

RPS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2013

Chairman's Report

Your chairman is pleased to be able to tell you that he is making solid progress after his accident in late July, so he is now back to researching Rudgwick, as can be seen inside this Newsletter. After a further hospital stay, expected in February or March, he will be working to get fit to lead walks next Summer.

If you have not yet seen the booklet produced by the parish church to celebrate the centenary of **St John's** in Tisman's Common, you can probably still get one from the church office. The open afternoon in late September was the sort of event seldom seen in the village – how often do we celebrate centenaries? Congratulations to the team who put it on, and to Peter Silk who created the booklet. I have to admit an interest here as I was able to contribute some of the content by researching in , among other places, the early parish magazine volumes in Horsham Museum.

We will not now be getting a development at **Summerfold** as it was turned down on appeal, but we need to be alert for a subsequent planning application on this site, which we think has very inappropriate access, to name but one objection. However, the **Windacres Farm** site has now received the go ahead from HDC. Hitherto, it was still subject to some tweaking of important issues which have now apparently been resolved between the parties concerned. When it will be built is anyone's guess.

The end of brick making at the former **brickworks** in Lynwick Street could have resulted in very unfortunate consequences had it been sold to a developer with little empathy for the community. That R Harrison & Sons have purchased the entire site is good news for us all. Whoever bought the site would have had to infill the pit, under an old agreement, to its original profile (though not to its original partly wooded vegetation). Woodsomes Farm will gain new pastures and we will gain new vistas from the Border Path, as well as from Lynwick Street. That will take time, but there are already small rural businesses in the former offices, ones we can all benefit from. RPS wish them well. We have met recently with Tim



Harrison, and feel confident we have a line of communication should we have any concerns. It is in all our interests to support the British dairy industry.

Our speaker at the Autumn Meeting (see insert for details) is someone we have heard before, who impressed us with her lightness of touch and rapport with the audience. We can all see **Chanctonbury Ring** from Rudgwick, and this well known landmark is the subject of **Janet Pennington's** talk on Monday 2nd December – mince pies and wine as usual – so come along and start Christmas with us, and bring your friends.

Have you paid your **subscription**? Please read what the Treasurer has to say! (page 2). We really value your membership and support.

We are trying very hard, in our not very learned way, to get to grips with a potential new **website** to replace our rather clunky wiki-website. Hopefully, we shall have cracked it as predicted by the AGM! We have been considering a BT and a Wordpress one. At the time of writing we are leaning towards the latter. Your committee has co-opted, and welcomes, Helen Leech who will help us to complete this task.

Roger Nash

Note from the Treasurer

A change in the RPS accounting year.

For many years the Society's accounts have been drawn up for the twelve months from 1st. April to 31st. March in the following year. This means that members have been asked to pay their subscription for the years 2011-12, 2012-13 and so on — an 'overlapping' of years.

We all, with the probable exception of accountants when exercising their professional duties, think in calendar years - and since the use of 'overlapping years' has been the cause of some confusion, especially when a member is catching up on a payment missed in a previous year, your committee has decided that our accounts shall be maintained, beginning in this year 2013, on a calendar year basis.

This year's accounts will be drawn up, therefore, for the nine months 1st. April to 31st. December and thereafter on a calendar year basis beginning 1st. January, 2014. This change will have minimal impact upon members' subscriptions.

1. Subscriptions are unchanged and will continue to be credited to members in the month in which they appear in the society's bank statement from a standing order or are otherwise received by the treasurer. There is no need to change the payment date on existing standing orders.
2. The preferred payment date for new standing orders will be 'immediately' (for the first payment) and thereafter annually on 1st. January each year.
3. Members joining the society in October, November or December in any year will be asked to set up their standing order commencing on the following 1st. January.

The treasurer will be happy to answer any questions arising from this change.

David Rigby Tel:(01403) 822522

PS. At the end of September some 70 subscriptions remained unpaid. Would late payers please pay their subscription to the treasurer, to any committee member or at the Autumn Meeting

Planning Matters

Vanessa Sanderson

Horsham District Planning Framework

Horsham District Council is in the process of reviewing its planning framework and the Preferred Strategy is a plan to take the District to 2031 and beyond. At the heart of the strategy there are proposals for more business space and homes with a focus on provision for local people.

