curtains and shutters were required on all private residences, commercial premises, and factories to prevent light escaping and so

making them a possible marker for enemy bombers to locate their targets. This double-sided document for Rudgwick has survived. *(courtesy of Malcolm Francis).*

Here is the relevant text from both pages:

*"Air Raid Precautions issued by the Home Office differ entirely from Urban and Country areas. The*

*very remote, is a possibility, and therefore the authorities are providing 56 lbs of sand per household. In parishes where public air raid warnings are not provided it is quite unnecessary to warn people; it only perturbs nervous people uselessly. If gunfire is heard nearby, calmly take cover against our own Anti Aircraft shrapnel fragments. If in doubt, ask your warden to show Government instructions. Don't trust private opinion. Have you got a fitted gas mask? Do you know how to deal with an incendiary bomb? Do you know who is your warden, and where he lives? If you are OK on these three points, there is no need to be pale, worried, harassed or nervous. Let your own intelligence give you a feeling of security. What is a worthwhile target for the enemy aeroplane? Ammunition factories and dumps? Aeroplane factories? Railway junctions? Docks or Rudgwick village, your little cottage, or the fowls in your back yard, or your little Albert? The war in Spain has given us useful information to provide precautions against air raids; in two years bombing there were 7,000 killed 11,000 injured yet in one year's motoring casualties in this country we have roughly 6,600 killed and 227,000 injured. West Sussex is regarded by the Authorities as a NON-VULNERABLE area. That is why children are sent here. Do what you are told to do by the Government. Do for other people's children what you do for your own. Don't be a 'jitterer'" (C.Hemsley (Group Head Warden, Rudgwick Parish). How's that for talking down!*

The text was a standard government text for rural areas adapted slightly for the particular location. Charles Hemsley was a reserve officer, Indian Army. There is no doubt that he and his wife (here a volunteer auxiliary nurse) also had evacuees in their house, with staff to assist. The other Head Warden Charles Cooper, was a retired member of the Indian Civil Service.

**Work with evacuees.** For an unknown number of evacuees (probably not the 400 in the parish map extract) to be billeted with local families, there were 6 women, including

the billeting officer, assisting with this important work of ensuring that evacuated children were in appropriate lodgings, attending school, undertaking out-of-school activities and otherwise being cared for. The wife of the local headmaster was running the school canteen, now for both local and evacuee children. The local clubhouse in Loxwood Road had been assigned for use by school children as would be the Queen's Hall (next to the Queen's

**Evacuees.**—Mrs. Ivor Cooper, The Old School House, Lynwick Street, is in charge of all women's work in the case of an emergency, and all enquiries about evacuees should be addressed to her.

In the event of war, the village will have to receive and take care of about 400 evacuees. They will come provided with a 48 hours ration, and they will be provided with their mid-day meal at the canteen. Mrs. Cooper, who at present has only the school crockery, which is enough for 60, appeals for crockery, cutlery and cooking utensils, also for linen, table cloths and tea cloths that anyone has to spare.

Please remember that there can be no going back on what you have promised. When the children and accompanying adults arrive, they will have to be accommodated.

The following is reprinted for information. **Air Raid Precautions Organization for Rudgwick Parish** is as under:—

**A.R.P. Warden Post:** Village Hall. Tel. No., ask Exchange.

**Group Head Warden:** Colonel C. Hemsley, D.S.O., "Aliblasters," Rudgwick 99.

**Deputy Group Head Warden:** Mr. C. R. P. Cooper, "Highcroft," Rudgwick 83.

**Sector Wardens.**

**Rudgwick St.:** Miss E. D. Hopkinson, "Hencocks" (sick), Rudgwick 35; Mr. E. J. Dugan, The Lodge, Rudgwick House (temporary), Rudgwick 123.

Head pub). Photographs show many volunteer ladies helping out at school and canteen. For more information see *'Alfred Bacon at War' p7/8 (Roger Nash)*

**RUDGWICK PARISH.**

**Air Raid Precautions Organization.**

Warden Post: VILLAGE HALL. Telephone No. (ask Exchange).

**Group Head Wardens:—**

Colonel C. Hemsley, D.S.O. "Aliblasters," Tel. Rudgwick 99.  
Mr. C. R. P. Cooper. "Highcroft," Tel. Rudgwick 83.

**SECTOR WARDENS:—**

Sector.	Warden.	Address.	Telephone No.
Rudgwick Street.	Miss E. D. Hopkinson, sick.	"Hencocks."	Rudgwick 35.
	Mr. E. J. Dugan.	The Lodge, Rudgwick House.	Rudgwick 123.
Lynwick Street.	Mr. J. L. Middleton.	"Three Gables."	"Rudgwick 68."
Backs Green.	Mr. R. C. Richardson.	"Hawks Hill."	Rudgwick 17.
Tisman's Corner.	Mr. A. H. Tuft.	Eastfold Wood."	Rudgwick 25.
The Haven.	Mr. R. C. Muggersidge.	Field House, Pittin.	Rudgwick 45.
Collins Cross.	Mr. D. B. Hopkins.	Gulland Green, Hamlet Farm.	Rudgwick 22.
Hale.	Mr. R. J. Bradshaw.	"Hale."	Loxwood 226.
Hyes.	Mr. Maccready.	"Hyes."	Rudgwick 10.
Rowhook.	Mr. P. Hulbert.	Honey Lane Paddock.	Oakwood Hill 88.
Morgans Green.	Mr. Hamilton.	Mill House, The Haven, Billingshurst.	Stisfold 22.

\* In emergency only.

**A.R.P. Officer—Horsham Rural District Council.** Capt. J. E. Pugh, M.B.E. Horsham 1189.

**WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES:—**

Mrs. Ivor Cooper. Old School House, Lynwick Street. Tel. Rudgwick 135.

**NOTES.**

Air Raid Precautions issued by the Home Office differ entirely for Urban (Town) and Rural (Country) Areas.

Those to be taken in Country Areas are laid down in A.R.P. Circular 10/1939.

Shortly, the contents of important paragraphs are as follows:—

**Para. 2.**—The main risk to the inhabitants of a rural area is a bomb dropped at random. Casualties should therefore be few, even if many bombs fall, and such as would occur would be more likely to be single casualties on road or in field, with the CHANCE OF A VILLAGE BEING HIT AS A REMOTE CONTINGENCY.

**Para. 3.**—It is neither NECESSARY nor practicable to provide any system of air raid warning. There is NO ACTION which the inhabitants of a rural area can reasonably be expected to take in advance of bombs being dropped, merely on intimation that hostile raiders are in the vicinity.

**Para. 4.**—Typical conditions in a rural parish may be pictured as follows. There may be a constable and there may be two or three special constables. They will have the protective equipment issued to the police. There will be air raid wardens, also in possession of protective equipment and with a first aid box. The formal first aid parties, rescue parties, decontamination squads and possibly first aid posts will be at the market town.

