



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last month the Horsham District Council issued the deposit draft of the North Horsham District Local Plan. This document took into account submissions made following the consultative draft published about a year ago. The council invited representations before the final adoption of the plan as the statutory plan for the area which is due to happen in the spring of 1990.

That document will be the first Local Statutory Plan for the Rudgwick area and the Society's committee thinks that both in general terms and in terms of Rudgwick in particular the deposit draft is to be welcomed. Under various policy headings it seeks to provide, on and in the vicinity of the site occupied by Buckhurst in Church Street, the following three elements:

1. Limited residential development to meet the needs of first time buyers
2. Sufficient car parking to serve not only the development itself but also to help alleviate existing on-street problems near-by.
3. Land for a childrens' play area.

In the light of recent developments it is interesting to note that earlier suggestions for more shops on the site have been dropped.

The District Council proposes to construct a development brief for this site. We expect that the Society will be able to contribute to this in course and that these three suggested developments will be largely welcomed.

The annual village 'spring clean', sponsored by Horsham District Council, will take place between April 24th and May 7th. Last year many people were extremely helpful in suggesting where the volunteer cleaners could usefully operate. Any offers of practical help this year would be warmly welcomed by any member of the Rudgwick Action Group or its Committee.

The Society's Open Meeting on April 17th will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting at which all officer and committee member positions are open to election. Anyone wishing to nominate a candidate should, having first obtained the candidate's permission, inform the Secretary in writing by April 10th. Pat Reading's address is 'Sailtops', Cox Green.

JOHN COZENS

RIDGE MATERNITY HOME RUDGWICK By Joan Boxall

Ridge maternity home came into being quite by accident during the war. I did my midwifery training at Queen Charlottes Hospital in London and then worked at cases away in the 1930's. My niece and nephew were both born at the Ridge and the doctor at that time found it very convenient as it was so near to his home and consequently persuaded me to take in a mother who lived away in the fields. The war came and various mothers found it difficult with their husbands away in the forces to find places to have their babies. A lot of them came into residence about two weeks before their babies were due, which if they were late meant a very long wait in many cases.

My sister, who did all the cooking and housekeeping, used to take them for bumpy bus rides to try and hurry things up. Being war time and food rationing there was a great rush to get the babies registered so that we could get their ration books. My sister was very clever at eking out the meagre rations and made very tempting dishes out of dried egg, also a pudding made with parsnips and banana flavouring which you could get then.

All the mothers stayed at least a month after the babies were born, in bed for two weeks never putting a foot to the ground during that time. I remember how shocked I was when one day I found a mother out of bed watching an air battle going on - a frequent occurrence in those days.

One mother I had was evacuated from Purley as the bombing was so bad there and the first night she came they dropped a bomb in the hedge just opposite 'Kings', followed by two time bombs going off at Godleys at 6am. the following morning. It certainly was a case of 'out of the frying pan into the fire'. However mother and baby both survived. I was registered to take two mothers but crises arose when some mothers were late and some early - the worst occurred when unexpected twins arrived and I had three mothers and four babies for about three days

Babies occasionally arrived in a hurry. On one occasion one was born in the car while coming here. On arrival I greeted mother holding the baby in the back of the car plus a big dog which they had to bring in case it barked and woke up their small son who they had to leave peacefully sleeping at home. Mother and baby were quite unmoved but father had to be treated to a strong cup of sweetened tea as he was suffering from shock.

I finally closed down my Maternity Home in 1968 having had nearly 300 babies in nearly 30 years - many of them locals who I see about nowadays, not to mention their children.

RUDGWICK BAND

W Malcolm Francis

These days of instant entertainment at the turn of a witch, it is easy to forget how much music making took place in any village in past years. In particular, in Rudgwick during the latter half of the last century, the Rudgwick Band was established in 1861.

A group of musicians, known as the 'Thurlow Volunteers', was set up by the Rev. Thurlow of Baynards Park, who was the moving force in the founding of the Band. (He had donated the original pipe organ to the parish church.) It is likely that some of these musicians had formed part of the church band, which had played for services until some 20 years previously, when the first organ (most likely a "Garell" organ) was installed.

