



# Rudgwick Preservation Society Newsletter

LOWNDERS

## Chairman's Report

The past few months have seen the usual business of planning applications and pronouncements by national and local government but potentially the most important development from a local point of view has been the Secretary of State's long-awaited response to the County Structure Plan. The plan has been under his consideration for two and a half years.

After the statutory six week period for the receipt of comment, the West Sussex Structure Plan will be formally adopted and in anticipation of this, the Horsham District Council has already produced the North Horsham District Plan. The Secretary of State's response to the Structure Plan now requires Horsham District Council, as part of their planning for the next decade, to produce an additional 500 new homes. The developments already proposed under the North Horsham District Plan will, in the Society's view, both meet the village's "moral obligation" to absorb some of the existing requirement for new development and put as much additional demand upon local services as they can reasonably absorb. We therefore feel that further development to accommodate some of the extra 500 new homes the Secretary wishes to see in the North Horsham District would be unreasonable and should be resisted if suggested.

This aspect apart, Mr. Ridley's basic philosophy and general comments on the County Structure Plan and the use of the countryside seem to warrant a cautious welcome.

At national level, the most significant development of recent months has been central government's continuing commitment to the abolition of County Structure Plans as originally set out in its consultative document of September, 1986. Abolition would have the effect of making the decision of local District Councils on planning and development matters final apart from appeals directly to the Department of the Environment. The Society has voiced its opposition to this proposal because it feels it increases the power and influence of central government in what are essentially local matters, will lead to conflicts of interest between Districts, will reduce the amount of professional expertise and advice available in making planning decisions, will make it more difficult to adhere to overall County guidelines and will make the now smaller planning authorities potentially more vulnerable to pressure.

We remain concerned about the probable restriction of some agricultural products by the E.E.C. in order to cure the problems of over-productions caused by the Community's common agricultural policy. The fate of many acres of farmland likely to become redundant as a result of the restriction and the other uses to which they may be put will have to be very carefully monitored in the future, as will the welfare of many people working in the industry whose futures may be at risk. The meeting held recently in the Rudgwick Hall by the Sussex Federation of

Amenity Societies highlighted the generally felt concern about changes in land use and access to the countryside.

Now that buildings and structures 50 years old have become eligible for listing as being of special historical or architectural interest, the Society has nominated the Edward VII postbox at Tisman's Common - for the recent replacement of which the Society was responsible - together with the 1935 K6 telephone kiosk. We hope that English Heritage will accept our nomination as the group as a whole makes a significant contribution to the comfort of the local community while maintaining a clear link with a past many in the population are too young to remember. Incidentally to its main claim to listing, the post box at least vindicates the existence and purpose of societies like ours.

JOHN COZENS.

## Lost and Found

"Rudgwick" - from Ridge Wick, a wick being an old term for a settlement-come farm enclosure on the ridge.

Like so many early villages and settlements, from Saxon times, through the Norman period and into the early and late medieval period, the settlement was often no more than a small collection of dwellings usually so close to the Church or Temple, as to almost be part of it. Indeed, many of our listed D.M.V's. (Deserted Medieval Villages) took up no more space than a small paddock or field adjoining the place of worship. A very good example of this can be traced at nearby Ockley.

Now, imagine if you will, an aerial view of our Church as we know it today, in late Autumn

or Mid Winter. From the Church little veins run out across the fields and woods, some to homes still lived in, some past homes that have long since vanished, and some end apparently in the middle of no where.

A few of these so called 'no wheres' were often ancient outlying farms. The veins referred to, are of our lovely old footpaths and bridleways, which show off their beauty in the Spring and Summer, and occasionally reveal hidden secrets in Autumn and Winter, providing one has the optimism to search them over and over, returning home in the evening covered in a distinct outdoor 'Layer'.

Some of you good folk may have seen a few of my metal detector finds displayed at our Annual Meetings; I enjoyed very much talking to you and answering your various questions. Here I should like to take you all along a memorable local search of recent past years.