The Preferred Strategy provides for an average of **575 homes per year** to 2031. However nearly two thirds of these homes are already being built or are in the pipeline with existing planning permissions. Of the remaining third that need to be allocated, most of the new housing is identified on the site north of Horsham but also includes a number of other elements.

Despite earlier proposals by developers for thousands of homes, this new strategy does not identify building any more homes in **Billingshurst** than the **510** that are already the subject of a planning appeal.

At **Southwater** the new strategy moves a long proposed housing development of around **500** homes away from the most sensitive areas such as the grade 2 listed farm house and minimises the impact on the working farm.

The strategy anticipates that **500** homes will be provided across much of the District through **Neighbourhood Development Plans** which have been introduced by the Government. This new style of planning will give residents the opportunity for the first time to determine what their communities need and where. It is likely to mean small scale, sympathetic builds which meet local needs and provide infrastructure for local people.

The Preferred Strategy document can be read on the HDC website at www.horsham.gov.uk which sets out the timetable for the progress of the strategy. It is anticipated that it will be adopted by **spring 2015** after all the relevant procedures have been completed.

Housing Needs Survey

Rudgwick Parish Council has recently reported the summary of the housing needs survey undertaken by Action in Rural Sussex (AirS) in the spring. It is apparent that 54 households have been identified as being in housing need of affordable housing and a detailed report is available on request from the Parish Clerk. Sadly it is some considerable time

since any affordable housing was built in Rudgwick, the last being at Churchmans Meadow 13 years ago.

Hopefully now the results of the survey are known some urgent attention can be given to identifying some land in Rudgwick to address the need for the provision of an affordable scheme through a joint partnership venture with HDC, the Parish Council and a Registered Social Landlord. The lack of any new affordable housing was identified as an issue in the Rudgwick Parish Plan in 2006 so it is long overdue.

The Future of Fracking

There has been considerable discussion in the media recently about shale gas fracking with particular focus on the village of Balcombe with much negative publicity. The **Campaign to Protect Rural England** (CPRE) has recently entered the debate to bring some clarity to the polarised debate and to give a voice to both sides. In the summer issue of their magazine **Countryside Voice - Opinion** the two sides of the issue are addressed both for and against and people are invited to join the debate on their website.

Successive governments have failed to address our long term energy requirements and urgent work is needed to put systems in place to ensure that the lights do not go out. It is clear that renewables do not generate sufficient energy for our needs and are not economic with the subsidies that are needed and carbon taxes imposed by governments to make them work. Therefore we need a robust energy mix and fracking should be part of those options along with nuclear. One of the CPRE contributors Dr Christopher Green, an independent fracking expert, argues that recent studies from the US confirm that shale gas is less carbon intensive than coal and therefore Britain would be less dependant on energy imports but would create many jobs in local communities that need that economic stimulation.

He sets out the technical detail about the risk of seismic activity and possible water contamination. He also addresses the landscape & environmental impact and argues that with the right streamlined regulatory process we could develop expertise that can then be exported to show the world how to do it right.

Tales of Two Countesses... **Geoff Ayres**

Lady Egg

Behind the church, only a few metres from the back gate, is a simple gravestone marked "Marjorie Countess of Eglinton and Winton". Marjorie was the second daughter of Thomas Walker McIntyre a very wealthy ship owner, of Sorn Castle in East Ayrshire, Scotland, and his wife Jeanie Paterson Galloway. She married Guy Fitzpatrick Roger Vernon on 30 April 1914, but only weeks later, on 11 June 1914, Guy died of injuries received in a car crash. On 16 August 1922, the widow Marjorie Vernon married Archibald Seton Montgomerie, 16th Earl of Eglinton and Winton, becoming Countess. Archibald died on 22 April 1945 leaving Marjorie a widow for the second time. In about 1952 Marjorie moved to Mill Hill in Rudgwick, living there until her death at Midhurst on 7 December 1963, aged 71. I am told she was known in the village as Lady Egg. After her death, her son, the Hon Roger Hugh Montgomerie DFC, lived at Mill Hill for a few years, and then at Rudgwick Grange. He moved to Scotland in about 1978, which left this very Scottish Countess buried far from her home and family.