The band was taught by a Mr. Tunnel of the Guildford Militia Band, and one of the early bandmasters was Mr. John Tate. He was followed by his son, William Tate, who was also the church sexton, and whose memorial can be seen on the north wall of the church tower.

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

With the advent of World War 1 in 1914, the Rudgwick Band enlisted as a band, and many of its members saw service overseas, including the Middle East. Its current bandmaster, William Tate, died in 1917, and following the end of the war the Band was re-established under the leadership of his son, Harold; its President being Mr. G. Barker of Gaskyns, (now Pennethorpe School). It was at this time that my uncle, Harold Francis, was able to fulfil the ambition he had since hearing the band practice when he was a boy, and join the Band, at the age of 17, when he went to work for Mr. Harold Tate.

Mr. Tate, who was a major local builder, and who also owned the two local brickworks at Lynwick Street and Marshals Farm, as Bandmaster, naturally encouraged his employees to join the Band. He was, of course, in the ideal position to ensure that they had plenty of time to practice when a competition was imminent, and practices now took place in a purpose-built band room, on land behind Willow Cottage, Church Street, which belonged to the Tate family. In fact, a number of Mr. Tate's employees were orphans selected for their musical talent.

The original band uniform looked rather similar to contemporary American military uniform, and was dark blue with gold braid. This was superseded by a blue uniform with a red trim, and then by the last uniform of Rudgwick Band. This was very smart, being chocolate brown, with a gold

trim. I still have an example of this uniform, which was worn by my father, Mr. Frederick Francis, who played solo cornet and tenor horn, and who, assisted by his brother Harold, acted as deputy bandmaster.

During the 1920's and 30's Rudgwick band went from strength to strength, and entered band contests throughout the district. It was at this time that the woodwind section of the original band had to drop, since the contests were only open to 'brass', or in Rudgwick's case, silver, bands. The first contest that the band entered was in 1921, and by 1936 it reached its zenith, entering the National Band Festival at Crystal Palace. For the more important contests the band received professional tuition, some of it obtained through Mr Tate's younger brother, Charley, who was a professional singer, as well as a keen band member.

The band was in great demand during these years, to play for local events such as flower shows, carnivals, charity events, and church parades. Among these events were the 'Cherry Fairs', held at various pubs in the district, with stalls selling cherries and also wheelks! Another high point in the band's calendar was bonfire night, when the

band, in fancy dress, led a parade from the Fox Inn to the bonfire site at the bottom of Church Hill.

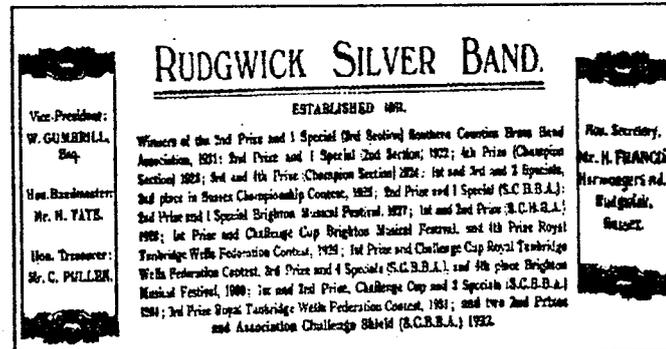
During the summer months, on a midweek evening, the band would play on the lawns of the large houses of the village, such as Hyes, Hermongers and Maybanks. The programmes included popular dance tunes of the day, and many of the young people of the village learnt to

dance at these informal gatherings.

In the 1930's, in response to an obvious need, and to help fund competitions and charity events, the band developed a small dance band called the 'Novelty Seven'. This group played for dances at the Queen's Hall, which was adjacent to the Queen's Head, and had its own uniform, comprising light blue shirts, dark blue trousers and ties, and with music stands draped with blue velvet.

With the coming of World War 2 the band, naturally, was forced to give up, the majority of its members having gone into the services or into war work. Its bandmaster, Mr Harold Tate, died suddenly in 1940, and although his brother, Mr. Charley Tate, made an attempt to re-form the band at the end of the war, social conditions had changed so much that he was unsuccessful.