Not far from our cottage at Baynards, is a footpath (vein.), leading to a circle of trees, within which is the remnants of a moat. Some years ago I began researching this site, and was delighted to find from a very old map, that the place was actually known as "Moated House Farm". - Ah Ha. excitement and such. The old map even showed where a footbridge used to cross the water to the farm building inside the moat. After mentioning all this to the farmer concerned, and duly obtaining permission to use one of those mine sweepers as he put it, plans were laid for a search on the coming Saturday. The late October Saturday dawned slightly misty, then broke into a vivid morning with a cold blue sky and damp yellow leaves falling, as the wind picked up from the North West.

As I walked into the moat

enclosure, a large flock of wood pigeons exploded out of the small trees, now covering an area where people once lived and worked. Water still lays in the North Side of the moat, a wall and a few scattered flagstones mark the area of the old building.

I drank in the scene around me, then knelt down to set up my detector for use on this type of site. The first twenty minutes or so was tricky as this side of the enclosure is fairly contaminated with old iron and window lead left from the main building.

However moving the detector head near to the base of a small ash, a sharp signal in the headphones indicated something small and non ferrous about 6 to 7 inches in the ground. A few seconds later I was admiring a well preserved Victorian halfpenny dated 1865. A little later on in the morning, after retrieving what seemed like hundreds of bits of window lead and countless shotgun cartridge end cases, a very deep signal in the base of the moat itself, produced an early Victorian horse brass at a depth of around 18 inches.

However, feeling that the site had earlier connections, I pressed on hopefully, listening to the faintest sounds discernible from the detector.

On the far side of the moat, optimism finally scored, when climbing the side of the bank a faint signal produced the most beautiful servant's livery button, followed by another of different design only two feet away. Both these buttons are of 18th Century - Georgian gilt type. So the moat is getting older, and they once had servants 'who kept throwing their buttons away.'

Well the winter weekend

searching carried on, and one Sunday in December, after being startled by a weasel popping up in the bowl of an Ash Tree, right near my feet, another small signal invited me to dig carefully beneath an old root. Suddenly there it was, a beautiful medieval spur rowel (the part of a spur that looks like a revolving star) made in brass and dateable by type to around 1450. Over the years finds from this site, date occupation from around 1400 to the Mid-Victorian era. Nothing older yet. and happily no coke cans or dreaded silver paper, both of which litter so much of our countryside.

So I think its fair to say of "Moated House Farm" that it was one little spot on one of the veins from the Church, to be thought of as Lost and Found.

PAUL.V.FRENCHUM

## Riggewick in 1341

Some years ago the late Paul Adorian gave me a copy of a document headed "Riggewyke", written in Latin. The same document included Chiltyngton, Fyndon, Pulbergh and Billyngeshurst. With the kind help of Patricia Gill, the County Archivist, it was discovered that this was the 1802 edition of the NONAE ROLLS of 1341. These record the inquisitions taken to ascertain the value of a tax of a ninth on sheaves, fleeces and lambs to be paid by all those lay people who lived by agriculture, to pay for the French and Scottish Wars. The details about the income of the Church are given because the amount of tax paid was dependent on the value of the church.

The following is the extract referring to Riggewyke:

## Com' Suffex. Inquisitiones Nonarum.

### RIGGEWYKE.

Inquisitio capt' cor' Henr' Hufce & sociis suis affessoribz & venditor' non' garb' vellez & agn' in com' Suffex' apud Lewes die sicut' px' post in anu' a'ois be Mar' anno r. dni reg' Angl' xv<sup>o</sup> regni vero sui Ffrncie s'ido de valore ecclie de Riggewyke que extendit ad xx mare' p' facim' Thom' le Marchal' Johis atte Arette Willi de Bernekneppe & Ric' de Weyhurst poch' d'ce ecclie q' dicit p' facim' suu' qd' i' pars garb' ecclie p'de valet hoc anno ix marc' & non' ps veller' ejusdm' ecclie valet hoc anno viij' & non' pars agn' valet h' anno v' iij'. Sui x marc' & non' plus quia rector & vicar' ecclie p'de hnt de dote ecclie tue liq' ac' f're arabil' que valent p' ann' xxij' j' p' ac' v'. Et x ac' s'ite & pallur' q' valent p' ann' v'. Et tenu' qd' valet p' annu' xx'. Itm' dicit' qd' edificia gardin' & curtilag' ad d'eam eccliam spectant' valent p' annu' xj' viij' Itm' j' zer' & j' rod' p'ti q' valent p' annu' iij'. Itm' de redd' ass' ad val'cia xxj' v' p' ann'. In p'quis' cur' ad valenc' vj' viij' p' ann'. Itm' p'deus rector hit ij' molend' aquatic' ad d'eam eccliam sua sp'iant' q' valent p' ann' xxx'. In opibz ant'ipual' q' valent p' ann' ij' viij' ob'. Itm' h' p'deus rector ij' gallos & xiiij' gallin' de f'dd' ad eccliam sua sp'iat' q' valent p' annu' xxij'. Et dicit' ecclia qd' oblat'oes d'ce ecclie cu' mortuar' valet p' annu' lx'. Et cetera ejusdm' ecclie valet p' ann' xxvj' viij'. Et decime villos porcell' auc' & colubell' valent p' annu' xj'. Et daeria valet p' ann' vj' viij'. Et decime canabi & lin' valent p' annu' v'. Et decima mell' ij'. Et decima ov' xx'. Sui xvij' marc' xij' viij' ob'. Et dicit' ecclia qd' sunt in d'ca poch' iij' c' ac' f're que jacet frisee & inculte que solebat valere xxv' p' ann'. Et dicit' qd' no' sunt in d'ca poch' aliq' b'efic' cardinal' neq' m'cutores set poch' q' vivit de pris & laboribz eoz. In cui' rei testum tam sigill' p'deoz affessor' & vend' ijm' sigill' p'deoz jur' p'sent' indetur' alienati' sunt appensa. Dat' apud Lewes die & anno s'dictis.

This is an intriguing document, giving an interesting background to life in Rudgwick over 600 years ago. In these remote times the Church was prosperous, owning much of the land and a number of rents and other income which are clearly identified. It is worthy of note that it owned two watermills, which must have been Wanford Mill and Gibbons Mill. As no other name is recorded which could be taxed, since "the parishioners live off the land by their own labour", it was probably a relatively poor parish. As we know only too well, the land was of wealden clay, and without modern aids must have been difficult to manage. This is confirmed by the fact that it is recorded that 300 acres, probably owned by the Church, was left fallow and uncultivated. From early maps there were only cart tracks as a means of transport, and for much of the year the village would be isolated during bad weather. Life must have been hard and uneventful, but

perhaps as the possibility of improvement hardly existed for ordinary folk, men were not driven by ambition, acquisitiveness and self-interest as we are in the 20th century, with its consequent tensions and frustrations.

There are a number of philosophical questions arising out of the contrasting life styles of the 14th and 20th centuries, which would help towards a better understanding of life in the Middle Ages. The Church must have played an important part in the social life of the community; and a fair was held in Rudgwick at the feast of the Holy Trinity to whom the Church was dedicated. There is no reference to this part of Sussex in the Domesday Book as the heavily wooded Weald was inaccessible and remote.

The four named local men would have been leading inhabitants of the parish, and they gave the necessary information on oath. With reference to Mower & Stenton's Place-names of Sussex (C.U.P.), the four men named in Nonae Rolls are identified as follows:

Thomas le Marchal is Thomas le Mareschal (1327.SR), identified with Marshall's Farm (cf. Marachales in 1386 IpmR).

John atte Arette appears as de Alrette (1279.Ass); atten Alrette (14th Bodl. 183); atte Nalrette (1305.FF), and atte Naldratte (1408.Pens), and this family took its name from Naldrett House.

William de Bernekneppe is probably associated with Barnsfold, when the name is recorded as Bernefolde in (1279.Ass.).

Richard de Weyhurst can be identified with Weyhurst Farm, which is referred to in the early 13th Bodl.169, 1332.SR, 1352 LibA (allp); Wehurst in 1279.Ass(p); and Wayhurst in 1427 Pens.