The "£23,000-a year Countess"

At the end of 1934 and beginning of 1935 there was a sensational court case, which the national newspapers found an irresistible story. It involved Elizabeth Countess de Pret Roose, of Berkley House, Mayfair. Elizabeth was the daughter of Charles Tuller Garland, a famous Anglo-American sportsman millionaire. When her father died in 1921 she inherited a life interest in £1.275 million, at that time about £23,000 per annum (about £1.4 million today). On 7 July 1924 she married Count Charles de Pret Roose, a Belgian aristocrat and sportsman. He had an income of a few hundreds per annum. After their marriage she gave him an allowance of £4,000 p.a. for his hunting, shooting and polo, and bought a sporting estate, Gaddesby Hall in Leicestershire, on which she paid all the running costs. They had two sons, a year apart, but the marriage came under strain as the couple had few interests in common. Elizabeth fell in love with a married man. Major Charles Loraine Carlos Clarke was married to Lady Eileen Maud Juliana Knox, daughter of the 5th Earl of Ranfurly. When Lady Eileen found out, she divorced the Major, naming Elizabeth as co-respondent. In those days that would mean she would not get custody of her children. Elizabeth alleged that the Count had threatened to remove the boys to Belgium, and used this as a lever to get £8,000 a year for their education etc. (already paid for), the continued use of Gaddesby Hall, and an allowance of £3,000 increasing to £5,000 in a year or two. She was allowed to keep her own clothes (laughter in court). Elizabeth lost her case, and married Major Clarke on 9 Dec 1936. Major Clarke was a very keen cricketer having played at Eton in matches against Winchester College and the MCC. Elizabeth bought Ellens at Ellens Green, and built him a first class cricket ground next to the house, the pavilion is now a farmhouse. Some very high profile matches were played there. However their love did not last and both of them married again. Elizabeth was killed on 5 March 1973, when the DC-9 aircraft carrying her from Palma to London, collided with another aircraft and crashed at Nantes, Bretagne.

Rudgwick: a centre of market gardening and fruit farming

Roger Nash

Introduction

I have written in the Rudgwick Magazine about the development in about 1890 of small holdings of commercial glasshouses, orchards and other horticultural crops along Arundene Lane in Tisman's Common. Interest was originally sparked by the discovery that Sunnyside Nurseries was listed in the 1891 census. Since then, much more information has come to light, thanks to a collection of deeds lent to me by Judy Martin-Jenkins.

Kingsfold Farm, now Rudgwick Grange, was a typical Rudgwick farm of 139 acres on the tithe map in 1840, owned and occupied by yeoman farmer William Wooberry. His land east of the road to Loxwood went to the banks of the Arun, bounded north east by Exfold and south by Hale. Two generations of Wooberrys from Cranleigh worked this land. In 1785 the land tax assessment gave the owner as Samuel Dendy, farmed by Parkhurst Elliott, both local families. The size of the farm varied – 110 acres in 1851 after the death of the elder William Wooberry, but up to 154 by 1861. The increase is partly explained by the addition of 5 acres of land allotted to the younger William Wooberry in the enclosure of Exfoldwood Common in 1855: some on Loxwood Road either side of Motts Cottage, some land where cottages such as The Riddens and High View Villas were built later.

Twelve years later Wooberry died at the age of 58. His two brothers had moved away on the death of their father, and William was unmarried.

The farm was sold in 1867 by brother James of Smokejack Farm, Abinger to James Wiley. Nothing is known of Wiley. A son took exams to enter London University, from Rudgwick, in 1867. We may suppose the Wileys were attracted to Rudgwick by its new rail connections. Wiley probably enlarged the farmhouse - described in

The Times in 1867 as "modern" and in 1870, when he sold it after only three years, as "substantial, contains seven bedrooms, dining and drawing room". Gentrification was continued by subsequent owners. It is likely he built Lilac and Well Cottages, then three small worker's cottages, before he left as they were shown in the map accompanying the indenture on 2 acres of the old common.

Kingsfold Farm becomes Arun Bank estate, 1870

Daniel Mackenzie gave a London address and paid £6,600 for the 152 acre farm. Like other wealthy contemporary incomers, he too would have found the railway link essential. He was a Scot and a ship owner, probably from Glasgow. He re-named

Sussex, near the Surrey border.—A Gentleman's Residence and Pleasure Farm, in the beautiful country between Guildford and Horsham, two miles from Rudgwick Station and seven miles from Horsham.