P.T.O.

*main risk to the inhabitants of a rural area is a bomb dropped at random WITH THE CHANCE OF A VILLAGE BEING HIT AS A REMOTE CONTINGENCY. Typical conditions in a rural parish may be pictured as follows; there may be a constable and two or three special constables...there will be air raid wardens in possession of protective equipment and with a first aid box. Formal rescue parties, decontamination squads, etc will be at the market town. It will be realised...that the likelihood of casualties or even of danger is extremely small in Rudgwick. A gas bomb is very unlikely, but the Government have provided a gas mask or respirator. A hit by an incendiary bomb, although*

This is an attempt to set the scene in the parish in 1939 at the outbreak of war. I have used several different documents including the electoral register, directories, the parish magazine and especially the **1939 Register**. On the 29 September 1939 a census was taken of every household in England and Wales listing the adults and children at each address, some 41 million names. People had to give their date of birth, their status (married, single, widow/er, divorced) and their occupation. The Register was used to issue identity cards and much later it formed the basic data base for the creation of the National Health Service in 1948. It was kept up to date until 1991, including changing women's maiden names to their married names.

In 2015 the Register became a highly valued resource for family historians when it was made available to the public through the *Findmypast* company. It was particularly valued because there had been no census publicly available since the 1911 census in 2011 and the 1921 census could not be released for 100 years (as it was in 2021). It had its pros and cons. No census had previously given the exact date of everyone's births and at that time occupations had been unknown since the 1911 census. The FMP website was extremely helpful to those starting out on their family history with advice and links to other data. It also showed a large scale OS map for every name, showing their 1939 locality.

On the other hand it could only be released by keeping to the '100 year rule': any person still alive in 1991 had their record 'closed' (redacted with a black line), which meant that the names of a large number of children born in the 1920s and 1930s could not be seen. This reduced the 41 million down to 28 million names readily available, though FMP had added back about 2.5 million (and continue to do so) and other names can be released using death certificate evidence. Without this provision the Register could not have been released. The other problem was that men (chiefly) already called up for National Service and in the armed forces or doing essential war work away from home were missing from their home address.

Nonetheless, if incomplete, a good picture of the population of Rudgwick parish can be obtained. First, what did the parish look like in 1939? Most of Bucks Green, Tisman's Common, The Haven and Rowhook would have been quite recognisable as there has been relatively little major development since the war and the street pattern has not changed. That is not true of Rudgwick village along and off Church Street. Roads and housing that we take for granted now did not exist. I lost count when I had reached 16 roads that did not exist in 1939: for example, no Queen Elizabeth and Princess Anne Roads, no Woodfield and Pondfield, no Orchard Hill, Gaskyns Close, Foxholes, Furze, Bridge, etc. A post-war Ordnance Survey map shows just Station Road and Kings Road (not Jubilee Road although it dated from 1936). So, a much smaller population, still relatively rural, but as we will see in Part 2, quite well provided for in local services.

Some 1700 names are listed on the Rudgwick Register (a further 170 on the Cox Green register). In addition an unknown number of children evacuees were expected to arrive or had already arrived. On the eve of war some 1½ million children were evacuated from key cities in 3 days. Those from London schools were sent to villages in the south. Rudgwick was prepared for that with a billeting officer and several other ladies working with her and 6 teachers accompanied the evacuees. Promises had been made by those residents willing to house one or more

evacuees, according to the parish magazine for September 1939 which also suggested that the figure allocated to Rudgwick could be 400. In the Register in known addresses in the parish I believe that nearly 90 evacuees are either lodging with families or in some cases living with their evacuated mother. The 400 target seems very unlikely.

## The population

Allowing the caveats about missing men and redacted children, the resident population of the Rudgwick parish (Rudgwick village, Bucks Green, Tismans Common, The Haven and Rowhook, to which I have added Cox Green) breaks down as follows: **Male 637, Female 856, 'closed' names 379**. Of the 'open' names born in the '20s and '30s and said to be 'at school', there were 76 boys (31 born 1920s, 45 1930s) and 72 girls (28 1920s, 44 1930s). In addition 30 were under school age (so, born late '30s), 16 boys and 14 girls. (The 148 school figures include 37 known evacuees). The remainder are therefore adults.

There were almost 100 widowed: 78 widows and 36 widowers. As in the past, men died earlier. There were just 7 divorced people, 2 men and 5 women, divorce still a fairly rare occurrence. The difference between the figures for men (42%) and women (58%) is significant. We cannot know how many men had already been conscripted. Initially those aged 20/22 were called for 6 months military training in May 1939 but this soon became between 18 and 41.

### *The adult population living in Rudgwick (and Cox Green) in 1939 by date of birth and sex*

1840-1849	1850-1859	1860-1869	1870-1879	1880-1889	1890-1899	1900-1909	1910-1919	1920-1929	Totals
M/F									
2/1	10/21	41/53	80/101	96/132	85/146	117/148	77/119	46/52	M 554 F 773
Totals									M+F Total
3	31	94	181	228	231	265	196	98	1327

But we can look at how many younger married women appear on the Register without a male partner. The answer is 45. Of these, 33 had one or more children. 8 were in their 20s, 27 in their 30s, 9 in their 40s, 1 under 20. If these 45 men are indeed 'away' temporarily then counting them back in does redress the balance just a little: 44%/56%. There are other factors too, the higher male mortality rate, women evacuees here with their children (possibly 17), women here temporarily to work for the duration of the war, a higher retirement rate for more single women. But a big difference remains. It is probable also that the loss of men in The Great War was still working its way up the age range, another factor.

Another way of looking at the figures is through the **Rudgwick electoral register** (1939/40; voting age 21). The precise age of people on the 1939 Register indicates that there were **1082** theoretically eligible to vote in Rudgwick parish 456 men (42%), 626 women (58%). [Note: Cox Green is not included in this section]. The electoral register has **905**, 437 men (48%), 468 women (52%). But a comparison between the 1939 Register and the electoral register has shown that 285 currently resident in Rudgwick had not registered to vote. **216 of these were women**, 69 men. (76%/24%). Of the women 43 were in their 20s, 63 in

their 30s, 36 in their 40s, 25 in their 50s, 27 in their 60s, 14 in their 70s, 7 in their 80s, 1 in her 90s. Of the men 12 were in their 20s, 18 in their 30s, 9 in their 40s, 14 in their 50s, 12 in their 60s, 4 in their 70s. These figures are puzzling but bear in mind (a) that there were more women in the parish than men; (b) that there would have been a substantial number (perhaps around 50/60 women) here temporarily and (c) some of the women did not have their husbands here. **Over 100 of the women not registered were married.** Did they often leave it to the men to register their names?