I am indebted for much of the above information to my wife's mother, Mrs. Babs McWilliam, who is the niece of Mr. Harold Tate, and to my Uncle, Mr. Harold Francis who was secretary of the band.



COPY OF THE RUDGWICK SILVER BAND LETTER HEAD 1936

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

By Ivy Port

What does one mean by "the good old days"? In my own time spanning more than 80 years I would say that the early part of the 20th century was good in comparison with today. As I remember it was a time when people were honest - crime negligible - moral standards were higher - there was plenty of everything and prices were reasonable. Of course the time of the Great War 1914 could hardly be called good but people pulled together and worked hard for one great purpose to defeat the enemy. There was a great deal of love and caring for one another and upheavals and bereavements in families brought out the best in us and people were morally decent and honest. It was not necessary to bolt and bar your windows and doors - to lock your car door or your bicycle when shopping. Any person young or old could go out after dark or along a lonely footpath without fear of being attacked. You could walk down the street with your handbag on your arm not once thinking that you might have it snatched from you or even worse be sent sprawling on the ground by some rapist. We didn't realise it at the time how blissful it was to saunter along a lonely lane in the countryside without fear of assault. Early in the century children would play in the roads. I am speaking now of course of village life where there was only the occasional horse vehicle or bicycle and skipping and hop scotch and marbles were popular with girls and boys. These were happy times when we didn't seem to have a care in the world - all because we had never anything more exciting and so we didn't long for it. What you've never had you never miss - so we were contented.

Referring to life in the homes - wages were low but of course things were much cheaper. I cannot remember all the prices but I know sugar was 2d a pound, beer 2d a pint, a loaf 3d, skimmed milk 1d a pint, plenty of odd pieces (on a Saturday night) of meat at the butchers for a shilling. Rump and beef steak were considered very expensive - over a shilling a pound - a ride in a wagonette to Holmbury St. Mary was half a crown. An adventure which was rare because it was too costly. Your shoes were mended for 1/6d or 2/- and a visit from a doctor 5/-, which eventually went up to 7/6d. Very few people could afford such luxury - and so whenever possible they doctored themselves. A farm labourer would bring up a family of nine children on 15/- a week - it is no wonder that some children had to leave school at the early age of twelve and get a job on a farm or in the brickworks. There was no time to be BORED as the children of today put it. Everybody was hard at it from morning to night. Every spare moment after a day's work dad had to be digging and planting the garden - for vegetables. Buying vegetables was unheard of. Every mother was expected to look after her man and the babies. She was always there when the children came home from school to greet them and to listen to their tales and to give them a good meal of dumplings and gravy and perhaps some bread and jam (not with butter). There were no washing aids, vacuum cleaners or constant hot water. Water for drinking had to be pumped up or drawn from a well. Each day of the week

had a special task apart from the ordinary chores. On Saturday everybody had a job - the floors and the kitchen table scrubbed, stoves and fenders blacklead, spoons and copper things polished and knives cleaned on a knife board and by night time everything was spick and span ready for Sunday. Sunday was a day for rest and what a lovely day it was with the church and Sunday School and in the summer pleasant walks across the fields in the evening, amongst the horse daisies and buttercups with the lark singing high in the sky and pee-wits peewitting and the bats diving here and there making a shrill squeaking noise. There was an abundance of bird life and wild flowers and blackberries to pick in the autumn. Stiles and kissing gates were kept in good repair to encourage walkers to keep to the footpath. These last remarks are from my own experience and I thought all this was heavenly.