MESSRS. DEBENHAM, TEWSON, FARMER, and BRIDGEWATER are instructed by the resident owner to **SELL** at the Mart, on Tuesday, August 7, at 2, the very attractive **FREEHOLD ESTATE** known as Arun Bank, in the parish of Rudgwick, only about 35 miles by road from London, and yet in the midst of the most perfect country quietude and retirement. It consists of a gentleman's farmhouse and ample homestead and several cottages. The house is surrounded by charming gardens, with conservatory and vinery, in full bearing, pleasure grounds, orchards, park-like pastures, with a long avenue drive from the main road, with a lodge at entrance, the whole forming as nice a moderate-sized property (about 155 acres) as can be desired. It has been occupied and farmed by the owner for the last 18 years. The land, naturally good in quality, has been highly cultivated, and is now in fine condition. There is a large proportion of rich old pasture sloping down to the river Arun, the surface is pleasantly undulating and richly timbered, scenery good, neighbourhood most enjoyable and well peopled, a capital hunting district, being in the neighbourhood of the meets of three packs of fox hounds, fishing and boating in the Arun, good shooting on the estate, and additional shooting could be obtained in the immediate neighbourhood. Early possession of the whole will be given. Particulars of Messrs. Flux, Son, and Co., Solicitors, 3, East India-avenue; and of the Auctioneers, No. 80, Cheapside. From the latter cards to view can be obtained.

Arun Bank, offer for sale, The Times, 16 June 1888

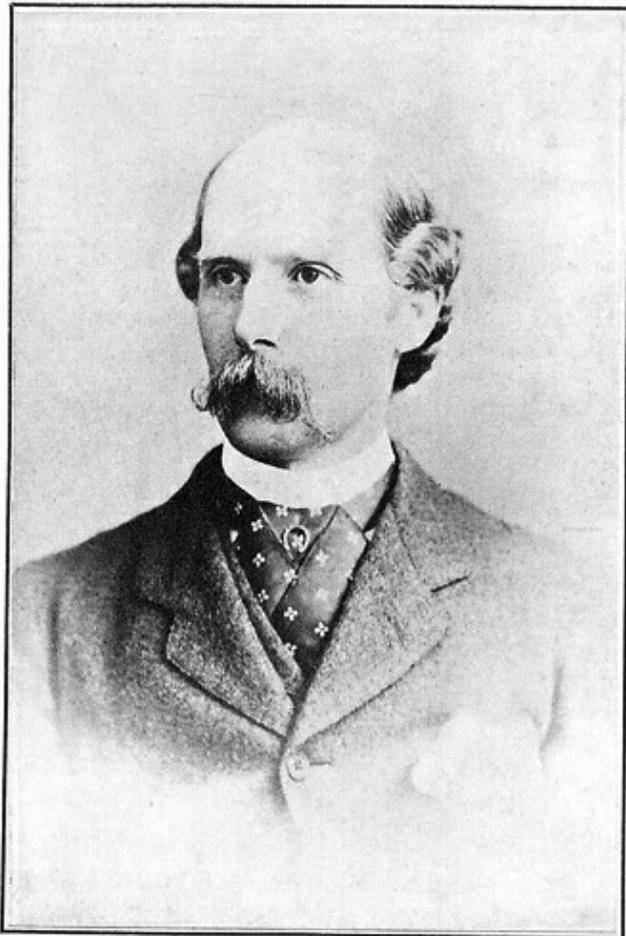
Wiley's cottages 1-3 Clyde Cottages, giving credence to his Glasgow origins. He added No 4 Clyde Cottages [Clyde Cottage today] further down the lane. Moreover, Kingsfold became Arun Bank, a distinct nod in the direction of "Clydebanks". "Pleasure grounds" were laid out around the farmhouse. Mackenzie farmed the land with a succession of bailiffs. He also built a lodge at the entrance off Loxwood Road, and added a pair of cottages to barns where now stands Rolls Farm. The name Rolls was not new. Both the barn and the

lag or valley followed by the road to the farm had been Rools on the tithe map and Rowls in the sale of 1870.

Arun Bank took over a year to sell when Mackenzie moved out in December 1889. Read the description of the grounds on page 4.