In Part 2 (Autumn Review) we will look at what work the people of Rudgwick were doing in 1939 and what businesses there were in the parish.

## Alfred Bacon at War, Part 1, 1939-1942

Roger Nash

Alfred Douglas Bacon had served in the RAMC in The Great War. If his name is familiar to readers, it may be because he began his career as headmaster in Rudgwick during that war, so had the unenviable task of steering the school through both good and bad times. In 1939, his were a safe and experienced pair of hands. He was to serve throughout this war.

This account depends on his entries in his Logbook, and is supplemented by the Minutes of the Managers, and a few newspaper reports. There is much unchanged from his arrival in 1917 – no clerical help, never enough staff, and constant churn of teachers, keeping the LEA and Managers happy as well as the parents, bogged down in writing letters, receiving visitors, metaphorically putting fires out and finding solutions to often intractable problems. However, he himself said nothing was worse in 45 years as a teacher than the arrival of the flying bombs, and the constant risk of the school being hit. The summer of '44 was not just about D day, which he did not even mention.

### 1939

The war began with just three other teachers, Ethel Simmonds (Trafalgar Rd, Horsham), Claudia Dawes (Rushams Rd, Horsham), Eileen Tuff (Exfold Wood). That would change in days. The managers were Rev Alfred Wynn (vicar), William Churchman (Farnbrakes), Mrs Eveline Burge (Cousens), Miss Muriel Secretan (Swaynes), Capt Joseph Brutton (Weyhurst Copse) and the Hon Mrs Violet Holman (née Boots, Hyes). As soon as 4 September, four schools were evacuated to Rudgwick (it was voluntary so not all the children came), at least one from Peckham, and no head teachers. I have identified 2 of the Peckham schools sending evacuees and it is clear that both schools sent pupils to more than one destination, anywhere from Pulborough to Devon. One of the evacuees, Joyce Bone, as we know, remained in Rudgwick; she had lived in Sumner Road, Peckham.

"It was impossible to make a satisfactory start." On 14 September the school resorted to a double shift, locals 9-12, evacuees 1-4. Queen's Hall and the War Memorial Hall ('Hall' from here on) were commandeered for physical training. In October the school ran out of coal for several days, opening up a new front of shortages. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, at last a visit from two LCC heads. Parents were getting grumpy; some children were staying away. In November, the decision was made to use the Hall on Loxwood Road for teaching.

### 1940

The year started with a combined visit by officers from WSSCC and LCC, and the decision to combine the schools into one. If less than 50 evacuees, this was mandatory; Rudgwick had 59. It was agreed the Infants would use the Hall, leaving the school with the remainder. It was agreed the school needed LCC teachers, but five would be reduced to three. Miss Ethel Sutcliffe (a widow with her daughter Olive, staying at The Beeches) and Miss Florence Peacock (lodging with the Kings at Rose Villa Bucks Green) would return to London. Schools would be amalgamated from 29 January. This was clearly an efficiency move, to maximise pupil-teacher ratios, and avoid starving the London schools of teachers. Miss Simmonds became the second in charge, and would take the 11-14 cohort (there was never a full number of 13/14 year olds as some left early, despite it being compulsory to stay until 14 after 1918). Mrs Maxwell (LCC) took the 10-11s, Miss Lawford (LCC) took the 8-9s, Miss Tuff took the 7s, and in the Hall, Mrs Dorothy Twist (LCC, lodging at Mill Hill with the Hendricks) took the 6-7s and Miss Dawes the 5-6s. Edith Lawford was lodging with Mrs Beaumont at Beckington (now Boreham House), Church St, in September 39. Mabel Maxwell was likewise lodging with Mrs Christie at The Old Parsonage.

This was followed by a month of disruption with outbreaks of measles, German measles, chicken pox, influenza, and staff absence. and even Mr Bacon getting pneumonia. What with the stress, and the February weather, it was an unenviable time. Gardening classes for boys with Mr Bacon started in March, with added impetus in wartime, and the novelty of outdoor work for Londoners.

Miss Gibbons, an LCC head, visited the school. Mary Rhodes, an evacuee, had the only wartime accident noted, when hit by a car, only minor injuries. In May, new furniture for the Hall arrived, paid for by LCC. For the Whitsun holiday, a directive told staff not to go away – too late arriving. The reason was an instruction to shorten the break. Then Miss Twist was ordered back to London. Classes had to be rearranged. Worse was to come when Miss Dawes was in dispute with the school, no reason given, did not come in, refused to be told to do so, then resigned.

Some good news in the summer: a rare event of a 'scholar' winning a scholarship to Collyer's - one of the best known alumni of the school, Eric Thompson, later writer of The Magic Roundabout, and father of the actress Emma Thompson. An afternoon of extra games was granted to the school!

Troop movements were announced for 1 August. The school had to close early as the roads needed to be clear of children by 3pm. The school year ended with food shortages, notably sugar, meat, and fat. The Food Control Office was chased up. It was also decided that the Hall needed three more exits for child safety. Over the summer, seven children had their names down for Overseas Evacuation, and were awaiting medical examination, but before it could be done, all were withdrawn, no reason given. Then the instruction came that windows should be painted internally with an ARP solution (anti-splinter compound). The boys should do it. Whoa! Insurance? Instead, muslin cloth was provided to hang across the windows. The issue of bomb shelters was becoming urgent. The managers tried to be creative – digging one

under the floors. They were dug in the meadow, but on inspection by the ARP wardens the clay banks were declared unsafe as was the entrance. Had to be put right. By October, shelters had been constructed at the Hall too. Then came The Battle of Britain. On 10 September, there was an air raid, but there were no children at school. This was the night of a massive German raid on London's manufacturing industry, waves of planes coming over the south coast from 8pm to dawn. Reports online make it clear that many German bombers jettisoned their explosives at random, that many crashed, as did fighters from both sides, Sussex very much in the frame. The German radio was intercepted to show some panic at the strength of our resistance.

"Bf 109E-4 (1617) of 7/JG27 shot down by Sergeant J. Frantisek of 303 Squadron during combat at 18.00. Aircraft crashed at **Roman Gate Cottage, Rudgwick, Uffz K. Born was killed.**" Also, a German aircraft came down at Church Field, Newells Farm, Nuthurst, near Horsham, among many others.

Another London teacher, Miss Gladys Chillingworth (lodging at Hyes with the Holmans, not it seems allocated a class in 1939), was recalled, and Miss Evans sent to replace her. The ratio was tightening, 1 per 20 children. Some weaker children were "sent down" to the Hall to ease overcrowding in the school. The managers were still trying to replace Miss Dawes, a Miss Beatrice Humphries offered the job, but not taken up.

