



# NEWSLETTER

1980

## PLANNING MATTERS

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

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

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

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

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

5. Planning permission was refused for the erection of a dwelling at The Old Parsonage. We strenuously opposed this application mainly because we believe this area is already over-developed. This has now gone to appeal.

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

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

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

9. The County Council has applied for planning permission to develop the Old Primary School (now disused) into 4 units with a totally dangerous access near the bottom of the hill on the A281. This fine old building was built in 1880, and served the Village for over 100 years. We believe it to be both architecturally and historically important. Quite rightly the Parish Council feel strongly about the over-development of this site, and in this we entirely support them. Our counter-proposal was for the School to be converted into a single dwelling, and for the Old Headmasters House to remain in occupation. We proposed that a new access be sited at the top of the hill where the pre-fabricated canteen now stands. The latter to be demolished. Any access on the A281 will be dangerous, but our proposal would minimize the inevitable traffic hazard.

Unfortunately, the County Council is not subject to planning law, but we must hope that the efforts of the Parish Council and the Preservation Society may help to change their minds.

10. Unfortunately problems with Rudgwick Brickworks continue. Local members are worried about fumes, pollution and excessive noise from the firing sheds. Reconstruction plans were submitted to the County Council, and in our opinion insufficient has been done to introduce safeguards to deal with lighting, noise and pollution. Natural gas was introduced last September which seems to have worsened the situation.

The Environmental Health Officer in his report recommended refusal of the planning application to re-site the drying and firing sheds unless those matters were clearly controlled and minimised, as a condition of approval. This recommendation seems to have been ignored. We are continuing to press for improvements in all these environmental problems, and have enlisted the help of our County Councillor.

### GUIDED WALKS

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the three guided evening walks that we are conducting in June. Printed leaflets on these walks, which are sponsored by the County Council, are due before Easter. We will see that our members receive copies.

### FOOTPATHS.

These have been under review for sometime and we have now completed our survey of broken stiles, missing signposts and other problems and have notified the Parish Council who have alerted the County. We look forward to considerable improvements in our local footpaths and ask members to let us know of any problems they encounter.

### DOMESDAY SURVEY OF BARNES.

The National Survey carried out by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is continuing. This is to celebrate the 900th Anniversary of the Domesday Book. We sincerely hope that owners of traditional barns in the Parish of Rudgwick will help us identify them in the survey we have undertaken.

### POST BOX AT TISMANS.

A post box dated Edward VII was demolished in Tismans Common. A replacement modern single-post box is in position, but local residents asked whether their old box could be restored. We have written to the Post Office, who have promised to replace the new one with a traditional post-box, and are keen to please local residents.

If successful in recovering the old post-box of that period, the Post Office would expect help from the Village in providing bricks and the services of a bricklayer. The Preservation Society would be prepared to underwrite both materials and labour involved.

## SOME BUTTERFLIES OF RUDGWICK

We are fortunate in Rudgwick to live in an area fairly rich in Butterflies. This is particularly true of the woodland species which depend upon the broad leaved woodland surviving in the locality. The open rides abound in butterflies in July and August.

The magnificent Purple Emperor lives in the uppermost branches of large Oaks but will occasionally descend to take minerals from mud, horse manure or a rotting carcase. White Admirals feed from Bramble blossom laying their eggs exclusively on Honeysuckle. The large Silver-washed Fritillary feeds from Thistle heads and Bramble, but its caterpillar eats only Violet leaves.

Some of the earliest butterflies are the yellow Brimstone and the distinctive Orange-tip. The Brimstone hibernates as the adult butterfly and will fly on fine days as early as March. It lays its eggs only upon Alder Buckthorn (or Buckthorn on the downs). If you know where the Alder Buckthorn grows let me know.

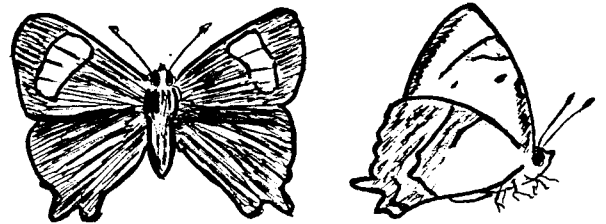
The Orange-tips first fly at the end of April laying their eggs upon Milkmaid, Hedge Mustard and cultivated Honesty. Try looking for the upright orange eggs on the stems of your Honesty flowers. Only the male has the orange wing-tips. I am often asked how butterflies spend the winter. There are four stages in the life of the butterfly (or any insect) - the egg (ovum) - the caterpillar (larva) - chrysalis (pupa) - adult butterfly (imago). There are species which hibernate (diapause) in one of any of these stages.

The Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone and Comma overwinter as the imago; so these are the longest lived, surviving up to ten months. Most other species fly for about 10 to 30 days.

Our local speciality is the Brown Hairstreak. This butterfly is rather uncommon and declining alarmingly. There are only two known remaining locations for the Brown Hairstreak in the whole of Hampshire. Rudgwick has at least three. The habitat is unkempt Blackthorn (Sloe) thickets. The butterfly overwinters as the egg on the Blackthorn around the edge of the thicket, especially sucker growth. The colony can be readily destroyed by cutting or flailing, which may be the cause of the decline.

If you have straggling Blackthorn hedges or thickets you may well have Brown Hairstreak. If you wish I will show you how to find the eggs. Eggs can be removed prior to cutting and reared in captivity for release, either on the regrowth or to start another colony. The eggs can only be found whilst the Blackthorn is bare and leafless.

Geoff Ayres R.2668



(X1½)

### The Brown Hairstreak.

(*Theccla betulae*) The upper side is dark brown with orange markings. The lower side is quite colourful orange and light brown with black and white 'hairstreaks'. Its habitat is unkempt Blackthorn (Sloe) thickets.

## NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE VILLAGE

Having lived in Rudgwick for nearly 40 years, I have seen vast areas of woodland cleared for agriculture or planted with conifers. Many old meadows have been ploughed up and hedges taken out. In the village, most of the "waste land" (a human term for good wildlife habitat) and many former orchards are now "tidy" gardens or housing estates.

With these changes in mind, I wonder how all the common wild plants and animals will remain so, and where they will be found. Among the possibilities are churchyards, the older parts of which are often rich in wildlife although the tidy areas needed close to the church and recent graves are not so good.

For example, in June, in Rudgwick Churchyard, I found many different plants, 15 of which were in flower. Ox-eye Daisy, Cats-ear and Common Vetch were being worked by both Bumble and Honey Bees. Numerous other insects were present including Ladybirds, Flower Beetles, Longhorn Moths, Shieldbugs and Froghoppers. Many species of grass were in flower and these, as well as being attractive, are the food plants of the family of brown butterflies which includes the Meadow Brown, Hedge Brown, Speckled Wood and the Wall Brown, which was flying at the time. Blue butterflies were also seen. Caterpillars of the Common Blue feed on vetches, trefoils and clovers, while the food plants of the Holly Blue larva are Holly and Ivy. Ivy is often maligned and senselessly cut down although it is a very useful plant, providing autumn nectar and shelter for insects, especially butterflies, and nesting places and berries for birds.

Birds were much in evidence. Swifts were flying around the church in their characteristic screaming parties, often landing high up in the eaves at their nests. Lower down a pair of Collared Doves were nesting in one of the beautiful old evergreens and a Green Woodpecker flew up from where it had been feeding on an ant hill.

Along part of the Northern boundary of the churchyard is a thick, mixed hedge which provides food and shelter for many insects, birds and small mammals. At the end of this, by the tool shed, are some stinging nettles on which I found Rustic Sailor Beetles and various weevils together with a great many caterpillars. This was not surprising as nettles are the food plant of some of our most colourful butterflies including Red Admiral, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell.

These are a few of the things to be found in our churchyard. Many other churchyards, including Dunsfold and Warnham are mentioned in the well written and beautifully illustrated book "God's Acre" by Francesca Greenoak. In describing the wildlife and maintenance of churchyards, the author makes the point that surely it would be a pity if these wild places disappeared in the name of tidyness.

Chris Griffin.

### AGM

### RUDGWICK NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

The time for the AGM is nearly with us again and this year we are planning an evening that we think you will enjoy. The business part of the evening from 7.30 to 8.00 will be followed by a panel questions and answers session. We hope that the panel will consist of distinguished local Parish, District and County Councillors and someone with a particular interest in wildlife and conservation. After this, and a break for coffee, Chris and Joe Griffin will present their fascinating slide show and talk on Conservation and Wildlife in Rudgwick. Anyone who has been fortunate to have seen this will certainly want to see it again and those of you who have not will not want to miss it. So make a note in your diary -  
APRIL 28th