Christopher Walker starts a horticultural industry, 1889-1901

Christopher Walker was heir to a Halifax woollen mill renowned nationwide well into the 20th century, at least by knitters, for its Ladyship knitting wools, manufactured by the family firm, Baldwin & Walker Ltd. Walker was reluctant to stay in Yorkshire on health grounds, so he left Halifax for good (a company history provides the photo, below. His £6,000 purchase of Arun Bank in 1889 was significant for Rudgwick. There was no increase in value from 1870 as it was a time of agricultural depression. He immediately threw his undoubted business skills into developing the estate as a collection of enterprises, initially for rent or lease. He also began his own horticultural enterprise, planting an orchard and building a range of



CHRISTOPHER WALKER
(Taken about 1885).

glasshouses south of his house. Part of the estate was divided along an axis created by putting in a new back entrance, now known as Arundene Lane. The only other contemporary cluster of horticultural enterprises in trade directories of the time was on the sandy soils of Pulborough. It was a brave, possibly foolhardy man, who tried to do the same on our heavy clay! Sited above the Arun valley, air could drain downhill so his choice of land was not in a frost pocket. The businesses prospered. No doubt the railway station provided essential access to the growing London markets, enabling him to compete with numerous market gardens in rural Middlesex and Kent.

Within 2 years, there were four new businesses and homes. Arthur Terry at Sunnyside, a mineral water manufacturer from Shoreditch, Edgar Coryn, the son of a surgeon from Cornwall, Henry Hunt from Kent, and Frank Austin, a brewer from Berkshire were all incomers and pioneers with no apparent experience.

Walker himself did not stay long, moving to near Potters Bar in Hertfordshire in 1896, so he leased "Arun Bank Glasshouses and Premises" to William Henry Hoare, Esq, the next year, on a 5 year term, expiring 29 Sep 1902. Rent was £59 per annum. There was a manager's cottage [now Arun Cottage], nine horticultural buildings (7 were glasshouses) and various fixtures, a packing shed and 3 acres of market garden, situated where Rudgwick Fruit Farm is today. WH Hoare became a longstanding Rudgwick resident, moving later to Dunton (now Wagonford) in Bucks Green, where he died in the 1940s.

A page from the schedule in the 1897 lease (over page) is a fascinating insight into the nature of the business Walker had created. The word "shop" refers to workshop/packing shed. Of course, there are so many things we can never know as supporting documents are unlikely ever to surface, but the list of some 180 apple trees and some 220 cordon apples, plums and pears is not only historically interesting but evocative of rare varieties alongside familiar ones that have stood the test of time. Only 'Willington' failed to come up in Google, but it may be the extremely rare Withington Fillbasket. How much more evocative would an inventory of the plants, flowers and salads grown in the glasshouses have been! Did Rudgwick families earn extra in the orchards at harvest time? The 1897 Ordnance Survey map shows about 2 acres of fruit around a packing shed and a separate cluster of glasshouses. At about 50 standard trees per acre there must have been some further planting around the glasshouses, as shown on later maps.

The Schedule *above referred to.*

In Shop. The Benches under windows, Carpenter Bench, Seventy three Lights, Lead-lined Water Tanks six feet six inches by two feet nine inches

Greenhouse No. 2. ^{One} Galvanized Iron Tank and water supply

| | | | | |
|-------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Ditto | No. 11. One | Ditto | ditto | ditto |
| Ditto | No. 5. Two | Ditto | ditto | ditto |
| Ditto | No. 6. Two | Ditto | ditto | ditto |
| Ditto | No. 7. Two | Ditto | ditto | ditto |
| Ditto | No. 8. One | Ditto | ditto | ditto |
| Ditto | No. 9. Two | Ditto | ditto | ditto |

The Furnace complete.

The Windmill Pump.

The Safety Valve to the water supply on Brick Tank

The following Trees:

Twenty nine Bush Trained Ribston Pippins

Thirty ditto Cox's Orange

Nineteen ditto King of Pippins

Twenty two ditto Lord Suffield

Thirty seven ditto Stirling Castle

Twenty eight ditto Early Harvest

Twenty six ditto Lane's Prince Albert

Forty eight Gordon trained Cox's Orange

Twenty four ditto Wellington

Thirty two Bush trained Damsons

Thirty two ditto Victoria Plums

Thirty two ditto Early Rivers Plums

Fifty five Gordon trained Pears.

cottages were sold to local farmer Michael Underwood of Hornshill, remaining in his family until 1942.

After a short break, sales continued in 1900:

- The remaining 8 acres of Riddens Field (on part of which Woodfalls would later be built, also probably by Karl Luckner) to Mrs Georgina Edwards, an Australian author of Ravenscourt Park in London.