#### 1941

Miss Lucy Jackson replaced Miss Dawes in January, appointed for the "duration of the war". The managers insisted that school should run for at least five hours a day. The ARP wardens were insistent full blackout should be adhered to in May (though the horse may have bolted as the afternoons were now light). They also demanded monthly testing of gas masks. It is interesting to note that inoculation against diphtheria continued through the war. In August Miss Evans was recalled. Classes were once again reorganised: class 1 (oldest) Mr Bacon, 2 Miss Simmonds, 3 Miss Lawford, 4 Miss Jackson; Infants 1 Mrs Maxwell, 2 Miss Tuff. Then a storm blew up. Mrs Maxwell had "lost" the evacuees' records. Mr Bacon comes across as very angry and mistrustful. It is worth noting that evacuee registers for 1939 are still missing!

In August, the school took part in inter-school sports, not stopped because of the war. Although they did not win, the winning school was given "the Health and Happiness Cup", a very modern take on sport. Holidays were a cause of some contention. It was decreed that the late summer holiday, as was traditional, should be from 24 August to 6 October, but with many families effectively single-parenting, and very few needed for the harvest in a largely dairy farming area, this was a very long break. Teachers complained that in some schools there were even longer breaks! Over the summer, managers gave permission for the Hall to be used for a clinic after school. In October, the new rule of 1 to 30 staff ratio for evacuees came in, which was not received well.

A report in the County Times on Rudgwick's war on 14 October 1942, noted that some older boys had joined the Home Guard, and others were in the ATC, training in Cranleigh in the evenings. Some of the evacuees had joined the church choir, but were at this time leaving to

return to London. The WVS, Women's Voluntary Service, was in charge of billeting the evacuees. They no longer think of themselves or are thought of by others as "foreigners", the article stated. The school canteen fed 120 children a day. Mrs Bacon had served, it was estimated, over 100,000 meals since the canteen opened ten years before (we also learn that it was begun through the generosity of the Hon Mrs Holman). Mrs Bacon had even broadcast on the radio 13 months previously, the programme "Kitchen Front", and in 1939 was presented to the queen, as a member of the WVS, for her work in the canteen.

#### 1942

Evacuees continued to arrive, others to go home, the odd one from such a place as Eastbourne. Arrangements were made for cricket, stoolball and other games to be played on Mr Jamilly's field at Gaskyns (was village sports ground before the war). Mrs Holman resigned as manager (pressure of work in London), Miss Gladys Boxall (Church Hill) replaced her. Managers had a plan for the long holiday: one week school closed, four weeks voluntary opening including canteen and Hall, with two teachers at any one time, remainder closed. A parents' survey gave 10 all day, 15 mornings only, 28 not interested. However, Mr Bacon reported that the average attendance in morning sessions was 48, afternoons 31, dinners 46, and milk taken by 37. On return, a gift of sweets from a Calgary charity was very acceptable. Much less acceptable was the decision by ARP head warden Charles Cooper (High Croft) to discontinue "alerts" to the school (not clear how this was done, telephone perhaps). The head was now expected to use his discretion whether to take children to the shelters. It will not have escaped notice in Rudgwick that 52, nearly all children, but including the headmaster, Mr Stephenson, and one other teacher, had been killed at Petworth School on 29 September.

More stress for the head and his wife Marguerite (who is invisible in the log book). On 17 December, he (and her?) visited Guildford Hospital, then on Farnham Rd, to see their daughter and grandson who had been in the Bramley Station attack on a train (somewhere in south east England as the newspapers had it) the previous day. Daughter, also Marguerite (Rita), had married Trevor Leaney, a crafts teacher at Christ's Hospital, serving in the Tank Corps, and on stand-by to go to N Africa, travelling from their home in Cricketfield Rd Horsham (the house named Lynwick!) to his camp in Farnborough, to let him see the baby before he went. The attack was on the way home. Mother, a florist by training, was seriously hurt, including facial injuries, baby Paul, 10 weeks old, miraculously had "only" a glass head wound. This was one of the worst events of the war in our locality, seven killed, including a woman sitting next to her, and 36 injured. Rita was transferred to Basingstoke then to East Grinstead for plastic surgery. She was a long-term patient there, and in Shoreham for convalescence. Meanwhile the Bacons collected Paul on 22 December. He spent the next two years with his grandparents in Rudgwick. As a result, Bacon missed the Christmas party that afternoon, put on for the children by Canadians at the Bucks Green camp.

*To be continued in Part 2. See pages 9 and 10 for school wartime photographs*



2 Of the 4 Peckham schools from which evacuee children were sent to country locations. Above is St Luke's and Camden RC, Sumner Road, Peckham, where Joyce Bone lived. Right is Oliver Goldsmith school (known as Ollie Gollie!)



"From classroom to dining room in three minutes", a daily transformation by Mrs Bacon; children paid 3d. each for their dinner in 1941 (Paul Leaney)



Mrs Marguerite Bacon and a colleague serving dinner in a classroom (Joyce Bone)



Damage to the train carriages at Bramley when Rita and Paul Leaney were injured, Rita very badly, on 16 December 1942



The dinner ladies, Mrs Bacon centre standing, two children at front (Paul Leaney)



Trevor Leaney, home on leave, with Alfred Bacon and baby Paul recovered from his ordeal but living with his grandparents in Bucks Green (Paul Leaney)



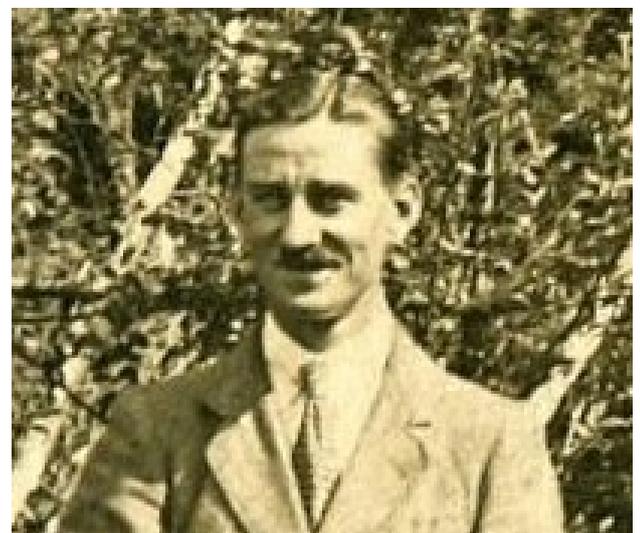
*School photo, local and evacuee children, summer 1940 (Joyce Bone)*



*Wartime group, mixed local and evacuee children, at Lynwick (Joyce Bone)*



*Pre-war photo of Alfred Bacon (with unknown companion) in School House garden*



*Close-up of Alfred Bacon from photo on left*

*A badge will (2008) acknowledge those surviving members of the Women's Land Army who worked on the home front to provide food and timber for the Nation during World War II. Badges will be awarded to surviving members as of 6 December 2007. Environment Secretary, Hilary Benn said: "It is absolutely right that we at last recognise the selfless efforts these women made to support the nation through the dark days of World War II. This badge is a fitting way to pay tribute to their determination, courage and spirit in the face of adversity." Posters encouraging young women to join the Land Army sported healthy young girls set against an idyllic countryside. In England and Wales.*