## Rudgwick Nonae Inquisitions

Inquisition taken before Henry Husee and his fellow assessors and accountants, of the 9ths of sheaves, fleeces and lambs in the County of Sussex at Lewes, the Wednesday after the Annunciation, 15 (Edward III) of the value of the church of Rudgwick, which extends to 20 marks, by oath of Thomas le Marchal, John atte Arette, William de Berneknepe and Richard de Weyhurst, parishioners of the said church, who say on their oath that a 9th part of the corn of the said church is worth 9 marks and the 9th part of the fleeces of the said church is worth 8s. this year, and the 9th part of the lambs, are worth 5s 4d. Total 10 marks and no more because the Rector and Vicar of the said church have from the endowment of the church 53a. arable land which is worth 22s 1d. per annum, at a price of 5d. per acre. And 10a. wood and pasture which is worth 5s. per annum. And hay which is worth 20s. per annum. Also they say that the buildings, garden and curtilage belonging to the church are worth 11s. 8d. per annum. Also 1a. lr. meadow which is worth 4s. per annum. Also assise rents to the value of 21s 5d. per annum. Perquisites of court to the value of 6s 8d. per annum. Also the said Rector has 2 watermills belonging to his said church which are worth 30s. per annum, and harvest works to the value of 2s 7 d. per annum. Also the said Rector has 2 cocks and 14 hens which belong to the income of the church, which are worth 23d. per annum.

And they also say that the offerings to the said church as mortuary fees are worth 40s. a year. The cider of the said church is worth 26s 8d. And the tithes of calves, pigs, geese and doves is worth 12s. a year. And the dairy is worth 6s 8d. a year. And the tithes of hemp and flax are worth 5s. a year. And the tithes of honey 2s. And the tithes of eggs 20d. Total 17 marks 12s 8 d. And they also say that there are in this parish 300a. of land which lies fallow and uncultivated which used to be worth 25s. a year. And they say that there are in this parish no major estates, nor any merchants, but the parishioners live off the land of their own labour.

In witness whereof the seals of the assessor and accountants and the seals of the aforesaid jurors have been fastened alternately to the indenture. Given at Lewes the day and year above written.

(Patricia Gill)

Paul Adorian also had in his possession a document for the Piggott family re: Howyke (Howick) Farm, ref: Fitzhall Estate, witnessed by:  
Thomas le Mareschal  
William atte Naldrett  
Richard de Weyhurst  
dated 3rd April, 1346.

It is noteworthy that these three names appear in the Nonae Rolls, and the four farms, Howick, Marshalls, Naldrett and Weyhurst survived until modern times.

There is a wealth of information about the early background of our old village, and there is an interesting story waiting to be told.

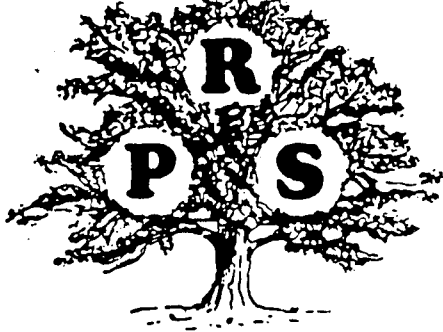
STAN SMITH.

## MEMORIES OF OLD RUDGWICK

If you have memories of what village life was like in Rudgwick why not tell our members about it? Who for example remembers the 'cherry Fair' (or was it Fayre?) or Dr Boxall's penny readings? These and many more stories of old Rudgwick are waiting to be told. Why not put your memories down on paper and let us publish them in a future edition of the Newsletter.

Send your stories to:

Leslie Hawkins,  
11, Gaskyns Close, Rudgwick.



# RUDGWICK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

is pleased to announce that

☀ the **AUTUMN MEETING** ☀  
will be on **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November**  
at **7.30 pm Rudgwick Hall, Bucks Green**

when **GEORGE M<sup>c</sup>CARTHY**  
will be giving an illustrated talk on  
☀ **"THE FOUR SEASONS"** ☀

GEORGE M<sup>c</sup>CARTHY lives in Horsham and is a professional wildlife photographer and naturalist. In this evenings lecture he takes us through a typical year and, with the aid of his camera, reveals much of Sussex wildlife that most of us never see.

Do you know how to tell the sex of an adder by the shape of its tail?  
Do you know why the marbled white butterfly was known as the half-mourner in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?  
Can you explain how badger cubs are born in February if the gestation period is 2 months and yet the adults have mated in June or July?

Find out the answers to these and many more interesting facts, much of which will be revealed by beautiful photography in a talk that will be enjoyed by all the family.

Coffee will be served in the interval

☀ **ALL ARE WELCOME!** ☀