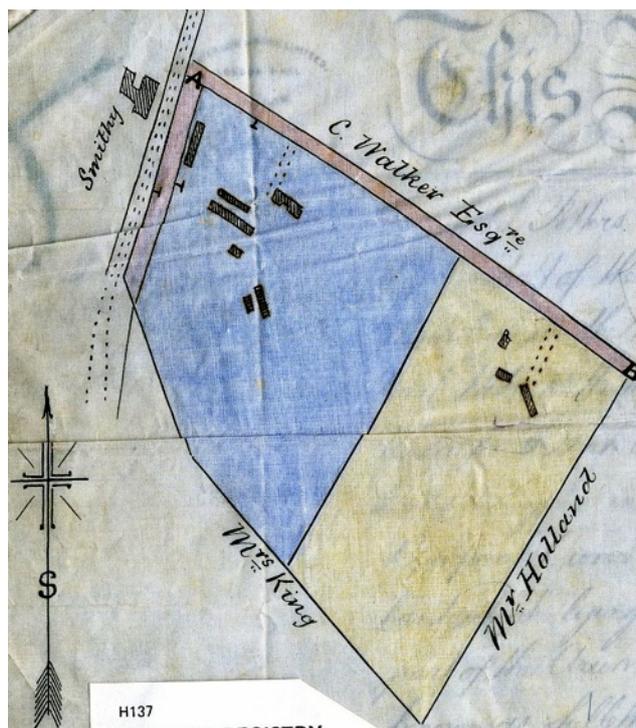
- Snowdrift Farm (also called Snowdrift Green, 1902), 5 acres, to Sir Phillip Magnus of Chilworth, Surrey. Snowdrift and Strawberry Gardens were semi-detached cottages built opposite the Mucky Duck. Much of this land is now Barnsfold Nurseries. Sir Philip, incidentally, was a distinguished Jewish figure in public life, instrumental in the early development of technical education in England. Why he wanted this land is a mystery, but he set up Fred Street's brother, John at Snowdrift as a fruit grower.

And in 1901:

- 4 acres of land called Sulletts with another 4 acres, all for £1000, to German-born Stephen Dahse of Honor Oak, Surrey, a wine and spirit importer, but a fruit grower in the 1901 census. These two plots later became Arundene Orchards (map, below).

Similarly, the farm (now 108 acres) was leased in 1898 to farmer Frank Adams from Croydon. Then in quick succession starting that year, the now absent Walker sold off:

- Sunnyside, 3 acres, to John Holland, a florist in The Strand, London, described as a nurseryman in 1901.
- 4, Clyde Cottages, and adjacent grassland [on which Fairlawn and High View Villas would soon be built] to Mrs Clara Humphrey of Broom Hall, Baynards. Mr & Mrs Humphrey moved to 2, High View Villas. Sale particulars in 1900 point to Karl Luckner and his German workers as the builders.
- Part of Riddens Field to Fred Street, who self-built his eponymously named cottages on land facing Loxwood Road. He became a market gardener himself as well as the village carrier.
- The cottages and land of 1-3 Clyde Cottages for £280 to one of the tenants, Mrs Louisa Ward. She was the soon to be widowed daughter-in-law of Henry Ward, a glazier [see below]. In 1901, the



By 1901, Hoare had installed Henry Woodhatch to manage his leasehold fruit and glasshouse farm. John Holland was an employer at the Sunnyside nursery, Stephen Dahse, likewise, at "Arundene", its new name, as fruit grower. John Street lived at Snowdrift (fruit farmer), one of his employees (market gardener) at Strawberry Gardens. All these enterprises had family homes attached, and all had glasshouses.

As a footnote to this formative period in the history of Arun Bank, a thread in censuses relates to the building and maintenance of all these glasshouses. Where Arundene Lane meets Loxwood Road, the attractive property we know as Farriers was the Tismans Common smithy for most of the 19th century, owned latterly by the Sands family, who profited greatly from the additional work created by the businesses unexpectedly developing on their doorstep. James Sands diversified as a wheelwright, ironmonger, wood, coal & coke merchant, carman, and hirer of wagonettes. His lodgers were the glazing and plumbing brothers Henry and Archibald Ward, whose father ran a similar business building glasshouses and providing water pumps and heating furnaces in the Kent market gardens. Henry later moved to Clyde Cottages, describing his business as horticultural builder & house decorator, plumber & hot water fitter, but he died at a relatively young age leaving a widow with sufficient funds to buy her cottage and its neighbours, as described above. It is likely the Wards installed the one remaining water pump opposite the Mucky Duck, then known as The Cricketers, which itself must also have had a profitable business both as an inn and as a grocery shop.