*The WLA was mobilised before the war started. By the outbreak of war in September 1939, 17,000 women were enrolled. Britain imported about 60% of its food before the war; now, she would have to grow most of it. The Women's Land Army filled many of the jobs left vacant when men went to fight. The Land Army was started by Lady Denman and by 1943 there were some 90,000 young women, called 'Land Girls', employed on the land. Work on the farms was very hard. At harvest time they worked during all the daylight hours, and in winter it was very cold. Farmers at first doubted whether they could do the job, but many proved how useful they could be even beating local men in horse-ploughing competitions.*

*The Women's Land Army remained in existence until 1950.*



**Cecilia Butcher, our former Post Mistress, and member of the WLA, writes:** "I was evacuated with Selhurst Grammar School when war started. My mother and my sisters were on holiday at Shoreham-by-Sea when war was declared. She had to take my twin sister and I to Hove Town Hall. We were then taken to our billet in Hove. We had to move away from the coast when fighting started and eventually I was evacuated with my school to Guildford. I had a very happy stay with the Wilton family in Chantrey View Road. They decided as they had young children they would like to keep a goat, so Dainty joined us and I learnt to milk her twice a day - in the morning, before I went to school. We had a large garden and a quarry where she was tethered.

I left school when I was 17½ years old and decided I would join the Land Army. I enrolled and eventually was told by the Rep. they had a job for me in Rudgwick. I was taken to Canfields Farm, Lynwick Street, farmed by Mr & Mrs Kensett, where I would learn to milk cows. A new Land Girl was trained every month to milk but I would be there permanently. When I arrived at the farm Mrs Kensett welcomed me, and showed me the layout of the house, but first showed me outside the back door where

the privy was in the woodshed – no lock on the door and newspaper hanging on a nail by a string! Indoors, a sink with only cold water, and no bath, a dining room-cum-kitchen with the range for cooking, and where we ate. Upstairs in the bedroom we had a washstand with a jug and basin where we had to wash, no electricity or heating – candles when we went to bed. To get hot water we had to go to the boiler in the feed shed and bring the water upstairs in a bucket. What a change for me after being with the Wiltons!

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

Mr Kensett was a horse dealer. He went by train to Wales where he bought carthorses for local farmers, e.g. Mr Holman at Hyes. The horses would arrive at Rudgwick Station next day. Len and I would go down to the station yard where the horses, four of them, would be in a wagon where they had been watered and fed en route. I can remember walking up the street with these two huge horses – the worst bit was going down Lynwick Street; I had to hold them tight! Mrs Kensett worked hard and fed us – food was very basic. We all worked hard. One day Vera told me she was taking me out to a pub (I'd never been in one before). We went to The Cricketers, now The Mucky Duck, walking there. We met Frank Butcher and Harold Boxall, two local chaps. Frank, son of Billy Butcher, butcher at Southdown House, worked at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough on radar.

I got to know Frank, met him at the local dances we had in the Home Guard Hall, Bucks Green, and when he took me home to meet his family his mother said I could go and have a bath there regularly. The Kensett's rented a field up at Highcroft and I remember when the hay was cut I went up with Len and Vic in the cart. In those days we built a haystack and I was in the 'pitch-hole' when the men pitched the hay up to me – gosh, there were so many thistles in the hay! I continued to work at Canfields until I was 20 years of age, leaving there two weeks before Frank and I were married at Rudgwick Church on 23rd June 1945".

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

Vera was born in 1927 and, inevitably, the Second World War loomed large in her life. On a personal level, Vera's brothers fought in the war. Harold, her second brother, in civilian life a gamekeeper to Mr. Wilson at Lakers Lodge, went to France with the British Expeditionary Force in 1940 and escaped from Dunkirk. She remembers the morning her mother showed her Harold asleep in the bed after his safe return. For much of the war, Vera's brothers' bedroom was occupied by evacuees from Peckham, South London. There were two related mothers, each with two children. The London children understood little about animals and the countryside. One of the young boys dashed into the house one morning saying, "Mrs. Wait, one of your cats has fallen to pieces." Inspection of the woodshed revealed that the animal had actually had kittens. Some city habits had their advantages, even in the countryside. During the lunchtime, the London children would pick primroses from the woods opposite the school and sell them for a penny a bunch. Local children could not understand people buying wild flowers they could have picked themselves but wished they had thought of it first when the trade flourished.

The influx of Peckham children was too big for the school building so in the mornings the locals used the school and the evacuees the Working Men's Club at Bucks Green. In the afternoons the position was reversed. One of the evacuee families, the Linscotts, took over Brookkiln Farm in 1944 when, following a serious accident, Vera's father was dismissed from his position on the Pallinghurst estate and Mr. Linscott began to work there. The evacuees were not the only strangers in the area. One day when Vera and her sisters were on the way home they were stopped by a lady on a bicycle, who asked them about their brothers. They hurried home to tell their mother they had met a fifth columnist. When asked how they'd recognised the lady as one, they replied, "Well, because we didn't know her."

One sad wartime incident was the bombing by a German plane of a train on the Guildford to Horsham railway line. Many local people were on the train and amongst those most seriously injured were Vita Paparritor, a daughter of the Greek family at Tisman's Common, and Rita Leaney, the daughter of Mr. Bacon, Headmaster of the village school. For most families, the war brought major changes to their day to day routine. Mr McBain of Lakers Lodge was in charge of the Home Guard, in which Vera's father served, and through that connection she obtained a job in the Lodge as under housemaid at 4/-(20p) a week, living in. Because of the war, all eight servants were women and the head house parlour maid, Alice, was conscripted into the Women's Land Army. One family in Tisman's Common, the Streets, attended the Plymouth Brethren chapel in Lynwick Street and were registered as conscientious objectors. Vera's family and others felt it unfair that their menfolk were fighting to protect the objectors as well, although they were a pleasant family to talk to. Granny Street briefly kept a sweetshop in her house towards the top of Foxhill. Vera had been a 12-year-old schoolgirl when the war started. When it ended, she was 18, with her adult life ahead of her.