Very little shopping was done outside the village - everything except clothing was supplied. The baker delivered your bread twice or three times a week - the butcher delivered your meat and the groceries were obtainable from the local shop. Nearly everybody had an orchard and grew currants and gooseberries as well. Milk was brought to you everyday except Sunday by the local milkman. It was brought to your door in a gallon can and poured into your jug with a pint measure. Here I must deviate a little and tell you about our milkman Mr. Bailey who lived on a small farm at Godleys right over in the fields. There was a very rough lane leading up to it from Hermongers Lane. Mr. Bailey had a wife and family of five who I think all worked at home on the farm. He had a kind of governess cart in which to carry the milkcans which was drawn by Bob the pony. Bob had done the journey round the houses so many times that he knew exactly where to stop without being reminded. Mr. Bailey brought the milk in the morning as regularly as clockwork. How he wobbled down that lane with its mud and deep ruts for so many years I shall never know - but more miraculous still was that Mrs. Bailey, a little wiry woman delivered our milk every evening walking across the fields with a huge milk can. I can see here to this day climbing over the stile next to our house having some difficulty in heaving the can over the stile. They worked until they were too old to carry on - dear Bob, I think, was well beyond doing us service and so the governess cart packed up too and Jane, their daughter, carried on the good work on her bicycle for many years afterwards. Carrying a great milk can on the handlebars of her bicycle was a wonderful feat - such were the strengths and fortitudes of the people in days gone by.

Part 2 of Miss Port's fascinating account of life in times gone by will appear in the next issue of Newsletter.

PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWS

TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS IN RUDGWICK

The Wealden Buildings Study Group was formed in 1964 to promote the study of old houses and vernacular buildings in the Weald. The 40 members of the group undertake individual research and recording of whole Parishes.

The documentary research is closely associated with the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton. We are fortunate that Diana Chatwin from Slinfold has undertaken to research all timber-framed buildings in Rudgwick of which there are over 50.

In all it is calculated that it will take two years to complete. With the kind permission of the owners the following have been completed with the earliest date attributed to each building.

1. BIGNOR FARM HOUSE	- The Haven	- circa 1500
2. HOGLANDS	- The Haven	- 1400 or earlier
3. HOPE FARM	- The Haven	- 1500 or earlier
4. HOPE FARM (BARN)	- The Haven	- 1500 or earlier
5. HOPE FARM (GRANARY)	- The Haven	- 1750
6. THE MILLERS HOUSE(Gibbons Mill)	- The Haven	- 1500 or earlier
7. GARLANDS	- The Haven	- circa 1550
8. CANFIELD FARMHOUSE	- Lynwick Street	- 1400 or earlier
9. MARTINS	- Lynwick Street	- circa 1600
10. WOODSOMES FARMHOUSE	- Lynwick Street	- circa 1650
11. STUBBONS	- Lynwick Street	- circa 1500
12. SWAYNES FARMHOUSE	- Guilford Road	- circa 1630

We hope all owners will be kind enough to allow further researches to complete the survey. They will be given a copy of the study document free of charge. Further information, contact Stan Smith on R.2723.

GUIDED WALKS FOR ALL THE FAMILY

The following walks have been arranged in Rudgwick - all are on Tuesdays starting at 7 pm

Date	Meet (Map Ref.)	Leader
9th May	Blue Ship(084305)	Chris Griffin
16th May	Mucky Duck(065316)	Joe Griffin
23rd May	Blue Ship(084305)	Brian Murgatroyd
30th May	Fox Inn(078330)	Dave Buckley
6th June	Health Centre	Paul Frenchum
13th June	Rudgwick Parish Church	Malcolm Francis
20th June	Rudgwick Parish Church	Stan Smith
27th June	Rudgwick Parish Church	Geoff Ayres

COX GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The recent replacement of Broom Cottage in Cox Green with two mock-Tudor houses has been quickly followed by a proposal to demolish Pantiles and to replace it with two similar houses. Cox Green residents have now formed a Residents Association under the Chairmanship of Ian Miller to resist this type of unwanted development. The Preservation Society welcomes this and wishes them every success.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

In a letter dated 29th November 1988, the Commission submitted its draft proposals for alterations to the boundaries of West Sussex and Surrey. Inter alia it recommended that Cox Green be transferred to West Sussex. On 12th January 1989, Ewhurst Parish Council called a meeting when Cox Green residents were invited to express their views. The result was an almost unanimous objection to the draft recommendation.

Whatever the outcome, the Rudgwick Preservation Society will continue to support all efforts to protect this attractive area from harmful encroachment.