In Conclusion

Between 1901 and 1908, two further owners of Arun Bank came and went, before the next significant owner took on the remaining estate, renaming it Rudgwick Grange. The buyer was Mrs Jeanne Goodridge, wife of Rear Admiral Walter Goodridge, who had spent much of his celebrated career in the east as Director of the Royal Indian Marine. He was the founder of Rudgwick Fruit Farm and School, developing the original Christopher Walker enterprise into 28 acre of orchard and glasshouses. Much of the land owned by the smaller enterprises was also developed as orchards, as shown dramatically on the 1912 Ordnance Survey map. Any relationship between these "independents" and Goodridge is unknown. The subsequent story of his tenure and the 20th century development of Rudgwick's glasshouse and orchard fruit enterprises now represented by Barnsfold Nurseries will be the subject of a future article.

A Sad Tale Malcolm Francis

Rudgwick had a taxi service even back at the start of the twentieth century. George Standing was the cab proprietor. In those days the taxi was a horse drawn fly. A fly is described as a public coach or delivery wagon that was let out for hire. My late uncle, Harold Francis, who was born in 1903, used to tell me that when he was a young lad, one of the games he and his brothers played was to climb on the back of the fly, driven by George Standing, as it travelled up from the front entrance to Rudgwick station. George used to use his whip in an attempt to dislodge the lads taking a free ride on the rear of the cab. My late mother in law, Babs McWilliam recalled that she remembered George meeting every train that stopped at Rudgwick station. I have come across a sad tale regarding George Standing that is worth recounting.

Roger Nash has researched George Standing's earlier years and has made a few guesses regarding George's career where the facts are missing. He came to Rudgwick around 1900 and was a coachman in domestic service living in Cox Green, with his wife Mary and a growing family. It is assumed that he would have been working for Mr Braby at Maybanks. George Standing then moved to Webbs cottage, in Church Street and by 1905 the family were living at Dale Cottage just at the top of Station Road.

It is possible that Mr Braby owned the land on which Dale Cottage was built as Mr Braby's father owned Parsonage Farm, and land to the east of Church Street, Greathouse Farm, and land to the west of Church Street and the Swaynes estate. Mr Braby had built the semidetached cottages that still stand in Station Road. It is only a theory that Mr Braby could have set up George Standing in business, as he would need a fly to fetch and carry him to the station. I understand that a brother of Mr Braby, who lived in Horsham, was very generous to his coachman that he employed on his Horsham estate. We know that George Standing's family was growing as they had ten children and Dale Cottage had a lot more room than Webb's cottage.

Records show that the children were named, George, Mary, Edith, Albert, Charles, Emily, Alfred, Ellen and Mabel, a lot of mouths to feed!

Walks Report

Geoff Ayres

George Standing was described as fly proprietor and his son Alfred was described as a stable help and groom in the 1901 census. It was in 1909 that tragedy struck. One late afternoon George heard a gun shot from the stables that adjoined the house, he went to check and found that the horses were OK. Sometime later, in the tack room, he found a suicide note from his son. He went out into the road to summon help, as it was a dark night, and fortunately met Dr Boxall (Rudgwick's first GP) and they searched the garden and sadly found Alfred's body.

In due course there was an inquest held at the Martlett Hotel (which was sited at the top of Station Road). The Coroner was Mr F.W Butler. There did not seem to be a motive for the suicide, but at the inquest, it was discovered that George's son, who was the Secretary and Treasurer of the local Slate Club, had been due to produce a sum of £23,10 shillings and 10 pence at the share out of the funds. This figure was confirmed by a Mr Hector Reed, Rudgwick's Stationmaster, who was one of the Slate Club's auditors. In his evidence at the inquest he said that the books were perfectly in order and it was not the duty of the auditors to inspect the money. The funds were kept in a locked box in Alfred's bedroom; the amount found in that box was only £2 and 1 shilling only.