*For Vera's life at Brickkiln Farm, see "A Pallinghurst Country Gal" (also Spring 1995 Newsletter)*

## Any Old Iron

Malcolm Francis (from Spring 2011 Newsletter)

I was presented last year with a bag of old letters and notes that included paperwork relating to Rudgwick's effort to recycle a lot of waste material in the early years of the Second World War. The paperwork originated from a Mr M.R.K. Burge who was the chairman of the parish council. I must stress that the paperwork at that time would have seemed of little interest historically but now it gives a fascinating glimpse of the village war effort. There were various fund raising and savings schemes instigated throughout those years, but until reading the old documents I was not aware of the effort that was put into collecting metal and general waste. Here (right) is part of one of the documents that illustrates the way each community was encouraged to recycle. And here is a WVS memo:

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

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

### Waste Paper

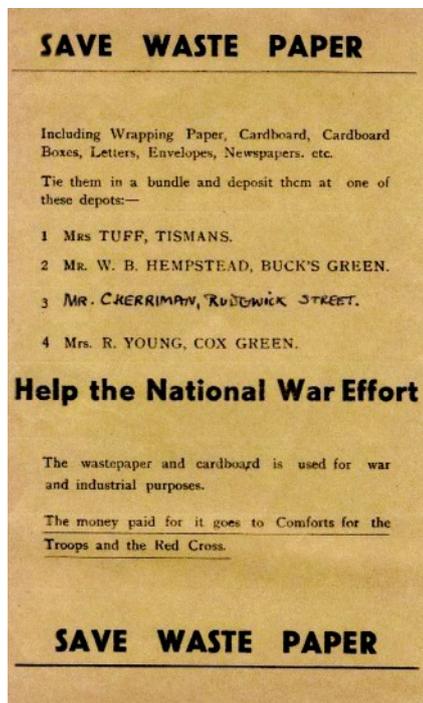
"The Paper and Board Mills are crying out for more clean waste paper. They need four times the amount that they are getting at present. At least two hundred and fifty thousand tons of household waste paper is required each year to replace wood pulp, a raw material usually imported from Norway, Sweden,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

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



## Any Old Iron (contd.)

ton. A million tons of waste paper finds its way into the dustbin year by year. STOP THIS WASTE. Try to keep your waste paper and newsprint CLEAN AND DRY. IT IS MORE VALUABLE. Tie it up tight and tidy, ready for collection. Four hundred and fifty copies of the Times weigh 1 cwt." (*The local records show that Rudgwick collected 10 ton of waste paper in the first year of this scheme*).



And now: **Textiles**

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

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

And what about: **Household bones** (!): "Household bones, cooked and uncooked, including chicken and game but not fish bones, are urgently needed, however small for;

### 1. Glue

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

### 2. Fats

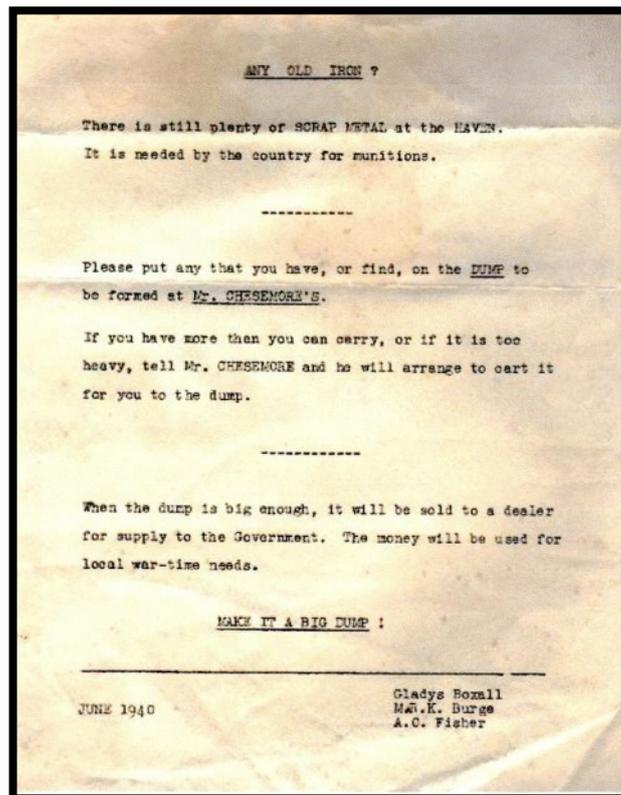
These are used for industry. One ton of bones will yield about 3 cwt of fat suitable for soap, ointments, glycerine, etc.

### 3. Fertilizer

Rich in nitrogen and phosphate - invaluable to crops. Thousands of acres of land are being put under the plough and many new allotments are being made to

increase home production of food stuffs. Additional fertilizers are therefore essential. The bone is finely ground down giving quick availability."

And finally a local document, ANY OLD IRON, has survived:



## Wartime Rudgwick: Roger Moulds's childhood memories at Eames House Roger Nash, Autumn 2008 Newsletter

*These extracts are from the BBC archive on the Second World War. They were written in 2005, and can be found in full in the BBC WW2 People's War pages on the internet. Roger was born in 1936, he was a police officer in the Met and then Findon for many years. During much of the war his family rented Eames House from Billy Butcher, who lived at Southdown House next door, the butcher's shop. Roger lived at Eames with his parents and two brothers. The two properties were legally separated in 1948. The camp referred to was located where Queen Elizabeth Road is now.*

"My father left Worthing Town Council and went to work for an organization called the C.R.E, which was based at Horsham. My understanding is that the C.R.E was a civilian engineering establishment run by the government, and I know that my father was initially involved in setting up defences - airfields, pill boxes, gun emplacements, tank traps, etc. Later he became involved in the building of army camps ready for the D-Day landings, especially one at Rudgwick. We moved into rented accommodation at Eames House, Church Hill, Rudgwick. Even though we lived in the country and did not have to suffer the horrors of the Blitz, everyone's life was centered around, and directed by, the war. My grandfather, Ernest Moulds, who had fought all through the First World War, arrived one day. He was a gardener by trade, and had come to help

my parents dig the garden up. 'Dig for Victory' was the slogan, and dig for victory we did. All the grass went, so therefore, did our football and cricket. As compensation my father found us a little cycle from somewhere - a child's cycle which was described as a 'Fairy Cycle'. We learned to ride by climbing on and falling off, with a competition to see how far one could go before falling off. In less than half a day we were competent cyclists who could even ride with no hands.



L to R: Christopher Moulds, John Kemp, Brian Moulds.  
Inset Roger Moulds (the writer)

As the days went on, convoys of lorries and other army vehicles started to arrive in the village. There were a lot of Americans and Canadians. My two elder brothers had been sent to school at Cranleigh to a school called Carn Brea which I believe to have been evacuated from Bromley 'for the Duration'. They came out of school one day to be met by my uncle, John Wakefield. He was my mother's elder brother and we called him Uncle Jack. He was a sergeant in the 17<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Lancers and had an army scout car. My two brothers rode home with him in the scout car. You can imagine the envy of their school mates as they climbed in and were driven off! I was attending Mrs Aspley's kindergarten school in Rudgwick so I did not get a ride, but when they arrived home I was lifted in and allowed to look round. I could not keep my eyes off the bullets that were lying around. Uncle Jack stayed the night and then we did not see him again until after the war was over. He was later mentioned in Dispatches during the fighting on the Dutch/German border.

During this time, an aunt came to stay for a few days. I knew her as Auntie Edie. She had come to try and see her soldier fiancé, who was based at the Rudgwick army camp. We took her to show her where the soldiers trained to see if she could spot him. Eventually he came marching along in a squad of soldiers and she saw him and waved to him and called his name, and then she just stood there crying. I suppose it was about May of 1944, and there I was, eight years old, holding her hand and saying 'Don't cry, aunty, grown-ups don't cry'.

More and more soldiers and vehicles were pouring into the village. We would sit on the edge of the road and count the transports to see which would be the biggest convoy. I went with my mother on the bus to Guildford one day (single decker, no. 33) suddenly there was a big thud and the bus braked to a halt. My mother told me that a motor cycle dispatch rider had collided with the bus. I asked if he was dead, and she said no, he just had a broken leg. I stood on

the seat and saw the motor cyclist lying at the side of the road. I looked everywhere, but I couldn't see his leg lying anywhere. I thought if you had a broken leg it would be broken right off from your body!

At breakfast one morning, my mother and father started arguing. It seems that late the night before there had been a loud knocking on our front door. When my father opened it, he found a Canadian soldier standing there, the worse for drink. He was clutching an onion, and demanding some bread and cheese to go with it. Father let him in and found him something to eat, and made some tea (no coffee in the house, not even Camp Coffee made from chicory). When my father thought the man was sober enough to return to camp, he sent him on his way. Mother thought drunken soldiers were a disgrace, and it was dangerous to let such men into the house. Father just said, 'Not as dangerous as where he is going,' and that was the end of the argument.

Soon after that the village became very quiet. We heard on the radio that the D-Day landings had taken place. My brothers and I went down to the Camp where most of us youngsters used to wait for soldiers to come out. We would shout out 'Got any gum, chum?' As often as not, chewing gum and pennies would be thrown at us, and there would be a scramble for the pickings. However, on this day the place was deserted. Life went on. We searched the fields looking for Radio Location Paper. These days it is called 'Window', or 'Chaff'. It consisted of lengths of tinfoil, copious amounts of which were thrown out of aircraft to try and deceive the new radar systems. We were forbidden to pick it up in case the Germans had poisoned it, but we tested it first by getting our mongrel dog Mike to sniff at it and hopefully lick it, first.

It was about this time that Brian and I thought we had discovered a German Spy. In a field behind the village we discovered that someone was living in a tent. So we let the tent down and threw it and all the associated belongings over the hedge. Unfortunately we were spotted by the local post woman, whose tent it was, who reported it to our father. Good hidings were duly dished out and we were paraded before the post lady and ordered to apologise. By this time I had become a good cyclist, and one day the village postmaster, Mr Humphries, phoned my mother and asked if I could take a telegram out as he had no one else to take it. I collected the telegram. 'There won't be an answer', he said. (In those days a telegraph boy would deliver a telegram and wait to collect an answer if one was required). I took it to a house where a lady answered the door. She gave me a strange look, but said 'do you want an apple?' I said I would. She went away and read the telegram. When she came back she handed me the apple and shut the door quickly. I felt guilty, but I did not know why. A few weeks later I delivered another telegram under similar circumstances. It was only a few years ago that it suddenly struck me that I had probably been delivering casualty telegrams, but was too young to realize what I was doing.

Flying bombs, or 'Doodlebugs', started coming over. The locals reckoned that they came in from the south, veered right over the church and headed for London. Very little notice was taken of them as we did not consider ourselves to be a target. Then one day, at lunchtime one came over, the engine stopped, and the bomb crashed into a field opposite the house of one of our friends and exploded. Our friend John Kemp had just been made to leave the table to wash his hands when the bomb struck. All the dining room

windows were blown in, and if he had been still sitting at table he would have been seriously, perhaps mortally, wounded. Not far from us there was an airfield at a place called Dunsfold. The US Air Force were sending out bombers every day over Germany. Although it was several miles away, we could always hear the engines starting and warming up. Then they would fly off and gradually the noise would fade into the distance. One morning there was an almighty explosion, followed by a series of smaller explosions which I was told was ammunition going off. Two of the aircraft, with full bomb loads, had collided just after take off.

My best day was Sunday. We lived next door to the village butcher. His name was Mr Butcher. On Sunday mornings he made sausage meat in a great machine which was turned by an enormous handle. I was allowed to turn the handle while he fed the ingredients in. A great deal of herbs and other fillings went in to compensate for the lack of meat. Then we went off in his old brown Ford van, round the village. The broken horn on his van was replaced by him putting his arm out of the window, banging on the body work and shouting 'get out the bloody way'. When we returned from the round he would present me with a parcel to take home, and then we would all breakfast on his truly delicious sausage meat. The Moulds boys sang in the church choir (*see photo earlier*). The family returned to Worthing for a time, and during that time two wartime correspondents stayed in Eames House. Garry Wilmott was a Canadian. He was the London Correspondent with CBC and before the war had been the fastest sports commentator in the world. He was awarded the MBE for his wartime broadcasts. Capt Brian Meredith was broadcasting liaison officer at Canadian Military HQ in London. Eames House is in Church Street at the bottom of Church Hill, a lovely old house, timber-framed with a Horsham stone roof. As far as I know, the butcher had always lived in Eames itself, using the attached Southdown House for the shop and ancillary activities. At some point, perhaps as late as the start of the war, Billy Butcher moved in next door probably to make an income from letting his main house".

### Now I must tell you about our village bomb

Dorothy Black (Autumn Newsletter 1990)

*Dorothy Black - who lived in Dukes Cottage, wrote the following lighthearted article for one of the national newspapers, probably July 1944.*

We at least had the comfort, such as it was, of knowing that The Thing did not really want us. It came whambling in a slightly sick fashion, partially winged, over this remote and forgotten village, among wheat fields and corn fields. Nobody paid much attention to its sick noises. The things are forever going over us here in our front line village, bound for some place else. Even when its engine suddenly stopped no one paid much attention. "After all", said Mr Porter later, "you can't spend your life listening". Mr Porter is our builder, churchwarden, head of the choral society, and organiser of whist drives. A busy man. We were most of us sitting over our sabbath one-and-two-penn'oth when The Thing arrived. All except Mr Hoath, who was on his way back from leading a chant by the choir. He said when it dived out of the mist, right at him, he was too surprised to do anything about it. He just stood staring, and to use his own words, didn't know whether his hat was on or off.