In the summing up the Coroner said, "the only inference to be drawn from the evidence is that the deceased could not meet the members of the Slate club and sooner than face them he took his own life." The Coroner said that he had known the young man personally and was exceedingly sorry that this had occurred. He wished to express his own personal sympathy with the relations in their sad trouble. The verdict reached by the jury was one of "Suicide while temporary insane."

At the time of his death Alfred Standing was only 27, his father carried on with the business until his retirement in 1927, when he was 74. Records show that by 1911 George employed a Leonard Robinson as a cab driver, presumably replacing his son. One wonders if George Standing ever ran a car, as the village directory for 1927 still uses the term "fly".

One final point, people may remember an elderly couple that used to live in Furze Road; Wilfred and Edna Standing, Wilf's grandfather was George Standing.

As usual Dave Buckley led the first of the Summer Walks, starting from The Fox, Bucks Green, on Tuesday the 7th of May. Considering that this was generally a wonderful dry warm summer the fall in numbers attending was a surprise. The average turnout for the walks was about 15, as against 14 last year, which was both our wettest and worst attended. We know from past experience that the numbers clearly depend upon the weather, or even the forecast. So we have a downward trend with the weather fluctuations modulating it. It would be a sad loss to the village if the walks were to fizzle out.

The late Stan Smith originally started these walks to be included in the WSCC Summer Walks booklet. In the days before cuts, this was free, and RPS would have copies available from the shops and the Health Centre. Once the County started to charge for them, we found less money in the boxes than we had paid out to buy them, so we had to abandon providing them. They were then only available from the libraries. When they were cut altogether a few years ago, we decided to carry on and go it alone in Rudgwick. The Horsham Health Walks are a relatively recent provision and Rudgwick is a popular area for them. Possibly we could join with them, let me know if you have any thoughts on this.

Poor Keith Linscott had a really wet evening on May the 14th. Only four of us walked from the Mucky Duck, but we enjoyed it anyway. Roger Nash only had five of us on the 11th of June. It had rained during the day and was a little wet underfoot, but was fine for the walk. Oddly the best attended walks were the first and last with 27 leaving the Fox on the first walk, and 28 with Keith from the Blue Ship on the 6th of August. July the 16th was a very hot day and 19 turned up at Ewhurst Recreation Ground to walk with David & Bridget Cozens.

I would like to thank the Claytons for allowing us to visit Baynards Station, which is their home, on the 25th of June. They restored this wonderful Victorian railway station themselves, in its original LB&SCR colours. I was surprised that only 13 walkers took advantage of this rare opportunity to visit this lovely station on a fine evening. Another 13 walked with Roger Nash from the Onslow Arms on the 2nd of July. About 3 weeks after this walk Roger had a serious accident from which he is now recovering. We all hope he will be fit enough to lead one or more walks next summer. Thanks to the publicans for allowing us to park. Please support the pubs in return.

Thanks also to all the leaders who make it possible. We are always in need of leaders. Please let me know if you might lead a walk. Contact me on 822668 or geoff.ayres1@btinternet.com for information.



Rudgwick Preservation Society

AUTUMN MEETING

Monday December 2nd 2013

at 7.30pm Rudgwick Hall, Bucks Green

CHANCTONBURY RING The Story of a Sussex Landmark

Dr Janet Pennington

Janet is a well-known historian with a wealth of knowledge and interest in the local area. Among her many experiences she was archivist at Lancing College for many years and taught local history at the Centre for Continuing Education at Sussex University. She is a past Chairman of the West Sussex Archives Society and a Council member of the Sussex Record Society. She is a past president of the Wealden Buildings Study Group. Janet's latest publication is a book on Chanctonbury Ring (Downland History Publishing 2011).

Chanctonbury Ring on the South Downs has been an iconic landmark in Sussex for over 200 years. Originally planted by Charles Goring of Wiston House in 1760, the ring of



Chanctonbury Ring from a postcard attributed to Frederick Douglas Miller of Haywards Heath dated about 1917

This earlier ring also contains evidence of a Romano-Celtic and Romano British temple complex.

Janet's fascinating talk will reveal the history of the area, a murder on the hill, the tree species involved over the centuries and how it has fascinated 19th

trees covers another ring, a late bronze age earthwork or hillfort dated to about 750BC.

and 20th century novelists, poets and travel writers.

MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES WILL BE SERVED IN THE INTERVAL

ALL WELCOME