When the dust and the smoke cleared, there he stood, still gaping and unhurt, among flattened hen coops, shattered garages, and a great cloud of chicken feathers. All down the lane slightly cock-eyed cottages disgorged their inhabitants. Some came dashing plaster from their hair. All came helpfully crying: "Is anybody hurt?" Casualties there were, but not among the cottage inhabitants. Except for Mrs Pocket, who, looking from an upper window at an unfortunate moment, got a shutter on her head. And Mrs Porter, on whom a ceiling descended, received cuts and abrasions. "Nothing at all", said Mrs Porter. And one Miss Pilbeam, a spinster of much righteousness, who suffered from shock. No village ever had a better-run bombing. In five minutes the wardens came round to see if there were casualties to persons. As there were none they came back to make lists of damage to buildings. In less than no lime we had a smart grey fire-engine, slightly thwarted at having nothing to put out, and a whole posse of high, wide and handsome policemen. It was the best Sunday the local girls have had since the Americans left. The county surveyor arrived with men and tarpaulins, and a most unattractive material used to replace shattered glass, warranted to keep out the maximum light and air. By tea time the sightseers began to arrive, most of them ladies with unruffled-looking children in prams. They stood gazing at a bald patch in a corn field, a blasted oak tree that had probably saved us from the worse - and what looked like the tortured remains of a sewing machine lying in a small hole. It seemed incredible that so much should come from so little. By 8pm the village was itself again. Some of the cottages wore a jaunty tarpaulin. Some of them had the air of having a black eye and a muffler round their neck. Farmer Dash was rounding up his cows for a late milking. Taking advantage of the general confusion they had all gone browsing in Farmer Buckle's wheat field. But casualties there were. Old Mrs Porringer, weeping bitterly, pointed out two lily white ducks. Incredibly innocent they looked in death, their yellow flappers tucked up. Not a feather was disarranged. They had quite simply expired from shock. "Walt and Minnie, I called them", sobbed Mrs Porringer. "I'll miss them proper. Real nice ducks they were. Ever such company in an evening they've been to me since Porringer was took... Poor little things... They never did anyone any harm..."



Can't even leave the ducks alone, he can't, that man..."

In a heap of plaster in the sitting-room, Mrs Porter dug patiently. Her head was tied up in a rather saucy bandage knotted on top in a pair of

rabbit's ears "You'd think", said Mrs Porter scornfully, "I'd had the mumps". And then she said triumphantly "Ah!" and pounced on all that remained of the Sunday joint. "Can't afford to let that go", said Mrs Porter cheerfully. "Dusted up a bit, I'll be able to do something with it". The moon rose, large and bland, flooding the village street with its white light.



And modestly, keeping to the shadows, like real ladies, victims of a bathing disaster, came Mrs Pocket's chickens. Creeping home. Completely nude.

# Summer walks programme 2025 organised by Geoff Ayres

## RPS Summer Walks 2025

Sunsets May 6<sup>th</sup> 20.31, June 24<sup>th</sup> 21.20, July 29<sup>th</sup> 20.55

Bank Holidays Mon 5<sup>th</sup> May & 26<sup>th</sup> May

*Walks are usually on Tuesdays at 7pm but note that one is on a Wednesday and one on a Friday (when The Blue Ship is open) and one is at 6.30 because of early sunset*

Day/Date	Leader(s)	Starting at	Grid Ref
Tues May 6 <sup>th</sup> 6.30	David Buckley	Rudgwick Village Hall (Bucks Green)	079329
Tues May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Brian Allen	The Onslow Arms (Loxwood)	042312
Tues May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Clive & Nicky Bush	The Red Lyon (Slinfold)	118315
Tues May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Geoff & Jean Ayres	Pephurst Lay-by (Loxwood Road)	056318
Tues June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Steve Kenward	Ellens Green Memorial Hall	100354
Tues June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Cliff Walton	The Scarlett Arms (Walliswood)	118382
Tues June 17 <sup>th</sup>	John Connold	The Sussex Oak (Warnham)	158337
Tues June 24 <sup>th</sup>	<i>The Alan Miles Memorial Walk</i>		
	Stephen Chandler	The Inn on the Green (Ockley)	147402
<b>Wed July 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Malcolm Francis	The Fox to Baynards Station	078330
Tues July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Geoff & Jean Ayres	Near Mucky Duck (Tismans Common)	067323
Tues July 15 <sup>th</sup>	John Connold	Whitehall Lay-by (Cranleigh)	078380
<b>Fri July 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Geoff & Jean Ayres	The Blue Ship (The Haven)	084305
Tues July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Stephen Chandler	The Bat & Ball (Newpound)	060269

See RPS website, RPS Facebook and Rudgwick Magazine for further details and reminders.

Please park considerately. At The Onslow Arms, use the WACT car park accessed through the pub's car park. At The Red Lyon the car park is behind the pub or use street parking. Pephurst Lay-by is on Loxwood Road, on the north side in the woods. At Ellens Green park at the Hall or in the road. At The Scarlett Arms, the car park is opposite the pub. At The Sussex Oak use the pub car park. At the Inn on the Green (on the A29) use the large car park to one side. At The Fox, park in the A281 lay-by. At The Mucky Duck park in the lane beyond the pub. The Whitehall Lay-by is at the bottom of the dip before Cranleigh, on the east side of the B2128. At The Blue Ship park in the lane beyond the pub. At The Bat & Ball park at the rear of the car park.

### Wartime Articles in Past Newsletters and Reviews

Autumn 1990: Rudgwick in the War (Dorothy Black)  
 Autumn 1992: Extracts from the Parish Magazine (1943) (MF)  
 Autumn 1994: Rudgwick Parish Magazine (1939) (MF)  
 Spring 1995: A Pallinghurst Country Gal: A Child's Wartime Memories (Vera Jones)  
 Spring 1995: A Child's Wartime Memories (Part 2)  
 Autumn 1995: Clear Skies: War and Post-War Overflying (MF)  
 Autumn 1998: It's Not Cricket (MF)  
 Autumn 1999: Timber! WW2 Bombs and their Legacy (MF)  
 Autumn 1999: Rudgwick And District Vegetable, Fruit And Flower Shows (1938) (MF)

Autumn 2002: Extracts from Parish Magazine (1940s) (MF)  
 Spring 2004: The Village at War (Rudgwick on D-Day) (MF/Babs McWilliam)  
 Spring 2008: A Rudgwick Land Girl (Cecila Butcher)  
 Autumn 2008: Wartime Rudgwick (RN & Roger Moulds)  
 Autumn 2010: Rudgwick's War Efforts, Parish Magazine 1940s (MF)  
 Autumn 2011: Bucks Green Camp and Resentment of the Army Stationed in Rudgwick (MF)  
 Autumn 2016: Air Raid Precautions Notice (MF)  
 Autumn 2020: Dutch Courage – The Story of Cees Waardenburg (RN)  
 Autumn 2022: Growing up in Rudgwick during World War 2 (Joyce Muir)  
 Autumn 2022: Rudgwick camp – “The Royals” Estate (RN)

## 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